

of what is the best of Australia. Keating depicts the great promise of Australia and the opportunity and liberty which Australia has delivered. Keating celebrates the 'lesson of the emigrant' while at the same time informing his audience that the great casualty of immigration was Aboriginal Australia: 'the destruction of this extraordinary ancient culture, and the brutality and injustice inflicted on the first Australians can never really be set right.' The speech simply is a thing of beauty.

There are many other memorable

speeches in the anthology. Western Australian Senator Dorothy Tagney's speech to the Senate on 24 September 1943, with its optimism for, and vision of, post-war Australia, the power and logic of 'Doc' Evatt's 'No man should be deprived of civil rights' speech against the bill to dissolve the Communist Party, Keating's splendid eulogy to the Unknown Australian Soldier at the Australian War Memorial on 11 November 1993 and several famous speeches by John Curtin and Ben Chifley, are among the highlights.

It is hard not to notice too, in our age of individualism, how the early speeches by leading Labor figures appealed so frequently to collectivism, and the values of community and the social.

The book is most likely to be enjoyed by those with an interest in the techniques of persuasion, Australian history or the Australian Labor Party.

**Reviewed by MR Tyson**

## The Whitlam Legacy

Troy Bramston (ed) | Federation Press | 2013



The second book which I have been asked to review is *The Whitlam Legacy*. It features thirty-eight essays about Mr Whitlam and his government. Among other things, there are essays about the Whitlam government's political style, its relationship with key

institutions, and its achievements in discrete areas of public policy. There are other chapters which look at the legacy of the Whitlam government. Gerard Henderson, Bob Carr, Frank Brennan, Susan Ryan, Peter van Onselen and Malcolm Mackerras are just some of the contributors. Mr Whitlam has written a foreword to the volume.

There has been so much written about the Whitlam prime-ministership and Mr Whitlam himself that I am not entirely convinced about the need for this book. However, I did enjoy reading Michael Kirby's chapter 'Gough Whitlam: In His Father's Shadow' which surveys the legal career of Gough Whitlam's father, Fred Whitlam, a distinguished lawyer and dedicated public servant. Fred Whitlam, *inter alia*, served as Commonwealth

crown solicitor for 12 years from December 1936. Michael Sexton, then an adviser to the Attorney-General Kep Enderby, has contributed an intriguing chapter: 'The Dismissal'; which starts from about 8.00am on 11 November 1975 and then describes from Mr Sexton's perspective, how the events of that momentous day unfolded.

This book will be most appreciated by those unfamiliar with the Whitlam years or those who have an interest in revisiting that time. It is a volume which is fairly comprehensive in its coverage of its topic and does offer some fresh perspectives.

**Reviewed by MR Tyson**