

Phil Dickie

CV
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Summary

Phil Dickie is best known in Australia as the award winning investigative journalist and author whose work was in large part responsible for the establishment of the (Fitzgerald) Commission of Inquiry into Organised Criminal Activity and Associated Police Misconduct in Queensland. His book, *The Road to Fitzgerald*, remains on the required reading lists of many journalism courses around Australia.

The two-year inquiry instituted a period of rapid change in Queensland, to which he contributed as a senior advisor to the newly created Criminal Justice Commission. He contributed significantly to the initiation of innovative research into economic crime which indicated that that traditional policing methods, even when dressed up with new jargon, were often counterproductive.

From 1994 to 2008, Phil Dickie was self-employed as a journalist and photo-journalist, commentator, consultant and lecturer. As such he has written an innovative Sunday newspaper column, published feature articles that have become standard references in their fields, authored or co-authored significant reports and assisted organisations with research and communications advice.

From 2000, Phil Dickie and his wife Susan Brown – a policy specialist and journalist with her own significant record of outstanding achievement – operated a full service international freelance writing, media, policy and advocacy consultancy which was later structured under the company framework of Melaleuca Media Pty Ltd, a company registered in Australia.

Clients have included major media companies, United Nations and other international agencies, project agencies for international conferences and corporate research projects and Australian governments, companies and NGOs.

In 2007 Phil Dickie responded to an emergency need for full time provision of media relations services at WWF International which led in 2008 to him accepting a full time position as WWF International News Editor. As such, he is responsible for the day to day running of WWF International's media team and plays a key role in coordinating media communications for WWF's global network of offices and programmes.

Awards

W.G. Walkley (Bronze) Award for Newspaper Reporting 1987

W.G. Walkley (Gold) Award for Australian Journalism 1987

(The Walkley Awards have since 1956 been Australia's premier awards for journalism. Phil Dickie was the first Queensland journalist to win a Gold Walkley)

Education

Bachelor of Arts, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT

Studies 1973 – 1981 included major subject areas of forestry, political science and sociology. Additional studies in linguistics and economics. Includes non-study period 1977-78, when Phil was editor of ANU student newspaper Woroni.

Matriculation, Wynnum State High School , Brisbane, Qld 1971-72

Employment history

Current

International News Editor, WWF International. Strategic direction and day to day management of WWF International Media Relations Unit, key leadership and co-ordination role for WWF's global network communications staff.

Brought into WWF International Press Office initially as an emergency measure (see below) to provide full-time media relations services which developed into a major role in rebuilding this office as a functioning unit. I repositioned the office as central to media machinery of WWF global network rather than just international secretariat. Have lifted quality and quantity of outputs above the levels of former (and larger) old office, considerably improved distribution of media materials, instilled a sense of cooperation rather than conflict between key communication units of global network.

Focusing on building capacity and lifting standards of professionalism through giving strategic assistance in areas of need and when opportunity presents.

Currently engaged with restructured Marketing and Communications Division in improved integration of media, multimedia, online and social media content provision teams and outputs.

Employment history/continued

March 1994 to date

Director, Melaleuca Media Pty Ltd. Self employed as journalist, media advisor, consultant, lecturer and speaker.

Contributed hundreds of articles a year to major metropolitan newspapers in Australia (including *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age* and *The Australian*) and Australian and international specialist publications and magazines. (Weekly contributor to Thomson Legal and Regulatory/Thomson Pacific titles).

Gave media assistance to numerous government, statutory, business and community organisations including The Australian Electoral Office, Australian Minerals and Energy Environment Foundation, the Queensland Conservation Council, The Brisbane Institute and the Brisbane Housing Company.

Lectured and taught on media and accountability topics for the University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology, Bond University, Griffith University, Capricornia University, Southern Cross University and James Cook University.

Researched and wrote reports and/or conducted consultations on a wide variety of topics for a large range of organisations including the The World Health Organisation, the UN Commissioner for Human Rights, the Global Mining Initiative's Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development project, the Australian Federal Government, The Queensland Government, Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation, Australian Conservation Foundation, WWF Australia, WWF International and ECOS Corporation.

