

The Disappearance of Lynette Dawson

A Timeline of Events from 1982 - 2022



Photo: BBC.com

Jan 1982

A phone call between Lynette Dawson and her mother is held, the last known record of Mrs Dawson being alive.

Feb 2001

The first of two coronial inquests was initiated, concluding that Mrs Dawson was most likely murdered by someone she knew. The Director of Public Prosecutions at the time refused to lay charges on account of insufficient evidence.

Jan 2015

The NSW Police Force unsolved homicide unit re-opened the investigation of Mrs Dawson's suspected murder.

May 2018

Following extensive investigations, detectives requested the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to review its brief of evidence.

Apr 2019

The Teacher's Pet podcast removed itself from public platforms in order to help ensure the fair trial of Mr Dawson.

Sep 2020

Justice Fullerton in the Supreme Court of NSW granted Mr Dawson a temporary stay of proceedings until June 2021 due to the popularity of The Teacher's Pet podcast having a potential impact on fairness in trial proceedings.

Jul 2022

Mr Dawson's trial concludes, with Justice Ian Harrison to provide his verdict at a later date.

Jan 1984

Chris Dawson marries Joanne Curtis following his divorce from the missing Mrs. Dawson in 1983.

Feb 2003

A second coronial inquest was initiated, recommending that the DPP lay charges for murder. Again, the DPP refused to do so on account of insufficient evidence.

May 2018

The podcast "The Teacher's Pet", which focused on the disappearance of Mrs Dawson, commenced. Throughout the year, it would continue to amass a global audience, attracting millions of downloads.

Dec 2018

Mr Dawson was arrested in QLD and extradited to NSW. Later in the same month, he was granted bail on his second application, with a surety of \$1.5 million.

Feb 2020

Appearing at the Downing Centre Local Court for committal proceedings, Mr Dawson pleaded not guilty and is committed to stand trial.

May 2022

Mr Dawson was granted a judge-alone trial, due to concerns that a jury would be unfairly influenced by the podcast and other media coverage, threatening Mr Dawson's presumption of innocence. The trial commenced in the Supreme Court of NSW on 9 May 2022.

Aug 2022:

On 30 August 2022, Justice Harrison pronounced Mr Dawson guilty beyond reasonable doubt of murdering his former wife Mrs Lynette Dawson.

Coronial Inquests

A coronial inquest is a hearing conducted by the Coroners Court. For more, scan:



<https://www.ruleoflaw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/The-Coroners-Court-inquests-and-inquiries.pdf>

Media in the Justice System

Media and social media can have massive influences on judicial processes. For more information, scan:



<https://www.ruleoflaw.org.au/courts-social-media/>

Sep 2018

NSW Police excavated Mr Dawson's former Bayview property but did not find any trace of Mrs Dawson's body.

The Presumption of Innocence

The presumption of Innocence is a principle that states the prosecution must prove the accused's guilt, and that the accused is considered innocent until proven otherwise. For more information, scan:



<https://www.ruleoflaw.org.au/principles/presumption-of-innocence/>

Beyond Reasonable Doubt

The highest standard of proof placed on the prosecution in a criminal trial is that they must prove the case against the accused "beyond reasonable doubt".



<https://www.ruleoflaw.org.au/beyond-reasonable-doubt/>