‘This previously untold story of economic history in Australia exposes the centrality of economic thought and scholarship to Australian intellectual and political life. Deftly positioning economic history in an innovative institutional, place-based and person-focused narrative, Claire Wright entangles economics with the history of education to produce a tale of university interdisciplinarity, influence and impact. Written with vitality and bursting with both data and anecdote, this book makes an exceptional contribution to the intersecting fields of history, economics and higher education studies.’

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‘Few readers would expect to find a classical tragedy in the story of an academic field. Yet that is what Claire Wright shows us in this study of Economic History, as it has been practiced in Australia. She traces the field from legendary beginnings to triumphant growth to organizational collapse – and renaissance on other terms. Carefully researched and vigorously written, this book raises questions about disciplines and interdisciplinary fields, universities and markets, and social bases of intellectual work, that are relevant to all fields today.’

– Raewyn Connell, author of *The Good University*

‘Australia proved a pioneer in the study of economic history, nurturing a discipline with innovative data and understanding of material trends. Yet by the 1990s economic history departments closed as senior scholars retired and the field was subsumed by conventional economics. In this absorbing study, Dr Claire Wright challenges the conventional account. She is tough-minded about financial and institutional pressures on the field, but cautiously optimistic about the future. It is a mistake, she argues, to see institutional representation as the benchmark of influence. Instead, the interdisciplinary nature of economic history has encouraged new research and teaching across the humanities and social sciences. With close attention to individual scholars and their university departments, and a deep sense of the trajectory of the field, *Australian Economic History: Transformations of an Interdisciplinary Field* is an original and important contribution to Australian intellectual history.’

– Glyn Davis, Distinguished Professor of Political Science in the Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University

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TRANSFORMATIONS OF AN INTERDISCIPLINARY FIELD

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Contents

List of figures ix
List of tables xi
List of abbreviations xiii
Acknowledgements xv
1. The interdisciplinary space 1
Universities and interdisciplinary research 7
Structure 20
2. Early economic history in Australia 21
Colonial writings 22
Interwar 25
Wartime transition 42
3. The big bang 45
The words and the numbers 46
Orthodox recruitment 52
The revolution 62
Conclusions 66
4. A moment in the sun 69
Growth 70
Enclaves 79
A fragmented community 111
5. The resistance 113
The crisis in Australian economic history 115
Adaptation and survival 138
Conclusions 161
6. Renaissance 163
The revival 164
Persistent challenges 173
Conclusions 185
7. Epilogue 187
Appendix and data 191
Departments of economic history in Australia 191
Oral history interviews 199
Index 201