The main title of this book (and of its companion Volume Two) is taken from Anna Rutherford's Editorial in the celebrated first issue of *Kunapipi* (Volume 1 Number 1, 1979). Anna began her editorial with a passage from her foreword to *Common Wealth* (1971) in which she had identified the 'regenerative spirit' as 'one of the vital forces at work in Commonwealth writing'. No-one did more to espouse and nurture that spirit than Anna throughout her life-time. It was tenaciously and radiantly reflected in a host of activities, such as her pioneering and continuous roles on behalf of ACLALS (Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies) and its regional Associations; her leadership in the establishment of Commonwealth Literature/New Literatures in English/Post-colonial Studies in University Departments of English world-wide; and, of course, her marvellous achievements as the Editor-Publisher of *Kunapipi* and Dangaroo Press - the life-blood of her phenomenal career.

Anna was particularly concerned to encourage and promote students and early career researchers and writers. She was a dedicated conference attendee, always excited by new ideas, new perspectives, new faces. Many of us working in Universities today can thank Anna for first publications in *Kunapipi* or with Dangaroo Press. No-one could have been a better mentor.

*The Regenerative Spirit* is conceived as a tribute to Anna Rutherford's extraordinary example and legacy, particularly from the Centre for Research in the New Literatures in English (CRNLE) and the contributors in both volumes. Anna was a foundation Research Associate of CRNLE, established at Flinders University in April 1977. We are greatly indebted to the enriching contributions Anna made in her inimitable style to the work of the Centre, its personnel and post-graduate students. She spent her last Christmas holiday, at Penneshaw, Kangaroo Island, proof-reading for us the edited manuscript of Lee Kok Liang's previously unpublished novel *London Does Not Belong to Me* (Kuala Lumpur: Maya
Press, 2003, edited by Syd Harrex and Bernard Wilson with an Introduction by K.S. Maniam). Less than two months before that Anna was an enthusiastic participant at CRNLE's Conference 'Landscape v. Cityscape: Home and Away' (Flinders University, 8-10 November 2000).

Anna Rutherford died on 21 February 2001 in Sydney. She shared the obituary page of Commonwealth Currents (1, 2001) with Sir Donald Bradman, a fitting conjunction in more ways than one, for Anna was an outstanding athlete, sports-woman and squash player. Anna was an adventurer by nature. On foot and in four-wheel drive vehicles she crossed continents, deserts and rocky terrain for the excitement and challenges involved. She was likewise adventurous and a true champion on the international Commonwealth Literature stage. Her own regenerative spirit lives on in our hearts and minds.

Sue Hosking and Syd Harrex

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