

ALASTAIR HERIOT CAMPBELL
MBBS 1940, MD 1961, FRACP
1917-1996

Beresford gave much of his life contributing to medicine in the broadest sense. He was Honorary Secretary of the State Committee of the Royal College of Obstetrics for three years and Honorary Treasurer of the State Committee of the Royal Australian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists for three years. During his later term, he was Treasurer of the organising committee of the large Asian and Oceanic Federation for Obstetrics and Gynaecology Congress in Melbourne in 1981. This meeting of 2000 delegates from twenty-one nations was the focus of Beresford's life for three years but as with all his commitments, always carried out with good grace, he fulfilled his duties to the limit.

His second great professional commitment was to St George's Hospital. Beresford was appointed Obstetrician from 1976 to 1993. Not only did he perform his duties with distinction but in typical Beresford fashion he gave tremendous support to every aspect of hospital life – medical and social. He regarded St George's as his spiritual home and the hospital was proud to claim him as one of their own.

Beresford's third and probably greatest professional commitment was to the Australasian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine (ASUM) throughout most of his professional life. He was a councillor from 1977 to 1989 and again from 1994 to 1995, and President in 1988. He made many vital contributions to ASUM, including the establishment of the Standards of Practice Committee which he then chaired for its first ten years. He ran innumerable annual scientific meetings. His selfless commitment to the organisation was epitomised by the fact that he took on the Honorary Secretarial position in 1994 when the Society desperately needed his expertise. He was appointed to the Council of the World Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine in 1994 and was attending his first meeting as a councillor in China at the time of his death.

Although not well recognised, Beresford had a strong academic record. He had a keen and inquiring mind. He published nineteen articles in refereed journals, several of which were milestone articles; in particular the obstetric management of the ovarian cyst in pregnancy and the first description of the myometrial contraction in pregnancy – 'the lump of Buttery'. In 1993 he was the first to describe ultrasonic hystero-graphy which only recently has been taken up seriously by other workers.

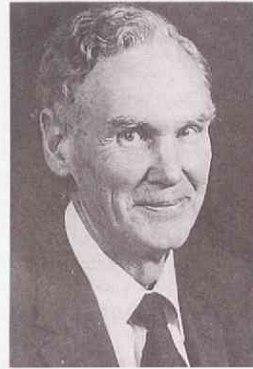
Outside medicine Beresford had wide-ranging interests. He had an excellent tenor voice. His 'musical premiere' was probably in 1964 when, with a group of fellow fifth year medical students, he sang in the Med Medleys Revue. The Barber Shop Quartet comprised Beresford, Neil Roy, Roger Pepperell and Russell Conway. *The Embryos* as they were known were billed as the only clean act on the program and were a great success. Not wanting to suffer from over exposure they performed again in 1981, seventeen years later, and for some years after that as the highly acclaimed *Prolapsed Chords* at the Royal Women's Hospital revues.

Beresford was generous both to his friends and in his support of charity. He was a founding member of the ECHO Foundation in 1978 – a fine organisation which funds and provides holidays for elderly citizens. He remained an active member and was a past vice-president. A proficient if somewhat foolhardy skier he believed the shortest route down the mountain was the best, and apparently showed great reluctance to upgrade his ski apparel. He enjoyed cooking and surprised even his friends when one year he quietly entered a plum pudding at the Royal Melbourne Show and received a highly commended award.

Beresford was a keen traveller, and twelve months before his death he went to Sweden for one day to surprise a friend for a fiftieth birthday celebration. This trip also demonstrated his extraordinary stoicism – as he boarded the plane he knew he had a bowel obstruction secondary to his diverticular disease. Three days later, having drunk and eaten little and travelled to Sweden and back, he returned to Melbourne and drove himself to hospital where his obstruction was treated!

Beresford's company will be sadly missed by his many friends and there are many important organisations that will be the poorer for his passing. He will be particularly mourned by Barbara, Andrew, Michael, Robert and Marian.

Lachlan de Crespigny, Keith Layton & Peter Heath



ALASTAIR CAMPBELL

THE SPEED at which Alastair Campbell walked up the Banksia Street hill slowed over the years, but the sense of purpose in his stride remained to the end. Alastair and Wilma Campbell made their home within walking distance of the Repatriation General Hospital (Heidelberg), in which Campbell was to base his medical career. It was in the basement of this home that we clambered together – amongst the results of his years of 'hoarding' – in search of his first 'machine' a device made to his design in the hospital's workshops from a gas meter and an anaesthetic balloon, providing the first

objective measurement of respiratory function in Australia. Campbell was a pioneer of respiratory function testing in Australia, and the first specialist to have a full-time appointment in respiratory medicine in Victoria. Born into a family with Presbyterian traditions, Campbell inherited the protestant work ethic, but not the faith. Together with his wife, Alastair Campbell was an active socialist and for many years a member of the Australian Communist Party, with a continuing commitment to social justice for all.

