

Rob Riley

An Aboriginal leader's quest for justice

Quentin Beresford

ENDORSEMENT

There will be those who feel betrayed and those whose hearts will be forever broken but our mate would have demanded honesty... challenge[s] our capacity to look into this blighted page of our history and understand the nature of our national racist cancer. *Patrick Dodson* [Endorsement to come from Robert Manne]

DESCRIPTION

One of the great Aboriginal leaders of the modern era, Rob Riley was at the centre of debates that have polarised views on race relations in Australia: national land rights, the treaty, deaths in custody, self-determination, the justice system, native title and the Stolen Generations.

Tragically, he took his own life in 1996, shocking community leaders and citizens alike.

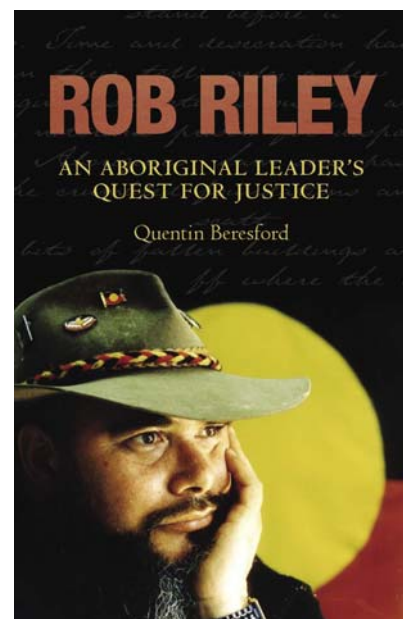
Drawing on perspectives from history, politics and psychology and set against the tumultuous background of racial politics this book explores Rob's rise and influence as an activist.

Rob Riley's belief that he had failed in this quest raises profound questions about the legacy of past racial policies, the extent of institutionalised racism in Australia and the reluctance of Australia's politicians to show leadership on race.

So much of Rob Riley's life was a triumph of the human spirit against great adversity, and this legacy remains.

AUTHOR

Dr Quentin Beresford is Associate Professor of Politics and Government at Edith Cowan University in Perth. He has published seven books, including one on the Stolen Generations and given access to three generations of family records and Aboriginal leaders around the nation.



Due date

April 2006

Format

230 x 152 mm

Extent

320 pp

Illustrations

b/w throughout

RRP

\$39.95, pb

ISBN

0 85575 502 4

BOOKSHELF CATEGORIES

- Biography
- Politics
- Australian History
- Indigenous Studies

BIC CATEGORIES

CVG, GTXO
JBHB, JPVH3, JPW, YJP

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SELLING POINTS

- The life of one of the nation's great contemporary Aboriginal leaders.
- ASP's major title for 2006: strong national media campaign (*see over*) including launch in WA; 500+ expected including all Australia's Indigenous leaders.
- A compelling, searing, but readable account of Australian politics and history told through a key participant in 20 years of battles over race relations.
- Background story to award-winning ABC Four Corners program
- Includes interviews with key national players, some speaking for the first time.
- Inside story into the tensions of Aboriginal leadership, ranging over Aboriginal issues that divided the nation.
- Confident and articulate author.
- Lawyers legalling the book commented on how moved they were by it.