



Welcome to the 2016 Autumn Edition of the NZPSA's quarterly newsletter. This is my first newsletter as President and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our immediate past-president, Vicki Spencer, whose work over the past three years has been significant. A perusal of past newsletters reveals her wide-ranging contributions to furthering the professionalization of our organisation. My thanks also go to Julie MacArthur and Ben Thirkell-White who have helped me to settle into the role. I look forward to working with you all over the coming two years. — [Jennifer Curtin](#), NZPSA President

2016 NZPSA Conference

This year the NZPSA Conference will be hosted by the University of Waikato in Hamilton on 28-30 November, with the Postgraduate Pre-Conference Event on Sunday 27th November. The conference theme is [Divergent Democracies: Politics in the 21st Century](#). Patrick Barrett and his colleagues plan to have the [2016 Conference](#) page finalised over the coming weeks, but for now, please note that the deadline for abstract submissions (200 words) for individual papers and panels is 15th July 2016. We look forward to seeing you there.

New Women's Caucus Representative

As you will recall, the Women's Caucus Representative position on the NZPSA became vacant in 2016. We are very pleased to announce that Professor Priya Kurian from the University of Waikato has agreed to take up the position for 2016. Priya will chair the Women's Caucus meeting at the 2016 annual conference and will co-edit the 2016 issue of *Women Talking Politics* (more on this below). If you have any items you would like the Caucus to consider you can contact Priya at pkurian@waikato.ac.nz.

IPSA Application Update

I am very pleased to let you know that the IPSA Executive has agreed to admit the NZPSA to IPSA. We will receive more information on the details of this soon, but I do know that our membership will begin formally from 23rd July, which is the first day of the International Congress, now being held in [Poznan, Poland](#). For those of you attending, registrations close 12th May 2016. The 2018 IPSA World Congress will be held at the University of Queensland, Brisbane.

Incorporated Societies Act

The Government is looking to make changes to the Incorporated Societies Act 1908. More information can be found [here](#). The Royal Society NZ has told us it is likely we will need to take some action in respect of our Constitution and operating processes. I have consulted with a Commercial Law expert who recommended we follow the advice provided by [Sport New Zealand, 2016](#). That is, that we do not commit ourselves to any action at present given the draft bill may yet change. When passed, the new legislation will provide for an appropriate period of time to make any necessary changes. We are likely to know more in time for further discussion at the AGM.

Royal Society Membership

As you will know, the NZPSA is now a Constituency Organisation of the Royal Society and our Treasurer, Ben Thirkell-White has agreed to attend the Constituents Forum on 11th May. Ben will provide a summary of the day's proceedings in the next newsletter.

Talking Politics

The 2016 issue of [Women Talking Politics](#) will be co-edited by [Priya Kurian](#) and [Greta Snyder](#) and the call for submissions will be announced in the coming month or so. The plan is to have the issue out in time for the NZPSA conference in 2016. For those interested in contributing to this year's edition, follow the link above or contact the editors.

Upcoming Prizes

This year there is a new prize of \$500 on offer for post-graduates in the field of environmental politics and policy for the best paper presented at the NZPSA conference. The deadline is 1st September and more detailed information can be found here: <http://nzpsa.com/prizes>. Details about other conference paper prizes are also provided so please share this link with your postgraduate students.

Networks Update

The Civics, Citizenship and Political Literacy Working Group now has a formal presence on our [website](#). If you have any questions or are interested in the activities of the Working Group, please contact [Bronwyn Hayward](#).

A reminder to other networks – there is a need to convene inter-conference activities and report on these to ensure the network remains active, as per clause 7 of the [Constitution](#).

Membership Updates

We are keen to attract new members and re-enrol existing academics, so please remind your colleagues of the need to [renew their subscription](#). Those who did not attend the conference last year may have forgotten to do so. The annual fee is \$65, then \$180 for 3 years and \$300 for 5 years (standard rate). The postgraduate fee is \$10 per year.

Upcoming Dates/Deadlines

Applications for the [APSA award](#) close on 31st May and should be submitted to the [NZPSA Secretary](#). The award provides one postgraduate student with free registration and a ticket to the conference dinner.

[Bi-annual grant](#) applications are due at 5pm on 30th June 2016. There is funding of up to \$2000 for a project that will benefit NZPSA collectively or a significant group within it. Applications should be directed to the [President of the NZPSA](#). A committee will be established to assess the applications.

Administrator and Next Issue

If you have an upcoming event or deadline you wish to mention online or include in the next newsletter, please send it to Pia McKay at admin@nzpsa.co.nz.