



the Australia and New Zealand  
School of Government

# ALF RATTIGAN LECTURE

ECONOMIC REFORM: A LOST CAUSE OR MERELY IN ECLIPSE?

Dr Paul Kelly, Editor-at-Large, The Australian

7 December 2016, The Shine Dome, Canberra

The 2016 lecture is the first in a series in honour of G.A. Rattigan, the renowned Chairman of the Tariff Board and Industries Assistance Commission (predecessors of today's Productivity Commission). It will be held annually by the Australia and New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG), with the benefit of an initial endowment by the Tasman Transparency Group.

The purpose of the Lecture is to elevate the importance of good process, sound governmental institutions and effective leadership to achieving nationally beneficial public policy and reform. It is to be delivered each year by an Australian or New Zealander who has played a significant role in promoting or implementing these ideals.

The **inaugural Lecturer is Dr Paul Kelly**, Editor-at-Large of The Australian, and a Distinguished Fellow of ANZSOG.

## DR PAUL KELLY



*Paul Kelly is the doyen of Australian journalists of politics, policy and international affairs. Currently Editor-at-Large with The Australian, he has had a long and distinguished career at that newspaper, as well as having a more recent prominent role in television.*

*Paul Kelly has covered Australian governments from Whitlam to Turnbull. In 1990 he was Graham Perkin Journalist of the Year. He is the author of nine books. These include his important chronicles of the 'reform era' and its aftermath: the End of Certainty on the 1980's, Triumph and Demise on the Rudd-Gillard era and, most recently, The*

*March of Patriots. In 2001, at the centenary of Federation, he presented a five part television documentary for the ABC, titled '100 Years – The Australian Story'.*

*Paul Kelly holds a Doctor of Letters from Melbourne University. In addition, he has been awarded honorary doctorates from the University of Sydney, University of New South Wales and Griffith University. In 2006 he was a Visiting Fellow at the Lowy Institute for International Policy and in 2010 a Vice-Chancellor's Fellow at Melbourne University. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia and a Distinguished Fellow of ANZSOG. He has also been a Fellow at Harvard's Kennedy School and the Menzies Centre in King's College, London.*



## GA (ALF) RATTIGAN, CBE AO (1911-2000)

*Alf Rattigan started out on what was to become an illustrious public sector career as a 13 year old cadet midshipman at Jervis Bay. He was appointed to the role for which he is most remembered, as Chairman of the Tariff Board, in 1962, having previously headed the Department of Customs and Excise. He made a distinguished contribution in both roles, though the nature of these could not have been more different.*

*The Tariff Board at the time Rattigan took the helm had become an institutional vehicle for legitimating industry protection according to 'need'. Its new Chairman soon appreciated that this was inconsistent with the statutory obligation to provide assistance to 'economic and efficient industries'. With the support of a senior officer, and future chairman of the IAC, WB (Bill) Carmichael, he set about re-orienting the Tariff Board in a direction that disturbed the previously comfortable relationship with the Government and, especially, its Country Party Trade Minister. Under Rattigan, the Board progressively built the skill base and analytical frameworks needed to assess the economy-wide impacts of 'the Tariff'. It thereby developed a strong case for liberalisation, and Rattigan took this case both to the government and to the public.*

*In the early 1970s a new Government headed by Gough Whitlam (a self-declared 'Rattigan Man') replaced the Tariff Board with the Industries Assistance Commission, giving it a clearer economic mandate and wider remit. Through its evidence-based analysis, open inquiry processes and advocacy, 'the Commission' played a key role in the eventual demise of 'Fortress Australia'.*

*Alf Rattigan has long been admired for his devotion to duty, his integrity and courage in upholding what he knew to be right; for establishing processes and analytical frameworks that transformed public understanding of industry protection and, above all, for the legacy of a more prosperous Australia. ANZSOG's Alf Rattigan Lecture provides not only an opportunity to honour this great public servant and his achievements, but also to reflect on contemporary policy practice.*

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