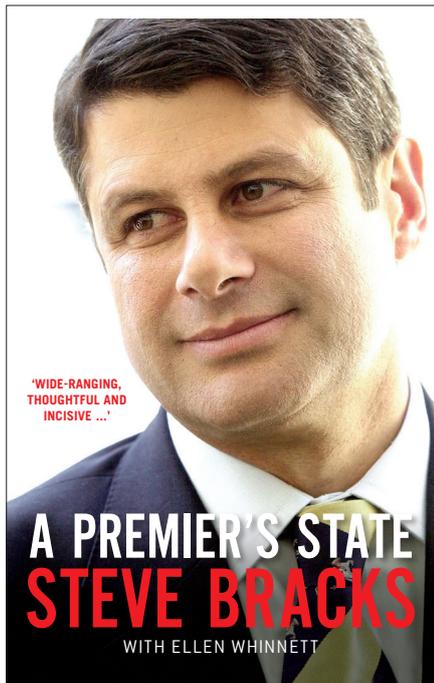


MEDIA RELEASE

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A PREMIER'S STATE

by Steve Bracks with Ellen Whinnett

In May 1994, while I was going through pre-selection for the seat of Williamstown, I sat down at my desk at home and I wrote a note. I was thirty-nine years old and in that note I mapped out what I hoped would happen in my life.

By the time he was forty-eight, Steve Bracks had achieved the goal he'd set himself nine years earlier. He was premier of Victoria. In *A Premier's State* he reflects on his ambition to make a difference, and how he reached his goal. He talks about his early childhood growing up in a conservative but impassioned family that supported the Democratic Labor Party, and about his gradual evolution from left-wing university radical to pragmatic centre-left premier.

He reveals for the first time the background to his decision to take the party's leadership from his friend John Brumby in 1999—then to hand it back to John in 2007 when he sensationally resigned from office. He gives insights into how to run a successful government and how to manage the factions, and talks about everything from the impact of public life on his family, to forming minority government with independents.

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

Steve Bracks joined the Australian Labor Party in 1974 and was Premier of Victoria from 1999 to 2007. He is a non-executive director of numerous non-profit and industry bodies including the Deakin (University) Foundation, the Bionics Institute, Jardine Lloyd Thomson Australia, the John Button Foundation, the Union Education Foundation and the Beirut Hellenic Bank.

Ellen Whinnett is a journalist of more than twenty years experience and now works as the deputy editor of News Ltd's *Sunday Herald Sun*. She has won numerous journalism awards including a Walkley award for news reporting, and specialises in political, investigative and crime reporting.

Steve Bracks is available for interview from 1 August.

For more information please contact **Terri King** at MUP on 03 9342 0316 or 0406 998 020, or email taking@unimelb.edu.au

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