Graduating MBBS from the University of Melbourne during the Second World War (1940), Campbell joined the RAAF in 1942. He had hoped for overseas service; instead he was placed in successive appointments within Australia which involved establishing new medical services. This early experience in medical administration convinced him of the efficiency of a nationalised system of health care in which the need for payment did not intrude between patient and doctor. His exposure to medical administration in the Services proved a model for his subsequent service with the Repatriation Commission. Campbell was born into a family with a tradition of tertiary education, which continues through his own children and grandchildren. His great-grandfather, Alexander Campbell, arrived in Melbourne in 1859, a university-educated Presbyterian minister who was instrumental in the formation of Geelong College, the Ecclesiastical Hall and Ormond College, and in the promotion of the Working Men's College (later RMIT). Campbell's father had obtained a Doctorate of Science from the University of Melbourne, and so it was with some determination that he commenced reading towards his MD whilst in the RAAF. Having successfully sat the first examination prior to discharge, he accepted a full-time position at the Greenvale Sanatorium for one year, during which time he passed his Membership, but failed the MD final examination. This he finally obtained some years later by thesis, although he recalled, with lingering regret, that it came after the death of his own father.

His interest in tuberculosis led him into the Repatriation General Hospital (Heidelberg) in 1947, as a full-time medical officer. Within fifteen months he was himself admitted as a patient to the Chest Division. Reflecting on his period of hospitalisation with tuberculosis, he recognised that it had provided him with an opportunity to expand his knowledge, for he spent this time reading Shakespeare, the great poets, some philosophy, and cultivating an interest in classical music – his single-minded devotion to medicine had been broken! During his prolonged convalescence, Campbell was offered a part-time research position in the Chest Division at the Repatriation General Hospital. This was unusual for two reasons: the Department did not employ part-time medical officers, and the Repatriation Commission had no commitment to research since its responsibilities, as defined in the respective Acts, were for the provision of treatment and compensation only. The research was to determine if there was a direct link between prolonged courses of a relatively new drug used in the treatment of tuberculosis (para-amino-salicylate, or PAS) and reports of muscle weakness and cardiac abnormalities in patients. This he demonstrated and, as a result, was awarded one of the early Wunderley Travelling Scholarships to study tuberculosis and other respiratory diseases in England, Canada and America. He resumed work with the Department as a junior specialist on his return, with responsibility for the Chest Clinic at RGH (Caulfield), a full-time position created for him. It was there that he first developed his

'machine'. His leadership within the field of respiratory medicine is well documented elsewhere. That he established a large research-based respiratory service within the Repatriation Department was extraordinary. Alastair Campbell had a commitment to, and a vision of what could be achieved in, a nationalised health-care system. He described himself as 'a conniving sort of person', but others recall his strong leadership and determination, together with an intimate knowledge of the Department. He was the first physician to carve out a full-time career in a single specialised area, excluding those within University departments. His commitment to teaching was recognised in the wide attendance at his regular chest meetings which became an accepted part of postgraduate training for graduates preparing for their Membership examinations. He achieved a position of considerable authority in the Repatriation system, being appointed as the Department's first national Consultant (Chest Diseases), an appointment he held from 1964 until his retirement from full-time practice in 1979.

The Repatriation Department sent Campbell to Queensland as a specialist in chest diseases during the late 1950s. It was there that he developed his interest in social anthropology. He joined the Queensland Branch of the United Nations Association, aware of the plight of the Queensland Aboriginal population who, at that time, were denied both the status of citizenship and a good education. Together with other members of the Association, Campbell produced his first work on aboriginal culture during this period, highlighting the difficulties the Queensland Act placed on its indigenous population. Returning to Victoria in 1959, Campbell became a member of the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines. After the granting of full citizenship to the aboriginal population, Campbell withdrew from the Committee but maintained his involvement in aboriginal affairs by way of the study of social anthropology. He subsequently published papers on tooth avulsion, elementary food production, traditional 'pharmacy' and the culture and prehistory of the aboriginal peoples of Victoria. After his retirement from full-time medicine, Campbell spent one day a week in the Victorian Museum, to which he had been appointed as an honorary associate in 1983. He also prepared the papers of John Bulmer, the first superintendent of the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Reserve, for publication by the Museum and, in 1987, published *John Batman and the Aborigines*, (Kibble Books).

Alastair Campbell maintained his involvement in respiratory medicine as an honorary consultant in thoracic medicine at the Repatriation General Hospital until 1987. He then continued to attend the weekly thoracic clinical meetings when in town.

He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He nursed his wife through her final illness, pleased that after fifty years of marriage he was able to reciprocate for the care she had given him during his convalescence with tuberculosis. After her death, he completed a biography of his great-grandfather, which was launched at his home in December 1995. (*Campbell 1815-1909*, Spectrum Books, 1995)

Alastair Campbell was a physician of high repute. He was also a gentleman, a political activist, and a scholar. In many fields he will be sadly missed.