Highlights include:

1994-1997 columnist, The Sunday Mail.

1996 – Investigative journalism course, Bond University

1997 (with Susan Brown) preparation of Biodiversity kit for Australian politicians for the National Biodiversity Advisory Council and Environment Australia.

1997-8 Assist Mirrar-Gundjehmi people with preparation of media material on historical background to original approval of Jabiluka uranium mining lease. Assist with film Jabiluka.

1998 to date – Regular contributor to Thomson Legal and Regulatory (now Thomson Pacific) publications, currently international carbon correspondent for Environmental Manager- around 5 stories per week

1999 – Conducted investigation and compiled reports on real estate marketing abuses for Queensland Office of Fair Trading. Additional reports for Commonwealth/State ministerial meeting and industry/government/community working party.

1999 – Regular weekly commentaries on public events broadcast on ABC radio 4QR.

2000 – 2001 (with Susan Brown) International news editor, feature

**Employment
history/continued**

writer, Living Planet magazine.

2001-2002 – Consultant to Global Mining Initiative/International Institute for Environment and Development/Australian Minerals and Energy Environment Foundation Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development Australia project. Wrote initial draft of report, conducted consultations with mining industry, government and other stakeholders around Australia, co-author (with Bren Sheehy) of final report Facing the Future. Wrote releases, speeches and publicity material for report launch.

Feb 2001 – Nov 2002 Editor, writer and illustrator of fortnightly on-line publication The Brisbane Line (journal of The Brisbane Institute)

January 2003 – Formation of Melaleuca Media Pty Ltd with Susan Brown as vehicle for writing and consultancy work.

2003-2006 – Feature writer and legal columnist *Queensland Business Acumen*.

2004 - (with Susan Brown) – Media relations for International Entomology Conference; achieved outstanding mainstream media coverage despite competition from Olympic Games and Australian Science Week.

2005 – Project advice and text preparation for UN Human Rights Commission on book project to mark end of first International Decade for Indigenous Peoples.

Contributed to WWF package on sustainable development for World Summit and WWF briefs for G-8 meeting.

2006 - Five commissions from Australian metropolitan daily newspapers for obituaries for long-serving Queensland premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen.

Widespread international media coverage for WWF report *Rich Countries, Poor Water*

2007 – Research, preparation and acceptance of WWF position on seawater desalination. Widespread international media coverage for report *Making Water - Option or distraction for a thirsty world*.

November 2007- July 2008 - Full time consultant to WWF International, providing media relations services and rebuilding Press Office.

Developed panda.org/media as credible internet newsroom and outlet for expanded dissemination of WWF news, repositioned office as centre of professionalism central to co-ordination and standard setter for WWF global communications network.

**Employment
history/continued**

January 1990 – March 1994

Executive and project roles with Qld Criminal Justice Commission

**Special Advisor to Chairman/ Principal Research Officer,
Queensland Criminal Justice Commission.**

Joined the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) at the invitation of inaugural chairman Sir Max Bingham. Position of Special Advisor to Chairman involved provision of advice on daily emergencies and long term endeavours and direct involvement in or direction of research, crime intelligence collection and analysis, and operational planning.

Extensive involvement in report preparation and editing, media briefings and community and special interest group consultations. Worked widely with law enforcement and research institutions; established and serviced specialist advisory groups; commissioned and directed research and review consultancies; and directed and had varying responsibilities over small focused teams. Managed own office of assistants and researchers, others supervised in small focused teams included research staff, police investigators, criminal intelligence and media officers.

On retirement of inaugural chairman in February 1993, appointed a Principal Research Officer with CJC's Research Division, retaining primary responsibility for projects I had previously initiated on illicit drugs, organised crime and dispensation of justice. Produced discussion paper on Cannabis and the Law in Queensland, draft report on organised crime in Queensland and coordinated initial consultation on criminal justice system.

