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Introduction to IP

The Nature of Intellectual Property

What is IP?

TRIPS Agreement Art 1.2

- "the big 3"
 - Copyright and related rights
 - o Trade marks
 - o Patents
- Others:
 - Geographical Indications
 - o Industrial Designs
 - Plant Varieties
 - Integrated Circuit Layouts
 - o Trade Secrets [Australia: confidential information]
 - Unfair competition/passing off
 - clinical/test data protection

What is copyright?

- A law that grants creators and investors (eg authors, producers) in artistic, cultural, and informational works (artistic, literary, musical, dramatic, films, sound recordings, broadcasts) exclusive (property) rights in their creations.
- Copyright is the law that means:
 - A musician who composes owns their song
 - o A photographer (including you) can stop others using their photograph
 - o Websites that stream content without permission can get blocked in Australia
- The Copyright Act confers other, non-proprietary rights on creators and performers, also considered in this course. IP is not a neat or consistent category of laws: enormous variation in:
 - How you acquire rights: registration vs rights at the point of creation
 - o Absolute v relative monopolies
 - Duration
 - o Framing/scope of rights (use in commerce, v use generally

Constitutional Basis for IP law

- IP is a matter of **Federal** jurisdiction
- <u>Commonwealth Constitution s 51(xviii)</u>: Commonwealth given power with respect to 'copyrights, patents of inventions, and designs and trademarks'
- can include plant varieties and circuit layouts (Union Label dissent became the majority position)
- Also: external affairs power s 51(xxix)

Union Label case 1908

Early authority interpreted <a>s <a>51(xviii) narrowly

The majority held that a union label was not a trade mark within the meaning of the Constitution in that the constitutional term should be of the technical meaning that it had held in 1900.

Grain Pool of WA v Commonwealth 2000

Interpreted s 51(xviii) broadly

Kirby J interprets lawmaking power for all "products of intellectual effort"

International Influences

Treaties

Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works 1886

- o administered by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO); covers 'works' and films. Incorporated into TRIPS. 179 signatory countries.
- seeks to provide an international system of protection for some subject matters recognised in the Australian Copyright Act.
- The logic of the Berne Convention rests on two pillars: national treatment and minimum standards.
 - National treatment is embodied in article 2(1) "Authors who are nationals of one of the countries of the Union, or their successors in title, shall enjoy in the other countries for their works, whether published in one of those countries or unpublished, the rights which their respective laws do now or may hereafter grant to their nationals."
 - Under this system, each member of the Berne Union affords foreign authors the same copyright standards they afford domestic authors.
 - If Country A grants authors 50 years of protection, and B grants 20 years of protection, then B's authors will enjoy 50 years in A even though their works are out of copyright in country B.
 - Minimum standards: If national treatment was the sole obligation with the Convention, it would permit each member of the Berne Union to fashion widely divergent national copyright standards (country B could continue to have its 20 year term). To avoid this, the drafters of the 1886 Berne Convention inserted a variety of minimum rights for certain works.
- Rome Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations 1961: provides an international system of protection for so-called 'neighbouring rights' in sound recordings, broadcasts and performances.

WIPO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) 1994

- WIPO; covers other subject matters (sound recordings, broadcasts, performers)
- 164 members

- An agreement under the umbrella of the World Trade Organization (WTO)
 Agreements. Every member of the WTO must comply with TRIPS. TRIPS incorporates
 most of the provisions of Berne, and includes some further obligations, particularly
 on newer technologies and enforcement. Breaches of TRIPS can be the subject of
 dispute settlement proceedings in the WTO which may ultimately lead to sanctions.
- Part of WTO agreements. Incorporates most of Berne (see <u>Art 9</u>). Covers all copyright/neighbouring rights.
- o >> main one
- Adds to and incorporates Berne
- o Doesn't recognise certain things, including moral rights.
- WIPO Internet Treaties 1996: Update Berne & Rome for digital age; administered by WIPO.
 - WIPO Copyright Treaty (110 contracting parties)
 - WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (109 contracting parties)
 - In 1996, two new agreements, the WIPO Copyright Treaty and the WIPO
 Performances and Phonograms Treaty were concluded. The goal of these treaties
 was to update/supplement copyright law to take account of the rise of digital and
 network technologies (such as the internet).
- <u>WIPO Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances 2012</u> (42 contracting parties)
 - Leftovers from the 1996 negotiations: updating rights in performances in film for digital age. In force April 2020. Australia is not a signatory.

Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled 2013

- 71 contracting parties)
- This is the first multilateral agreement that obliges signatories to have exceptions to copyright law. Previous copyright treaties have provided for mandatory rights and optional exceptions and provisions that limit the right of countries to introduce new copyright exceptions (TRIPS art 13). The agreement seeks to address the 'book famine' that sees something like 5% of all published literary works available in forms accessible to blind or visually impaired people. It requires exceptions for domestic copyright law and to allow cross-border transfer of accessible versions subject to various limitations. The Marrakesh Treaty came into effect in September 2016, and spurred amendments to Australian law in the form of the Copyright Amendment (Disability and other Access Measures) Act 2017 (Cth).
- Australia is a party, and passed implementing legislation in 2017

Bilateral, Regional, and Plurilateral Trade Agreements

o IP obligations have become commonplace in bilateral, plurilateral and regional trade agreements. Australia's law has, for example, been significantly influenced by the IP chapter in the Australia-US Free Trade Agreement concluded 2004. Australia also in 2015 concluded the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a regional agreement involving 12 countries and including a detailed IP Chapter. The US repudiated the TPP but the remaining TPP members concluded the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for a Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) (suspending a few provisions including some copyright provisions). Australia has since also concluded the Regional Comprehensive Agreement on Economic Partnership (RCEP) with a set of regional actors, not including the US. It too includes a detailed IP chapter (albeit less detailed

than the CPTPP). Australia continues to negotiate further agreements, and is presently in negotiations with Europe, and the now-Brexited UK

- Bilateral
 - US-Australia Free Trade Agreement 2004
 - Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement 2014 (in force)
 - Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement 2014
 - China-Australia 2015 (in force)
- Plurilateral:
 - Comprehensive Agreement for a Trans-Pacific Partnership 2018 (CPTPP)
 - Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) 2020

Key Treaty principles

- The "Berne Floor" Berne art 20
- **Minimum standards:** treaties establish minimum levels of protection (but, in general, not maximum levels) (see TRIPS art 1)
- **National treatment**: foreign authors get same treatment as local authors (TRIPS art 3) (unless national treatment would be below minimum standards)
- **Most favoured nation** (TRIPS art 4): In Country A, authors from Country B must receive most favourable treatment offered to any other set of foreign authors (eg, those from Country C)
- Consider the remedies they will impact on the strength and impact of the treaty provisions
 - o Berne: ICJ only
 - TRIPS: inter-state dispute settlement where all WTO members can intervene, so disputes become major exercise in multilateral treaty interpretation
 - Some bilateral agreements: inter-state dispute settlement (without external rights of intervention), and, in some cases, investor-state dispute settlement

History and Basic Principles

- First Act: Statute of Anne, for books
- The 'Literary property wars': does perpetual, common law copyright exist?
 - o There was perpetual in Australia until a few years ago
- 18th and 19th Centuries: the accretion of new subject matters via sui generis legislation
- Early 20th Century:
 - Rationalisation of copyright: the collection of multiple copyright acts into one system
 - Promulgation of a 'Commonwealth' model: in Australia, a federal model, and a similar model across the UK's foreign territories
- Mid 20th Century: reform to address the "new" technologies (film, broadcast, sound recording)
 - UK's 1956 Act; Australia's 1968 Act
- 1970s mini-crisis when photocopying is invented
- 1980s mini-crisis when personal computing expands

Millar v Taylor (1769)

perpetual common law right to publish work was in perpetuity

The dissent of <u>Yates J</u> proved influential in the later case of Donaldson v Becket (1774). He argued that to succeed, Millar needed to prove that compositions of authors were property.

Donaldson v Beckett (1744)

The finding for exclusive common law literary property that survived the Statute of Anne in *Millar v Taylor* was soon effectively overruled by the House of Lords in Donaldson v Becket (1774), another case concerning Thomson's The Seasons

Donaldson is generally understood as affirming the existence of copyright at common law but finding that the natural authorial property right had been supplanted by the Statute of Anne for published books. This left common law copyright as a form of protection that attached to unpublished works only, and copyright generally considered as a creature of positive law.

The mid-90s Copyright Crisis

- "The riddle is this: if our property can be infinitely reproduced and instantaneously distributed all over the planet without cost, without our knowledge, without its even leaving our possession, how can we protect it? How are we going to get paid for the work we do with our minds? And, if we can't get paid, what will assure the continued creation and distribution of such work?... The economy of the future will be based on relationship rather than possession. It will be continuous rather than sequential."
 - o John Perry Barlow, Selling Wine without Bottles on the Global Net.

