PREFACE

This book has been some years in the making. This is not so much associated with particular difficulties with the writing of it, but more to do with the distractions that took the authors into other areas of research and scholarship at various times. These distractions were very much related to the volatility of tourism globally and its economic effects locally. They included such situations as the effects of SARS and the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) on tourism as well as proposals for deregulation of aviation, proposed changes in taxation that would affect particular tourism sectors and the potential effects of different carbon emissions mitigation policies on the tourism industry. The varied types of events that required the sometimes urgent attention of tourism economists reinforced our view of the importance of economics as a discipline of tourism research and also of educating students of its potential to inform government policy.

Larry Dwyer and Peter Forsyth have co-authored numerous articles on tourism economics over the years. Much of the book reflects the type of thinking that they have brought to tourism economics during their careers. Wayne Dwyer, a specialist in managerial economics, has brought to the team valuable expertise in pedagogy as well as sound insights into economic reasoning.

The authors wish to acknowledge the support and encouragement of many colleagues over the years. Many of the ideas in the book reflect the contributions that these persons have made to our thinking. Raul Hernandez-Martin, James Mak, Neelu Seetaram, Haiyan Song, Nada Kulendran, Tay Koo, Adam Blake, Leo Jago, Tien Duc Pham and Andreas Papatheodorou were kind enough to provide valuable feedback on the content of some chapters. Neelu Seetaram also prepared some of the material in the boxed summaries of articles that are a distinguishing feature of this book, and we acknowledge her valuable contribution in this activity. A special acknowledgement is also due to Ehsan Ahmed who expertly prepared most of the diagrams in the text. Every effort has been made to locate, contact and acknowledge copyright owners. Any errors will be rectified in future editions.

We extend our gratitude to these colleagues and to the large number of other colleagues that have influenced our views on tourism economics. Of this latter group we would like

to single out Ray Spurr for special mention. Ray has, over a decade of collaboration with us on various projects, always brought special insights to the table in discussions about the findings of our studies and their implications for policy. We also wish to acknowledge the expert modelling work undertaken by Drs. Thiep Van Ho, Daniel Pambudi and Serajul Hoque which have underpinned many of our publications and have informed the content of this text.

At bottom it is the support of families that is most treasured. We would like to thank Libby, Eve, Joan, Ling, Enya and Jaime for their unfailing support for our work and their loving tolerance of living with workaholics. We promise henceforth to spend more time to smell the flowers and to linger longer over drinks. Larry and Wayne also wish to acknowledge the love and support they have always received from their mother, Iris, 88 years young and a daily user of the computer.

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