

*Extract from the Opening
Address of the 1995 Conference
of the Maritime Law Association
of Australia & New Zealand*

*Ian Maitland President
of the Association*

Monday 6 November 1995

The period of the first year of my Presidency has seen the loss of two of our most well-known and respected members — Morella Calder and Murray Thompson. Their loss is of course keenly felt by their families. In particular, our hearts go out to Tim and Justin, Eileen and Patrick. It is also a devastating loss for Michell Sillar, to lose one partner in a year is difficult but two, devastating. For those of us who knew both Morella and Murray and are privileged to have been called by them 'friends' we miss them both. In addition, I learnt last evening of the death of David and Marjorie Loadman's son.

I would ask all of you to stand for a moment's silence in memory of two people who were leaders in their field and warm and generous persons and to remember David and Marjorie in their time of sorrow.

Murray has been a very active member of the New South Wales branch of this Association and a regular attender and contributor to our conferences . To me, Murray was the epitome of a gentle-

man. He was at all times polite and courteous and a loyal friend. As a legal practitioner he was highly regarded, hardworking and very mindful of providing a practical solution for his clients. Above all his integrity was beyond reproach. I can say little more other than — Murray, we will miss you and we recognise and acknowledge the enormous contribution that you have made to this Association and to us by your friendship.

Morella Calder

Much has been said by persons more eloquent than I about Morella. No doubt you would have all read the eulogies which were published in our Journal given by Professor Ivan Shearer, Captain Bill Bolitho, Dean Clayton QC and the statement in Court by Mr Justice Carruthers (as he then was). I can really only add that it is perhaps appropriate that if anyone should formally recognise Morella Calder at a Maritime Law Conference it should be me, being a person from Adelaide and from Finlaysons. Morella's involvement in the Association commenced during her time at Finlaysons, she with Dean Clayton, Malcolm Kent and others set up the South Australian branch. The South Australian branch, in recognition of her contribution, arranged for her to speak to a meeting not long before her untimely death.

I personally have known Morella throughout most of the time that I have been at Finlaysons albeit we were never at Finlaysons at the same time. She left Finlaysons about a week before I commenced and in fact I took over many of her files. However, I got to know Morella through this Association and I came to admire her intellect, her enormous breadth of experience, her standing in the maritime community and perhaps above all her warm and friendly personality.

Since Morella's death the Federal Executive have given consideration to a means of recognising Morella's contribution, not only to this Association but to the maritime community. In particular, Morella was very involved in maritime education. I am very pleased today to announce the launching of the Morella Calder Education and Scholarship Trust. At the same time I would like to welcome to

today's proceedings Tim Hancock who is a member of our Association, Morella's mother and various relations of Morella's.

It is both significant and appropriate that the announcement of the establishment of the 'Morella Calder Education and Scholarship Trust' should take place in Wellington.

Morella's mother was born and brought up in Wellington, where her maternal grandfather, John Pearce Luke, was a well-known and highly respected engineer. He was the Managing Director of Luke Bros Ltd (an engineering firm which did much marine work), and was the inaugural Chairman of the New Zealand Standards Institution. He devoted himself to public and social services in Wellington.

Morella's great grandfather, Sir John Luke, was Mayor of Wellington from 1914 to 1921, and was Member of Parliament for Wellington North for 13 years. His family firm, S. Luke & Co. Ltd was a long established marine engineering firm which is reputed to have built the first iron-hulled ship in the Antipodes, the *Masai*.

Morella's mother married Angus Calder of Melbourne, who became manager of freight services of the Orient Line in Adelaide. Her mother is here today, with her relatives: Mrs William Young (The Honourable William Young was New Zealand High Commissioner in London in the early 1980s), Mr and Mrs James Young (Mr James Young is a partner in the Wellington law firm of Gillespie Young Watson), and Mrs Culy (Mrs Calder's first cousin).

When I spoke to Tim about our suggestion of a Trust he informed me that Morella's mother was going to be in Wellington about the time of the conference and that she would like to stay on. Mrs Calder we welcome you to this meeting and I am sure everyone who knew Morella joins me in saying that her contribution both to Maritime Law generally and to this Association has been greatly appreciated and we like you, miss her.

As I have said a Trust is being set up. The Association itself will put a certain sum of money into the Trust but it will be open for anyone to contribute to it. The Trustees are Tim Hancock, Professor Ivan Shearer, the Honourable Ken Carruthers QC, Stuart Hetherington and me. Stuart and I hold positions as Trustees in our capaci-

ties as Immediate Past President and President so that there therefore will be a change in Trustees from time to time. The objects of the Trust are:

The Trustees shall hold the Trust Fund and the income of the Trust Fund upon trust to undertake or promote the advancement of knowledge, understanding, research and study of maritime law within the legal professional and amongst others involved in the maritime industry in Australia and New Zealand.

I hope that you will all agree that this is fitting tribute to Morella.