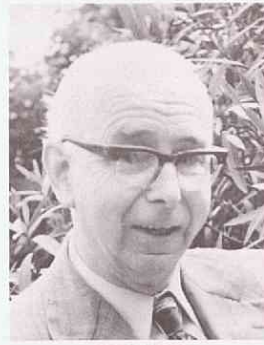
Gwynedd Hunter-Payne

¹ Alastair Campbell's personal account of his period in hospital with tuberculosis appears in *In the Company of Strangers*, p133-42. See Chiron, 1996, Books section p66. Ed.

JAMES ERIC CLARKE, ED
MBBS 1934, MD 1937, FRCP, FRACP
1911-1995

JERIC AS HE WAS KNOWN best in medical circles, died in the Epworth Hospital surrounded by his six children in April 1995 shortly after suffering a severe stroke. He was a remarkable and godly man whose life touched many people in unforgettable ways: his family, friends, colleagues, students and patients. Intellectual and professional leadership, wisdom, integrity, humility, love, compassion, warmth, discipline, humour and a strong commitment to God were some of the attributes of this 'gentle man'.

Eric was born in Kuling, a remote part of central China in 1911, the second of three surviving sons of missionary parents. Together with his older brother Murray, and at the age of eleven, he came to Melbourne for schooling. He became a boarder at Caulfield Grammar School and later at Scotch College, spending school holidays with cousins. In many ways they were harsh years. He used to tell about his



JERIC CLARKE

first day at boarding school when, not having the requisite pens for class, he strapped a nib to a pencil with string. He was duly taken off to the Principal's office and caned. Despite hardships and the distance from his parents he successfully negotiated these school years with determination and a great sense of purpose, his goal of studying Medicine always before him. He distinguished himself academically, gaining the necessary scholarships to see him through University and Ormond College.

He revelled in University life during the 1930s, achieving many distinctions through his course and coming equal top in final year surgery. He was a keen and talented tennis player for both Scotch College and Ormond College. At a recent Ormond College dinner he stood in front of team photographs and accurately recalled the scores of the finals matches between Ormond and Queens Colleges held sixty years ago. During his university years he was also actively involved in the Christian Union and gave his time generously to various Christian youth activities.

He completed his residency at Royal Melbourne Hospital and then went as Registrar to Fairfield Hospital. In the late 1930s he sailed to England to study for his FRCP, as the ship's doctor on a Swedish cargo vessel. Evening news reports were anxiously awaited each day because in the event of the outbreak of war this ship would have made for the nearest German port! He did reach England safely and the war began during his time at Brompton Chest Hospital. There followed postings to the Middle East and New Guinea, and distinguished service mainly in 2nd/7th AGH. Most of his many decorations remained unclaimed because of his lack of interest in seeking recognition for the things he did. His involvement with the Army continued through the post-war years and he finally attained the rank of Colonel.

On return from the war Eric was appointed Honorary Physician at the Alfred Hospital where he remained until 1971. This position was without salary but gave him great experience. Eric also became visiting medical officer to the Repatriation Hospital (1948-76) which did provide some remuneration, but, in general, consulting physicians were relatively poorly paid. Eric also had a private practice in Collins Street.

While in London Eric had worked at the Brompton Hospital and he maintained a special interest in tuberculosis and other lung diseases. He made many contributions to the National Thoracic Society of Australia and was President from 1970-72.

Eric had clinical expertise, teaching and administrative abilities so that, not surprisingly, his opinion on clinical problems was often sought and his ward rounds well attended. He became Clinical Dean of the Medical School from 1961-64. Eric was a councillor of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians for many years, Vice-President from 1961-68 and had the difficult task of being Chief Censor for ten years.

A measure of the regard held for Eric was that, when Richard Lovell was appointed to the first Chair of Medicine in the University of Melbourne at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, Eric was asked to take leave from the Alfred Hospital to help Richard Lovell establish himself and his unit in Melbourne. Eric did this in his usual quiet way and it was much appreciated.

In 1940 Eric married the love of his life, Beth Kinross. Following the war he and Beth set up their home in Kew creating a remarkable family environment in which to raise their six children. Despite his demanding work and voluntary commitments Eric found ways in which to be involved 'hands-on' in loving and caring for the family. It was he who woke everyone with a hot drink each morning and then cooked a two course breakfast of porridge and eggs. In keeping with his disciplined approach to life, he summoned all to the table with a gong at 7.30 am, and then left for work at 7.50 am. His commitment to family was such that in the evening he arrived home at exactly 6.30 pm for tea. He was so reliable in this that dinner could be served in absolute confidence that he would be there by the time the meals reached the table, even if he would be gone again by 7 pm.

He was very proud of his children and followed their academic and sporting progress keenly. In school holidays he would set up circuit training programs, and encourage tennis, football, netball and even swimming coaching at 5.30 am. Weekends began after Saturday