Book Reviews

Glenn Patmore, Choosing the Republic (UNSW Press, 2009) 256 pp

“This is the best book on this topic to have appeared for a decade ....”


“Patmore writes as a good teacher should. He is always measured and balanced, and he takes the reader through the issues on a step by step basis. He is careful and always respectful of the current Westminster system. While he is a declared republican, not only should he not upset monarchists but they should find this book instructive about the present constitutional system. He also recognises the importance of political leadership and does not excuse leaders of their responsibilities.”


“In this clearly written, quietly passionate and useful book, Patmore stresses the need to learn from 1999. The yes camp must tackle the scaremongering head-on, and move beyond arguments based on symbols or sentimentality to engage the public in informed debate about possible models for a republic and the impact of constitutional change.”


Choosing the Republic is a “valuable and insightful contribution to the debate.”


“Choosing the Republic will revive and rejuvenate the flagging Australian debate about our political organisation. Glenn Patmore examines the implications of various republican proposals in a balanced way, navigating the constitutional complexities deftly. The book is a carefully reasoned analysis of the history, philosophy and legal context of republicanism and brings a refreshing clarity to this contested area.”

Professor Hilary Charlesworth is an Australian Research Council Federation Fellow and Director of the Centre for International Governance and Justice at the Australian national University (Back Cover, Choosing the Republic)

“This is a detailed account of the Australian republican movement and a valuable contribution to an important national debate.”

Attorney-General, The Hon Robert McClelland MP
(Front Cover, Choosing the Republic)