To the Bitter End

By Peter Hartcher
Genre : Australia & Oceania

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To the Bitter End by Peter Hartcher is Australia & Oceania On 24 November 2007 Australia tumultuously changed government. If you think you know what really happened during that tumultuous year behind the closed doors of the Liberal Party, in the back rooms of the ACTU and deep in the campaign war room of the Labor Party, think again. 2007 was a year to remember in Australian politics. It saw the dramatic fall of John Howard and the unexpected rise of Kevin Rudd. It saw the Liberal Party buckle under the inertia of incumbency and the Labor Party find new discipline and energy. It also saw the union movement at the centre of one of the most effective and powerful political campaign the country has ever seen. With unprecedented access to the key players and countless hours of confidential interviews, Peter Hartcher reveals how Kevin Rudd secretly forged his alliance with Julia Gillard to topple Kim Beazley. He exposes the way Labor’s factions intimidated Rudd. He lays bare the raging, unending struggle between John Howard and Peter Costello for control of the national budget. And he explains why Peter Costello believes Howard’s defeat was the greatest humiliation of any prime minister in Australia’s history. To the Bitter End is a penetrating, riveting and above all revealing exploration of a year when the political stakes had never been higher.

More Recommended Books

A Narrative of the Expedition to Botany-Bay

By : Watkin Tench
Captain Tench has here given a very satisfactory general account of the voyage of the fleet appointed for the conveyance of the convicts to Botany Bay. --On their arrival there, finding no eligible spot for the intended settlement, they proceeded to Port Jackson, only a few hours sail northward from the bay, and where they found an excellent harbour. Here they fixed, and here perhaps, has been laid the foundation of a great and flourishing state.

The Mighty Totara: The Life and Times of Norman Kirk

By : David Grant
A major biography of arguably New Zealand’s greatest modern political leader As Norman Kirk’s body lay in state near the steps of Parliament on the day after his death on 31 August 1974, a kaumatua wailed ‘the mighty totara has fallen’. The lament reflected what many New Zealanders felt about this big, commanding and loved leader, dead at just 51. More than 30,000 people filed past
Kirk’s casket over two days, and again in Christchurch, in a commemoration that matched only Michael Joseph Savage's for emotional power. Both men died in office, both men were humanitarians. Kirk also worked to move the Labour Party away from its cloth-cap heritage to embrace a much broader electoral compass, for it to become, in his words, 'the natural party of New Zealand'. Prime Minister of New Zealand between November 1972 and August 1974, Kirk's childhood was blighted with poverty, yet he thrived. He moved into a succession of manual trades, before booming into local body politics. His political rise was rapid, from mayor of Kaiapoi at the age of 30 to leader of the Labour Party within a few years. This book examines Kirk's political leadership; his successes, especially his stunning performances on the international stage, but also his later difficulties when the country's economy was rocked by international oil shocks. He deferred the 1973 Springbok tour and sent warships into the French nuclear testing zone near Mururoa Atoll, his government set up ohu and the established the DPB. He was New Zealand's first truly regionalist Prime Minister, drawing New Zealand closer to Asia and the Pacific, as the ties to 'mother Britain' slowly loosened. This landmark book takes the full measure of the remarkable New Zealander who was our last working-class Prime Minister.

Where the White Man Treads - Across the Pathway of the Maori

By: W. Otorohanga

Originally published in 1928, this book is a comprehensive study of the Maori people and their inner lives, customs and beliefs, written by one who lived amongst them during a time before modern western civilisation had much altered their existence. This book is a fascinating read, and is highly recommended for inclusion on the bookshelf of anyone with an interest in other cultures and societies. Many of these earliest books, particularly those dating back to the 1900s and before, are now extremely scarce and increasingly expensive. We are republishing these classic works in affordable, high quality, modern editions, using the original text and artwork.

Healing Our History

By: Robert Consedine and Joanna Consedi

Based on years of Treaty work experience, [this book] is essential reading. ' --Claudia Orange The Treaty of Waitangi is the most important document in New Zealand's history. Current Treaty issues and Maori/Pakeha relationships can only be understood within the wider story of New Zealand. As we understand and honour our history, we can acknowledge the need for restoration, healing and right relationships. The public response to previous editions of this bestselling book by Robert Consedine and his daughter Joanna Consedine has been strong and overwhelmingly positive. This 2012 edition updates and expands on the critical issues: the foreshore and seabed debate, Maori access to political power, and the emergence of the Maori Party; the remarkable growth of the Maori economy, self-determination, Maori language and the developments in Maori education; constitutional issues, and the benefits of the Treaty settlement process. New Zealand and all New Zealanders have much to celebrate and many challenges ahead. Drawing on Robert's unique experience as a leading Treaty educator, the powerful message of this book illustrates how each and every New Zealander across all cultures can discover a new sense of personal and national identity, grounded in an authentic Treaty relationship. 'This is one of those books New Zealand needs.'

--Michael King

The Jerilderie Letter

By: Ned Kelly

Outlaw, murderer, self-proclaimed victim, Ned Kelly is an Australian icon. But who was he? Kelly's extraordinary achievement is to have provided his own answer to that question. The Jerilderie Letter is his remarkable manifesto and a startling record of his voice. Kelly delivered his letter, which Joe
Byrne had diligently written out, on Monday 10 February 1879, immediately after his gang had held up the Bank of New South Wales in Jerilderie. He gives an impassioned defence of his actions, condemns those who have wronged him, and sends a chilling warning to those who may yet defy him. This illustrated edition, transcribed from the manuscript now housed in the State Library of Victoria, includes a fascinating new introduction by the historian Alex McDermott. The Jerilderie Letter remains one of the most astonishing documents in Australian history. Born in 1855, Ned Kelly remains the most famous criminal in Australian history. His life has been extensively documented, and dramatised in plays, novels, poems and films. Kelly was arrested and hanged in 1880 after the famous siege of Glenrowan. Alex McDermott is an historian and writer based in Melbourne.

