Foreword

Geology at The Australian National University, 1959–2009

This history of the Department of Geology at The Australian National University, which later became the Department of Earth and Marine Science, provides a fascinating insight into the development of the discipline and of the people involved over a 50-year period. The activity of the department is represented in the classroom and in the field, through the people, the research, student activities and the accomplishments of alumni.

Dr Mike Rickard is to be thanked for assembling the multifaceted contributions to this history, and for organising a celebratory dinner for the 50-year anniversary in March 2009, which many alumni managed to attend. Professor D. A. Brown, the Foundation Professor of Geology at the ANU, was present and delivered a memorable speech. Sadly, he died before the year was out.

The fiftieth anniversary of geology at the ANU came just after a major transition, at the beginning of 2008, with incorporation of the Department of Earth and Marine Science into an enlarged Research School of Earth Sciences, which was overseen by my predecessor, Professor Brian Kennett. In the new school, we build on the foundation of the past 50 years and seek to maintain and enhance the ANU’s enviable reputation for strength in earth science research and education well into the future.

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