

BOOK NOTES

Further Publications from the Sesquicentenary of Responsible Government in New South Wales

By David Clune¹

Two previous book notes have listed publications resulting from the Sesquicentenary of Responsible Government in New South Wales (*APR* 21(1): 2006; *APR* 22(1): 2007). In total, 31 publications and seven on-line projects were funded. This final instalment gives details of the rest of the work sponsored by the Sesquicentenary Committee.

Coverage of the history of New South Wales political parties has continued with two major, pioneering studies, Rodney Smith's *Against the Machines: minor parties and independents in New South Wales 1910–2006* (Federation Press 2006) and Ian Hancock's *The Liberals: a history of the New South Wales Division of the Liberal Party 1945–2000* (Federation Press 2007). Michael Hogan has edited *Labor Pains: early conference and Executive reports of the Labor Party in New South Wales* (Federation Press 2006) which gives detailed accounts of Labor conferences from 1892–1905. *The Worldly Art of Politics* (Federation Press 2006) edited by Ken Turner and Michael Hogan argues that the poor public image of politicians owes more to myth than fact and supports this with a series of case studies. Former Speaker Kevin Rozzoli has drawn on his many years experience in the New South Wales Parliament to write *Gavel to Gavel: an insider's view of parliament* (University of New South Wales Press 2006). Deborah Brennan and Louise Chappell have edited "*No fit place for women*"? *Women in New South Wales Politics 1856–2006* (University of New South Wales Press 2006) which analyses women's role in Parliament, political parties and the public service as well as their participation in advocacy and lobby groups.

The electoral system and the franchise were the subject of two publications. Marian Simms has written *From the Hustings to Harbour Views: electoral institutions in New South Wales 1856–2006* (University of New South Wales Press 2006) which describes the evolution of the New South Wales electoral system from a British-based model into something distinctively Australian. *The Electoral Atlas of New South Wales 1856–2006* (Department of Lands 2006) edited by Eamonn Clifford, Antony Green and David Clune was a joint project of the Sesquicentenary Committee and the Department of Lands. It includes maps of electoral boundaries for all New South Wales redistributions from 1856 onwards, shows elections results, and has a commentary on each election. An introductory essay gives a history of voting in New South Wales.

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Two major books on State constitutional law have been produced. George Winterton has edited *State Constitutional Landmarks* (Federation Press 2006) which provides scholarly yet accessible accounts of 15 major cases or events affecting State Constitutions. In *The Chameleon Crown: the Queen and her Australian Governors* (Federation Press 2006) Ann Twomey gives a new and revelatory account of the complex relations between Australia, the United Kingdom and the Crown.

A number of works have explored nineteenth century politics in New South Wales. Peter Cochrane's *Colonial Ambition: foundations of Australian democracy* (Melbourne University Press 2006), joint winner of the Prime Minister's History Award, provides a highly readable and insightful account of the advent of responsible government in New South Wales. *The Seeds of Democracy: early elections in colonial New South Wales* (Federation Press 2006) by Max Thompson combines the author's earlier account of the first Legislative Council election in 1843 with a new study of the 1856 election. Terry Irving's *The Southern Tree of Liberty: the democratic movement in New South Wales before 1856* (Federation Press 2006) highlights the role of popular movements and democrats in the struggle for responsible government. Michael Hogan, Leslie Muir and Hilary Golder have edited *The People's Choice: electoral politics in colonial New South Wales* (Federation Press 2007). A 'prequel' to *The People's Choice: electoral politics in twentieth century New South Wales* (New South Wales Parliament and University of Sydney 2001 available through Federation Press), it provides detailed accounts of all nineteenth century elections.

As part of the Sesquicentenary commemoration, a seminar was held to discuss writing the history of New South Wales political parties. Many of the authors of Sesquicentenary works were involved plus other such as Bob Carr and Stuart Macintyre. The resulting papers are available in David Clune and Ken Turner editors *Writing Party History: papers from a seminar held at Parliament House, Sydney, May 2006* (New South Wales Parliament 2007 available through Federation Press).

Further on-line projects were funded. The reports of Parliamentary Debates published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* from 1843 to the establishment of *Hansard* in 1879 have been supplemented by the early *Votes and Proceedings* and *Journals* of the Houses on the New South Wales Parliament's website (<http://bulletin/prod/web/common.nsf/key/pre1991> Hansard). The New South Wales Parliament is also hosting Antony Green's data base of candidates and results for New South Wales elections since 1856, originally prepared as part of the *Electoral Atlas of New South Wales 1856–2006* project (<http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/resources/nswelectionsanalysis/homepage.htm>). All results have been checked from original sources and many notes added to explain interesting or unusual events. Campbell Sharman has added an enhanced New South Wales section to his Australian government and politics website

(<http://elections.uwa.edu.au/>). Jim Hagan has compiled a list of theses on New South Wales politics and history which is on the University of Wollongong website (<http://www.uow.edu.au/arts/research/historynswtheses/>). ▲