That Boy, Jack

By: Janeen Brian

Best friends Jack and Gilbert made a pact when they were younger ñ work in the copper mines, just like their fathers and other Cornish immigrants. But the thought of working underground fills twelve-year-old Jack with panic. When Gilbert is forced to leave school to earn a wage, Jack wants to keep his promise ñ but that means facing his fear. And his heart is telling him to follow another path. That boy, Jack must find the courage to choose. That Boy, Jack is the latest junior fiction novel from award-winning Australian author Janeen Brian. This historical adventure set in 1870s Australia is a story of bullying, friendship, courage and growing up.

Hillary's Antarctica

By: Nigel Watson & Jane Ussher

Written by Nigel Watson of the Antarctic Heritage Trust, and illustrated with Jane Ussher's stunning photographs, historic images and never-before-seen ephemera, this is the first book to fully document and celebrate the contribution Sir Edmund Hillary and the New Zealand team made to Antarctic history, and the legacy they left behind. Hillary and the team were primarily a support act to the British Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic crossing party. By heading on to the South Pole and reaching it before the crossing party, Hillary created tensions, unleashed a media storm and achieved an historic first overland to the South Pole. Hillary even had the audacity to succeed using three farm tractors. The epic journeys of this expedition added another fascinating chapter to the exploration annals of Antarctica. Hillary and his team laid the foundations for New Zealand's continuous, and increasingly important, presence in Antarctica.

Atomic Thunder

By: Elizabeth Tynan

In September 2016 it will be 60 years since the first British mushroom cloud rose above the plain at Maralinga in South Australia. The atomic weapons test series wreaked havoc on Indigenous communities and turned the land into a radioactive wasteland. In 1950 Australian prime minister Robert Menzies blithely agreed to atomic tests that offered no benefit to Australia and relinquished control over them – and left the public completely in the dark. This book reveals the devastating consequences of that decision. After earlier tests at Monte Bello and Emu Field, in 1956 Australia dutifully provided 3200 square kilometres of South Australian desert to the British Government, along with logistics and personnel. How could a democracy such as Australia host another country’s nuclear program in the midst of the Cold War? In this meticulously researched and shocking work, journalist and academic Elizabeth Tynan reveals how Australia allowed itself to be duped. Maralinga
was born in secret atomic business, and has continued to be shrouded in mystery decades after the atomic thunder stopped rolling across the South Australian test site. This book is the most comprehensive account of the whole saga, from the time that the explosive potential of splitting uranium atoms was discovered, to the uncovering of the extensive secrecy around the British tests in Australia many years after the British had departed, leaving an unholy mess behind.

**Goldfields Stories: Early Days in Western Australia**

By: Lorraine Kelly & Norma King

A revision of Norma King's popular Colourful Tales of the Western Australian Goldfields (1980) by Lorraine Kelly. The stories in this book relate to Western Australia's most fascinating chapter of history - that of the frenzied excitement of the early gold-rush days. The pursuit of gold with its promise of untold wealth yoked the most unlikely characters together, from the desperate unemployed loner to the titled English speculator. It was a precarious existence and home was a transitory affair for most families, moving from one town to another as the gold was worked out or as rumour directed. The incredible feats of the goldfields cyclists, carrying news to the remotest of areas, the part played by camels in opening up the outback, the unique Loopline railway, dangerous gold-rushes, the law of the digger in 'roll ups' and the threat of death from the harsh environment are told to form a complete and intriguing portrait of life on the goldfields. The fortunes of towns, mines and individuals from boom time to depression are traced with telling accuracy and detail by writers whose life and background are interwoven with the story of Western Australia’s goldfields.

**Papua New Guinea**

By: Don Woolford

Published in 1976, Papua New Guinea was the first book to interpret the main events leading to Papua New Guinea's independence. The 1960s and 1970s in Papua New Guinea were a time of ferment and great excitement as Australia’s Territory moved quickly towards independence in 1975. Don Woolford worked as a journalist in Papua New Guinea and wrote this account of the years of political development from the first general election for a representative House of Assembly in 1964 through to independence. They were years of transition when young Papua New Guineans such as Michael Somare, John Guise, Albert Maori Kiki, Julian Chan, Josephine Abaijah, John Kaputin, Leo Hannett, John Momis, and Matthias Toliman were making their marks. Woolford knew the key figures – he covered the tours of two Australian prime ministers – and had access to highly ephemeral literature produced for the moment; material that is no longer available. Don Woolford was an accurate and passionate observer of these remarkable years, and writes with immediacy and style.
To the bitter end I'm losing my patience
Aware of the consequences
Released by the silence, I sense.
I'm losing my patience
It weakens my concentration
I'm missing my guidance, I sense
Violence does no good.
Tell me I pray don't fail me
I'm counting off hours
Till you defend to the power of ten
Tell me what are you proving?
Well, is it worth losing?
You said you'd fight till the bitter end.
I'm building a shelter
I'm marking my territory
I'm flying my flag
I'll stand
I'll bend for nobody.
Tell me I pray don't fail me
I'm counting...