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Announcements

Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC: Collected Addresses Part V: A Constitution for Aotearoa New Zealand (I)

The Palmer Addresses is a collection of speeches and lectures delivered by the Right Honourable Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC, former Prime Minister of New Zealand and Distinguished Fellow of the Victoria University of Wellington Law Faculty. The series is sponsored by an anonymous donor whom the Faculty gratefully acknowledges.

Table of Contents

- **The Constitution – Opening the Conversation**
[Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law](#)
- **Speech at launch of *A Constitution for Aotearoa New Zealand***
[Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law](#)
- **The Constitution and the Public Service**
[Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law](#)
- **Politics and Constitutional Change**
[Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law](#)

[^top](#)

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VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON LEGAL RESEARCH PAPERS

■ **"The Constitution – Opening the Conversation"** 
[Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 23/2022](#)

SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law
Email: geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz

The keynote address to the Open Source/Open Society Conference, delivered on 22 August 2016. The address introduces Sir Geoffrey Palmer and Dr Andrew Butler's new book, *A Constitution for Aotearoa New Zealand*, and discusses the shortcomings of New Zealand's unwritten constitution.

■ **"Speech at launch of *A Constitution for Aotearoa New Zealand*"** 
[Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 24/2022](#)

SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law

Email: geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz

A speech at the launch of *A Constitution for Aotearoa New Zealand*, delivered on 21 September 2016. The speech introduces Sir Geoffrey Palmer and Dr Andrew Butler's new book and expresses thanks to those involved in the project.

"The Constitution and the Public Service"

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 25/2022

SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law

Email: geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz

A speech to the Public Service Association, delivered on 28 November 2016. The speech introduces Sir Geoffrey Palmer and Dr Andrew Butler's book, *A Constitution for Aotearoa New Zealand*. It discusses the role of the public service in a "post-truth" age and advocates for constitutional protection of the public service and its values through a written constitution.

"Politics and Constitutional Change"

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 26/2022

SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law

Email: geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz

An address to a meeting in Dunedin introducing *A Constitution for Aotearoa New Zealand* on 30 November 2016. The address makes the case for a written constitution in the light of concerning trends overseas, such as the rise of the "post-truth" age in Donald Trump's United States and the Brexit referendum in the United Kingdom. It argues that New Zealand needs a written constitution so that the values of democracy and representative government cannot be so easily swept away.

[^top](#)

About this eJournal

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Papers Series primarily contains scholarly papers by members of the **Faculty of Law at Victoria University of Wellington**. Some issues collect a number of papers on a similar theme to form a suite of papers on a single topic. Others issues are general or distribute mainly recent work.

The Student/Alumni Series is a subseries of the Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper Series. The subseries started in 2015 and publishes papers by students and alumni of Victoria University of Wellington, comprising primarily work for honours and postgraduate courses. Papers are collected into thematic or general issues.

The Victoria University of Wellington was founded in 1899 to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the reign of Queen Victoria of Great Britain and of the then British Empire. Law teaching started in 1900. The Law Faculty was formally constituted in 1907. The first dean was Richard Maclaurin (1870-1920), an eminent scholar of both law and mathematics. Maclaurin went on to lead the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as President in its formative years. Early professors included Sir John Salmond (1862-1924), still one of the Common Law's leading scholars. His texts on jurisprudence and torts have gone through many editions and remain in print.

Alumni include Sir Robin Cooke (1926-2006), one of the leading judges of the British Commonwealth. As Baron Cooke of Thorndon, he sat on over 100 appeals to the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords, one of very few Commonwealth judges ever appointed to do so.

Since 1996 the Law School has occupied the Old Government Building in central Wellington. Designed by William Clayton and opened in 1876 to house New Zealand's then civil service, the building is a particularly fine example of Italianate neo-Renaissance style. Unusually among large colonial official buildings of the time it is constructed of wood, apart from chimneys and vaults.

The School is close to New Zealand's Parliament, courts, and the headquarters of government departments. Throughout Victoria's history, our law teachers have contributed actively to policy formation and to law reform. As a result, in addition to many scholarly articles and books, the Victoria SSRN pages include a number of official reports.

Victoria graduates approximately 230 LLB and LLB(Hons) students each year, and about 60 LLM students. The faculty has an increasing number of doctoral students. Ordinarily there are ten to twelve students engaged in PhD research.

Victoria University observes the British system of academic ranks. In North American terms, lecturers and senior lecturers are tenured doctrinal scholars, not legal writing teachers. A senior lecturer corresponds approximately to a North American associate professor in rank.

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