‘NOW IS THE PSYCHOLOGICAL MOMENT’

EARLE PAGE AND THE IMAGINING OF AUSTRALIA
‘NOW IS THE
PSYCHOLOGICAL
MOMENT’

EARLE PAGE AND THE
IMAGINING OF AUSTRALIA

STEPHEN WILKS
Ah, but a man’s reach should exceed his grasp,
Or what’s a heaven for?
Robert Browning, ‘Andrea del Sarto’

The man who makes no mistakes does not usually make anything.
Edward John Phelps

Earle Page as seen by L.F. Reynolds in Table Talk, 21 October 1926.
## CONTENTS

Illustrations ................................................................. ix
Acknowledgements ......................................................... xi
Abbreviations ................................................................. xiii
Prologue: ‘How Many Germans Did You Kill, Doc?’ ...................... xv
Introduction: ‘A Dreamer of Dreams’ ...................................... 1

1. Family, Community and Methodism: The Forging of Page’s World View. ................................................. 17
2. ‘We Were Determined to Use Our Opportunities to the Full’: Page’s Rise to National Prominence ......................... 59
3. The Use of Power: Treasurer Page Pursues His National Vision ................................................................. 109
5. Page and the Final Throes of the Bruce–Page Government: Challenging the Nation through Planning and Federalism .... 151
6. Page Audacious: The 1930s. ........................................ 179
7. Post-War Page: Hopes amidst Frustrations .......................... 241
8. Page Indefatigable: His Last Years in Public Life ..................... 287
Conclusions: ‘A Man’s Reach Should Exceed His Grasp’ ............ 325
Bibliography ................................................................... 335
Index ............................................................................ 379