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## TRIBUTE TO MALCOLM BROUN

This volume is assembled as a tribute to Malcolm Broun OAM QC from his friends in the Sydney Scottish History Society and the Scottish Australian Heritage Council. For the past twenty five years in between work on family law in Australia, serving on legal committees on family and tax law, writing one of the key text books on the subject, running Asian conferences on such matters and appearing as a senior barrister in all the Law Courts in Australia, Malcolm has been at the forefront of promoting Scottish and Celtic studies, particularly at his alma mater, the University of Sydney, where he was prominent in promoting the Celtic Studies Foundation. His energetic participation was also to be found in many other committees and the community involved in promoting knowledge and study of Celtic studies, the Scottish past and the Scottish Diaspora groups such as the Scottish-Polish Club, the Auld Alliance Association, and to the Dalhousie Society. This saw a resurgence in interest in all things Celtic in the wider community.

It was Malcolm, presiding as perpetual president of the Sydney Society for Scottish History, in his chambers at Level 44 MLC building, that gave many young historians working on Scottish themes their first chance to try out their ideas in public before a varied audience, always finding something encouraging to say to them at the end. A number of such budding scholars have subsequently gone on to recognition as distinguished writers on Scottish history and culture, and one or two of them have contributed to this volume which has in accordance with present academic requirements been refereed. He himself on occasion gave impassioned talks without notes about Macbeth, the battle of Culloden, William Wallace, the assassination of Archbishop William Sharpe and other matters. On these occasions one saw what made him a formidable barrister.

At the University his early passion for books led him to become one of the founders and chairman for some years of the University Co-operative bookshop – on the lines of British Co-ops with returns to account holders – that made it easier and cheaper for students and staff to get their textbooks and other important course material. Later, as an avid book collector he was sometimes to be seen at SSSH meetings poring over catalogues of rare books for auction, and even memorabilia of the Scottish past with other aficionados. He had the whole attic of his home converted into the most amazing library with fold out shelves and interesting corners. This collection will now stimulate new generations of scholars as they have been donated to the Fisher Library at the University of Sydney. Malcolm was never too busy to decline a new opening for his many talents. In his sixties he started to write short plays and has had several performed at the Sydney Festival of Short Plays. He has also been writing a novel in his ‘spare time’. Last year he was proud, despite his medical problems, to have walked up the Royal Mile with his arms and standard bearers, in the ‘Homecoming’ celebrations.

The society owes a deep debt of gratitude for the assistance of Carole Cusack whose drive and organizing skill made this volume possible. We owe an equal debt of gratitude to Alex Norman whose calm efficiency and editing skills have saved us from many errors, mistakes and omissions, and made it a model of its kind.

Sybil Jack  
August 2010