Preface

In Australia’s foreign relations with Southeast Asia, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has been of significant interest since its inauguration in 1967. Australia was the first country to establish a formal multilateral relationship with ASEAN (in 1974) and interactions have since expanded to include a wide range of dialogues and cooperation.

This monograph has arisen from interests I developed in ASEAN and Australian policies towards it in the aftermath of the wars in Indochina and my work as a PhD student on Australia’s involvement in the war in Vietnam. I first wrote about ASEAN and its significance for Australia in the late 1970s. The work that follows seeks to contribute to the subject by providing a concise history of the origins and evolution of Australia’s multilateral relations with ASEAN since 1974.

In preparing this work, I was fortunate to have been a Visiting Fellow in the Department of International Relations in the Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs in the College of Asia and the Pacific at The Australian National University. I want to express my great appreciation to Bill Tow for supporting me as a Visiting Fellow and for welcoming me as a guest in the department.

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I would like to dedicate this book to my late parents, Dr John Norbert and Doreen Eveleen Frost.

Frank Frost
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