

# Acknowledgements

History is made through collective action and many people played their part—often unrecognised—during the Grapple nuclear tests. The writing of this book was also a collective effort, though my name is on the front cover.

While living in Fiji in the late 1990s, I co-authored *Kirisimasi*, a short history of the Fijian soldiers and sailors who witnessed the British H-bomb tests. That book is long out of print, but with the 60th anniversary of the tests in 2017–18, the idea of reprinting the book was transformed into plans for a wider history, which would capture the diverse regional responses to the nuclear tests.

This book therefore draws on research and interviews conducted for *Kirisimasi* during the late 1990s, and I must thank my co-authors Losena Salabula and Josua Nameoce Mudreilagi for their blessing to proceed. I also acknowledge other colleagues from the Pacific Concerns Resource Centre who collaborated in this work, especially our director Lopeti Senituli, Ema Tagicakibau, Tupou Vere, Hilda Lini, Ellen Whelan, Stanley Simpson, Siteri Kalouniviti, Feiloakitau Kaho Tevi, Marie-Pierre Hazera, Patrina Dumaru, Peter Emberson, Fipe Tuitobou, Sophie Naisau, Arieta Tirikula and many others.

For *Grappling with the Bomb*, new interviews and archival research were undertaken in Fiji, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, the Marshall Islands and Kiribati. Given the decades since the tests, I acknowledge the insight of Karen Ishizuka in her history *Serve the People*, who stressed the importance of ‘our endeavour to document our history before too many of us leave this earth or forget how to tie our shoes’.

My greatest debt is to the military veterans, lawyers and journalists around the Pacific who work with nuclear survivors and maintain the struggle for recognition, clean-up and compensation. For interviews and advice,

I must thank Paul Ah Poy and the members of the Fiji Nuclear Veterans Association; Roy Sefton of the New Zealand Nuclear Test Veterans Association; Roland Oldham and members of *Moruroa e Tatou* in Tahiti; Abacca Anjain-Maddison, Giff Johnson, Bill Graham and many others in the Marshall Islands.

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This book draws on my reporting as a journalist in the Pacific, as a correspondent for *Islands Business* magazine in Fiji, as a former broadcaster with Radio Australia and a writer for other regional media. I owe thanks to editors Samisoni Pareti, Netani Rika and the late Laisa Taga of *Islands Business*, as well as Peter Browne of *Inside Story*.

Early versions of some chapters were presented at seminars and conferences, including a paper to the 2015 Labour History conference in Melbourne, published as ‘Grappling with the Bomb: Opposition to Pacific nuclear testing in the 1950s’, *Proceedings of the 14th Biennial Labour History Conference* (Melbourne: Australian Society for the Study of Labour History, 2015). Thanks to editors Phillip Deery and Julie Kimber.

The chapter on Bravo was much improved by insights gleaned from ‘The Marshall Islands nuclear legacy—charting a course towards justice’, a conference held in Majuro on 1 March 2017 (the anniversary of the Bravo test). Thank you to the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Bill Graham (former public advocate for the Nuclear Claims Tribunal) for the invitation to participate. I wish I was a poet like Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner, whose performance poem ‘History Project’ says everything you need to know about US testing in the Marshall Islands.

Comparisons between US, French and UK malfeasance were road-tested with students at the University of Melbourne, the University of the South Pacific, the University of Nagasaki and the Center for Pacific Island Studies at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, with support from Richard Tanter (Australia), Sandra Tarte and Robert Nicole (Fiji), Tatsujiro Suzuki (Japan) and Terrence Wesley-Smith and Jerry Finin (Hawai‘i).

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Apologies as well to Aroha and passing visitors who were earbashed about thermonuclear death and British perfidy at the breakfast table. Above all, as always, this is for Nancy.

Nic Maclellan  
Melbourne, Australia, 2017

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