

Acknowledgements

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We wish to express our deep appreciation to the Australia-Japan Foundation for financial support for our project entitled "Australian Policy Towards the Pacific Community." We began carrying out our research in the spring of 1981, and we are now at the point of beginning to assess its accomplishments. This special issue is an initial report on these research activities. It contains five articles and a bibliography of books, parliamentary papers, address notes relevant to the theme of our project.

Although each project member's visit to Australia averaged only two months, we were fortunate that this project enabled us to acquire first-hand observation as well as to collect data on location.

We are very grateful to many Australians, including public officials and university staff members, for their generous assistance and instruction. Their concern and hospitality greatly encouraged our efforts. Our thanks also go to the SSRI for setting aside this entire issue for the publication of our research findings.

Through this research we have seen our interest in the political, economic, and cultural changes in Australia greatly increase. We shall continue our study with the hope that in the near future it will enhance our efforts to make Australian Studies one of the regional study programs of this University's academic curriculum.