

Acknowledgements

It is somewhat of a tradition to begin a book with a list acknowledging all those individuals who have contributed to the author's understanding and knowledge. Talks attended, conversations had, helpful hints given, references pointed out, personal information offered, critiques of drafts—these are the sorts of things normally mentioned. However, in my case, I have had virtually none of these. This book has been primarily a work of private study and self-reflection from the ivory tower of half way round the world from Aotearoa New Zealand. I have had virtually no direct input in its contents from anyone apart from my wife. All in all it's been a rather strange experience being engrossed in something about which those around me have little idea or interest, even when I try to tell them.

The only exceptions to the above are two brief meetings I had during a visit to Aotearoa New Zealand in between writing Parts Two and Three of this book. The first of these was with Robert Consedine in Christchurch. I am very grateful to him for his general encouragement of this book, the time he took to see me in a busy schedule, and for providing me with a number of interesting papers. Thanks also go to Robert's wife, Trish, for sending me several more papers after I had returned to the UK.

The other person I met in Aotearoa New Zealand during this visit was Professor David Williams. I am similarly grateful to him for his time and papers. I am also very grateful for the answers he gave me to a few specific questions, either verbally or via e-mail.

As I have said, though, that is the sum total of the direct input I have received for this book. Nevertheless no man is an island. Many people have contributed to this book enormously in various more indirect ways, either knowingly or not. It is only right to thank these people as well.

In the first place, then, I thank all the authors of the books from whom I have obtained my information. Without them I would have continued for years trying to resolve the age-old Pākehā dilemma between trying to be fair, and resenting the special treatment of Māori in Aotearoa New Zealand. First and foremost of these authors is Ranginui Walker. I am particularly grateful to him for the challenge he set me in his book *Ka Whawhai Tonu Matou: Struggle Without End*. I am also very grateful to him for the strong impression he stamped on my memory during his lectures to a class I attended many years ago.

Authors aside, I also thank two people who have taught me what self-reflection really means, what it really means to challenge one's long held subconscious assumptions about 'life, the universe and everything'. The two people I thank here are David Toms and my good friend Tony Edmonds. I could not have changed my way of thinking on many issues as radically as I have without their perceptive comments over the years, especially those of David Toms.

Likewise it is also appropriate to thank my sixth form English teacher, Miss Grey (Gray?—I wish I could remember). In my headstrong school days I was fully of the opinion that true knowledge could only be found in science and mathematics. I thank Miss Grey that she was able to break through this hard exterior and lay a seed in my heart that was to grow when times became difficult. Thanks to her I now realise that knowledge is not confined to the sciences alone, but may be found in the humanities and arts as well. In other words, I now realise that there is a higher goal than simply acquiring knowledge—it is obtaining wisdom (whether I have achieved this to any degree is another matter). Miss Grey is probably completely unaware that she planted the seed for this, but I thank her all the same.

A general thanks also go to all the people from my formative years in Aotearoa New Zealand who taught me how special this country is. I would not have written this book if I did not believe this and did not care about the country very deeply. Thanks go especially to all my Māori school friends who I lost touch with many years ago. It was a privilege to learn alongside them. These people sowed the seeds for my understanding of 'the special place of Māori in Aotearoa New Zealand'.

An even more general thanks go to the Māori people as a whole just for being themselves, and thus a large part of what makes Aotearoa New Zealand so special. I am personally very grateful to them for teaching me (primarily through the written word in my case) so much about the meaning of dignity, patience, and hospitality, not to mention myself, through their unique view of life.

Last, but not least, amongst non-family members I thank two people for their specific help with this book at a much more mundane, albeit very necessary, level. First of all I thank my friend Arianna Ruggiero in Aotearoa New Zealand for the use of her student photocopy card to make copies of some relevant material while I was in the country in 2008. I think I am still in debt by at least one coffee for this. The other person to thank is my special friend Sara Rattenbury in the UK for her help with backing up this book. Sara has received an e-mail from me of ever-increasing enormity virtually every day for the last couple of years, and dutifully filed the book in progress on her computer. Once upon a time she used to get frequent e-mails from me of the friendly sort instead. I hope she knows I have at least thought about writing them, and that she is not simply empty hard-disk space ☺.

And now for my family, beginning my parents. I could say thanks to them for bringing me into the world, preparing me for the world, and releasing me to fly off to other side of the world without them, but that would take a book in itself. I hope they know these things without me having to write such a book. Instead I will thank them for the way in which they have contributed to this book more directly. In particular, I thank my parents for bringing race relations into my everyday life by two significant decisions. Firstly my father chose to buy a section in Māngere, South Auckland many years ago when there were still cows grazing over the back boundary. This decision meant my immediate external environment turned out to be right at the heart of urban Māori development. And secondly, by choosing my much-loved adopted Māori sister, Catherine, my parents brought race relations right into the heart of my home and family. Perhaps this latter event more than anything has focused my mind on the issues in this book. I know my parents did not make these decisions with race relations even remotely in mind, but I thank them anyway for the result.

Also in my family I thank my sister Rachel for being my 'New Zealand agent' for purchasing and sending relevant books, especially from the auction website TradeMe. I could not have written this book with the material available in the UK, so Rachel's help has been extremely valuable. Thanks also go to my brother Andrew. His connection with the University of Auckland enabled me to obtain access to a particularly important reference during my recent visit to Aotearoa New Zealand that I could not buy for love, nor money.

And of course, thanks also go to my adopted sister Catherine for being different from the rest of my family and for continually challenging me. I am also grateful to her for her enthusiastic support for this project. When I gave her a copy of the first chapter of this book she wrote back to me saying I was 'a way cool brother'. For someone who used to be known as 'a nerd' by *all* my sisters in the past, this is high praise indeed. I am chuffed!

Finally there are three very special family members who deserve the most thanks while I have been writing this book. They are my immediate family here in the UK. Without such a loving home I could never have sat down to write a book. As a result of having M.E. I am not able to have many projects on the go at once. When this is combined with my innate tendency to become extremely focused on one particular thing once it grabs my attention, a situation is created whereby I am often present in my house in body but not much else.

So thanks go to my two lovely daughters who have not seen as much of their 'baddy daddy' over the last couple of years as they might have wanted. But the biggest thanks go to my wife. What a time for me to disappear writing a book while she has been trying to get her new company up and running so she can earn enough money to keep our family in 'the lifestyle to which we are accustomed'. In the midst of her frenetic activity she has still found time to read drafts of what I have been writing and give constructive comments (not to mention receive and store daily backups of the book in progress as well). She more than makes up for my lack of ability to multitask. I have so much to thank her for.