Acknowledgements

The completion of this book would not have been possible without the support of so many people. First, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr Frank Bongiorno, for his assistance, guidance and feedback throughout the planning and development of my Master of Arts thesis, which was the genesis of this book. I also thank Dr Andrew Connelly for his moral support, patience and encouragement throughout the writing process. Tagio tumas Professor David Akin for the detailed feedback on my thesis draft, which helped shape the book into what it is now. To Professor Geoffrey White, many thanks and appreciation for directing me to relevant scholarly materials and for your academic support throughout the process; your feedback was significant to this publication. To Dr Chris Ballard, I couldn't thank you enough for all your support; thank you so much for your mentorship, friendship and wisdom. To Rear Admiral James Goldrick and Moana Tregaskis, I am forever grateful the time you gave my first draft and providing useful feedback. Enormous thanks to Chris Chavelier and Dr Rebecca Monson for being such wonderful friends. Your advice, encouragement and endless academic and moral support during my time at The Australian National University helped me survive; I couldn't achieve success without friends like you. I'm also thankful to Dr Vicki Luker, for your friendship, interest in my work and support; thank you so much for encouraging me to publish my work.

Thanks to Tony and Marie-Claire Saunders, my dear friends and extended family. *Tagio tumas* for all the friendship and wonderful company at Port Germein. Marie-Claire, thanks for reading my drafts and providing useful feedback.

My very special thanks to Sir Bruce and Lady Keithie Saunders, for taking me under your wing as your daughter. Your constructive ideas, enthusiastic encouragement, passion, friendship, leadership and continuous moral support have inspired me to pursue further studies. I'm blessed to have you as family. To the patron of the Solomon Scouts and Coastwatchers Trust Board, Hon. Milner Tozaka, thanks for your leadership, humility and friendship. My sincere appreciation to the members of the trust board both past and present: it has been a pleasure working with you. To the remarkable ambassadors of the trust, John Innes and Dr Martin Hadlow, *tagio tumas wantoks* for the intelligent discussions, sharing your knowledge and your friendship. You're true ambassadors.

I was fortunate to have met the late Oneisimo Tadangoana, late Alfred Alasasa Bisili, late Edward Lulumani and late Beato. This book is dedicated to you. Thank you very much for inspiring me to write about your stories.

Stefan Armbruster, *tagio tumas* for being the voice of the trust. Your work is a blessing to our efforts. Thank you so much for all the publicity through Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) Australia. To Peter Flahavin, I hope to meet you someday and thank you very much for sending me your archival pictures of Solomon Islands.

To Dr Greg Terrill (your wonderful family and mother Pam), thank you so much for believing in me. Your humility, friendship and mentorship mean a lot. *Tagio tumas*!

Thank you as well to Andrew Byrnes, for showing great respect and interest in my work and, in your capacity as the Australian High Commissioner to Solomon Islands, for your support of the trust. To the Australian Government, many thanks for the scholarship, which helped me pursue further studies and led to the publication of this book.

To my friends, Angelina Fakaia, Joy Basi, Florence Gibbs, Patricia Pollard, Anke Mösinger, my super sisters Wendy Anikwai and Jerolyn Taro and my wonderful brothers Watson Anikwai, Michael Anikwai and Chris Ofotalau, *tagio tumas* from the depth of my heart. Your friendship inspires me to keep pushing on.

And to my family at home — in Honiara, on Malaita and Makira — an enormous thank you. My parents, aunts and uncles: I will never thank you enough no matter how hard I try. Words can never express my gratitude to you. God has blessed me with your unconditional love and support. For that, I am forever grateful.

Finally, to all my friends, colleagues and those who contributed to my work in one way or another whom I forgot to name here (please forgive me), thank you so much for your support.

This text is taken from *Solomon Islanders in World War II: An Indigenous Perspective*, by Anna Annie Kwai, published 2017 by ANU Press, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.