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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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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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