Contributors

Sam Alasia graduated in Political Science from the University of the South Pacific in Fiji in 1982 and worked in the civil service before being elected to the Solomon Islands Parliament in 1989. He was Minister of Education from 1990–1993 and then Minister of State in the Prime Minister's office from 1994–1997. He left politics in 1998 and became Special Adviser to the Prime Minister from 2000–2001. He was also Political Adviser to Prime Minister Sogavare. As well as writing about Solomon Islands politics, Sam has produced several creative works including poems, a novel, and a collection of short stories.

Matthew Allen is a Postdoctoral Fellow with the Resource Management in Asia Pacific Program (RMAP) at the Australian National University. His background is in political anthropology and human geography. His recently awarded PhD thesis investigated the 1998–2003 conflict in Solomon Islands from the perspective of ex-militants. Matthew has also worked in Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu.

Transform Aqorau is from Roviana, New Georgia, in Western Province of Solomon Islands. He studied in Papua New Guinea, Canada and holds a PhD in Law from the University of Wollongong in Australia. He has worked as legal adviser to the Solomon Islands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. He is currently working as legal counsel to the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency. He has also been appointed Senior Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Maritime Policy at the University of Wollongong.

Anita Butler is a career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, currently serving as Australia’s Consul General in New Caledonia with responsibility for French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna. Ms Butler was Deputy Head of Mission in Honiara (2002–05), Director, Pacific Bilateral Section (2007), Director, Solomon Islands Section (2005–07) and Second Secretary in Hanoi (1999–2002). She has also held positions in the South and South East Asia, and International Organisations and Legal Divisions. Ms Butler holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) from the University of Adelaide, a Masters of Arts (Foreign Affairs and Trade) from Monash University, and a Master of Arts (Applied Linguistics) from the University of New England.
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Stewart Firth is Head of the Pacific Centre, ANU, and was Professor of Politics at the University of the South Pacific, 1998–2004. He has published widely on the history and politics of the Pacific Islands. His most recent books are *Australia in International Politics: an introduction to Australian foreign policy* (Allen & Unwin, 2005), and two edited collections, *Globalisation and Governance in the Pacific Islands* (ANU E Press, 2006) and (with Jon Fraenkel) *From Election to Coup in Fiji: the 2006 campaign and its aftermath*, Asia Pacific Press, 2007. In *Engaging our Neighbours: Towards a new relationship between Australia and the Pacific Islands* (Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 2008), he reported the deliberations of an independent task force on Australia’s Pacific policy.

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Clive Moore has taught at James Cook University, University of Papua New Guinea and University of Queensland, where he is now Professor of Pacific and Australian History. His major and rather eclectic publications have been on Australia’s Pacific Island immigrants, the Pacific labour reserve, Australian federation, masculinity, gay Queensland, New Guinea, and most recently the Solomon Islands. His most recent book is *Happy Isles in Crisis: the Historical Causes for a failing state in Solomon Islands, 1998–2004* (Asia Pacific Press, 2005). President of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Pacific Studies (2006–2008), his major current research projects are a history of Malaita Province in Solomon Islands and an historical dictionary of Solomon Islands.

Mary-Lousie O’Callaghan is a commentator and long-term resident of Solomon Islands. In her former capacity as the Pacific correspondent for The Australian newspaper she was awarded a Gold Walkley. She is the author of *Enemies Within: Papua New Guinea, Australia and the Sandline Crisis* (Doubleday, 1999) and currently works as the Public Affairs Manager for the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands.

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Ian Scales is an anthropologist and independent development consultant who has worked extensively in Solomon Islands and Bougainville. His PhD fieldwork was undertaken in Kolombangara in the Western Solomon Islands. Dr Scales is an Associate of the State Society and Governance in Melanesia Program at the Australian National University.