**AUSTRALIAN
UNIONS**
SECOND EDITION

AUSTRALIAN UNIONS

An Industrial Relations Perspective

SECOND EDITION

Edited by

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*To Joan, Karen, Fiona,
Cathy, Michael, Emily.*

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First published 1983 (reprinted 1984)
Second edition published 1989 by
THE MACMILLAN COMPANY OF AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
107 Moray Street, South Melbourne 3205
6 Clarke Street, Crows Nest 2065

Associated companies and representatives
throughout the world

National Library of Australia
cataloguing in publication data

Australian unions.

Bibliography.

ISBN 978-0-333-50206-8 ISBN 978-1-349-11088-9 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-11088-9

1. Trade unions – Australia. I. Ford, G. W.
(Gordon William). II. Plowman, D.H. (David H

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Set in Times and Univers by
Setrite Typesetters, Hong Kong

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Preface to Second Edition

Unions operate in an ever-changing environment. Thus, any book which focuses, even if only in part, on union adaptation and response to their environment will soon become outdated. In the first edition of this book published in 1983 we speculated on the potential advantages of an accord approach to economic management. In this edition we report on that experiment. This is but one of several areas of change requiring a book of this sort to be updated at regular intervals. We have taken the opportunity provided by this updating to add chapters on the unions' superannuation drive, the ACTU restructuring, technological change, strategic unionism and industrial and political unity. The contributions on union history, organisation, and practices have been updated, as have former contributions on union policies relating to immigrants and women workers.

The first edition did not have a contribution on union theory. This volume attempts to overcome that deficiency by way of a thoughtful contribution by Margaret Gardner. It has been our aim in both editions to have unionists writing on unions. In the first edition we had no luck at all on this score. Would-be contributors did not find the time or discipline to match their enthusiasm to participate in the venture. We attempted to remedy that situation by providing ACTU policies on the issues under discussion. This added to the bulk of the volume. In this edition we have been fortunate to be able to include contributions by Jenny Doran, then of the Victorian Trades Hall Council, and Garry Weaven, Assistant Secretary of the ACTU. Other would-be contributors were unable to meet our deadline. We have decided not to include the ACTU policies in this volume for three reasons: their bulk adds to the cost of a book primarily designed for students; policies are reviewed biennially and so may become out of date very quickly; and the ACTU is now more active in publishing and disseminating its policies. However, we have included an edited version of the chapter on strategic unionism from the important ACTU/TDC publication *Australia Reconstructed*.

We have endeavoured to maintain the framework established

in the first edition and so have included the contributions under four headings: the historical and theoretical context, organisation and practice, issues and policy, and future context and perspective. Though some contributors were unable to finalise their papers in time for publication, we have been fortunate in getting together a balanced set of contributions. We thank all those involved for their patience and co-operation.

B.F. & D.P.