

# Editorial

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Topicality has its drawbacks. In the last issue of the *Journal of Australian Studies* (UQP), the editor acknowledged that history — acting through the editor of the *Courier-Mail* — would seem to have overtaken an essay by one of the contributors about Helen Darville. In a somewhat similar way history, in the figure of Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Kev Lingard, has intervened on the situation so powerfully evoked by Ros Kidd in a paper delivered at our annual conference last December and published in the present issue of the *Review*. A week ago at the time of writing this editorial the Queensland Government acknowledged the justice of the Palm Island Aboriginal community's compensation claim for many years of less than award wages, apologised to the claimants for the under-payments, and handed over some \$50,000 in compensation cheques. Given the historical circumstances it was a fairly modest gesture, but it is to be hoped it will not be the last; and in the current post-Wik climate of opinion it was a welcome and — to many people — unexpected move.

The risk of being slightly wrong-footed every now and then by the march of events is a small price to pay for maintaining a strong interest in contemporary Queensland issues. The *Review's* commitment to that is further evidenced by Paul Reynolds' absorbing psephological analysis of the long-awaited revival in the fortunes of the Queensland Liberal Party. Echoes of an earlier and larger conception of the role of state governments in developing a thriving economy come through in David Cameron's study of state enterprises in Queensland under Labor premiers like Ryan and Theodore. Urszula Szulakowska's paper on experimental art points towards her forthcoming book on the subject to be published by the Centre later this year and also the QSC's conference on Queensland contemporary arts to be held in October.

Geoff Genever and Anna Johnston have made interesting and important contributions to our understanding of the institutional dimensions of post-contact Aboriginal history in Queensland. These, together with Ros Kidd's piece and reviews of two recent books about Eddie Mabo and the history of Land Rights, give this issue a strongly indigenous inflexion, which reflects the strong interest in these issues at our recent conference and the popularity of the new Indigenous Studies major in Humanities at Griffith University.

The issue begins with an arresting comparative study by Tony van Fossen and George Lafferty on the different structure and development of the tourist industries in Queensland and Hawaii. It makes for surprising and disturbing reading. Hawaii, it seems, is not quite the over-developed nightmare of modern legend; and if Queensland is indeed, in parts, a tourist paradise, it may not remain so without some leaves from the Hawaiian book.

*Pat Buckridge*