

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

• • • • • • • • • • •

The research on which this book is based was funded by the Australian Research Council, with some further assistance from the University of Auckland, and I am grateful for this support. It was conducted as part of a collaborative project with Associate Professor Sandy Toussaint, who is both a generous colleague and a stalwart friend. The research was further facilitated by an honorary fellowship at the University of Western Australia, and a similar fellowship at the University of Queensland provided me with a hospitable base during my fieldwork.

I would particularly like to thank Professor Kay Milton, who kindly read a draft of the text and offered much sage advice. Colleagues at the University of Auckland also offered some insightful feedback, as well as creating a collegial academic context in which to work. Members of the Aboriginal community in Kowanyama continued, as they have since 1982, to provide generous hospitality and enthusiastic engagement with my research. And I would also like to thank all of the people along the Brisbane and Mitchell Rivers who participated in this project and showed a lively interest in its progress. Many were extraordinarily generous with their time, their thoughts and sometimes farm produce. I have tried to ensure that their voices are clearly heard in the text.

Last, but far from least, I must thank my 'old Boot' in Brisbane, John Trude, who for thirty years has remained unfailingly willing to provide friendship, a roof, and regular steak and chips.