

## **New Zealand Political Studies Association – 2007 conference announcement**

The 2007 meeting of the New Zealand Political Studies Association is being organised by Victoria University of Wellington. The conference will be held over two days, from Thursday, 30 August to Friday, 31 August. The conference organiser is Professor Stephen Levine, with the conference committee including Dr Esref Aksu, Dr Jon Johansson and Dr Chris Eichbaum.

This announcement is intended as an invitation to academics, graduate students and researchers to both attend and participate in the conference programme. Papers are invited across all the sub-fields of the discipline, and staff are encouraged to invite their graduate students to consider contributing papers on aspects of their research.

Staff or graduate students intending to offer papers on *international relations* topics are requested to send an e-mail with a proposal to Dr Aksu ([esref.aksu@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:esref.aksu@vuw.ac.nz)); for *comparative politics, New Zealand politics or political theory*, please liaise with Dr Johansson ([jon.johansson@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:jon.johansson@vuw.ac.nz)); and for *public policy, public administration or the New Zealand public sector*, please make contact with Dr Eichbaum ([chris.eichbaum@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:chris.eichbaum@vuw.ac.nz)).

Proposals should include a brief abstract (about 150 words) and appropriate biographical details (including institutional affiliation). The deadline for conference proposals to be received is 1 May. Submission of proposals by that date will assist in organising the programme and also increase the probability of a proposal being able to be accommodated. Staff wishing to organise a panel on a particular topic would also need to advise the conference organisers by 1 May.

In addition to the panels in the respective disciplinary areas, there will be a special theme to the conference, commemorating 60 years since the ratification by New Zealand of the Statute of Westminster. By this act New Zealand moved from the status of a self-governing Dominion to become a fully independent state.

Accordingly, the conference theme – ‘*60 years of New Zealand independence*’ – will provide a forum for sessions devoted to a reconsideration of New Zealand’s history and politics during the 1947-2007 period. The very concept of New Zealand independence, and the process by which it was achieved, will also no doubt be a feature of the presentations. Academics, graduate students or researchers interested in offering papers on the special conference theme are requested to contact Prof. Levine ([stephen.levine@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:stephen.levine@vuw.ac.nz)).

A further focal point of the conference, arising out of the special theme noted above, will be *presentations on each of New Zealand’s prime ministers* during this 60-year period. These sessions will look at the contributions made by each prime minister to New Zealand’s independence, assessing their leadership in part by whether they were able to enhance the country’s independence through their policies or personal example. Those who may be interested in presenting a paper on a particular prime minister are requested to contact Prof. Levine.