

# Is *Asylum by Boat* just another Fraser Hagiography?

*Reading Notes for Claire Higgins, (2017). Asylum by Boat: Origins of Australia's Refugee Policy (Sydney: UNSW Press).*

These *Reading Notes*<sup>1</sup> are my summarised findings around the question whether the book *Asylum by Boat* reinforces the romantic notion, now well established in Australia (see e.g. Cooke, 2015), that the Fraser government singularly and uncompromisingly complied with all of Australia's obligations under the UN Refugee Convention, and whether claims hold true that this period represented, as Robert Manne (2010) claims, "*the halcyon years for boatpeople*". Although these pages can be read as if they are, my notes are not a "book review", because I only highlight what I regard as the most controversial aspects of Fraser's '*boat people legacy*', mostly in line with the pressure points explored in my previous research.

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<sup>1</sup> The home page for this document is <https://www.safecom.org.au/higgins-book.htm>