

A. D. Hope Prize 2017

Judges' Citation for Winning Essay by Jonathan Dunk from the University of Sydney

Jonathan Dunk's essay – 'Jacky Alone: The Explorer Myth and the Politics of Aboriginal Authorship' – is a nuanced, richly theorised and revelatory discussion of the role played by Galmara, of the Wonnarua people, in Edmund Kennedy's 1848 expedition to Cape York, and the way his role featured in subsequent media and documentary accounts. Dunk deftly analyses discursive and textual renderings of the figure of the black tracker, together with the racist interpellation of Galmara as 'Jacky', glimpsing Galmara's presence fleetingly, within and through the gaps and contradictions of the colonial archive – in various newspaper accounts and later poetic renditions. Engaging with Derrida, Reynolds and Van Toorn, among others, Dunk retrieves for us a space in which we can both recognise the extraordinary skills and personal qualities of Galmara himself, and their re-coding, sanitisation and subsumption within the heroic cultural narrative, deconstructed in White's *Voss*, of the solitary and monumentally (dying) white explorer attended by faithful Aboriginal servant. Dunk reminds us how Galmara, the man himself, eludes these constructions.