'The answer to the machine is in the machine'

- Encryption
- Digital rights management (DRM) (and legal rights to prevent hacking)
- Building DRM into devices (CSS and DVD players; other proposals like SDMI
- Continued attempts to 'strengthen copyright'
 - O Notice and takedown > notice and stay down?
 - Website blocking
 - Domain name seizures
 - Multinational law enforcement efforts (Kim Dotcom)
 - Follow the money: the credit card providers and the online advertising companies do something(s)
 - o The copyright "value gap" and the EU's Digital Single Market Directive
 - Online Platforms
 - Newspapers: Media Code
- Continued battle to expand 'user rights'
 - ALRC Final Report recommendation in favour of fair use and flexibility in copyright still waiting action

Intellectual property is *still* controversial

- "Progressives may rail at the term "IP" for its imprecision, but truly, it has a very precise meaning: "IP' is any law that lets me control the conduct of my customers, competitors and critics, such that they must arrange their affairs to my benefit.' In that regard, it is a perfect

grifter's tool – a way to put you on the wrong side of the line for simply living your life in the way that works best for you, not the grifter."

Cory Doctorow

Philosophical Justifications

Utilitarian/Incentive Theory

- Copyright's exclusive rights create an incentive for investment in creation/distribution of creative works. Securing exclusivity means creator cannot be undercut/copied/have market taken.

Incentives: the classic economic rationale

- Investment is necessary to create intangibles (literary/arts or scientific)
- o Intangibles are readily duplicated once publicly released
- Copyists can undercut original creators because didn't make investment in creation (less sunk costs to recover)
- o Thus exclusive rights: allows creation of a market for intangibles
- Full economics: see Landes & Posner, 'An Economic Analysis of Copyright Law'
 (1989) 18 Journal of Legal Studies 325
- Throsby survey 2015: Australian authors reported
 - o average incomes of A\$62,000, of which A\$12,900 comes from 'practising as an author'.
 - Median income of A\$2,800 across all authors
 - What this means: there are a small number of authors making a good living and a large number making very little
- Average income from writing of top 25% of literary fiction authors A\$9,000
 - 70% stated that low earnings from creative labour prevented them from engaging in more of it.
- Nearly 20% of surveyed authors worked full time at writing; fewer than 5% were able to earn the average annual income from that creative work alone.
- Most income came from royalties and advances.

Lockean natural right theory: 'you should not reap where you have not sown'

- Lockean idea of property: states that if you mix your labour with some resource that was commonly and freely available, or expend your labor generally, then you extend some part of yourself to the final product and therefore it should be yours
- Lockean/Natural Rights theory: I made it, therefore I own it: i.e. I mix my labour with 'stuff free for the taking', then I own the results, provided I leave 'enough and as good' for others.

Hegelian Personality theory

- Property is a mechanism for self-actualization, for personal expression, and for dignity and recognition as an individual person. A person's personality and dignity is manifest in their creative outputs; by according a person control over their creative outputs, society recognises their dignity as an individual.
- Property in my creative outputs is State's means of recognizing my inherent individual dignity; I put something of myself into my creative works, and as a result, retain a connection with those works worthy of recognition by the State.

Others

- Neil Netanel's democratic theories (allows independence of creators from patrons; allows critical cultural and informative sector)
- IP as a human right: UDHR, art 27(2): everyone has right to protection of moral and material
 interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he or she is the
 author

New reasons to exist/new roles

- Mechanism for determining fair competition in relation to the 'resource base of the knowledge economy'
- Mechanism for finding equilibrium among competing interests: including interests of society in access to creations, sharing social benefits of new knowledge.
- Financing mechanism for underwriting activities
 - o eg sporting events which are funded through sale of broadcasting rights
 - O What responses might we have to these developments?

Traditional Cultural Expressions and the rights of Australian Indigenous People

Anglophone common law philosophies of intellectual property are not the only way of thinking about how people relate to, control, and benefit objects of culture. Australia's indigenous people have a very different relationship with art and culture, reflecting connections to country, concepts of perpetual custodianship rather than limited duration ownership, and differentiated access to cultural items rather than the public domain. Understanding these differences helps shine a light on the fact that copyright is a system, designed and shaped by certain policy considerations and philosophies that are by no means universal.

There has been considerable discussion in Australia and worldwide regarding the status of indigenous art in 'Western' copyright systems. Arguments available under Australian law were tested in Bulun Bulun, including arguments that copyright in a painting, in accordance with customary laws, of traditional, culturally significant designs was jointly owned by the artist and community.

