

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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My interest in the Lamington disaster began in the late 1960s when I first joined the Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics (BMR) as a junior geologist. Volcanologist Tony Taylor supervised the geological fieldwork I undertook, with others, on the young volcanoes in what was then still known as the Territory of Papua and New Guinea. BMR is now called Geoscience Australia, or simply GA, and it still holds the many photographs, now digitised, of Lamington volcano and its 1951 eruption that were used by Taylor in his BMR Bulletin 38. Elizabeth Fredericks, the cataloguing and intellectual property librarian at GA, is thanked most sincerely for her diligence and promptness in supplying copies of the GA photographs used in this book.

GA also holds a copy of a Rabaul Volcanological Observatory (RVO) 'Information Management System' (IMS) that was prepared during a technical upgrade of the RVO following the volcanic eruption at Rabaul in 1994. This searchable IMS is owned by the PNG Government through RVO and it contains many digitised papers on Mount Lamington and the 1951 eruption, and indeed on other PNG volcanoes and volcanic eruptions. I gratefully acknowledge the work on the IMS that was completed by the GA library manager, Chris Nelson, and his staff, supported by Shane Nancarrow, and for their ongoing interest in continuing to develop the IMS. Ewan Maidment, former executive officer of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau at ANU, played a vital role in the early development of the IMS.

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Particular thanks must be extended to the many people who have corresponded with me over many years (see Appendix A). Some of these people were survivors of the 1951 eruption; others came to the Lamington area during the relief and recovery phase; still others came later, both before and after PNG's independence in 1975. The list of correspondents, some of whom are now dead, includes, in many cases, their relations and friends. These people were all generous in providing information, opinions and views—more than could be expected in responding to a pestering researcher in distant Canberra. I was privileged to experience their generosity and willingness to explore issues for which I required insight if not solutions. There were some differences of opinion between correspondents, family loyalties and rivalries were on display occasionally, and a few people did not remember too well or were tricked by memory.

Every effort has been made to acknowledge the people who took the photographs and produced other illustrations presented in this book and to obtain appropriate permission from them and publishers. This was not possible in a very few cases; I apologise for any omissions and if sources have been identified incorrectly.

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