Acknowledgements

This book has had an overly long gestation. Some of the research materials go back 40 years to my doctoral thesis begun in 1977. Based in Brisbane onwards from 1987, I was able to visit Honiara for a week or two a year, slowly burrowing into the British Solomon Islands Protectorate Archives in the National Archives of Solomon Islands. Since the archive had no photocopy machine, I began by handwriting notes and then graduated to a laptop. Progress changed when I arrived one year with a portable photocopy machine, and again when I had access to a photocopy machine belonging to the Leung family at Acor (The Bookshop). On two occasions I was able to stay with Hudson, Hadley and Andrew Leung, for which I thank them greatly. They have remained long-term friends. Eventually, I received an Australian Research Council Discovery Grant for the project and in 2005 was able to employ Karlyn Tekalu as a research assistant for several weeks; using two digital cameras we took 35,000 digital images and revolutionised the rate of progress. Through all of this I was aided by many staff at the archives and I am grateful for their interest and assistance.

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