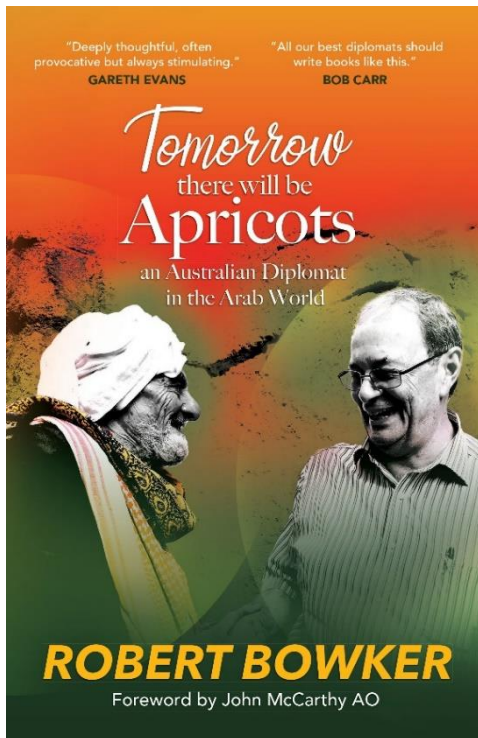


Tomorrow there will be Apricots

an Australian Diplomat in the Arab World

ROBERT BOWKER



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Genre	Non-Fiction, Memoir, History
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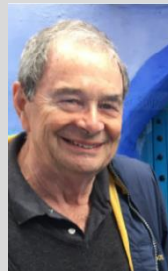
TWO BOOKS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE AND BOTH EMINENTLY WORTH THE PURCHASE...

After 50 years as an Australian diplomat, UN official, intelligence analyst, academic and company director working in and on the Middle East, Bob Bowker enjoys unique insights into the challenges, professional and personal, of representing Australia in the Arab world. In this occasionally light-hearted professional memoir, revealing something of the person behind the diplomat, he sets out his views and reflections on major Middle East issues and into what makes diplomacy in the Arab world effective. He also captures the complexity, the drama, the ambiguity and sometimes the absurdity of certain situations he faced as an Australian ambassador in the Arab world.

- A sacked local staff member in Syria was found to be an informer for the secret police.
- Overnight, a shipload of Australian sheep became Bulgarian
- A judge in Sudan successfully prosecuted his own case in a murder trial.
- As demonstrators hurled stones and bottles toward his office, women in his microenterprise program in Gaza sold soft drinks to the crowd.

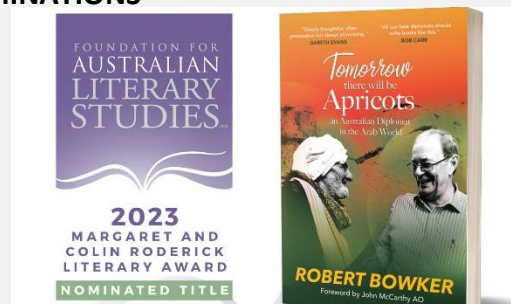
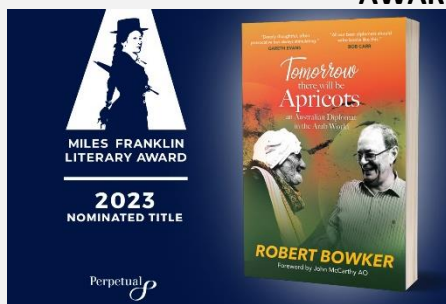
AUTHOR BIO

Bob Bowker retired from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 2008 after a 37-year career working mostly on the Middle East. He was posted to Saudi Arabia from 1974 to 1976, and Syria from 1979 to 1981. He was Australian ambassador to Jordan (1989-1992). He was Director of External Relations and Public Information, and later Senior Adviser, Policy Research of UNRWA in 1997-1998, based in Gaza and Jerusalem. He was the Australian ambassador to Egypt (2005-2008) and non-resident Australian ambassador to Syria, Libya, Tunisia and Sudan.



He was DFAT scholar in residence at the Australian National University in 1994, working on questions relating to Middle East regional security; Visiting Reader at the Australian National University in 2004, teaching graduate courses on the origins of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and Persian Gulf security; Adjunct Professor from 2008 to 2016, teaching a graduate course on the politics of change in Egypt and the Arab Middle East, and an Honorary Visiting Fellow at the ANU Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies from 2017 to 2019. He is a frequent commentator in the media on the Middle East.

