Contents

Acknowledgements xi
Introduction xiii

Part 1: Legalistic devices and Aboriginal–European relations 1829–1838
1. European–Noongar relations: the status of outlawry 3
2. Outlaws or patriots with whom agreements could be made? 27
3. Stirling’s punitive expeditions 47

Part 2: The impact of humanitarian networks on the British government in the 1830s and 1840s
4. The humanitarian networks’ influence on Colonial Office policy 69

Part 3: The contests between formal legal equality and colonial governance in Western Australia in the early 1840s
5. Governor Hutt’s Aboriginal policy: ideals and practice 91
6. The contest over formal legal equality: The Aboriginal Evidence Act 109
7. The status of Aboriginal law and the extent of British sovereignty 130
Part 4: Labour on the land

8. Aboriginal land rights in the 1830s and early 1840s

9. The exception becomes the rule:
   Aboriginal labour in the 1840s

10. An unequal colonial subject: extending the summary
    jurisdiction of magistrates to Aboriginal people

Conclusion

Appendix: John Hutt’s questions – circular from the
Colony Secretary’s Office, 15 January 1839

Notes
Bibliography
Index