
From the Editor

It is with great pleasure that I introduce this Edition of the *Australasian Parliamentary Review*. This volume has a focus on parliamentary procedure, and the many diverse ways procedural rules, practices and cultures influence the operation and perception of modern parliaments in the Australasian region.

Steph Lum, Principal Research Officer with the Legislative Scrutiny Unit of the Australian Senate asks ‘How effective is parliamentary oversight over executive expenditure authorised by standing appropriations? Thomas Moorhead, Sergeant-at-Arms, Legislative Assembly of Western Australia suggests we may be in a time of ‘carne-age’, with his take on the Australian High Court’s decision in *Crime and Corruption Commission v Carne* and its implications for freedom of speech in parliament.

This volume also includes insightful analysis from Natalie Cooke, from the Australian House of Representatives Procedure Office on the role of the Federation Chamber and its evolution over its thirty-year history. We also hear from senior parliamentary officers from the Parliament of New South Wales, Peta Leemen and Arizona Hart, on the inadequacy of protections for witnesses to parliamentary committee inquiries and the implications this has for public parliamentary engagement, as well as parliamentary procedure.

Kent Blore, Deputy Crown Counsel, Crown Law, Queensland, shares thoughts on the first ‘Caretaker’ Government in Queensland, and Kelvin Matthews offers a comparative perspective on the interaction between local government and parliament in the Federation of Malaysia.

Parliamentary Inquiry Secretary Miriam Berger takes us ‘beyond the bench’ to consider the influence of cross bench members on contemporary Australian House of Representatives process and procedure, whilst Dr Evan Smith from the South Australian Parliament provides an update on the South Australian Parliament’s moves towards greater gender inclusivity in Standing Orders.

We are also pleased to share reflections from Caroline Spencer, Auditor General for Western Australia on the relationship and role of auditors and parliament, within the context of the doctrine of separation of powers.

The volume also includes five book reviews on exciting new contributions to scholarship in the field of parliamentary studies, with Hiroya Sugita reflecting on Anika Gauja, Marian Sawer and Jill Sheppard’s edited collection *Watershed: The 2022 Australian Federal Election*; Sonia Palmieri offering perspectives on Marian Sawer and Maria Maley’s *Toxic Parliaments and What Can Be Done About Them* and some thoughts of my own on David Judge and Cristina Leston-Bandeira’s edited volume *Reimagining Parliament*. Bryan Moulds follows Michael Easson *In Search of John*

Christian Watson: Labor's First Prime Minister, and Frank Bougiorno shares his expert insights in response to Iola Mathew's loving and erudite tribute to *Race Mathews: A Life in Politics*. Together these reviews provide a compelling and thoroughly enjoyable summer reading list for any keen following of parliamentary affairs!

I also wish to acknowledge the many decades of editorial contribution from Dr David Clune, University of Sydney, who has had a long association with the Australasian Parliamentary Review and will be taking a rest from our Editorial Board.

I express deep gratitude to all authors and reviewers involved in this publication and commend the contents to you.



Sarah Moulds

Associate Professor in Law, University of South Australia, November 2024