ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Inevitably, this exploration of colonial connections has drawn on my own global networks – networks that connect family, colleagues and friends, and convey finance, information and advice.

I began this book in Oxford, and its central ideas were thrashed out between Rhodes House Library, the Blackwells café, and Holywell Manor. I would like particularly to thank John Darwin, who supervised my doctoral research and, with his characteristic dry wit, helped to guide, inform and expand my ideas during numerous conversations; and also Peter Marshall and David Washbrook, whose perceptive comments helped to transform that research into this book. There have been many other fruitful conversations – in Melbourne, Oxford, London, and Sheffield – which have contributed immensely to my understanding of both nineteenth-century Britain and the colonies. Support, advice and ideas came from Mike Braddick, Carl Bridge, Peter Burroughs, Jo Duffy, Julie Evans, Clare Griffiths, Pat Grimshaw, Catherine Hall, Karen Harvey, Mark Hickford, Hartley Mitchell, Dawn Nell, Ian Phimister, Andrew Porter, Simon Potter, Dara Price, Simon Skinner, Christoph Stumpf, Helen Tilley, and Ben Zachariah, as well as my colleagues at the University of Sheffield and the students who took ‘The Empire in Victorian Britain’ in 2003 and 2004. Without Alan Lester, David Philips, Damon Salesa, Michael Stumpf and Damen Ward, each of whom read parts, or all, of this book, it would never have been finished.

I am indebted to the archivists and librarians at Rhodes House Library, the Bodleian Library, the British Library, the Public Record Office, the Liverpool Record Office, Cambridge University Library, Durham University Library, the School of Oriental and African Studies, the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Library, the National Library of South Africa, the Cape Archives, the Cory Library at Rhodes University, the University of Cape Town, the State Archives of New South Wales, and the Mitchell Library, for their assistance and guidance.

An earlier version of parts of chapter four appears as ‘Closing the gap: colonial governors and their metropolitan agents’, in Simon J. Potter (ed.), *Imperial communications: Australia and Britain* (London, 2005); while some sections of chapter six appeared in ‘Integrating metropolitan, colonial and imperial histories – the Aborigines Select Committee of 1835–7’, in T. Banivanua Mar and J. Evans (eds), *Writing colonial histories: comparative perspectives* (Melbourne, 2002). I am grateful to the Menzies Centre and the University of Melbourne for granting me permission to use this material.

While working on this book, I was funded by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, Balliol College, the Beit Fund, and the University of Sheffield.

I would like to thank my family, Elizabeth, David, Xanthe and Margaret Laidlaw, Annedore and Rudolf Stumpf, the Goldstraws, and the Ulmanns, for their generous encouragement and support over a much longer period than merely the last seven

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

years. Finally, it's unlikely that my most favourable critic and favourite companion realised just how familiar he was going to become with the former colonies, or their history, when he met me in October 1997. Michael Stumpf has not only borne it all with good grace, but has provided inspiration, critical commentary and sustenance. It could not have been done without him.