

# Brownlee's Vision *By Geoff Forster*

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*Vision of a New Society. One Parliament One Tax. By Raymond Brownlee. Self Published. Second Edition, 2013. 153 pages.*

This is the second edition of the book originally published in 2000.

Its central recommendations are:

- a. to abolish State parliaments and replace them with an expanded Commonwealth Parliament;
- b. to replace our complex array of taxes with one tax only, i.e. a land value tax.

The major emphasis is on the need for revenue reform. Steps to implement this are outlined, the numerous advantages explained, and some of the consequent benefits spelled out. The need for restructuring government - together with a process for doing this - is clearly expounded.

The original commendatory Foreword by Gough Whitlam is included, with the author's response to Whitlam's reservations.

An important element in this edition is its overview of the Henry Tax Review, especially the Commonwealth Treasury's strong recommendations for land tax.

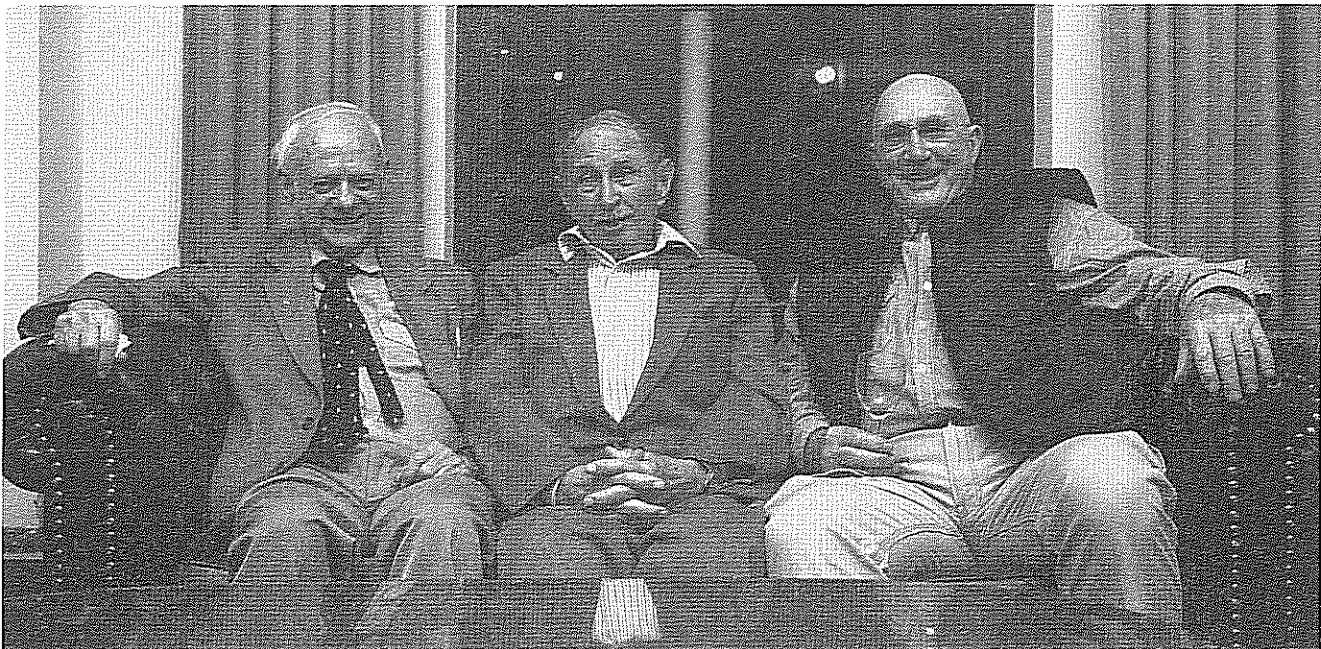
There is also a significant array of Appendices, including land tax comparisons between the States, important quotations from the past, and an impressive array of statistical information (the last-named is important in relation to practical implementation).

An autobiographical postscript gives context to the book, and the outline of Henry George's life offers very useful background.

At the end of the book there are excerpts from Dick Smith's "Population Crisis", with important contemporary information; along with Brownlee's comments on Dick Smith's conclusions.

The first edition of the book went mainly into municipal and university libraries. This version merits a wider distribution. A particular feature is its concentration on the essentials and not diverting to more marginal issues, even while these occur in public discussions. It is important to get the foundations correct, and not be distracted by side issues.

I strongly and wholeheartedly commend this book to Progress readers and all who take a serious interest in our economic future.



Pictured: John Young, Raymond Brownlee and John Pouiter