Issues around indigenous knowledge and culture have gained new prominence with the debate over ownership and control of the Australian Aboriginal flag, as well as the 2018 inquiry into fake Aboriginal art. At the time this guide was produced, IP Australia was running a project into the protection of indigenous knowledge.

Bulun Bulun v R&T Textiles Pty Ltd 1998

<u>von Doussa J</u> rejected a claim of communal 'joint authorship' as the community had not made the 'right kind of contribution' to the painting in question. However, in support of the efforts made in the case by the Aboriginal claimants and their lawyers to have communal title in traditional ritual knowledge— in particular in artwork— recognised and protected by the Australian legal system, he acknowledged a role for equity to intervene to protect communal property interests in traditional knowledge in certain circumstances.

- Closed definitions
 - A) a painting, sculpture, drawing, engraving or photograph, whether the work is of artistic quality or not;
 - B) a building or a **model** of a **building**, whether the building or model is of artistic quality or not; or
 - C) a work of artistic craftsmanship whether or not mentioned in (a) or (b).
- Building is not a closed definition, can be "a structure of any kind" s10
 - Included a half tennis court in *Half Court Tennis* 1980
 - Did not include the moud and plug for a pool *Darwin Fibreglass* 1998
- Engravings may include moulds for creation of products Wham-O 1984
- Sculpture beyond traditional conception of 'art' eg film props Lucasfilm
 2009
- Photograph: doesn't include the arrangement contained within *Creation* Records 1997
- Artistic Craftmanship: requires a level of complexity, on a sufficient surface
 Merchandising Corporation of America
 - Can be stretched to include arrangement on a T Shirt Elwood
 Clothing 2008
- Pt IV
 - Sound recordings
 - Doesn't include soundtracks made for films, synced with visuals
 - Does include sound recordings where used in film, retain their quality PPCA
 v Facts
 - Cinematograph films
 - Must be recorded into material form, made into a copy before copyright protects
 - o TV and sound broadcasts
 - Must be by a broadcaster under the Act, or ABC / SBS
 - Published editions
 - Not the text, the overall arrangement

B) Subsistence

i) Originality and authorship

- Originality: relevant in analysing infringement. When a work has not been exactly copied, a
 court will have to decide whether a 'substantial part' of the work has been taken, taking into
 account the originality of the part copied.
- Copyright is personal property, transferrable s196(1)
 - o III works original remains with author eg original manuscript **Dickins**
- Idea/expression dichotomy
 - o Copyright doesn't protect ideas WIPO & Trips art 9
 - o Idea or scheme for measurement for eg not protected *Hollinrake 1894*
 - Reporting shows and time not *IceTV*
 - Has to be be a compilation or pattern to the information, more than a phrase that expresses an idea for eg *Victoria v Pacific technologies* (taxi)
- Requirement of original thought *Ice Tv*
 - o **Telstra Phone Directories** computer generated does not meet

- o Doesn't need to be creative, eg math problems *University of London Press*
- Δ
- Exercising control / effort
 - Ice TV
 - What choices were made? Control / contribution, by a person or AI?
 - Low bar for intellectual input. Artistic contribution. Choosing where to stand and shutter

ii) Material form

- Comes up in economic rights reproduction into material form
 - o S10 "whether visible or not", includes storage of work or substantial part of a work
 - o S22 reduced to writing or material form
 - S24 sounds and images embodied, with or without aid of a device (in storage, CD)
- Territorial factors
 - s 32, if the Part III work is unpublished then you look at personal connection. If the Part III work is published then you look at either personal connection and territorial connection (whether the publication of the work took place in Australia). Is that correct?
- III:
- IV: broadcast, sound recording, published work (s89-92, 22, 29)

iii) Duration

- has copyright expired

iv) public domain, licensed?

is it not copyright by reason of being in the public domain, creative commons licence?

2. Ownership

- General rule: author owns the copyright (s35?)
 - Subject to assignment and other rules such as...
 - Made in course of employment
 - See whether employee falls under this heading (looked at leave and tax)
 - See whether the work falls under, eg case re software outside of work (some did some didn't)
 - Journalists
 - Newspaper owns except for putting into print (ss?)
 - Commissioned works
 - EG author is owner except private portraits where commissioner controls where it goes
- Joint authorship
 - o Either can bring an action?
 - Can't licence or exercise without consent of the others
 - o Tenants in common, subject to agreement
- IV Works ownership
 - o = maker
 - Can be more than one