



AUSTRALASIAN STUDY OF PARLIAMENT GROUP

NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2013

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The Australasian Study of Parliament Group (ASPG) is a politically non-partisan body established to encourage and stimulate research, writing, teaching and discussion about parliamentary institutions, particularly those in Australasia and the South Pacific.

The ASPG has Chapters in all States and Territories of Australia and in New Zealand. Its membership consists of parliamentarians, parliamentary officers, academics, teachers, journalists, students and other interested individuals. For further information refer to the ASPG website www.aspg.org.au.

Welcome

Welcome to the latest issue of the ASPG Newsletter. This is a twice-yearly publication in which the Chapters are urged to tell all ASPG members of the activities of their Chapters and submit items of particular interest to current and prospective members. You can also make use of the Membership Application form at the back of the Newsletter which allows new members to join and existing members to renew their membership.

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- We would like your contribution
- Help build our membership

Editorial – Kevin Rozzoli

The outcome of the federal election has raised an interesting subject for research and analysis by ASPG members and those associated with ASPG and could easily be the subject of a future conference. Big swings in recent elections both at federal and state level have brought a huge influx of new members into our parliaments. Critical examination of current levels of behavior and manner of conduct would seem to indicate they have little understanding of the professional requirements of public representation. In a world of shrinking distance, rapidly expanding population and increased per capita demand for services the role of our decision-makers has become increasingly complex. Research to date indicates that of the factors driving government decision-making evidence based information rates well down in importance. Governments are under ever increasing pressure to produce policy initiatives, the media demands action within the cycle of the 24 hour headline and the public are restless to see quick action. Attempts to solve problems quickly however, results in ill-conceived remedies even when there may be evidence of good intention. Ministers need to develop approaches that are more visionary, holistic, consultative and collaborative, and can bear the scrutiny of a rigorous credibility test. It is not just a matter of dreaming up solutions that can satisfy the demands of the media for a catchy headline. Our parliamentarians must become engaged in the policy process and parliament must once again become the sounding board for ideas. There should be a longer time frame for consideration of new policy by the parliament before it is introduced for endorsement on a 'take it or leave it' basis. Governments may claim mandates, but how the goal is pursued raises questions for which the public quite rightly demand proper answers.

The ACT Legislative Assembly

Parliament Houses are amongst our most historic and important buildings in our community and yet they are so much taken for granted. This is the fifth in our series. In this edition we feature the Australian Capital Territory Parliament. The material has been obtained from official parliamentary documents. We thank the parliament for providing the material.

The ACT was administered by the federal government until 1989. Before that the Federal Minister for Territories made all decisions relating to the ACT. Advisory bodies in various forms were set up to inform the Minister about matters of concern to the residents of the ACT. The first of these was established in 1920 comprised of appointed officials. The first fully elected body—the Legislative Assembly consisting of 18 Members—began operating in 1974, changing its name to the House of Assembly in 1979. However, the Federal Government was under no obligation to heed the advice given by any of the appointed or elected bodies.

In the late 1980s the Federal Government decided that the Australian Capital Territory, with a population of 270,000, needed its own system of self-government. The Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act, along with other related legislation which established self-government in the ACT was enacted in 1988 and the first elections for the ACT Legislative Assembly were held on 4 March 1989 using the modified d'Hondt electoral system. The first meeting of the Assembly took place on 11 May 1989. On the first sitting day Rosemary Follett was elected Chief Minister, Trevor Kaine became Leader of the Opposition and David Prowse was elected Speaker.

The early sittings of the Assembly were held in the ACT Administration Centre, a rented building at 1 Constitution Avenue in the city centre. During the first Assembly it became apparent that the venue did not meet all the needs of a modern legislature. On 9 April 1992, the Assembly passed a motion that the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure inquire into and report on the question of providing new premises for the Assembly.

Its report 'Provision of New Assembly Premises' was completed in September 1992 recommending that the

South Building on London Circuit in Civic be redesigned and refurbished to accommodate the Assembly.

