
EDITORIAL

I apologise if this edition looks like the Jeff Phillips edition. It was never meant to be that. The person to be interviewed and to have their portrait on the cover, through pressure of work and other pressing commitments, could not complete the interview, so, alas, you have me. In the eighth year of publication of *Workplace Review* many important and interesting IR practitioners and persons of note have graced the front cover and been interviewed. My co-General Editor, Neil Napper, and publishing editor, Craig Ryan, or should I say my life coaches, told me to get off the bench, run onto the field and play. Thank you Simon Fieldhouse for an excellent and flattering portrait. I feel humbled.

I am impressed with what this first edition for 2017 has in store for our readers. Despite Australia having a largely national industrial relations system, the States still have residual and individual parts to play in industrial relations and employment law. Adelaide IR barrister Rick Manuel explains the new South Australian Employment Court and the expansion of its role compared to its predecessor tribunal. K&L Gates' Western Australian lawyers Duncan Fletcher and Kathryn Maric explain the *Baker Hughes* case regarding reduced opportunity to claim long service leave.

Employment law focuses on people in work, the CEO of the St Vincent de Paul Society, Dr John Falzon, considers strategies for getting the long term unemployed back to work, and to reduce the stigma attached to people who, often through no fault of their own, have been without work for too long.

Welcome back to Bruce Taylor, formerly our Northern Territory editor and now at the Bar in Newcastle, the heart of the Hunter.

Interesting comments are to be found in a well-researched piece by Ashleigh Mills on Long Service Leave and its role in an ageing workforce (a member of which is me, I started full time work in 1977 and have never experienced anything close to taking long service leave).

Neil Napper and Luke Scandrett, channelling Jane Austen, deal with the new kid on the Fair Work block: protections accorded to complaints made in the workplace pursuant to s 341(1)(c)(ii) of the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth).

Alena L Titterton, one of the best workplace safety practitioners in Australia, considers integrated and resilient safety systems in the workplace, and the need to be able to deal with the totally unexpected. She uses the tragedy of the *Lindt Café Siege* in Sydney's Martin Place as a case study.

What better person than my co-General Editor, Neil Napper, to review the 8th Edition of *Macken's Law of Employment*, a publication which is always close by to any busy IR practitioner. Jim Macken is a legend, and this book remains his monument.

Beyond such excellent pieces, you will also find some material about, and from, me. I tried to be as frank as possible in my interview with Craig Ryan who has done a superlative job. It is an honour to be placed in such a position. I did speak about some disappointments I have had in life. One that I forgot to mention was the slow decline in influence and role of the Industrial Relations Commission of New South Wales. How it happened is deserving of a PhD treatment. It was a wonderful place to ply one's craft as a barrister, and I deeply mourn its reduced place in IR. However, hope springs eternal with the recent appointment of Peter Kite SC as the IRC's first Chief Commissioner. In his day a Newtown rugby league first grader and scratch golfer, his intellect and charm will go a long way to assist the new dawn of the NSW IRC.

I also forgot to mention a mentor who had a great role in my life and intellectual interests, Myer Rosenblum. He was born in Russia in 1908. His family fled the Jewish pogroms and came to Australia via a few years in South Africa. He went to Sydney University and became a solicitor. He played for the then-national rugby team, the Waratahs, in the 1920s, competed in the Empire Games in Sydney in 1938 in the hammer throw, was a voracious reader and a bassoon player. He was one of my greatest influences and friends. I shall tell more about Myer in future *Last Word* pieces.



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While still talking about me, please read my article about the best job I have ever had, Defence Force Advocate, and forgive me for my, at times, not relevant to IR musings in the *Last Word* column.

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