

# Acknowledgments

This project began almost by accident. In 1995, John Wanna approached the Queensland Parliament with the intention of spending his sabbatical research leave of six months with the parliamentary research staff. His original intention was to assist their research endeavours and contribute something back for the privilege of living in Queensland and in recognition of the wonderful opportunity of being attached to the Parliament. He was not a born-and-bred Queenslander but Queensland had very much become his adopted home state. The Deputy Clerk, Michelle Cornwell, was most keen to accept, as was the then Clerk, Robert Doyle. The Speaker of the day, Jim Fouras, was equally accommodating, always asking 'how are you going' and was there anything he could do. The thinking at the time was that, as a political scientist, Professor Wanna could work on a series of parliamentary research papers that raised interesting political issues as an independent researcher attached to Griffith University. He had in mind, say, writing research papers on the development of question time in the Queensland Parliament, perhaps the development of the committee system (a short history undoubtedly) or even the contribution of private member's bills to public policy (an even shorter project). On taking up the secondment as a sort of 'academic in residence' in the Donovan Library, Cornwell suggested that the Parliament had been intending to update its history and had begun to collect a few timelines and documents from the 1950s. The last semi-official history of the Queensland Parliament, overseen by the journalist Clem Lack (*Three Decades of Queensland Political History, 1930–1960*), ended with the change of government in 1957 and covered the first period of the Nicklin–Morris government. She asked him to help out with a chapter covering the demise of the long-running Labor regime and the transition to a Coalition government in 1957. He agreed to help, thinking it would take three weeks. The 'help' became Chapter 2 of this volume. Then the request was can you do any more...

The chapter took some months of research and poring through the *Hansards* and other parliamentary records of the period. Tracey Arklay, a research student from Griffith University, came aboard in October 1995 to assist with sifting through the vast volumes of parliamentary debates, newspaper clippings, other newspaper original searches and finding other evidential sources or dates from everything imaginable: books, archives, biographies, biography entries in the *Dictionary of Biography*, pamphlets and cabinet records. She expedited the process of data gathering and together they read each *Hansard* from 1957—more than 100 volumes.

Meanwhile, 'The History', as it was called by the authors, had grown into a full-blown history of the Queensland Parliament from the demise of the Labor governments around the bitter Labor split of the mid-1950s, to the change of government in 1989 when the Nationals, led by Russell Cooper, lost to the Labor Party under the leadership of Wayne Goss. To go any further at the time (closer to the present day) was seen as 'too risky' and 'too recent yet to do' and unlikely to be able to be divorced from the politics and personalities of the day. So, 1989 was agreed on as a convenient and appropriate end date. It also mirrored Lack's earlier publication covering three decades, in that he had written about the 1930s to 1950s, and ours would essentially describe the 1960s to 1980s. The sabbatical, however, was at an end and it was back to full teaching for Wanna, while Arklay had to finish her honours degree and begin a PhD. It was agreed that the two researchers would continue the project one day a week for much of the year, progressing through the period of coverage. Despite Wanna being head of school in Politics and Public Policy at Griffith, and spending a year in the Department of Finance in Canberra researching budgetary policy, 'The History' progressed at a little more than a chapter a year so that by the end of 2003, the first 10 chapters were substantially drafted. Professor Wanna was then appointed as the national research director for the Australia and New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG) based at The Australian National University in Canberra. With these new duties and responsibilities, Wanna put 'The History' on hold for a few years, until the present Clerk contacted the researchers in mid-2009, saying: 'Hey, we have our sesquicentennial coming up in May 2010, any chance of "The History" being finished so we can launch it as part of the commemorative events?' The researchers agreed and this is the final product. It is a far, far bigger project than either of the authors had contemplated at any time in its production. While Arklay provided purely research assistance for most of the period, she eventually took the lead in authoring two chapters and making important contributions to others as well as the appendices. Sally Irwin added the biographical/character studies of the former Speakers as part of a parliamentary internship project, and these are included in the appendices.

The authors would like to stress that this project has been an almost entirely honorary endeavour. It was not completed as a consultancy, no research grant has been used and no premier's history grant has been issued. Neither the Queensland government nor the Parliament has ever paid any of the author's time spent on this project, except for one contribution (in 1997), when the Parliamentary Library contributed \$5000 to reimburse salary costs for Arklay. Wanna's salary during this period has been paid entirely by Griffith University, and later by The Australian National University via a personal chair appointment under ANZSOG. Arklay's casual salary has been paid over the years by Professor Wanna from research funds he generated independently to cross-subsidise the project. Together they were happy to make these sacrifices and have never

asked for, or expected, any reimbursement or compensation; this volume is compensation enough. Neither researcher is a member of any political party nor has any particular axe to grind.

In undertaking this enormous project over some 14 years, the authors have incurred many debts but built many friendships. They would like to thank: Neil Laurie, the present Clerk of the Parliament, and his predecessor, Robert Doyle; Mary Seefried, the current Parliamentary Librarian, and Nick Bannenberg, her immediate predecessor, who oversaw most of the research and was a font of historical knowledge. As mentioned, the former Deputy Clerk, Michelle Cornwell, was the original inspiration for the history and gave her undiminished support. Also helpful to the researchers in the Parliamentary Library (which they came to regard as their home away from home) were Brian Stevenson, Ros Bailey, Carol Stinson, David Embury, Eve Francis, Michael Zeremes, Suzanne Campbell, Lynda Pretty, Melissa Cook, Robyn Moore, Glenda Emmerson, Tim Moroney and Zac Dadic. In the educational unit of the Parliament, Graeme Kinnear and Ted Newton were generous with their time and thoughts.

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A number of other people have helped in the preparation of the manuscript. A number of former members were also generous enough to read the penultimate drafts to provide comments and alert the authors to lacunae, including: Denver Beanland, David Hamill and Bill Hewitt, who read most chapters, while some years ago the late Jack Houston read Chapter 6. More than 50 copies of chapters were circulated to serving members in the late 1990s, and a formal presentation was delivered to about 40 attendees of the former members' association about the same time. Other former members who were helpful with occasional points were the late Jack Melloy, Harry Dean and Ray Smith, as well as Colin Lamont. The authors benefited from the detailed comments, among the parliamentary staff, of Brian Stevenson, Ian Thompson, Darrell Martin and Tim Moroney. Three former Labor staffers read the opposition chapter (Chapter 13) to help fill in blanks and check facts: Joe Begley, Malcolm McMillan and Terry Wood.

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Finally, we would like to thank our understanding families who have equally lived through the ordeal: Jenni Craik, Erinn, Sean and Aidan Wanna, and Tony, James and Elise Arklay for their forbearance with the demands of the project and support over the years.

— John Wanna and Tracey Arklay