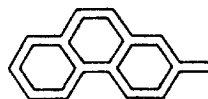


MELANESIA: BEYOND DIVERSITY

R.J. May and Hank Nelson
editors

Volume I



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PREFACE

Since its establishment in 1947 the Research School of Pacific Studies has been a major international centre for the study of Melanesia. Its scholars have been prominent both as commentators and as advisers and consultants in the developments which have taken place in the region. Melanesia thus provided a natural focus for the third annual School Seminar of the Research School of Pacific Studies.

The Seminar was held on two days a week over four weeks in October-November 1980. Fifty papers, mostly by ANU scholars, were presented to the Seminar; all but four of them are included in this volume.

Because of the quantity of material, rather than any essential differences in subject matter, the papers have been presented in two volumes. The contributors to the first volume define the region, draw attention to forces flowing from the geographical and social facts of isolation and smallness of scale, and examine various issues in the prehistory and history of the area. In the second volume the writers are principally concerned with basic contemporary political, social and economic change.

The 1980 School Seminar was organized on the initiative of the former Director of the Research School of Pacific Studies, Professor Wang Gungwu, and was planned by a committee comprising the present Director, Professor R.G. Ward, and Ross Garnaut, Roger Keesing, Ron May, Hank Nelson, and Stephen Wurm. Edward Helgeby, ably assisted by Toni Purdy, bore most of the administrative burden.

The editors gratefully acknowledge the assistance, in copy-editing and proofreading, of Hilary Bek, Charlotta Blomberg and Elizabeth Kingdon. May McKenzie supervised the typing and layout of the volume which was executed with great skill and tolerance by Dorothy Hush. The cartographers of the Department of Human Geography assisted with mapping.

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