The South Building, originally constructed in the late 1950s, was adapted for the Assembly's use by the addition of a legislative chamber placed diagonally across the internal courtyard of the building. The chamber is a modern structure with contemporary design elements conceived and designed by Mitchell, Guirgola and Thorp in 1993, the same architects who designed the Commonwealth Parliament House. The first sitting in the new accommodation took place in April 1994.

The chamber's furniture is made from Australian timbers and the carpet decoration is based on *Wahlenbergia gloriosa* (Royal Bluebell), which is the floral emblem of the ACT. The Assembly did not adopt the traditional green colour scheme of 'lower' houses.

It did however retain the tradition of the Mace as a symbol of the authority of parliament. The Sergeant-at-Arms, bearing the Mace, ceremoniously ushers the Speaker into the chamber and, under the Speaker's direction, will escort from the chamber anyone acting in a disorderly manner. The Mace was a gift from the Australian Region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Its design exhibits symbolic elements relating to the Assembly itself and the ACT in general. The body of the mace is divided into three sections, representing the 'Y' plan which was adopted by the National Capital Development Commission in 1967 to guide the urban development of Canberra. Physically the mace is 95cm long and weighs approximately 8.5 kilograms. It is a subtle combination of hard, accurate machined lines and highly skilled traditional woodworking craftsmanship.

Behind the Speaker's chair four flags are displayed – the Australian flag, the ACT flag, the flag of the Australian Aboriginal peoples and the flag of the Torres Strait Islander peoples.

A significant feature outside the entrance to the Assembly is a copper statue titled 'Ethos' sculpted in 1961 by Tom Bass. 'Ethos' is a classic example of Tom Bass' totemic sculpture that celebrates pride and community. 'Ethos' was commissioned by the National Capital Development Commission in 1961 and was co-sponsored by the Canberra Chamber of Commerce. The winged female figure is robed in embroidered cloth woven with emblems and figures

representing the community. She stands in a dish bearing a relief map of Canberra and holds aloft a bursting sun representing the emerging city's culture and enlightenment.



Entrance to Parliament showing the statue of 'Ethos'.

2013 Annual Conference



2013 Annual Conference

The 2013 Annual Conference, hosted by the Western Australian Chapter, was held between Wednesday 2nd and Friday 4th October under the banner of *OVERSIGHT: Parliamentary Committees, Corruption Commissions and Parliamentary Statutory Officers*. It was attended by over 130 delegates from all Chapters, academia and the general public. The conference was followed on the Saturday by a 'conference within a conference' attended by Prof. Peverill Squires, co-chair of the International Political Science Association's Research Committee of Legislative Specialists (RCLS) to discuss current trends in international legislative research. RCLS is one of 52 committees and ASPG developed a link some years ago.

The conference was an outstanding success and congratulations are in order for the WA Chapter who were such superb hosts. Conference delegates were welcomed on the Wednesday by the Governor, His Excellency Malcolm McCusker AC CVO QC who set a very high note and got the conference off to a good start. All of the outstanding speakers are too

numerous to mention but they included the Chief Justice, Wayne Martin AC; Roger Macknay QC, WA Corruption and Crime Commissioner; Colin Murphy PSM, WA Auditor-General; and Chris Field, Ombudsman. The standard of papers was very high and good discussion formed part of each session. No conference would be complete without the conference dinner which in addition to excellent food, wine and good company featured a guest appearance from 'Lance Boil, Member for Bile (Defeated)' who proved very entertaining particularly when it was revealed afterwards that he is actually a sitting member of the WA Parliament. Next year's conference will be hosted by New South Wales. They have a high standard to live up to but we are confident they will achieve it.

The President retires and a new President is elected

After twelve years at the helm, Kevin Rozzoli AM, has stood down for a well-earned rest. In winding up the conference the Chair of the WA Chapter, Prof. David Black, spoke in glowing terms of Kevin's achievements during his long term in office saying it was largely due to Kevin's dedication and hard work that ASPG had grown to its present stature. The New President is Prof. Scott Prasser, Professor of Public Policy and Executive Director of the Public Policy Institute at the Australian Catholic University based in Canberra. Scott holds a Bachelor of Arts degree (majoring in government, economics and history), a Master of Public Administration (University of Queensland) and a doctorate on royal commissions and public inquiries from Griffith University.

