Australasian Study of Parliament Group
New South Wales Chapter

2014 Annual Conference

*How Representative is Representative Democracy?*

SYDNEY
1 – 3 October 2014

Hosted by the Parliament of New South Wales
Conference speakers

Professor Richard Herr  
Academic Coordinator, Parliamentary Law and Practice, Law Faculty, University of Tasmania

Professor Jon Fraenkel  
Professor in Comparative Politics, School of History, Philosophy, Political Science and International Relations, Victoria University of Wellington

Mr Peter Topura  
Director – Procedures, Autonomous Region of Bougainville House of Representatives

Mr Antony Green  
Australian Broadcasting Commission Election Analyst

Dr Therese Arseneau  
Senior Fellow, Political Science, University of Canterbury, New Zealand

Ms Louise Upston, MP  
Chief Government Whip, National Member for Taupo, Parliament of New Zealand

Ms Louisa Wall, MP  
Labour Member for Manurewa, New Zealand Parliament

Professor Anne Twomey  
Professor of Constitutional Law, University of Sydney

Dr John Kaye, MLC  
Greens Member of the NSW Legislative Council

Mr Jonathan O’Dea, MP  
Liberal Member for Davidson, NSW Parliament

Mr Tim Wilson  
Australian Human Rights Commissioner

Ms Helen Minnican  
Clerk-Assistant, Committees and Corporate, NSW Legislative Assembly

Dr Liam Weeks  
Department of Government, University College Cork, Ireland; Honorary Fellow, Department of Politics and International Relations, Macquarie University

Mr David Blunt  
Clerk of the Parliaments, NSW Legislative Council
Australasian Study of Parliament Group
NEW SOUTH WALES CHAPTER
ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 1-3 OCTOBER 2014, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, SYDNEY

Conference speakers

Professor Geoff Gallop         Director, Graduate School of Government, University of Sydney; Former Premier of Western Australia
Professor Simon Tormey         Professor and Head of School, School of Social and Political Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Sydney
Dr Anika Gauja                Honours Coordinator, Department of Government and International Relations, Faculty of Arts, University of Sydney
Mr Ben Franklin               State Director, NSW National Party
Ms Verity Firth               
Hon Tony Smith MP             Federal member for Casey; Chair, Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Senator Nick Xenophon         Independent Senator for South Australia
Senator David Leyonhjelm      Liberal Democratic Party Senator for New South Wales
Mr Glenn Druery               
Mr David Gibson MP            Member for Gympie, Queensland Parliament
Mr Michael Tatham             Clerk, Northern Territory Legislative Assembly
Professor Marian Sawer        Editor, *International Political Science Review* School of Politics and International Relations, Australian National University
Day 1: Wednesday, 1 October 2014

3:15pm – 5:00pm    ASPG Executive Meeting & APR Editorial Board Meeting
                   (Waratah Room)

5:30pm – 7:00pm    Welcome Reception – including conference registration
                   (Speaker’s Garden)
Day 2: Thursday, 2 October 2014

8:30 – 9:00  Registration and tea and coffee
9:00 – 9:10  Conference opening remarks

Session 1: Emerging Parliamentary democracies in the Pacific Islands
9:10 – 9:30  Professor Richard Herr  Cultural adaptations of the Westminster model in Fiji and Samoa
9:30 – 9:50  Professor Jon Fraenkel  The hidden order in Melanesian ‘disorderly democracy’
9:50 – 10:10  Mr Peter Topura  Making the standing orders work for the people
10:10 – 10:40  General Discussion
10:40 – 11:00  Morning tea

Session 2: Parliaments and elections
11:00 – 11:20  Mr Antony Green  The limits of preferential voting – lessons from the 2013 Australian Senate election
11:20 – 11:50  Dr Therese Arsenau, Ms Louise Upston, MP, Ms Louisa Wall, MP  The impact of MMP on representation in New Zealand’s Parliament – a view from inside and outside Parliament
11:50 – 12:20  General Discussion
12:20 – 1:30  Lunch
1:00 – 1:30  Optional Parliament House Tour

Session 3: Election funding
1:30 – 1:50  Professor Anne Twomey  The High Court on election funding
1:50 – 2:20  Mr Tim Wilson, Mr John Kaye, MLC, Mr Jonathan O’Dea, MP  Panel discussion
2:20 – 2:50  General Discussion
2:50 – 3:10  Afternoon tea

Session 4: Decision making in Parliament
3:10 – 3:30  Ms Helen Minnican  Representation revisited – former members on Parliament and the role of elected representatives
3:30 – 3:50  Dr Liam Weeks  Parliaments without parties
3:50 – 4:10  Mr David Blunt  Parliamentary speech and the location of decision making
4:10 – 4:40  General Discussion

5:00 – 6:00  ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (Macquarie Room – all members welcome)

Conference Dinner at Pavilion Restaurant, Art Gallery Road
Pre-dinner drinks at 7:30 pm
Featuring Mr Quentin Dempster, broadcaster, journalist and author
ASPG President closes the Conference – followed by farewell drinks