

# Foreword

It is a particular pleasure and privilege to write the foreword to this book by Dr Ted Henzell, which is destined to become a classic reference on the history of Australian agriculture.

The publication of this book has been supported by the ATSE Crawford Fund – an organisation dedicated to increasing the engagement of Australians in international agricultural research (defined broadly as agricultural research to benefit developing countries), and the reader is entitled to ask why. What does agriculture in developing countries have to do with the history of agriculture in Australia? The answer is that 200 years ago Australia was a developing country, and like most such countries its economic growth was built on agricultural development, which in turn relied on innovation – doing things differently. After the pioneering phase, innovation was still vital to keeping us competitive in world markets for agricultural products and to improve the sustainability of agriculture, and the battle is far from over. Dr Henzell's history of innovation in Australian agriculture provides insights and lessons for people everywhere, and towards the end of each chapter he alerts us to the key role that agricultural research will play in addressing the challenges that face agricultural industries at present. The need for research (including the efforts of countless humble farmers) to underpin the development of agriculture in developing countries, and the supportive role that Australians can play in this, are the central messages of the ATSE Crawford Fund.

No doubt there will be other scholarly histories of Australian agriculture in the future, but I doubt that any will be more warmly welcomed than this one. It fills a gap that has been recognised for many years. Dr Henzell has taken a 'commodity approach' to his history, and this will suit many readers. Those who know very little about the history of agricultural commodities will find plenty to entertain them. However, because Dr Henzell has gone back to the source documents (including a good deal of 'grey literature' and material not easily accessible in Australia), every chapter contains information that even the best-informed experts on particular commodities will find new and surprising. This attention to source material and to the state of agriculture in Britain and Ireland at the time of Australian settlement is one reason this book will stand the test of time. The other is the quality of Dr Henzell's analysis and insight. His childhood on a Queensland farm, his personal experience as an agricultural scientist, his leadership of agricultural research in CSIRO and other organizations, and his awareness of the international agricultural research scene (including a period on the Technical Advisory Committee of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research) equipped him very well for this task.

I commend this book to a generation of readers.

Bob Clements AO  
Executive Director  
The ATSE Crawford Fund