

## From the Editor

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This issue of the *Australasian Parliamentary Review* has something of a focus on state politics, with articles on South Australia, Tasmania and Queensland by Mark Dean, Mike Lester and Dean Bolwell, and Paul Williams respectively. All three articles take the most recent state elections as a starting point to explore broader issues in the politics of their chosen states. These issues include aspects of parliamentary representation and relations between parliaments and executives.

Two other papers in this issue explore public trust in politics and politicians, an issue also raised in David Solomon's article in the Autumn/Winter 2018 issue of this journal. Jonathan O'Dea, drawing on his own experiences in New South Wales politics as well as wider examples, identifies some of the causes of lack of public trust and proposes some lessons for politicians who want to build or rebuild public confidence on political processes and institutions. Chris Angus, also focusing on evidence from New South Wales, explores the ways in which parliamentarians' treatment of petitions might affect public trust in the political system.

The remaining paper in this issue analyses the role of parliamentary investigatory committees and how their performance might be improved via a detailed case study of the Parliament of Victoria's Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Committee and its inquiry into the Country Fire Authority Training College at Fiskville.

In this issue, we also welcome back the 'From the Tables' digest, covering significant parliamentary activities across all Australasian jurisdictions. This digest, compiled by Glenn Ryall, covers the 12 months from July 2017 to June 2018. The longer than usual time period covered means that the digest is also longer than usual, and includes much that I'm sure will be of interest to readers.

This issue is rounded off with reviews of four significant recent books on aspects of Australian and New Zealand politics, public administration and law: *New Directions for Law in Australia*, reviewed by Bob Debus; *In Search of Consensus*, reviewed by Leonid Sirota; *Opening Government*, reviewed by Chris Crawford; and *Double Disillusion*, reviewed by Hiroya Sugita. If you have a relevant book that you would like reviewed in the *Australasian Parliamentary Review*, please contact me.

Sadly, I must advise readers of the death of Ken Turner, a longstanding member of the *Australasian Parliamentary Review's* Editorial Board. Ken joined the Department of Government and Public Administration at the University of Sydney in 1963, chairing the Department between 1974 and 1981 and retiring as Associate Professor in 1988. During his academic career and after his retirement, he did much to promote research and teaching on parliaments, and particularly on the Parliament of New South Wales. Among other publications, he was author of a study of the NSW Legislative Council (*House of Review?*, University of Sydney Press, 1969), co-author of *A History of the Labor Party in NSW 1891-1991* (Longman Cheshire, 1991), and co-editor of *The Wran Model* (Oxford University Press, 1985), *The Premiers of NSW 1856-2005* (two volumes, The Federation Press, 2006) and *The Governors of NSW 1788-2010* (The Federation Press, 2009). In the early 2000s, Ken served as a member of the Sesquicentenary of Responsible Government in NSW Committee, helping oversee the production of many original studies of NSW politics and history.

Ken used his academic knowledge to engage publicly with issues of Australian constitutional and political reform. He co-wrote the pamphlet *Changing the System* in 1981, which among other things argued for fixed term parliaments. He also provided influential advice on reforms to the NSW Legislative Council and on the introduction of public funding of election campaigns in NSW. Ken Turner will be missed by many people, including those associated with the *Australasian Parliamentary Review* and the wider community concerned with the state of Australian parliaments.