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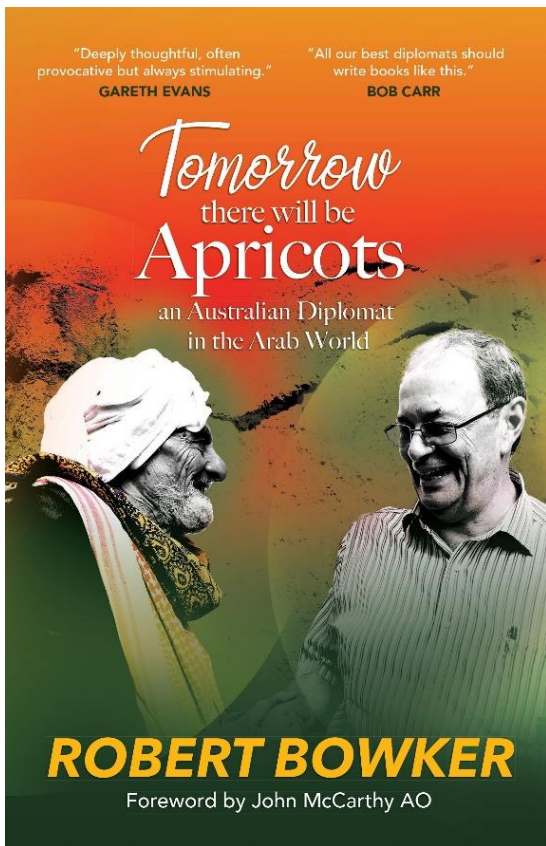
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A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR

WHY DID YOU WRITE 'TOMORROW THERE WILL BE APRICOTS'? WHAT WERE YOUR INSPIRATIONS?

I wrote this book in the hope that readers might see the person behind the views and events, sometimes controversial, with which I have been associated over the past 50 years. It is an anecdotal account of my experiences as an official, diplomat and academic which have had an impact on my understanding of the Middle East and consequently on the conclusions and policy advice which I offered in the course of my career. It might also serve a larger purpose of informing the Australian public about the challenges, both professional and personal, of Middle East diplomacy and representing Australia in the region.

WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE WHEN WRITING THE BOOK?

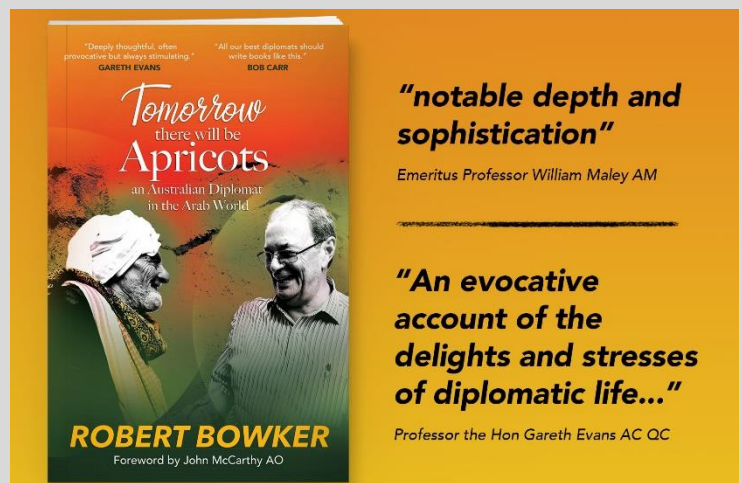
Reliving memories of traumatic events, especially regarding the Gulf War and the 2006 Cairo bus crash.

DID YOU HAVE ANY INTERESTING EXPERIENCES WHILE RESEARCHING, WRITING OR PUBLISHING THE BOOK?

In reviewing testimony to the Cole Inquiry concerning the Australian Wheat Board scandal and Cole's conclusions in regard to that issue, I found I had reason to be satisfied with the role I played.

WHAT RESEARCH DID YOU DO TO SUPPORT THE FACTS WITHIN YOUR TITLE?

I had seven postings as an Australian diplomat and UN official.



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