Meet a couple of our ASPG personalities

Malcolm Lehmann – Clerk, Legislative Assembly of South Australia and ASPG Delegate



Malcolm Lehmann is a long standing member of ASPG and of the ASPG executive. His wisdom and good counsel have always been highly valued. He greatly assisted in the production of the first ASPG Newsletters in 2004/5. He currently holds the position of Clerk in the South Australian House of Assembly

Malcolm commenced his service with the Parliament on 1st September 1986 on the House of Assembly staff in the Office of the Clerk. From 1986 to 1992 he held the positions of Clerk, Papers & Records, Bills & Papers Office and Secretary to various Select Committees. During 1992 and 1993 he was secretary of the Environment, Resources & Development Committee and later Secretary of the Economic & Finance Committee

In 1998 Malcolm was appointed Acting Clerk Assistant and in 2002 Acting Deputy Clerk and later that year became Deputy Clerk & Serjeant-at-Arms. He continued as Deputy Clerk until 2007 when he became Acting Clerk, and was appointed Clerk on 5 September 2007, almost twenty one years to the day after joining the Parliament. Obviously hard work and diligence pays dividends. Malcolm holds an Associate Diploma of Arts.

Malcolm's sport is tennis, formerly a player, but now as an avid tennis fan. He also holds an expensive and underutilised gym membership. Malcolm's interests away from parliament, when he can find the time, are architecture, the arts, writing, reading, bush walking and music. True to his status as a loyal South Australian he is a connoisseur of fine wines, mostly

from his home state, and he has a very, very small interest in a vineyard. Given the high quality of South Australian wines who could blame him.

Cathy Rodgers – Policy Manager, New Zealand Parliament and ASPG Delegate



Cathy has a BA and LLM and before coming to the Parliament she worked for 20 years in the areas of criminal prosecution, and as a litigation lawyer, in the commercial and human rights fields. She is a past convenor of both the Auckland and Wellington women lawyers' associations and is currently Vice-President of the Wellington branch of the New Zealand Law Society.

Cathy joined the Parliament five years ago as a Legislative Counsel. Her duties included drafting member's bills and providing legal advice to the Regulations Review Committee. For the past two years she has been in a new role, Policy Manager. Her team undertakes a mix of procedural research and parliamentary policy work. For the latter, the team assists the Clerk to advocate for Parliament in relation to policy initiatives in the public sector that could impact on the role and functions of Parliament as an institution. This includes making submissions on bills before the House. Cathy is currently involved in the development of a Parliamentary Privileges Bill.

When not engrossed in such absorbing work, Cathy enjoys good food and wine, reading, watching good Sci-fi and murder mysteries, and travel.

NEW SOUTH WALES

It is now 25 years since the New South Wales Legislative Council established its modernised committee system. To celebrate the occasion a seminar was held on 20 September co-sponsored by the Chapter and the Legislative Council.

Since 1988 Legislative Council Committees have conducted more than 300 inquiries, examining numerous issues of significance to the people of New South Wales: Adoption Practices; Coal Seam Gas; Same Sex Marriage, and Policing in Cabramatta.

Twenty five years on, it seemed appropriate to reflect on the contribution of these committees to the effective governance of the State.

Four themes were explored in the seminar.

- Holding the government to account;
- Developing policy for NSW citizens;
- Taking the parliament to the people;
- Beyond 2013-ideas for effective upper house committees.

Each topic had an excellent panel of speakers with various viewpoints or experience in participating in committee processes. The link below is to the webpage for the seminar. [C25 seminar](#)

The Chapter has also held a number of small seminars and presentations through the year. The diverse activities attracted a wide range of people and we hope to continue to build on these activities in future years.

