

GRAND GRAMMARIAN  
 LAW MAN  
 MICHAEL LISHMAN

Commencing at Bunbury Grammar in Year 8 in 1972 at age 11, Michael Lishman was a founding student of the School. Over his years at BCGS he achieved well academically and also represented the School in Debating, Quiz and Swimming. In his final year (1976) he was Treasurer of the Student Executive and Mayor of the Bunbury Junior Town Council. That year he was chosen as Bunbury's Junior Citizen of the Year and awarded a Rotary International Exchange Scholarship to Johnson City, New York.

Michael studied Arts and Law at the University of Western Australia, graduating in 1982. He accepted articles at Stone James Stephen Jaques and was admitted as a barrister and solicitor in 1983. He married Deidre Willmott in 1985. In 1987 and 1988 Michael worked in London for "magic circle" law firm, Linklaters. His first daughter Rachel was born in London in 1988. Michael and Deidre returned to Perth where he became a partner of Mallesons Stephen Jaques in 1991. Michael's second daughter Katie was born in Perth in 1990.

In Perth Michael acted as legal adviser on many large corporate transactions including the float of SGIO, the acquisition of BankWest, the sale of Westrail Freight and the takeover defence of Woodside. Michael was made Partner in Charge of Mallesons' Perth office in 1997.

In 2001, Michael and his family moved to Melbourne where he was made head of Mallesons' mergers and acquisitions practice. He completed the Harvard Business School Advanced Management

Program and also obtained a Masters of Law from Melbourne University. Inspired by his time at Harvard, Michael founded the law firm Cochrane Lishman with Ian Cochrane, in 2006. In 2010 the firm changed its name to Cochrane Lishman Carson Luscombe when Jon Carson and Ben Luscombe joined as partners. The firm specialises in mergers and acquisitions, energy and resources and litigation.

In another exciting development the firm is now merging with global law firm Clifford Chance and Sydney firm Chang Pistilli & Simmons with the merger taking effect on 1 May 2011. Clifford is another of the magic circle law firms that have grown out of the London legal market. It has an annual turnover of GBP 1.2 billion and 570 partners operating in 21 countries from 31 offices. Michael will become an equity partner of Clifford Chance - along with the name partners of his firm and Chang Pistilli & Simmons. This merger is part of Clifford Chance's plans to expand its legal practice in Asia (it has offices in Tokyo, Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Bangkok and Singapore) and to capture cross border legal work involving Australia.

Michael's daughters are both doing post graduate study at the University of Melbourne. Michael's wife Deidre is a senior executive with Fortescue Metals Group. Michael is a regular visitor to Bunbury to see his parents and family and has a beach house at Peppermint Grove Beach where he likes to spend as much time as possible.

**Ms Margaret Paterson :: Archivist**

