THE MERCHANT OF SYDNEY

CHIS MAXWELL & ALEX PUGH

... being so long situated in this Colony through my own industry and perseverance I thought it advisable to remain and improve my condition which thank God I have done ...

James Chisholm, Sydney, 15th February 1823

James Chisholm was an important pioneer of colonial Australia, contributing to its business and banking, democratic processes and pastoral industry, yet historians have ignored him for two hundred years. He left his native Scotland as a young soldier and travelled half way round the world to a new land where from being a corporal in the Rum Corps he rose to become a leading merchant in Sydney. In a life characterised by faith, loyalty, family and self-improvement, this gruff but quietly spoken Scot, of ‘genial and kindly disposition’, commanded wide respect and made his mark on a new society.

Chis Maxwell is Emeritus Professor of Reproductive Biology in the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney. Since retirement (2008) he has been involved in lay ministry at St John’s Anglican Church, Beecroft. This is his first historical book.

Alex Pugh graduated from the University of Sydney (BA Hons, 1975), studying history under several esteemed professors. He has published A Short History of St James’ Pitt Town (Parish of Pitt Town Australia, 1999) and the Recollections of Mary Pugh née Diacono (Kontea Foundation Cyprus, 2009). He has been involved in lay ministry in the Pitt Town Anglican Community Church since 1997.