NSW Electoral Redistribution

This year there will be an electoral redistribution in New South Wales taking effect at the 2015 general election. The NSW Chapter hosted a seminar by Mr Antony Green, ABC election analyst, in March 2013. The seminar was held after public submissions regarding the electoral distribution (including those of the political parties) had been made to the Commission, but before comments on the submissions were released. The event was very well attended by members of the ASPG as well as members of parliament and interested staff. Antony Green has since produced an analysis of the proposed redistribution which is available from the NSW

Parliamentary Library Research Service: [NSW Parliamentary Library Research Paper, Mr Antony Green](#).

Presentations on conference papers and articles by New South Wales ASPG members

The NSW Chapter has a number of members researching and writing papers for conferences, professional development courses and the Australasian Parliamentary Review. The Chapter held a session where three papers from the Australia New Zealand Clerks-at-the-Table professional development seminar held in January 2013 were “re-presented” to ASPG members and parliamentary staff.

- Informative presentations were given by Mr. Les Gonye of the Legislative Assembly and Ms. Rebecca Main of the Legislative Council on the renewed “Visitor Experience” strategy for the New South Wales Parliament.
- Mr. David Blunt, the Clerk of the Parliaments, gave a presentation, as well as a thoughtful challenge and reminder, on “*Parliamentary traditions, innovation and the great principles of English parliamentary law*”.

The Visitor Experience presentations and Mr Blunt’s paper are available on-line at [ANZACATT papers 2013](#).

Pacific Parliamentary Partnerships - Twinning

Previous editions of the ASPG newsletter have given details of the New South Wales Parliament's Twinning arrangements with the Parliaments of Solomon Islands and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. The arrangement continues to bring benefits to all participating parliaments, and AusAID funding for the period 2013-2015 will ensure the professional relationships that have been forged over the past three years remain strong.

One area of concern for all three parliaments is community engagement. All three jurisdictions have education and community relations programs intended to raise awareness of the role of parliament and to encourage participation in the political process. From 24 to 28 September 2013, a Regional Youth Parliament was held in Honiara, with forty secondary school students from the three regions participating. The Youth Parliament’s theme was climate change, as the logo below suggests.

The five NSW students and ten Bougainvillean students will join their Solomon Islands counterparts for four days of intensive parliamentary activity – taking a bill on its journey through the Bills and Legislation Review Committee and the Parliament. Students took on all of the roles of MPs in the House, and as expected, vigorously debated the issues. AusAID funding was used to support the attendance of the Bougainville students and their accompanying adults, and financial support from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (NSW) and sponsorship from Virgin enabled the NSW students to participate.



QUEENSLAND

In May 2013, the Queensland Chapter of the ASPG celebrated its 20th anniversary with a dinner at Queensland's Parliament House. Dr David Solomon AM, Queensland's Integrity Commissioner and founding president of the ASPG, was the guest speaker. In attendance on this special occasion were the Speaker, The Hon. Fiona Simpson and the President of the ASPG, The Hon. Kevin Rozzoli as well as several of the original members. Dr. Paul Reynolds was acknowledged for his long and meritorious service.

At the annual general meeting, Dr Donna Weeks was elected as the new Chairperson of the Queensland Chapter. She took over from Ms Nonie Malone who had been chairperson for eight out of the last ten years. Mr Andrew Kriedemann was elected to the newly created position of Deputy Chairperson. It is anticipated that the Deputy Chairperson will succeed the Chairperson when the Chairperson vacates the role. Ms Mary Westcott was elected as Secretary, replacing Ms Robyn Moore who had held the position for three years. Ms Danielle Cooper was elected as

Treasurer, replacing Ms Emily Booth who had held the position for two years.

The committee remains substantially the same as last year, comprising Mr Daniel Smith, Dr Mary Crawford, Dr Paul Reynolds, Mr Simon Kelly, Mr Craig Johnstone and Mr John Pyke.

The AGM was followed by a presentation on the place of civics education in Australia's democracy, and what is being done about it, by QUT Associate Professor Dr Deborah Henderson from the Social Educators' Association of Queensland. Refreshments were served afterwards in the Strangers' Bar.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Open House for History Month

As part of History Month the South Australian Parliament participated in an "Open House" on Sunday May 5, opening its doors to allow the public to gain an insight on the architecture, design and history of one of Adelaide's most recognisable buildings. The estimated 500+ guests were led on 40 minute tours through the House of Assembly and Legislative Council Chambers and the Parliamentary Research Library. The response from staff and visitors was extremely positive and we look forward to participating in future History Month Activities.

