

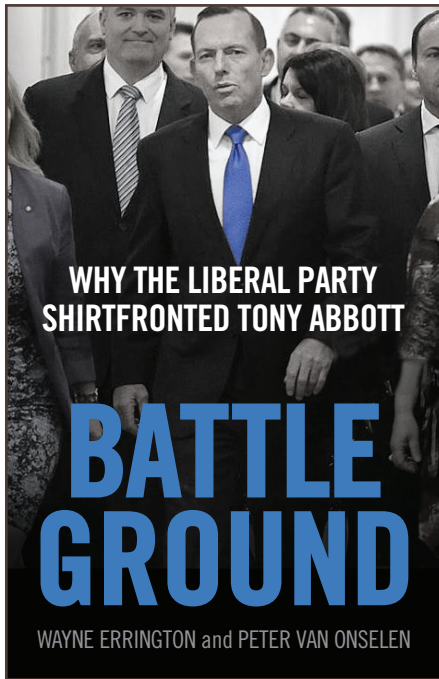
MEDIA RELEASE

Books with Spine – The best in politics, current affairs and biography



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Level 1, 11-15 Argyle Place South, Carlton 3053 Australia :: +613 9342 0300 :: mup.com.au



BATTLEGROUND

Why The Liberal Party Shirtfronted Tony Abbott
by Wayne Errington and Peter van Onselen

'It is the nature of things that defeated politicians have few friends.'
TONY ABBOTT 2008

Tony Abbott came to office lauded as the most effective leader of the opposition since Whitlam, with a massive majority, but the signs of an imperfect transition to the prime ministership would soon emerge ...

Why did Abbott fail to grow into the job to which he had aspired for decades? Backbenchers complained about the lack of access to the leader's office, frontbenchers leaked about cabinet processes to the media. His long apprenticeship in religion, journalism and political life prepared him for neither the mundane business of people management nor the commanding heights of national leadership. Public goodwill evaporated after a tough first budget the government failed to explain. Inside the Liberal party individual ambitions and a succession of poor polls produced increasing concern that the next election was lost. As a result, self-interest won out yet again.

Battleground chronicles the paradox of the Abbott prime ministership: how what he saw as the virtue of chivalry was out of step with public opinion; his policy backflips, how his sloganeering came across as zealotry; how he was loyal to the point of blindness and unwilling to change. All would bring him undone.

Peter van Onselen and **Wayne Errington** are the authors of the best selling *John Winston Howard: The Definitive Biography*. Peter van Onselen is an Australian academic, author and political journalist. He is the Contributing Editor at *The Australian* newspaper and a presenter at Sky News. He holds the Chair of Journalism at the University of Western Australia. Wayne Errington is the author of numerous books and articles about Australian politics. He is senior lecturer in politics at the University of Adelaide.

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Peter van Onselen and
Wayne Errington will be available
for interview from 18 November.

For more information please contact:

Terri King at MUP
on 0406 998 020

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