Acknowledgements

This book was written in order to demystify key elements of legal discourse, and to illustrate the inner mechanics of an increasingly powerful body of law. Importantly this is not a book about defining indigenous knowledge, rather it is about the capacity of western law to make and remake that very category. The politics of the book is simple – unmasking the history, function and operation of intellectual property law actually provides the possibility for re-imagining how it could be used to advance indigenous interests in knowledge control, access and use. Given the complexity of colonial relationships within Australia as elsewhere, I firmly believe that finding a productive way forward in law and politics is not a task for indigenous people alone. It is the responsibility of us all.

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