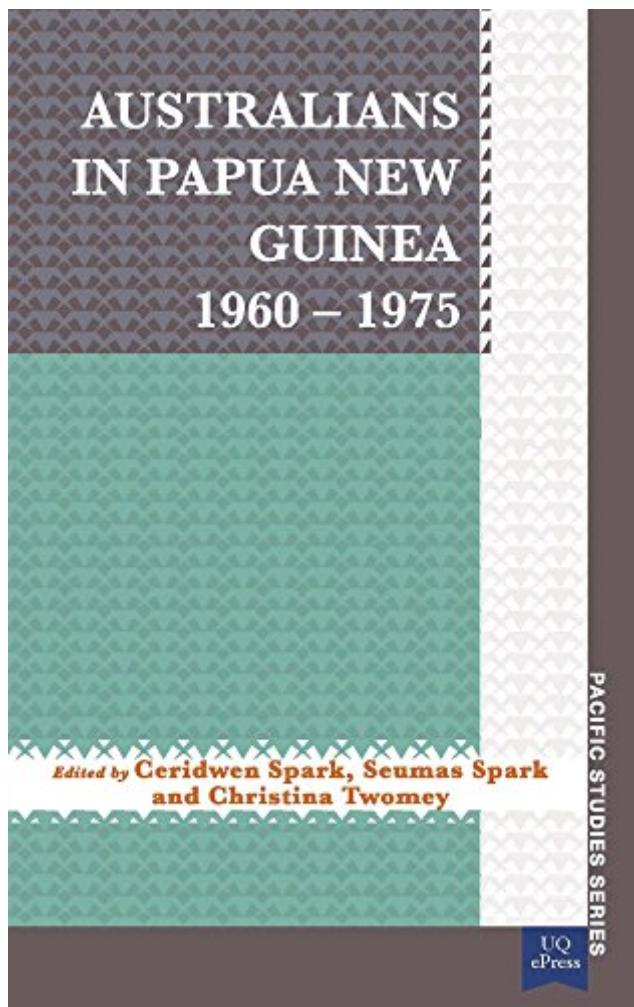


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Australians In Papua New Guinea 1960-1975 (Pacific Studies Series)



Synopsis

Australians in Papua New Guinea provides a history of the late Australian years in Papua New Guinea through the eyes of 13 Australians and four Papua New Guineans by presenting the experiences of Australians who went to work in Papua New Guinea (PNG) over several decades before the 1970s. This extraordinary book balances expatriates with indigenous Papua New Guineans, balances gender, and pioneers an innovative combination of written reminiscences and interviews that reveal the impact of Australian colonial policy on pre-independence PNG. It follows medical practitioners Michael Alpers, Ken Clezy, Margaret Smith, Ian Maddocks, and Anthony Radford (with accompanying reflections by wife, Robin) who grappled with complex medical issues in difficult surroundings. Other contributors—John Langmore, John Ley, and Bill Brown—became experts in governance. The final group featured was involved in education and social change: Ken Inglis, Bill Gammage, and Christine Stewart. Papua New Guinean contributors: medical expert Sir Isi Henao Kevau, diplomats Charles Lepani and Dame Meg Taylor, and educator and politician Dame Carol Kidu further deepen the insights of this collection. A final reflection is provided by historian Jonathan Ritchie, himself part of an Australian family in PNG. The history of this important Pacific nation unfolds as do the histories of individuals who were involved in its formative decades.

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Customer Reviews

Having spent my whole adult working life in PNG I knew many of the people writing or featuring in this book. Some of the views are shared, others I disagreed with but all in all it was thought provoking. Mi hamamas long ridim dispela ol stori.

This collection of interviews and reminiscences is part of the University of Queensland's Press attempt to create a series of affordable, accessible, and scholarly books about the Pacific, and particularly Melanesian. I think they've succeeded on every count with this volume. Professional historians of Papua New Guinea will welcome the personal angle of the papers here. They'll also be impressed with the selection of voices, which includes the pivotal and not-so-pivotal, as well as a wide variety of women, men, Papua New Guineans and Australians. But you don't need to be a professor to enjoy (or afford!) this volume. All of the pieces in this series are easy to read and some of them, particularly Gammage's quietly lyrical remembrance of his time in Port Moresby, are true gems.

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