

Introduction

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On March 3 1938, Sidney Thomson Campbell and Bessie Evelyn Campbell made a major contribution to legal philosophy, and particularly Australian legal philosophy. Thomas Douglas Campbell was born in Lenzie, a village situated about six miles north-east of the Glasgow city centre.

In the early 1960s Tom studied philosophy at the University of Glasgow. A little known fact is that he was intending to qualify in divinity and become a Minister of the Church of Scotland, and he went on to complete a BA at Oxford in theology. Perhaps this was an early manifestation of an idealism that has persisted throughout his subsequent career.

Although Tom's interest in philosophy prevailed, his ambition to make a practical contribution to social welfare continued and has always informed his philosophical work. Tom is a man of the left, but not the hard left – rather, the reformist left, committed to using the hard won democratic rights of ordinary people to advance their welfare, and suspicious of elites, including judicial elites. He has always aimed at using philosophical inquiry to clarify the terms of political debates concerned with pressing social issues. This has been apparent since his pioneering early book *The Left and Rights: a Conceptual Analysis of the Idea of Socialist Rights* (1983), the lesser known *Mental Illness: Prejudice, Discrimination and the Law* (1991) (co-authored with Chris Heginbotham after Tom had worked on the Mental Welfare Commission of Scotland), books on the concepts of rights and of justice, and of course his work on prescriptive, or ethical, or democratic legal positivism (take your pick of labels).

In 1990, Tom left his position as Professor of Jurisprudence at the University of Glasgow, to take up a Chair in the Law Faculty at the Australian National University, where he subsequently served as Dean. In 1996, he published *The Legal Theory of Ethical Positivism* (which could have had the alternative title 'The Ethical Theory of Legal Positivism'), a book he has described as his 'rather late coming of age in legal philosophy'. Many further important contributions to that field have followed.

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Tom became President of the Australian Society of Legal Philosophy in 1999, and for nine years, in collaboration with Peter Cane as the Society's Secretary, worked tirelessly to foster the Society, organise conferences, and promote this Journal (of which he remains the editor). In his frequent travels overseas, especially at the annual conferences of the IVR (the International Association of Social Philosophy and Philosophy of Law, to which the ASLP is affiliated) – on whose committee he has been an active member – Tom has raised the profile of legal philosophy in Australia.

Tom has often reached out to other, more junior scholars and helped to promote their careers. I myself have greatly benefited from collaboration with him, which started when – out of the blue - he called me in 1997 to propose a joint application for an Australian Research Council Discovery Grant. I gratefully agreed, and our application was successful. I did not know Tom particularly well before then, and this generous reaching out to a younger scholar – which led to a second ARC collaboration that included Adrienne Stone – gave my career a major boost. I know that there are many other younger scholars who could tell similar stories – all part of Tom's enormous contribution to legal philosophy in Australia.

I had thought of calling this introduction 'Tom Campbell – Man or Superman?' I am now 54, and all too conscious that my vitality and energy levels are now in decline. How, then, is Tom still able to throw himself into his work, and constant international travel, with such energy and enthusiasm? What is his magic elixir - the fountain of his youthfulness? Is it the game of golf, for which I gather Tom has a passion? If so, perhaps I should shift from the less physical game of snooker, which is my own obsession. Or is it simply the genes that Tom was fortunate to inherit from Sidney and Bessie, which blessed him with various prerequisites for longevity: good spirits, a sense of humour, a warm and generous concern for others, and a gift for friendship?

The following papers were presented at the 2008 Annual Conference of the ASLP in a special symposium to celebrate Tom's 70th birthday. They are dedicated to him with respect, gratitude, and affection.