South Australia Recognises Aboriginal Peoples as Traditional Owners in the Constitution Act 1934.

This Act now provides for a new section in part 1 of the Constitution Act 1934, entitled 'Recognition of Aboriginal Peoples'. This new section begins with two statements of historical fact: the establishment of the Province of South Australia by the 1836 Letters Patent and that there had been no proper and effective recognition, consultation or authorisation of Aboriginal peoples either then or when the present Constitution Act 1934 was passed almost 100 years later.

The words 'proper and effective' are intended to reflect the fact that there had been some interaction or communication with Aboriginal peoples prior to 1934. The failure to properly and effectively consult was deeply offensive to the respectful way in which the Aboriginal people conducted negotiations within their own groups about coming onto land or about the use of land. Following this is a statement of acknowledgement and respect which records the apology to the stolen generations given in Parliament on 28 May 1997, and subsection (2)(a) goes on to

acknowledge and respect Aboriginal peoples as the state's first peoples and nations.

Subsection (2)(b) recognises Aboriginal peoples as traditional owners and occupants of land and waters in South Australia while subsection (3) provides that this measure is to have no legal force or effect, making it plain that the amendment will not provide the foundation for any cause of action. Nor will it be called in aid of claims whether for native title, compensation for past wrongs, or any other. The amendment will also be irrelevant to the legal interpretation of any document (including this act) and to the content or processes by which government carries out its functions, policies or undertakes decision making. Further, the factual statements contained in the amendment cannot be relied upon as evidence in legal proceedings.

This Act is of profound importance for current and future generations of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. Formally recognising the Aboriginal people of South Australia will continue the important process of reconciliation.

House of Assembly - Select Committee Activity Summary 2012/13

For the financial year 2012/13 the House of Assembly of the South Australian Parliament experienced a significant increase in Select Committee activity. A total of six select committees were in operation over this period with two select committees (Grain Handling Industry and Sustainable Farming Practices) carrying over their work from the previous reporting period. The Sustainable Farming Practices Select Committee is still in operation. Of the four new select committees established over the period (Dogs and Cats as Companion Animals, Port Augusta Power Stations, Review of the Retirement Villages Act 1987 and the Adelaide Workers' Homes Bill) only the Adelaide Workers' Homes Bill Select Committee has reported with the other three Select Committees still in operation. An overview of some of the Select Committee's work during the reporting period is outlined below.

Select Committee on Grain Handling Industry

This Committee was established on 9 March 2011 and tabled its final report on 19 September 2012.

The appointment of the Committee was prompted by the widespread dissatisfaction of farmers with the State's monopoly grain handler and exporter's management of the 2010/2011 harvest. In order to streamline the delivery of grain into storage due to the record crop, the Company adopted procedures that

did not allow farmers to have their grain objectively tested for classification purposes.

The main finding of the Committee in its Final Report was that the grain industry in South Australia was not ready for the next stage of deregulation as proposed in legislation that was at that time, (and subsequently passed) before the Federal Parliament. The Committee had come to the view that the process of deregulation of marketing would not of itself provide the basis for an efficient and competitive grain industry. The existing infrastructure and many of the established practices in the industry, particularly practices relating to classification of grain, were developed over many years under a regulated market. Existing infrastructure and many of the current practices do not align with the requirements of a deregulated market.

Select Committee on Sustainable Farming Practices

This Committee was established on 4 April 2012 with the terms of reference to investigate and report on land arrangements for primary production (agriculture, viticulture and horticulture), mineral resources and regional development focussing on planning for farming sustainability and improving farming practices that promote the sustainable use of our State's natural resources, a clean, green food supply for South Australia and report on advantages that this promotion may bring to the South Australian economy.

