Preface

The ideas in this book have been evolving over a long period of time. My PhD thesis completed in 1963 and subsequently published by Princeton University Press in 1968 as a book, *The Theory of Price Uncertainty, Production and Profit*, already included an emphasis on economic diversity and bounded rationality. *Bounded Rationality and Economic Evolution*, published by Edward Elgar in 1966, highlighted my continuing interest in complex economic systems. My early microeconomic texts gave particular attention to the views of Schumpeter about competition. My later explorations of ecological and environmental economics kept alive my interest in ecology (an interest which had already developed at school) and kept me wondering about the similarities between ecological theories and economic performance. Some of those similarities and differences are given prominence in parts of this book.

There is much more emphasis on the operation of economic processes in this book than in my earlier books. In particular, special attention is given to the value of economic diversity and economic imperfections in improving the performance of economic processes in particular identified situations. Limitations of using market-like mechanisms for managing public bodies and business firms are discussed and the value of business cooperation (economic mutualism) as a means for improving economic performance is examined. It is also observed that as economies develop, different forms of economic competition and business cooperation evolve.

Whether or not I have become increasingly interested in process economics as a result of some form of osmosis I am uncertain. Did the fact that the supervisors of my honours thesis and of my PhD thesis came originally from Austria have some impact? Did my meetings with Oskar Morgenstern, Fritz Machlup and William Baumol at Princeton have an influence? Who knows? Baumol was not very inspired (in retrospect appropriately) by my first clumsy attempts to develop some evolutionary theory in the 1960s but Morgenstern and Machlup were more encouraging, especially Morgenstern.

Visits to California State University (Long Beach), the University of La Réunion, and Zurich University provided me with an impetus to prepare materials used in several of the chapters of this book. It was also beneficial

for me to engage in joint research on past occasions with Serge Svizzero, Laurence Lasselle and Irmi Seidl to address topics of mutual interest. Participation in regular annual workshops beginning in 2005, originally organized by Professor Serge Svizzero and subsequently by Professor Jacques-Marie Aurifeille and funded in part by the French Government, kept me in contact with research in the management discipline and provided a venue for me to express and obtain feedback on some of the important ideas in this book. Darwin and Jane Hall were particularly encouraging in relation to my earlier research efforts which have now been incorporated into Chapters 7 and 8. In addition, William Paul Bell read the draft of Chapter 12 and supplied me with some useful feedback. I am grateful to all the above-mentioned persons.

I am, however, very much indebted to Dr Cassey Lee of the University of Wollongong for his interest in this project. He has read most of the draft of this manuscript in detail, provided valuable feedback and suggested some extra references. Also Peter Earl of The University of Queensland read the entire draft manuscript and made many worthwhile observations and suggestions. Thanks Cassey and Peter. The usual caveat applies.

Word processing of the whole manuscript has been completed by Evelyn Smart. Thank you Evelyn. I am also grateful to the School of Economics, The University of Queensland for its support. It has been good to work in an atmosphere where colleagues such as John Foster, Peter Earl and John Quiggin are aware of the complexities of economics. I also thank Edward Elgar for his patience in allowing me to take so long to complete the manuscript for this book and the staff of Edward Elgar Publishing for the care they have taken with the production of this book.

Once again, my wife Mariel has been patient and too often deprived of our morning chats which she likes. Thanks Mariel. Two little dogs, Rani and Sparkie, have without fail kept me company in the early hours of the morning while I have been writing. The fact that they get a little treat then probably keeps them onside and nearby as well! I appreciate the direct and indirect contributions of all those mentioned above in helping to bring this book to fruition but I also acknowledge that others have helped as well.

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