



Report of the NZ Chapter of the ASPG

01/07/2016–30/06/2017

Membership

The New Zealand Chapter's 76 members from 01/07/2016–30/06/2017 were:

Graham Hassall	Lesley Ferguson	Barbara McPhee
Debra Angus	Hon Louise Upston	Ben Loughrey Webb
Pia Kelly	Louisa Wall MP	Bronwyn Barnard
Matthew Louwrens	Rebecca Bonner	Charlotte McGimpsey
Miranda Thompson	Robyn Emett	Charlotte Yeabsley
Hon Sir Doug Kidd	Lynne Edmonson	Craig Palmer
Joanne Wear	Carol Brouwer	David Bagnall
Mitch Keast	Professor Mark Hickford	Dorothy Thompson
Charlotte Dawber-Ashley	Alyson Groves	Elizabeth Grant
Paul Harris	Aidan Ruland	Emma Harmen
David Meek	Ann Croy	Gabor Hellyer
John E Martin	John R Martin	Nick Crang
Katherine Close	Kerry Scott	Kim Rupp-Gregory
Kim Townley	Kris Lal	Luke Harris
Lynette Carkeek	Michelle Campbell	Milton Hollard
Roy Baker	Steve Cutting	Steve Streefkerk
Steven Brown	Suze Jones	Therese Arseneau
Tim Marwick	Mohammed Aslam	Stephen Church
Jo Elworthy	Mike Fokker	Lai Ge
Terry Harkin	Kelly Harris	David Wilson
Paul Harris	Chris Hipkins	Robyn Holdaway
Alanna Mackay	Jarrah McCaffrey	Charlie McLean
Fiona McLean	Jo Misselbrook	Victoria Moore-Jones
Oliver Bleskie	Anna Pendergrast	James Picker
John Roseveare	Jonathan Scragg	Brenna Steel
Tim Workman		

Chapter activities

The Chapter hosted the following activities:

1. In July 2016, New Zealand's Chief Human Rights Commissioner, David Rutherford, presented to the ASPG on Higher Living Standards, Sustainable Development, Democracy and Human Rights in New Zealand – *What would a coherent agenda look like? What would be the measures of success?* This presentation looked at how Treasury's work on Higher Living Standards, the commitments made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, and New Zealand's international and domestic human rights obligations can be the

basis of a coherent and measurable framework. The presentation was videoed, with the intent of posting to the Parliament website, challenging and opening up the discussion about the Chatham House Rule and whether it should continue to apply to the ASPG seminars (and conferences).

- 2 In October 2016, Sir Geoffrey Palmer KCMG QC and Constitutional lawyer Dr Andrew Butler presented their proposal for a written constitution for New Zealand; reflecting our identity and nationhood, protecting rights and liberties, and preventing governments from abusing power.
- 3 In December 2016, an end of year dinner was hosted at Parliament for ASPG members. Dr Therese Arseneau, Tracey Watkins and Colin James shared reflections on the 51st Parliament and predictions of what the 2017 General Election and 52nd Parliament may hold.
- 4 In May 2017, in partnership with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the ASPG hosted a Lecture at Parliament titled *Dark Clouds Over Democracy* presented by Sir Don McKinnon ONZ GCVO. Sir Don explained that establishing a democracy is easy but sustaining it through difficult times is a challenge; “external forces against any state can challenge democracy whether war, terrorism, global financial crisis or economic collapse. However, there are many ways to boost democratic culture including ensuring political parties funding and membership is transparent, recognising the skills of former prime-ministers, presidents and foreign ministers who can support fragile democracies over a sustained period of time to help them become more robust and encouraging young people to take part in political debate.”

Annual ASPG Conference

Former Secretary, Lesley Ferguson, represented the NZ Chapter at the Annual ASPG Conference in Adelaide in October 2016. Hon Chester Borrows and Kris Faafoi MP also attended the Conference and shared New Zealand’s experiences and perspectives on *The Restoration and Enhancement of Parliament’s Reputation*.

Finance

During 2016-17, the Chapter spent \$2,638.04 on seminars and an end of year dinner. As at 8 August 2017 the Chapters’ bank accounts held \$1,731.99 in a chequing account and \$10,432.52 in a term deposit. Note, the term deposit funds are designated for when New Zealand hosts the next ASPG annual conference.

I provide an assurance that these details are correct.

Charlotte Dawber-Ashley
Secretary
New Zealand Chapter

Date: 08/08/2017