

Journal  
of the  
Sydney Society for Scottish History



Volume 15 May 2015



IN MEMORY OF MALCOLM DAVID BROUN  
(25 APRIL 1935–11 APRIL 2014)<sup>1</sup>

Lorna Barrow  
*Macquarie University*

THIS issue of the *Journal for the Sydney Society for Scottish History* is dedicated to the memory of Malcolm Broun. Malcolm was both the founding and perpetual president of the Sydney Society for Scottish History (SSSH) from 1982 until his death in April 2014. The first item in this edition of the *Journal* is a poem written by Malcolm that sums up Malcolm's love of Scottish heritage, history and culture. The SSSH is most grateful to the generosity of Mrs Wendy Broun and family for permission to print 'Australian Scotland Cairn'.

Malcolm David Broun, OAM, QC, BA (Hons), LLB (University of Sydney), on whom the Celtic Council of Australia conferred the honours' of *Cyfaill y Celtiaid* ('Friend of the Celt's) in 1995 and, *Tus Enorys Ewn* ('Truly Honoured Person') in 2010, was born on the family property in Bassendean, near Inverell, NSW on 25 April 1935. He was educated at Newington College and Sydney Grammar School. He graduated from Law at the University of Sydney and was an associate to Russell Le Gay Brereton of the NSW Supreme Court from 1956 to 1959, and was appointed to the bar on 5 June 1959. He was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1982, and was the first chairman of the Australian Institute of Family Law Arbitrators and Mediators.

Malcolm epitomised all that was good, great, and indeed fun, in being of Scottish heritage in Australia. Not only was he a most learned, and highly respected scholar, barrister and writer, who was recognised internationally, he also enjoyed his life to the full. Even while in declining in health his commitment and enjoyment of the SSSH never ceased. Malcolm, after presiding over his last meeting of the SSSH at his home in Greenwich, took a turn for the worse and sadly died early the next day on 11 April 2014.

One could not help but be inspired by him, and in this vein, he often took not only his much loved family, but many of us in the

<sup>1</sup> I wish to thank Mr Alex Broun, Dr Elizabeth Bonner and Dr Matthew Glozier who all provided material towards the writing of this notice.

SSSH along for the ride when it came to the business of delivering Scottish culture and intellectual pursuits to the rest of the Australian community. Much of this was done through the organisation known as the Scottish Australian Heritage Council (SAHC), with which Malcolm was involved from its inception, and the Sydney Society for Scottish History. Malcolm was a master organiser and consummate networker (nationally and internationally) who worked tirelessly to showcase Scottish culture, history and heritage. He was supportive of the various diasporic groups in Australia, which included the Scottish Polish Club, the Auld Alliance (a Franco-Scottish organisation) and the Dalhousie Society (a Scottish Indian friendship group). He worked determinedly with members of both Scottish and other Celtic groups, towards the establishment of the Chair of Celtic Studies at the University of Sydney. Malcolm was also a student of Scottish Gaelic and took his Scottish heritage, and Scottish History in general, most seriously.

The SSSH met in Malcolm's chambers in the MLC Centre for many years and following his retirement in 2010, he and Wendy graciously hosted us in their home at Greenwich. Many scholars of Scottish History, several of us members of the SSSH, delivered papers along with other national and international experts in the field of Scottish History in these chambers. Malcolm was particularly generous in his support of budding scholars, for which all continue to be most grateful. Those of us who benefitted from the intellectual enrichment offered by Malcolm via the SSSH will never forget the wonderful Thursday evenings spent in Malcolm's company and his warm hospitality, quick wit and eclectic observations. A year after the SSSH was established, Malcolm started this *Journal of the Sydney Society for Scottish History*. The *Journal* is distributed widely in libraries across the world including the first leather-bound seven volumes (1993–1999) that were presented by Malcolm to the Queen in 2000. On 1 August 2000 a letter from a Secretary at Buckingham Palace to Malcolm wrote that 'Her Majesty would be delighted to accept your kind offer' and that the set 'will be placed in the Royal Library at Windsor Castle'. Many of the papers that made their way into the *Journal SSSH*, are the work of both national and international scholars showcased during Scottish week.

Malcolm was instrumental in being the patron of Sydney Scottish Week, offering an outstanding level of hospitality to visiting Scottish chiefs and academic historians. Among the pre-eminent scholars and chiefs hosted by Malcolm over these years were our past patron Professor Michael Lynch (Edinburgh University), our current patron

Professor Ted Cowan (Glasgow University), and the Rt Hon. the Lord Sempill. Malcolm was a talented raconteur who possessed a profound knowledge, the scope of which passed well beyond the Law and Scotland. He was made Member of the Order of Australia (1999) for services to the Scottish community in Australia through the SAHC.

Malcolm is survived by his loving family, Wendy, his wife of 41 years, and his children Charlotte, Alex, Sophie, Nicholas and Virginia, his granddaughters, Bridgette and Gabrielle, and his sister Dot.

Malcolm was a friend to many in a myriad of ways and is cherished and remembered by the members and friends of the Sydney Society for Scottish History.

