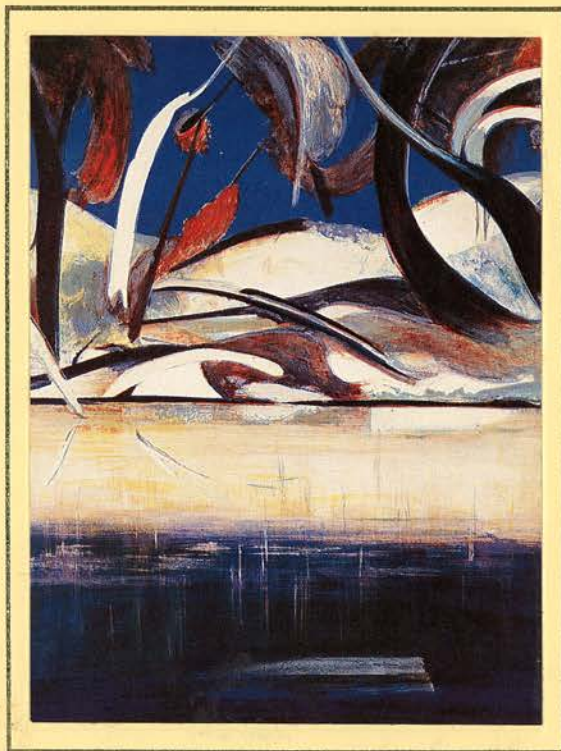


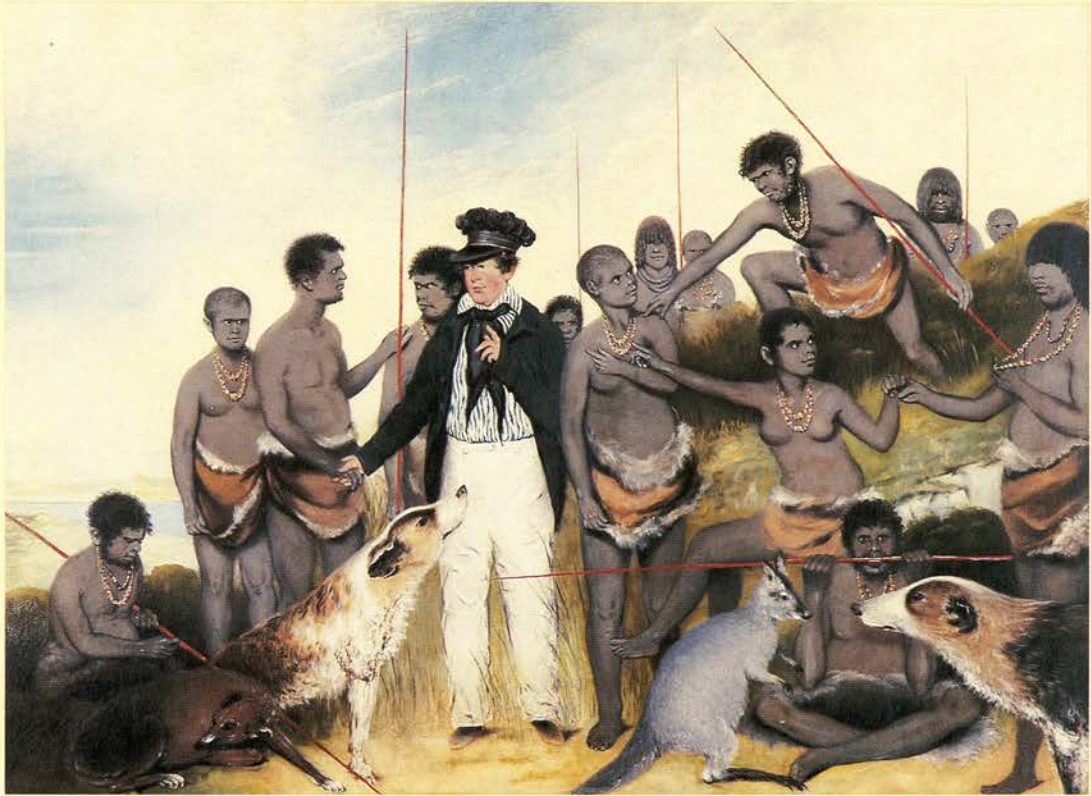
AUSTRALIANS



1988

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*Benjamin Dutterau, The conciliation, 1840, oil on
canvas 121 × 170.5. Inscribed in crayon 'The conciliation/
A sketch for a National Picture. . .'*

TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY, HOBART

AUSTRALIANS

1988

CHRONOLOGY WRITTEN BY

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AND

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EDITED BY

KIM ANDERSON

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COVER ILLUSTRATION

Arthur Boyd, Shoalhaven quartet, 1988. Boyd was awarded the 1988 Bird and Bell Award for being an outstanding Australian by the Australian Ireland Fund. He later announced that he would donate his property on the New South Wales south coast to the people of Australia as a place where they could both appreciate and study Australian art.

ENDPAPERS

*Detail from Bronson Jakamarra Nelson,
Living together, working together, 1986
acrylic on canvas, 182 x 184 cm.*

WARLUKURLANGA ARTISTS

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*Geoff Parr, The National Picture, 1985, Nekko
print on canvas.*

J. W. POWER COLLECTION
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AUSTRALIANS 1988
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INTRODUCTION

Australia's Bicentenary marked one of the most significant events in Australia's past — an event that is often simply referred to as the 'European settlement' of the Australian continent. Many have argued that not all Australians place equal significance on 26 January 1788. Yet no event in the last 40 000 years of this continent's history has had such far reaching and even devastating consequences. For Aboriginal Australians it was 200 years ago that their ancestors realised that eleven of the numerous ships that had visited their shores had come to stay, to colonise, to conquer. It was also the end of one of the longest sea voyages in English history, and for those convicts who survived the 252 days that the voyage had taken, it was only the beginning of a much greater ordeal. Marines, too, felt the burden of their cargo and of the 'dreary prospect' before them.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the bicentennial theme 'Celebration of a nation' was to many Australians a controversial notion. Some felt its awkwardness as they sought to rediscover the past and, so, in some way, to redirect the future. Others believed it was an opportunity for reconciliation and unification for many people: for some World War II refugees and post World War II immigrants, Australia had provided opportunities and cause to celebrate.

Throughout the bicentennial year many projects and planned events did penetrate the 'birthday cake and candle' facade, producing regional unity in a way that national events could not hope to achieve. Indeed, it was through such regional unity that some national events, such as the Bicentennial Beacons, could be achieved.

Australians 1988 records such events and at the same time reflects the varying and often conflicting responses to Australia's Bicentenary. We hope we have captured something of the mood and feeling of Australia in 1988, in the day-to-day transactions of politics, business, law, sport, leisure and the arts.

The selection of entries was based on a set of criteria, but these guidelines merely serve as a watchdog for consistency and evenness of style. They do not in themselves justify our selection — this is in all events our choice. Others, no doubt, would choose a different set of criteria.

The articles sprinkled throughout the chronology afford greater opportunity for assessment and evaluation of their subject. Together, with the chronology, we hope they will form a valuable record of Australia in 1988.

Australians 1988 was inspired by the series *Australians: A historical library*. As publisher of the series, Fairfax, Syme & Weldon have endeavoured to maintain the standard of the series by producing a work that is comparable in its intent and quality. While not involved directly in the writing or publication of this book, we would like to take the opportunity to thank History Project Incorporated, the corporate authors of *Australians: A historical library*, and especially Peter Spearritt, for valuable time and advice.

Equally, we would like to thank Marion K. Stell and Ruth Thompson for their patience, persistence and thoroughness. The contemporary nature of this work often made it difficult to locate official sources of information and to verify newspaper and other media reports.

We would also like to thank David Syme & Co and John Fairfax & Sons Ltd for their valuable help in the compilation of this work, in particular, the illustrations. A special thanks must go to Fiona Russell and Ray Blackbourn of David Syme & Co, Lee McDonald of John Fairfax & Sons Ltd, and Douglas Sellick, Alan Moir, Ron Tandberg, Michael Leunig, Peter Nicholson, Michael Fitzjames and Bruce Petty.

KIM ANDERSON