The Committee has received over 100 written submissions from farmers, government agencies, representative bodies and interested members of the public. It has also released an Issues Paper inviting further public comment. The Committee travelled extensively and held 11 regional hearings covering most of the state from the Eyre Peninsula, South East, Fleurieu Peninsula, Yorke Peninsula, mid-North, Adelaide Plains, Yorke Peninsula and the Riverland/Mallee region. These are in addition to multiple witnesses appearing in Parliament House. The Committee also conducted site visits to various farms of interest, mining exploration leases and research centres. The Committee aims to table its final report in September 2013.

Select Committee on the Adelaide Workers' Homes Bill

This Select Committee was established on 11 April 2013, pursuant to Joint Standing Order (Private Bills) No 2, which requires hybrid bills to be referred to a Select Committee following their second reading.

The Select Committee in its report, which was tabled on the same day the Committee was established noted that the legislation had been brought to the Parliament to modernise and strengthen the original deed of trust established by the will of the late Sir Thomas Elder. Further, the Committee noted that consultation had already been undertaken with stakeholders prior to the legislation being presented to Parliament.

The Committee recommended that the Adelaide Workers' Homes Bill be passed by the House of Assembly without amendment as soon as possible and that it be sent to the Legislative Council for its consideration.

VICTORIA

The Victorian ASPG Chapter was once again very active in 2013 conducting its regular seminars for members and others interested in parliamentary matters.

In March, Chief Justice Marilyn Warren, QC, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria and the Lieutenant Governor of Victoria, together with the Hon, Bruce Atkinson, MLC, President of the Victorian Legislative Council presented on the '*Separation of Powers: Financial Independence of the Courts and Parliament*'.

At the June ASPG seminar, the Hon Harry Jenkins, former Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Mr Bernard Wright, Clerk of the House of Representatives, shared their different perspectives on the topic of '*Hung Parliaments: Are they any good for Parliament?*'.

Both seminars were very well attended and provided interesting views on the challenges facing parliaments, from a financial/operational perspective and with respect to a minority government requiring support from minor parties and independents.

The Victorian Chapter will conduct a further seminar in October 2013 when politics academic, Nick Economou is scheduled to present on the topic of the recent Federal Election.

POET'S CORNER

These two poems were gleaned from archival records.

From the Advocate (Burnie, Tas. : 1890 - 1954), Wednesday 12 November 1919, page 4 National Library of Australia
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article66583805>

ELECTIONS

Elections? Ah, we're sick of it
This cut-throat party brawl,
We put men in, what do they do?
Turn round and skin us all!

Both Lab. and Lib. they're all the same
When once has closed the poll,
Their country first? Not on your life,
The cash-box is their goal!

They meet and spout and beat the air,
But all the Big Things shun;
Ah, Heaven help Australia,
They'll smash her 'fore they're done!

Now Hughes and Co. are out again,
And soon our heads shall reel,
With glowing tales of what they did
While they were at the wheel.

And we must put them in again,
At least, so they declare,
To steer our good ship off the rocks
And keep her sailing fair.

Now roar the other crowd with ire,
Their broadsides booming thus
"They're rotters all! Don't believe a word
Be wise - and vote for us!"

Our poor heads ache, our patience snaps,
And, bored to death, we say -
"Enough! Enough! Fools stop your clack
And GET - go right away!"

We're sick of it, the whole darn show,
Of party politics.
And all the little slick-tongued folk
Who run the box of tricks.

Our country bumps in troubled seas,
And calls aloud for MEN.
Lord send them soon, to clear the decks
And pull her out again!

From the Examiner (Launceston, Tas. : 1900 - 1954), Saturday
22 September 1900, page 9

THE POPULAR M.H.A

I'm a popular member of the Lower House
Not a statesman, I confess
With a free and easy manner and a very little nous,
And a flattering address.
Of political economy I never read a page,
While figures and finance I scorn;
I'm the up-to-date production of this democratic age -
Politician to the manner born.

When I woo the electors and the platform take,
Then I pitch it hot and strong;
I promise all a big slice of the Ministerial cake
When the "Works" scheme comes along.
If they want a railway, they shall have it in a day,
Or a brand new parish pump;
For it all is in the play, and I never say them nay
When I am on the stump.

