



## Malcolm McCallum

29 April 1936 – 28 May 2021

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### By John Croser

Malcolm McCallum was born on 29 April 1936 in Middlesbrough, North Yorkshire, the middle child of three to Charles, a GP, and his wife Judy. The family enjoyed boisterous expeditions to the Yorkshire moors, which may in part explain Mac's enjoyment of the bush.



Sadly, his father passed away when he was 12, leaving his mother to raise the family and, at the age of 13, he went to boarding school. Here he developed his love of electronics and gadgets, leading him in later life into computers.

It was at school that Mac expanded his love of music. He was a choir boy and sang in York Minster and his love of music continued throughout his life – the louder the better. He went on to study medicine at Durham university in Newcastle upon Tyne.

He rather liked taking things to pieces just to “see how they worked”. He had an overwhelming curiosity which eventually led him to computers, and once Apple computers became available nothing else would do.

After graduation, Mac worked in Newcastle for a few years, taking his fellowship and choosing orthopaedic surgery.

He met Sue at this time – a case of doctor meets nurse and, as Mac recounted, “there is the woman I am going to marry”.

They were married in 1964 and Fiona was born in 1966. They then moved to Oxford, where Mac worked as an orthopaedic surgeon at the Radcliffe Infirmary and the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre. Peter was born in 1967 in Oxford and they remained there until 1970, when the family relocated to Perth. Kirstie was born in 1970 and the family stayed in Perth for 18 months, where Mac worked at Royal Perth and Fremantle hospitals before heading north to Port Hedland.

In Port Hedland, Mac realised his dream to work with the flying doctor and the family revelled in the pleasures of country life. Mac was involved in all activities mechanical and often demonstrated his mechanical abilities on the long car trips to Perth when the inevitable breakdowns occurred.

He did not enjoy the separation when the children progressively went to boarding school in Perth and was relieved when the family moved back to Perth in 1980 and was again complete. He was appointed a consultant at the Wanneroo Hospital (now Joondalup Health Campus) and set up his private practice in Subiaco, sharing rooms with Doug Sneddon and Soo Tee Lim, and attending St John of God and Glengarry private hospitals.

In 2002 Mac retired, and a few particularly good years were spent caravanning around Australia, America and Canada. In retirement he was able to spend time with his three grandchildren, Lachie, Laura and Symi, who brought so much joy to his life, and whom he adored.

Mac was larger than life. On bus trips he would lead the community singing – loudly – and punctuated it with his infectious laugh (by which he was widely recognised).



Sadly, the last few years of his life were challenging, but Mac was cared for by the wonderful staff at Regis Woodlands. He was stoic and never complained.

Mac passed away quietly on 28 May 2021 and was farewelled by a large gathering at his family church the following week.

He was a unique personality who was loved by his patients, respected by his colleagues and adored by his family – what more could one ask.