July 1982-January 1990

Journalist, News Limited.

General news, features and investigative articles for The Courier-Mail and The Sunday Mail. Other highlights included:

1987-89 Advised legal team representing Queensland Newspapers before the Fitzgerald Inquiry.

1987-89 *The Road to Fitzgerald* and *The Road to Fitzgerald and Beyond* written for University of Queensland Press.

1987 – Received Walkley Award for Newspaper Journalism and Gold Walkley Award for Australian Journalism

1982-87 Motorcycle reviewer and columnist for The Courier-Mail and (from 1984) the Perth Daily News and News Ltd titles in New Zealand.

January –July 1982

Journalist, Nambour Independent

1980-81

Journalist, Kookaburra Community Newspapers

Journalist, Logan City Star

**Employment history/
continued**

Contributor, columnist and cartoonist Two Wheels magazine

1978-81

Clerk, Australian Transport Advisory Council, Dept of Transport, Canberra; Naval Health Services, Dept of Defence, Canberra

1977-78

Editor, Woroni. (ANU student newspaper, elected position).

Publications

Newspapers, magazines, online publications and professional newsletters.

Numerous news and feature articles and commentaries have been published in major Australian newspapers since 1982. *The Courier-Mail* and *The Sunday Mail* account for the majority of this work, particularly in 1983-89, but many articles have also appeared in *The Australian*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age*, *The Sunday Age*, *The Canberra Times*, *The Gold Coast Bulletin* and the *Sunday Times*.

The *Watching* column published in *The Sunday Mail* from March 1994 to May 1997 was an innovation; it attempted to extend media scrutiny to government process, the all important detail of administrative decisions, and the real as opposed to the professed underlying issues . . . without being "worthy but dull".

Phil Dickie was initially known as one of Australia's leading crime journalists. Over the last decade he has become a leading journalist on environmental issues. Some of his or Melaleuca Media major features on environmental issues have become standard reference works for other journalists on contentious Australian issues and some provoked considerable international interest. They include the initial revelation and detail on how Australia's Great Barrier Reef would fall victim to climate change, the exposure of (soon curtailed) secret oil exploration on the Great Barrier Reef, exposure of the suppressed scientific controversy of links between destructive marine starfish infestations, agricultural pollution and overfishing, exposure of a cover-up of acid sulfate soil risks and a major examination of the corruption and environmental damage resulting from a major diversion of the waters of Australia's major river system into a private cotton irrigation scheme.

Magazine photo and article credits include *The Weekend Australian Magazine*, *Queensland Business Acumen*, *Fly Life*, the *Rolex Awards for Enterprise Journal* and *Living Planet*.

On-line and professional publications contributed to include *The Brisbane Line*(editor 2001-02), *Environmental Manager*, *Land and Water News*, *The Risk Report*, *Occupation Health News*, *Inside Occupational Health*, *Ad Brief*, and *Workers Compensation Report*.

Examples can be accessed at <http://www.melaleucamedia.com>

Publications/continued Books: author

The Road to Fitzgerald: Revelations of corruption spanning four decades, University of Queensland Press, Brisbane, 1988.

The Road to Fitzgerald and Beyond, University of Queensland Press, Brisbane, 1989. (updated second edition)

(These books were classed as best sellers in the Australian market, remain prescribed reading for many Australian journalism and media studies students and continue to be available as a print-on-demand title from the publisher.)

Reports: principal author or co-author

Criminal Justice Commission, ***Gaming Machine Concerns and Regulation***, Goprint Brisbane 1990.

Advisory Committee on Illicit Drugs, ***Cannabis and the Law in Queensland***, Goprint Brisbane 1993.

Organising crime: Towards a Research-Regulatory Approach to Organised Crime in P. Wilson and D. Chappell ed. *The Australian Criminal Justice System*, Butterworths 1993

(with Prof Paul Wilson) ***Defining Organised Crime: An Operational Perspective*** in *Current Issues in Criminal Justice: Vol 4 No 3*, Sydney

(with Susan Brown) ***Biodiversity: a guide for Australian politicians***, National Biodiversity Advisory Council, Canberra 1997.

