The Roving Party

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an exceedingly powerful debut wilson's compelling story carries us through forest and over plains leaving a trail of dead men alan cheuse the chicago tribune 1829 tasmania a group of men convicts a farmer two free black traders and black bill an aboriginal man brought up from childhood as a white man are led by jon batman a notorious historical figure on a roving party their purpose is massacre with promises of freedom land grants and money each is willing to risk his life for the prize passing over many miles of tortured country the roving party searches for aborigines taking few prisoners and killing freely batman never abandoning the visceral intensity of his hunt and all the while black bill pursues his personal quarry the much feared warrior manalargena a surprisingly beautiful evocation of horror and brutality the roving party is a meditation on the intricacies of human nature at its most raw

this major work reveals the dark heart of the history of the stolen generations in australia it shows that from the earliest times of european colonization aboriginal australians experienced the trauma of loss and separation as their children were abducted enslaved institutionalized and culturally remodeled providing a moving and comprehensive account of this tragic history this study covers all australian colonies states and territories the analysis spans 200 years of white occupation and intervention from the earliest seizure of aboriginal children through their systematic state removal and incarceration and on to the harsh treatment of families under the assimilation policies of the 1950s and 1960s the resistance struggle and achievements of aboriginal people in defending their communities regaining their rights and mending the broken circles of family life provides a compelling parallel story of determination and courage

indigeneity is inseparable from empire and the way empire responds to the indigenous presence is a key historical factor in shaping the flow of imperial history this book is about the consequences of the encounter in the early nineteenth century between the british imperial presence and the first peoples of what were to become australia and new zealand however the shape of social relations between indigenous peoples and the forces of empire does not remain constant over time the book tracks how the creation of empire in this part of the world possessed long lasting legacies both for the settler colonies that emerged and for the wider history of british imperial culture

the history of aborigines in van diemen s land is long the first tasmanians lived in isolation for as many as 300 generations after the flooding of bass strait their struggle against almost insurmountable odds is one worthy of respect and admiration not to mention serious attention this broad ranging book is a comprehensive and critical account of that epic survival up to the present day starting from antiquity the book examines the devastating arrival of europeans and subsequent colonisation warfare and exile it emphasises the regionalism and separateness a consistent feature of aboriginal life since time immemorial that has led to the distinct identities we see in the present including the unique place of the islanders of bass strait carefully researched using the findings of archaeologists and extensive documentary evidence some only recently uncovered this important book fills a long time gap in tasmanian history

this gripping nineteenth century adventure stars jorgen jorgenson who ran away to sea at fourteen and began a brilliant career by sailing to establish the first colony in tasmania twists of fortune then found him captaining a warship for napoleon before joining a british trading voyage to iceland where he staged an outrageous coup and ruled the country for two months much lay ahead from imprisonment in the hulks to patronage by joseph banks and travels in europe as a british spy but jorgenson was dogged by his own excesses and ended up transported as a convict to the very colony he helped to found here he reinvented himself again as an explorer and despite his sympathy for the people was caught up in the terrible aboriginal clearances using unpublished sources and letters sarah bakewell tells his astonishing tale with dazzling verve

australian fiction as archival salvage examines key developments in the field of the australian postcolonial historical novel from 1989 to the present in parallel with this analysis a frances johnson undertakes a unique

study of in kind creativity reflecting on how her own nascent historical fiction has been critically and imaginatively shaped and inspired by seminal experiments in the genre by writers as diverse as kate grenville mudrooroo kim scott peter carey richard flanagan and rohan wilson mapping the postcolonial novel against the impact of postcolonial cultural theory and australian writers intermittent embrace of literary postmodernism this survey is also read against the post millenial history and culture wars which saw politicizations of national debates around history and fierce contestation over the ways stories of australian pasts have been written

helen o neil takes us inside the development of labor s long awaited cultural policy and the future of the policy under a new government rebecca harkins cross brings us the first in a series on new media art in australia with an essay looking at the revolutionary ways indigenous australian artists are using video jennifer mills quits poetry and ponders the peculiar life of the self declared poet while rebecca giggs takes us into the wide blue yonder in pursuit of a mysterious giant eyeball lesley harding and artist rebecca mayo walk the merri creek wearing some very special garments and hilary mcphee undertakes the fraught process of archiving the past journalist jill jolliffe contemplates her eventful visits to war torn angola in the early 1990s and ellena savage takes us to bougainville and an uneasy adjustment to tropical living there s new fiction from briohny doyle mireille juchau and anika quayle and sparkling poetry from eileen chong elizabeth lawso chris mansell kate middleton and many more

a suspenseful truthful and compelling novel from the critically acclaimed author of the roving party i m a great fan of rohan wilson and this is his best novel yet favel parrett bestselling author of past the shallows and when the night comes it s impossible not to consider as you read daughter of bad times that everything in 2075 is already here now and we are doing nothing to stop it an utterly compelling vision by one of our finest writers heather rose bestselling author of the museum of modern love ferocious and brilliant the australian book review on to name those lost what better pitch than helping the refugees of the world who doesn t want to help refugees right the five australian facilities are immigration detention centres sure but they re also manufacturing plants that means two revenue streams for one facility and we also clean up our image we re not just a corrections company anymore now we re building communities we re saving lives rin braden is almost ready to give up on life after the heartbreaking death of her lover yamaan and the everyday dread of working for her mother s corrupt private prison company but through a miracle yamaan has survived yamaan turns up in an immigration detention facility in australia trading his labour for a supposedly safe place to live this is no ordinary facility it s eaglehawk mtc a manufactory built by her mother s company to exploit the flood of environmental refugees now rin must find a way to free yamaan before the ghosts of her past and a string of bad choices catch up with them both in its vision of the future daughter of bad times explores the truth about a growing inhumanity as profit becomes the priority

between 1825 and 1831 close to 200 britons and 1000 aborigines died violently in tasmania s black war it was

by far the most intense frontier conflict in australia s history yet many australians know little about it the black war takes a unique approach to this historic event looking chiefly at the experiences and attitudes of those who took part in the conflict by contrasting the perspectives of colonists and aborigines nicholas clements takes a deeply human look at the events that led to the shocking violence and tragedy of the war detailing raw personal accounts that shed light on the tribes families and individuals involved as they struggled to survive in their turbulent world the black war presents a compelling and challenging view of our early contact history the legacy of which reverberates strongly to the present day

james fenton 1820 1901 was born in ireland and emigrated to tasmania then known as van diemen s land with his family in 1833 he became a pioneer settler in an area on the forth river and published this history of the island in 1884 the book begins with the discovery of the island in 1642 and concludes with the deaths of some significant public figures in the colony in 1884 the establishment of the colony on the island and the involvement of convicts in its building is documented a chapter on the native aborigines gives a fascinating insight into the attitudes of the colonising people and a detailed account of the removal of the native tasmanians to flinders island in an effort to separate them from the colonists the book also contains portraits of some aboriginal people as well as a glossary of their language

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