

Acknowledgements

One reason this book was long in the making is because I had prior commitments, including my share of the work for a couple of coedited volumes. Second, I live in New Zealand, meaning that the archival research was conducted whenever I could get over to Australia for brief smash-and-grab raids in Canberra and Melbourne, and to a lesser extent in Adelaide. I simply could not have got through all the material in the time available before the advent of the digital camera, and it also helped that many of the newspaper sources are available as clippings in the Papers of Peter Ryan and the Papers of Dymphna Clark. Third, my original intention was to write an 8,000-word article for *Australian Historical Studies*, which I hoped would be published in 2018—the silver anniversary of the controversy—but the first draft exceeded 12,500 words. Like Bain Attwood before me, in another contribution to Australia’s History Wars,¹ I realised that I had too much material for a journal article, especially for a forensic study of this nature that demanded minutely detailed argument and extensive footnoting. At that point I decided to expand what I had written into a small book, which added to the timeframe as well as to the list of people and institutions requiring acknowledgment.

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1 Bain Attwood, *Telling the Truth about Aboriginal History*, Sydney: Allen & Unwin, 2005, p. vii.

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