Humbugged into mining, Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation, Jabiru NT 1997.

Queensland Office of Fair Trading, ***Two tier real estate markets in Queensland***, Queensland Office of Fair Trading July 1999.

(with Bren Sheehy) ***Facing the future: The report of the Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development Australia project***, (a regional report of the Global Mining Initiative), Australian Minerals and Energy Environment Foundation, May 2002

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; ***A Place at the Table***, book text on the extension of human rights recognition to indigenous peoples commissioned, submitted and accepted 2005. Publication pending.

WWF International, ***Rich Countries, Poor Water*** (August 2006) This report anticipated and highlighted significant freshwater issues in the developed world and received extensive worldwide media coverage.

WWF International, ***Making Water: Desalination - Option or distraction for a thirsty world*** (June 2007) A report that was the product of a strategic analysis directed at determining an appropriate policy position on seawater desalination for WWF. This, the first non-industry global survey of desalination, also received widespread media coverage.

Publications/continued

Books, journals and reports: contributor

A pattern of crime and corruption is revealed in Queensland in Harry Gordon ed *An eyewitness history of Australia*, 4th edition Penguin, Melbourne 1988

The Media: a lot to answer for in Scott Prasser, Rae Wear and John Nethercote eds *Corruption and Reform: The Fitzgerald Vision* University of Queensland Press, Brisbane 1990.

Historical background to prostitution in Queensland and Prostitution, organised crime and other criminal activities in Criminal Justice Commission, *Regulating Morality: An Inquiry into Prostitution in Queensland*, Goprint, Brisbane 1991.

SP bookmaking: A Queensland history in Criminal Justice Commission, *Report on SP Bookmaking and Related Criminal Activities in Queensland*, Goprint, Brisbane 1991.

Shirley Brifman, criminal 1935-1972 for the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*

Reflections on a life in crime in Carole McCartney, Robyn Lincoln and Paul Wilson, *Justice in the Deep North: A historical perspective on Crime and Punishment in Queensland*, Bond University Press, 2003

Papers

The Media: A lot to answer for, University College of Southern Queensland Public Sector Management Conference *The Fitzgerald Vision for Reform: Making it happen*, Brisbane, November 1989

The Media and the Fitzgerald Inquiry: Successes and Failures, Australian Journalists Association conference *Journalism, Justice and the future*, Brisbane, July 1991

(with Prof Paul Wilson) ***Defining Organised Crime: An Operational Perspective***, Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology Annual Conference *The Cultures of Crime*, Melbourne, September-October 1992

Fitzgerald and After, Public Interest Law Association Conference *In whom the public trust: from the Fitzgerald Inquiry to the Metherell Affair* University of NSW, Sydney, October 1992.

Cannabis Use, Supply and Law Enforcement in Queensland, keynote presentation to Criminal Justice Commission seminar *Cannabis Use, Supply and Law Enforcement in Queensland*, Brisbane, 5 March 1993

Cannabis and the Law in Queensland, Alcohol and Drug Foundation Winter School, Brisbane, July 1993. Variations on this paper delivered to 14 seminars in Queensland provincial cities and to special interest groups, August-September 1993.

The media and community safety and Neglected dimensions in crime research, Australian Crime Prevention Council annual conference *Chaos or Reason*, Brisbane, September 1993.

Research assignments

(The Criminal Justice Commission was charged by the Fitzgerald Inquiry with responsibility for research driven reforms of the police and criminal justice system and the development of effective crime and corruption control strategies. The judgment of history will probably be that this would have been a tall order for any institution and that the CJC in the end settled for much less. But it certainly got off to a brave and exciting start.)

1990 - Criminal implications and regulatory options of the introduction of legal gaming machines into Queensland (Culminated in a report to government which delayed the peremptory introduction of gaming machines and led to substantial changes to proposed regulatory framework.)

