DIFFERENT WHITE PEOPLE
Radical Activism for Aboriginal People 1946-1972
by Deborah Wilson

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Shortlisted, 2016 Northern Territory History Book Award

An important and engaging book with a cast of fascinating characters and the recreation of an almost forgotten political culture.
– Henry Reynolds

Different White People presents a trilogy of remarkable stories about campaigns for Aboriginal rights. A journey through three remote regions of Australia: in 1946, as Aboriginal pastoral workers walk away from oppressive conditions in the Pilbara, WA; the second story unfolds in Central Australia, when Britain and Australia collaborate on missile and nuclear weapons programs in Aboriginal lands; the final story features the now-famous 1966 ‘Gurindji Wave Hill walk-off’ in NT.

Historian Deborah Wilson traces the connections between Aborigines and left-wing activists, examining how the issues around activism shifted as conflicts over worker and human rights were overwhelmed by modern disputes of land and compensation.

Different White People explores the ebb and flow of union support, the vigorous solidarity of communists throughout, the varied forms of activism, as well as how the disputes featured in leftist arts of the time. Amid these fascinating episodes in Australia’s history was an eclectic group of people working tirelessly to protect and support Aboriginal people and Aboriginal rights. They were The Different White People.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Dr Deborah Wilson, adjunct researcher at the University of Tasmania, is a sessional teacher in the Aboriginal Studies program, as well as an organiser for the NTEU. Different White People is Deborah’s first book, written as part of her PhD for which she received an Alma Stackhouse scholarship.

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