

Acknowledgements

Stories, poems and songs about the Australian Outback abound. They often assume almost mythical proportions as they celebrate the unique, the eccentric, and the exceptional to the extent that it is sometimes difficult to determine the real from the hyperbole. The hospitality of outback Australia is, however, never questioned and this research has benefited significantly from the friendliness and openness of the people of western and remote Queensland. I am enormously grateful to all the people living and working in the many remote/rural communities who have contributed to the research reported in this book with great generosity and honesty, through surveys, interviews, and site visits over several years.

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