1990-91 Member of a team examining prostitution and associated criminal activities; specifically responsible for research on historical development of industry, degree to which prostitution an organised criminal activity and links to other criminal activities. (Contributed to CJC report to government, which balked at recommendations and introduced alternative but ultimately unsatisfactory scheme. The CJC recommendations were then substantially adopted in 2000 with surprisingly little controversy.)

1990-91 Member of team examining illegal bookmaking industry and associated crime in Queensland: specifically responsible for research on historical development of industry; current networks and utilisation of telecommunications facilities. Responsible for second confidential report arising from above which recommended proceeds of crime action against major bookmaker Terry Page; this aim successfully achieved by joint CJC-Qld police operation.)

1991 Queensland police drug handling procedures (Confidential report highlighted risk practices; joint CJC/Qld police working group examined these issues; some reforms implemented).

1991-94 Police collection and utilisation of information on illicit drugs, particularly chemical composition (with Qld Govt chemical laboratory); Resulted in more of this information being routinely collected and analysed, giving law enforcement a better idea of drug sources and illicit drug distributions networks.

1992-93 Dispensation of justice in Queensland. (An effort to examine the overall adequacy of the criminal justice system, of which a key element was bringing together all relevant institutions, community and professional groups to seek as much common ground as possible on objectives and reforms. Seminar pioneered multi-stakeholder consideration of issues, priorities and obstacles to reform.)

**Research assignments/
continued**

1992-93 Organised crime in Queensland. - survey of fields of criminal endeavour and their mode and extent of organisation; (In line with international precedent, this work was considered threatening by some institutional interests as it highlighted the role of traditional policing in facilitating and maintaining high levels of criminal organisation and indicated the existence of effective alternatives. Approach was welcomed externally but ultimately discontinued by CJC. After discussions, a similar project was initiated within the National Crime Authority, but this was also discontinued for similar reasons).

1993-94 Illicit drugs in Queensland. Established and co-ordinated expert group to prepare discussion paper on illicit drugs in accordance with Fitzgerald Inquiry recommendations. Discussion paper issued on cannabis use, supply and enforcement in Queensland, which was notable for its multi-disciplinary approach and innovative research into use patterns, comparison of user and apprehended offender profiles and market modelling. Cannabis and the Law in Queensland became a surprise best seller for the CJC.

1999 – Property Marketeering Abuses in Queensland. Engaged by Qld Dept of Fair Trading to service interested party working group on property marketing abuses. After further discussion assignment extended to an investigation of abuses and departmental response; report tabled in State parliament and has become basic source document on the abuses.

1999 Investigated property marketing abuses and adequacy of departmental response for Queensland Minister for Consumer Affairs; report tabled in Queensland Legislative Assembly.

2000 – (with Susan Brown) Moves to ecological sustainability in Australia. Research brief requested by Ian Kiernan and Murray Hogarth for Econation project.

2001 – (with Susan Brown) Internet resources on sustainability, supplement for Australian Conservation Foundation's *Natural Advantage – Blueprint for a Sustainable Future*

2001-2002 (with Bren Sheehy and Susan Brown) Engaged in research, consultation, writing and promotional activities for the Mining Minerals and Sustainable Development Australia project. This was a component of an industry supported but independent consultative global study of the mining industry conducted on behalf of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development by the London-based International Institute for Environment and Development. The Australian report Facing the Future was jointly launched by Federal Environment Minister David Kemp and Western Mining Corporation CEO Hugh Morgan in May 2002.

2006-2007 Research on freshwater issues for WWF Global Freshwater Programme – culminated in two reports, *Rich Countries, Poor Water* and *Making Water: Option or Distraction for a Thirsty World* which received widespread international media attention

2008 - *Forty years of failure*, a detailed examination of the record of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in protecting bluefin tuna stocks under their care. This detailed online publication, drawing on original sources, kept updated and distributed strategically to delegates and media, has done a great deal to inform an increasingly heated international debate on Mediterranean bluefin tuna.