

From your Editor

Welcome to this edition of the journal, which has been jointly produced with Elaine Thompson. After six years in the role of Editor of APR, Elaine has passed the baton seamlessly to me by providing her time, her intellect and her ever-present good humour. Fortunately, Elaine has agreed to continue her association with the APR by joining the Editorial Board, for which I thank her.

I would also like to thank other new members of the Editorial Board and those who worked with Elaine who have agreed to continue. Members of the Editorial Board give their time and expertise as reviewers and referees and provide guidance on content. I am pleased to be supported by such a noteworthy group of people to extend the knowledge of the operation of our parliaments and to ensure the quality of the journal.

The year 2010 has been notable for reminding us that exercise of the popular vote may not result in a decision about who governs. Anne Twomey's thought-provoking article takes a hard look at this year's Tasmanian election — which gave rise to a hung parliament — and the role the Governor played in the formation of the government. Anne takes issue with the Governor's reasoning in this particular circumstance and suggests that it should not be used as a precedent for the future.

Aynsley Kellow's piece deals with climate change politics in Australia. Aynsley asks why there was a softening of public opinion in favour of a CPRS from the time of election of the Rudd Government in 2007 to 2010 — was it Kevin Rudd the man, the failings of lack of co-ordination at international level on the issue, or was it the inability to reach bi-partisan agreement. Those interested in where this debate will take Australia next should read this article.

Sue Pennick's address, given as an ASPG paper in 2009, is timely in light of the outcome of the recent Federal election and the increasing influence of the Greens. Lyndal Bates examines the influence of the parliamentary committee process on policy-making. She deals with the conditions that are required for this to happen by use of case study and raises the question of the level of importance of committees in a unicameral parliament. 'The enigmatic parliament — why the Northern Territory could never achieve Statehood' by Robyn Smith assesses the predicament of officers of the NT's Legislative Assembly who independence, she says, has been

eroded through legislative change dating back to the days of the move to self-government for the Territory.

Mark Rodrigues looks at some specific areas where the law dealing with parliamentary privilege lacks certainty for those who seek to make whistleblower-style allegations to members of parliament. Mark examines the highly public case of Bundaberg Base hospital in Queensland in support of its argument.

Two important articles of record are 'Unicameralism: the strange eventful death of the Legislative Council of New Zealand' and 'The development of legislative institutions in NSW 1823–1843. The former by Dr H Kumarasingham provides a thorough account of the demise of New Zealand's upper house. The latter by David Clune, conversely, documents the creation of parliamentary institutions.

ANZACATT continues to provide high quality and well researched material for publication. This issue contains a number of papers submitted to 2008–09 Parliamentary Law, Practice and Procedure Course conducted through the Queensland University of Technology. I congratulate those authors whose work appears here. The APR will continue to support this effort for its valuable contribution to the continuing study of our parliaments.

Liz Kerr and Harry Phillips complete this edition's offerings with their chronicle of parliamentary events in Western Australia from July 2008 to July 2010. Thanks go to both of them for their review of this period. Chronicles such as this provide an important record of events and I invite similar contributions from other jurisdictions.

To all readers, enjoy this issue. See the Notes to Contributors at the back of the journal as I invite commentary on the contents of the APR as a short article (800-1000 words) or as a Letter to the Editor of 400 words.

In closing, I wish to thank Stephanie Hancock, the journal's desktop publisher, for her support and patience while she adjusts to me and my idiosyncrasies.

JENNIFER ALDRED