

A Man of all Tribes

The Life of Alick Jackomos

Richard Broome and Corinne Manning

DESCRIPTION

Explores the life of Alick Jackomos, dubbed an 'honorary Koori' by Bruce McGuinness (first Executive Officer for the Victorian Aboriginal Education Consultative Group), at his funeral which was attended by almost a thousand inside the Northcote Town Hall, whilst hundreds milled outside. The son of Greek migrant parents, Jackomos was born in Collingwood and grew up in the Great Depression, mixing with people from a range of backgrounds. He was at different times a welfare worker and activist, a public servant in Aboriginal affairs, an historian archivist and genealogist.

After war service, Jackomos established a strong reputation as a tent wrestler with the famous Jimmy Sharman's troupe. He wrestled part-time in the tents and Melbourne stadiums for the next twenty years and kept in touch with the showground community all his life.

When he married the love of his life, Merle Morgan from Cummeragunja mission near Echuca, Jackomos immersed himself in the Victorian Aboriginal community. He became Doug Nicholls' (later Sir Doug) apprentice in Aboriginal activism and a long career in Aboriginal affairs as a public servant followed.

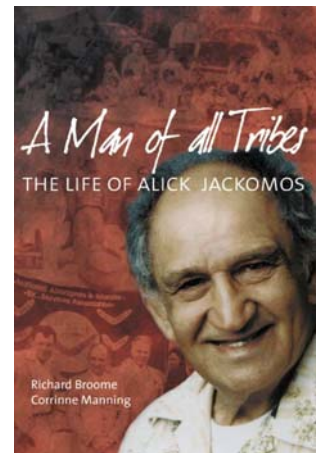
All the while, this man of little formal education collected a remarkable photographic archive of Aboriginal Victorians and, working with Aboriginal people, compiled over a thousand intricate genealogies, a powerful tool for members of the stolen generation. He also wrote Aboriginal history and shared his knowledge with schools, universities and Aboriginal organisations.

Loved by many, Jackomos's life was not without controversy as he was a non-Aboriginal man, with an Aboriginal family, living and moving in an Aboriginal world and working for Aboriginal causes. He maintained strong connections with his Greek heritage and the RSL, of which he was a loyal member, and visited Brunei so often that it became his second spiritual home.

AUTHORS

Richard Broome Reader/Associate Professor in History at La Trobe University, Melbourne. He's the author of the award-winning and best-selling *Aboriginal Australians* (2002) and the newly published *Aboriginal Victorians* (2005). He previously published *Sideshow Alley*, a book written with Alick Jackomos (1998).

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- Victorian Aboriginal communities, plus Greek and RSL community
- workers in Aboriginal affairs
- academics & students of Australian history, Aboriginal Studies

Selling points

- rare biography of an 'honorary Koori'
- includes never-before-published photographs
- insights into boxing and wrestling troupes
- insider's view of early Aboriginal affairs activism

Categories

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- Aboriginal studies

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