

## From your Editor

This is the second edition of this journal that I am privileged to have edited. I encourage you to respond with letters or short commentaries so that the journal and its contents can have a lively and on-going life.

Alas this edition has no book reviews or book notes. If you have read anything in the area of parliamentary affairs, elections and related matters that you think worthy of reviewing or reporting I again encourage you to send it in to me, or particularly to our book review editor, Clem Macintyre whose email is: [clement.macintyre@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:clement.macintyre@adelaide.edu.au)

Ultimately a journal can only be as good as its submissions so I hope you take my exhortations to heart and either write yourself or encourage others, especially younger colleagues to do so.

I believe this edition has fascinating pieces in it. David Clune has written a lively and engaging piece on the 2004 federal election and Peter Van Onselen and Wayne Errington continue to analyse the profound changes that technology is bringing to the political process, especially the use of data bases by the parties.

From New Zealand, Allan Bracegirdle who is Legislative Counsel to the New Zealand Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives, and has been Deputy Director, Legal Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand explores the important area of International Treaties. This article is highly accessible even for non-legally trained minds such as myself and I commend it to you.

Greg Craven, of recent media fame (together with his brother) and Executive Director of The John Curtin Institute of Public Policy and Professor of Government and Constitutional Law, Curtin University has contributed a delightful, thoughtful and, as always, well written article on Referenda, Plebiscites, and as he puts it, sundry parliamentary impedimenta.

Greg's article is one of a group of selected articles, addresses and research reports drawn from our Conference held in May 2004 in the Legislative Assembly Chamber Parliament House, Perth on 'The Role of Parliament in Constitution Making and Constitutional Amendment'.

Among the other pieces, some personal favourites of mine, because they are in areas I am interested in and also because they are well written include Bruce Stone's Constitutional Change and Bicameralism in Australia: the Perversity of 'Reform' and Peter Johnston's important analysis of *Attorney General (WA) v Marquet*: Ramifications for the Western Australian Parliament.

There are several pieces on the remarkable history of constitutional reform in South Australia — and the lost opportunities for such reform — something not unique to South Australia alone!

I hope you read and enjoy your journal at your leisure and join us in Sydney for the annual Conference this year.

All the pieces in this journal have been double blind refereed, each by two assessors. Those pieces that are full articles conform to what I believe are the highest academic criteria for publication; while the Conference Research Reports and Addresses have been assessed less rigorously as is appropriate for such contributions. Nonetheless in order to be selected for publication all contributions have been deemed worthy of publication; containing useful and original materials not published elsewhere or for addresses in particular lively and argumentative positions or sound overviews of a topic. ▲

## The New South Wales Chapter invites you to the 2005 Annual Conference

The 2005 Annual Conference of the Australasian Study of Parliament Group will be hosted by the New South Wales Chapter and will be held from Thursday 6 to Saturday 8 October 2005 at Parliament House, Sydney.

### Call for Papers

The conference has as its theme,  
'The Relationship between Parliament and Investigative Bodies'  
Abstracts of no more than 150 words are now invited on the above theme  
and should be forwarded to the Conference Secretary by 31 May 2005.

Conference Secretary,

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