When my place I occupy on the Chamber floor,
I am often on my feet
To back a friend official who wants a fiver more,
Or a vote for city street.
I'm liberal and easy when there's money to be spent.
All new taxes I oppose;
I help the poor selector who cannot pay his rent,
Or the man who money owes.

When a measure comes along I'm ignorant about,
Then my time I quietly bide
Till I see which side will win, and then with it I shout:
Go with the flowing tide.
I pick a phrase up here and another one up there,
Annex them as mine own,
And run the "poor man" racket with a vigorous
fanfare
In sentences high-flown.

I'm an ultra-Liberal, I'd have you all to know,
When the other fellow pays;
Have barracked for Free-tection, and have been the
staunchest Pro-Trader all my days.
Of the very small amount of know ledge it requires
For a popular M.H.A.,

I'm a living illustration - When the other pulls the
wires
The figure talks away.

Exploring the website – ASPG in cyberspace

New additions to the website include papers from ASPG conferences, book reviews and High Distinction papers from the ANZACATT course as well as details of books reviewed since the last Newsletter.

Papers

Understanding Conscience Vote Decisions: The Case of the ACT by Peter Balint & Cheryl Moir

Most parliamentary decisions in Westminster systems, made along strict party lines, are entirely predictable and transparent. This is not the case for a conscience vote. When politicians are free to decide individually how they will vote, what influences them?

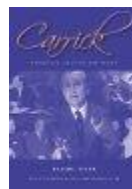
New Book Review

The Australian Policy Handbook: Fifth Edition



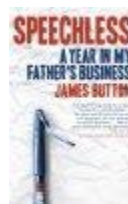
Catherine Althaus, Peter Bridgeman and Glyn Davis, Allen & Unwin, 2013
Reviewer: Kevin Rozzoli, is a former Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly and is President of the

Australasian Study of Parliament Group



***Carrick: principles, politics and Policy* by Graeme Starr.**

Reviewer: David Clune is an Honorary Associate in the Department of Government and International Relations, University of Sydney.



Speechless: A Year in My Father's

***Business* by James Button,**

Melbourne University Press 2012
Reviewer: Dr June R Verrier is the former head of the Parliamentary Information and Research Service.

We would like your contribution

Arcadian Populism: the Country Liberal Party and self-government in the Northern Territory 1978-2005 by Robyn Smith. [E-book, Darwin 2013.](#)

David Clune is an Honorary Associate in the Department of Government and International Relations, University of Sydney. **A Letter to the Editor**

We have received our first letter to the editor and what a nice letter it is in reference to the March 2013 issue.

Dear Editor

Thank you for your work on the current issue; full of interest with items flowing on from last year's conference especially about the partnerships with Parliaments in the region.

Sheila Byard
Victoria

If, as a recipient of this Newsletter, you would like to submit an article on any matter relative to the aims and objectives of the ASPG or if you wish to raise a matter or make a comment please feel free to send it to the editor at gavelr@bigpond.com. Name and address must be provided although on request may be withheld. Contributions should not exceed 300 words.

The deadline for contributions to the next issue is 24th February 2014.

Help build our membership – sign up a new member. The greater the membership, the more we can do for you. If every member signed up one new colleague we would double our membership. Take the challenge!

Membership

The ASPG provides an outstanding opportunity to establish links with others in the parliamentary community. Membership includes:

- Subscription to the ASPG Journal *Australasian Parliamentary Review*;
- Concessional rates for the ASPG Conference; and
- Participation in local Chapter events.

Rates

- Individual Membership A\$45
- Corporate Membership A\$450
- Journal Subscriptions A\$70

These rates keep ASPG membership among the least expensive professional bodies in the political science/law field.

Membership Application/Renewal

Title: Mr Mrs Ms Miss Dr Prof. Senator Hon.

Name:

Address:

Chapter: ACT/Cth NSW NT NZ QLD TAS SA VIC WA

I wish to pay an annual subscription to the Australasian Study of Parliament Group for 2011/12

Category – please tick

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