

MEDIA RELEASE

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FORMER VICTORIAN PREMIER STEVE BRACKS TO PUBLISH POLITICAL MEMOIRS

Melbourne University Publishing (MUP) is proud to announce the publication of The Hon. Steve Bracks' political memoirs in August this year. His book, co-written with journalist Ellen Whinnett, will reflect on his period as Premier and Victoria's Labor leader from 1999–2007, and more generally on Labor's recent time in power at both state and federal levels.

"Labor has been in power in Victoria for 21 out of the last 30 years. Before that it had been out of office for a continuous 26 years. Why the transformation? What did it take to return to office and win two periods of three-term governments, including the biggest majority of any government in Victoria's history?" Mr Bracks says, "These are the questions I try to address from my perspective as Labor leader and Premier".

The book will explore how and why Victoria, and Australia, have changed under Labor leadership. It will also give insights into how to run a successful government, how to manage the factions, and the challenges of forming minority government with independents.

It will reveal for the first time the background to Mr Bracks' decision to take the party's leadership from John Brumby in 1999—then to hand it back to John in 2007 when he surprised everyone by resigning from office at the peak of his power.

MUP's CEO, Louise Adler, says "I am delighted that we have been able to persuade Mr Bracks to write this book. His writing on leadership, good government and the ALP is mandatory reading for both insiders of all hues and citizens who are mystified by the process, the players and how politics works".

This wide-ranging, thoughtful and incisive look at Mr Bracks' life and career encompasses not only his thoughts on the Labor Party, but the state of Australian politics generally, both during his time in politics and after it.

For more information please contact **Terri King** at MUP
on 03 9342 0319 or 0406 998 020, or email taking@unimelb.edu.au

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MUP 187 Grattan Street Carlton 3053 Australia · +613 9342 0300 · mup-info@unimelb.edu.au · www.mup.com.au