

## **IAN CALLINAN – A REFLECTION**

R P MEAGHER QC

Mr Justice Callinan – as he recently was – is one of the great figures of the Australian legal firmament. His was a huge personality, in line with his enormous physical presence. Anyone interested in rare sights should watch in Macquarie Street on Fridays to see Callinan and Mr Justice Gleeson arriving for lunch; the former growing more gargantuan by the minute, the latter small and shrivelling; the former lumbering, the latter skipping; just like Puck and Bottom; or like a giant shark with his little pilot fish. As a barrister he had a big practice, and his career was studded with brilliant successes. As a judge he was very well respected, not only by the Bar but also by his fellow judges – even by his semi-communist sister Mary Gaudron (I might interpolate that his Honour is no longer a Communist). He was reputed to be an expert footballer and cricketer, although how one tells I would not know. He has the reputation of being the best sportsman on the High Court since Sir Owen Dixon. He has also written a string of novels, which no other High Court judge has done, not to mention his plays. He has now taken up ballet dancing. In his giant palace he hangs 6435 paintings. Such a versatile Renaissance Man will be missed. Ms Bligh should arrange to have him installed in the House of Lords.

