

## Acknowledgements

*John O'Brien*

This, more than most books, is a collaboration of minds and effort. It would not tell all of its wonderful stories without the extensive effort of many people. Many of these people were consciously involved in the preparation of the book and its ideas. There are however some people who influenced the book's conception without ever knowing it. We'll start with the latter.

On arriving in Sydney in 1997 and at a loss as to what career to pursue, I spent an afternoon with a recruitment psychologist trying to work out what made me tick. We concluded at the end of the afternoon that I should be an 'environmental entrepreneur'. Sadly I have no recollection of her name, but it is with thanks that I was steered onto that course. John Harradine from Zaffyre furthered this transition by helping me see what was stopping me achieve this goal, for which I will be forever grateful. Finally, Tim Flannery's eloquent book *The Weather Makers* spurred me into action. In some ways, this book, *Opportunities Beyond Carbon*, might be seen as suggesting some answers to the problems so clearly articulated there.

The influence of my wonderfully complex childhood family, full of strong spirits, wild adventures and a feeling that respect must first be earned, provided me with the foundations on which to build this book. I wish could spend more time being inspired by them.

Those with a more direct influence include Dr Sam Wells, a contributor to this book, who first suggested that the easiest way to write a book was to get others to do the writing. An insightful suggestion indeed! Sam speaks brilliantly about the complex world of sustainability and has also been a voice of quiet reason and optimism with whom it is always a pleasure to share a pot of green tea.

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The biggest thanks, however, must go to my beautiful wife, Kate. She has tolerated me jumping out of the safe corporate world and into the exciting and rewarding life that we have. Without her support and guidance this book would not exist.

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