

# Acknowledgements

The contents of this book draw heavily on our previous publications on the history and volcanology of the Rabaul area and we therefore must acknowledge again the many people—far too numerous to list here individually—who have helped us over the years, ranging from villagers and townspeople carrying local knowledge to international and national historians and scientists. Included in this wide range of people are the staff of the Rabaul Volcanological Observatory, as well as those of the University of Papua New Guinea Library and the National Archives of Papua New Guinea (both in Port Moresby). We thank too the helpful staff of the following agencies in Canberra: Geoscience Australia (the N.H. [Doc] Fisher Geoscience Library), National Archives of Australia, Australian War Memorial and National Library of Australia.

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The 1937–43 photographs used in the original *Volcano Town* still form a significant part of this new book, *Return to Volcano Town*, and duplicate negatives for many of the original prints are still held by Geoscience Australia—formerly the Bureau of Mineral Resources—an agency of the Australian Government. This does not mean, however, that the photographs were taken by employees of the Australian Government. Most, in fact, were taken by local, camera-wielding, European witnesses,

some of them with a good eye for photographic composition, including, for example—alphabetically and not exclusively—Sarah Chinnery, Roger Davies, E.A. Hawnt and Eric Hoskin. We acknowledge photographers in the captions of the illustrations where we know their names.

We have added in this new edition some other illustrations—both diagrams and photographs—and have omitted a few others; we have also given more attention to interpreting several of the eruption photographs that were taken in May 1937 and to presenting them more systematically with regard to points in the narrative. Many of the photographs were included as bromide prints in the albums and collections of several individuals who were not necessarily the photographers, and some seem to have been produced commercially as postcards. We nevertheless must acknowledge the generosity of the print owners in allowing us to digitally scan many of the photographs in their individual collections.

Rabaul-based photographers in 1937 were also generous in providing their photographs to Australian newspapers and magazines who used them in their publications, and not always with acknowledgements. We have tended not to favour the immediately reported text of these media publications as information sources for the events of 1937–43 because of their secondary nature. We do, however, tend to favour articles in issues of the *Rabaul Times* (editor G. Thomas) and *Pacific Islands Monthly* (editor R.W. Robson).

This text is taken from *Return to Volcano Town: Reassessing the 1937–1943 Volcanic Eruptions at Rabaul*, by R. Wally Johnson and Neville A. Threlfall, published 2023 by ANU Press, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.