

**WILLIAM GRAHAM McDONALD (1916-1993)**

Bill McDonald was born in Sydney in 1916, and spent most of his childhood and youth at Eastwood. He attended Eastwood Public School and Fort Street Boys' High, followed by Sydney University. Early in 1940, after graduating in Arts and Law, he enlisted in the Army, and served in the Middle East, Greece, and Crete. From there he was lucky to escape after a hair-raising few days of hiding from German strafing by day and travelling across the mountains by night. Later he returned to Australia, and spent the last part of the war in Melbourne at the Directorate of Research, that rather eccentric section of the Army famous at the moment as the birth place of the Ern Malley hoax. While in Melbourne he met Joan MacCallum, whom he married in 1946.

For a few years after the war he worked in Sydney for a few years until in 1950 he began his own practice in Wollongong. He and Joan joined the I.H.S. in 1951, and in 1954 he was elected to the Council of the Society, on which he served for many years in various capacities until forced by ill health to retire. He also edited the Bulletin for lengthy periods.

His booklets on various aspects of Illawarra's history, published by the Society, form a valuable contribution to local historical research. Other special interests were railways, the American Civil War and of course Scottish history, and his wide general knowledge enabled him to win a number of quiz contests beginning with one connected with war loans (Gough Whitlam was runner-up!), and progressing through Bob Dyer's Pick-a-box to the A.B.C.'s Mastermind in 1981.

In 1978 he was made an Honorary life member for outstanding service to the Society, and in 1985 was elected as one of the patrons.

Although over the past few years ill health prevented him from taking any active part in the Society, he retained almost to the time of his death a keen interest in its activities and in news of the many friends he had made among the members.

*Margaret McDonald*