

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE
**AUSTRALIAN
DEMOCRATS**
AN EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT



BEV FLOYD

The Rise and Fall of the Australian Democrats—an eyewitness account

The Rise and Fall of the Australian Democrats—an eyewitness account visits the high points of politics in the years between 1977 and 2013. The events are told through the personal insights of Bev Floyd, who was present at most of the significant events of the era. She was there when Joh Bjelke-Petersen ruled the streets with an iron fist; when the Australian Democrat phenomenon burst on the political landscape; and there when the citizens of Queensland fought for electoral justice and eventually succeeded.

She became president of the Queensland division of the Australian Democrats, a co-convenor of Citizens for Democracy, an organisation which successfully spearheaded resistance to the Queensland 'gerrymander', and in the years when the Howard Government brought in the Work Choices legislation she fought as a union delegate for the rights of her colleagues across TAFE.

Bev writes fearlessly about the problems she faced as a woman in her time as president of the Australian Democrats in Queensland. Even in a party as progressive as the Democrats, it was possible for gender discrimination to rear its head. And, she has interviewed many of the former Australian Democrat Senators on the role they and the party played while they held the balance in the Senate of Australia. She has spoken with Michael Macklin, Cheryl Kernot, Meg Lees, John Woodley, Andrew Bartlett, Aden Ridgeway and John Cherry as well as others who were active during the period. Here are frank, revealing vignettes of how Senators representing a minor party in the bullring of Federal Parliament managed to keep it active and successful for 30 years. The book also addresses the reasons for the party's decline.

This is history as it affects people. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the rough and tumble of politics—the successes and the disappointments.

