

## FIDIC Louis Prangey Award

The Louis Prangey Award, named after the founding President of FIDIC was established to be presented from time to time to a person who has rendered significant service to the Federation and/or to the profession of independent consulting engineering, and who exemplifies the objectives of the Federation.

Last September, the FIDIC Past Presidents chose Dick Kell to receive FIDIC's most prestigious award, the Prangey for Award 2021.

Dick is a Civil Engineer, an Honours Graduate from the University of Sydney, Australia, 1959. He joined Sydney based consulting civil engineers McMillan & Britton when the staff numbered eight only. He worked on the bridge and building structures and project management. His firm's involvement in the Sarawak (Malaysia) Bridges Project commencing in 1964 launched his long career on projects outside Australia, principally in the Asia/Pacific Region, one of the first Australian engineers to do so.

Dick became Managing Director of McMillan Britton & Kell Pty Ltd in 1975 as the firm grew in numbers and scope of services. MBK merged with the Queensland firm Cardno & Davies in 1999, and Dick Kell became Chairman of Cardno Group and set about with others to grow the combined firm while he continued managing major engineering projects. Cardno now has more than 7000 staff in offices throughout Australia and worldwide. Dick was chairman throughout Cardno's successful IPO listing on the Australian Stock Exchange in 2004.

Dick retired as a director in 2006 but continues to work on Cardno projects as a Senior Consultant in international work. Cardno has most recently become part of the Stantec Group.

Dick Kell has spent his working life as an engineer, project manager and director on infrastructure engineering, specializing in commercial and public buildings, site developments, bridge, road, marine, and industrial facilities.

He has been convenor of the FIDIC Governance Task Force, Business Practice Committee, and Strategic Review Task Force. He was also an ex-officio member of the Contracts Committee, in which role he was responsible for the FIDIC MDB Harmonised Contract.

Dick was President of the International Federation of Consulting Engineers, FIDIC, 2003-5. In his FIDIC roles, he travelled extensively to meet with Consulting Engineers throughout the World. He also negotiated with the multi-lateral banks adopted and paid FIDIC for the use of the MDB Harmonised Contracts. The FIDIC CEO, Dr Nelson Ogunshakin has recently negotiated new arrangements for the use of the 2017 Suite of Contracts.

# OneConsult Awards Dinner

31 March 2022



Dick has been quite influential in steering FIDIC in new and exciting directions. Among other achievements, he helped FIDIC build strong relationships with Asian countries, including China, expanded their training programs and supported the development of their strategic plans.

He was an inaugural member of the Advisory Board FIDIC Training Centre, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China. Dick was instrumental in the development of the FIDIC Certified Consulting Engineer Pilot Program in China involving over 1500 Chinese Consulting Engineers, which was completed in 2020. FIDIC Credentialing is now a global offering.

Dick was President of the Association of Consulting Engineers of Australia 1994-5. Dick continues to serve on the Dispute Resolution Board Foundation Region 3 Board as the CA representative.

Dick was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 1998 for services to Australia in Engineering, particularly Bridge Engineering and International Affairs. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and an Honorary Fellow of the Institution of Engineers, Australia. He was the recipient of the Institution of Engineers Australia John Connell Medal for Structural Engineering 2000 and an Australian Centenary Medal in 2001.

Dick has been a director of public and private companies. He is a rugby fanatic outside engineering and business and enjoys opera, skiing, and relaxing at his beach house.

While not part of the official citation, I can add many stories about Dick a great raconteur, a wonderful host, an insightful mentor and a wonderful rickshaw racer.



# OneConsult Awards Dinner

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# WINNER - FIDIC Louis Prangey Award 2021



## Highlights of his professional achievements include:

- Dick was elected to the Executive Committee (Now FIDIC Board) in 1999 at the GAM in Den Haag in 1999. He was elected as FIDIC President in 2003 at the GAM in Paris and stepped down in 2005 GAM Beijing.
- Chair of the Business Practices Committee and Capacity Building Committee.
- He was involved in supporting the MAs to organise and presented at courses and conferences in many countries in the Asia Pacific region on FIDIC contracts and FIDIC business principles in China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Philippines, Korea, Hong Kong, Japan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, PNG, New Zealand and Australia. It is known as FIDIC Asia Pacific Contract Users Conference now.
- Served as Executive Committee of ASPAC.
- He was President of MA of Australia from 1994 to 1996.
- He was President at the start of the FCCE program with CNAEC.
- Announced the YPMTF (now Future Leaders Training Course) at a conference in Copenhagen in 2004, post-conference he initiated and donated to the scholarship for students from developing countries.
- Initiated the agreement with the MDBs on the FIDIC Contract and the creation of the MDB Version (Pink Book), followed by the MDB Conference in 2011 and 2012 Belgium. Active in giving presentations on the HIV-AIDS in FIDIC MDB.

Richard (Dick) KELL, AM, FTSE, Hon FIE AUST, CPEng