MALCOLM LIVINGSTON URQUHART was born on Cape Barren Island, Tasmania, in 1902. At a young age his family moved to Hobart where he attended The Hutchins School.

After leaving school he worked for a time as a surveyor and railway engineer for the Tasmanian State Railways, before entering the University of Tasmania as an engineering student in 1923. At the end of his first year, he was awarded the Thomas Normoyle Prize for the best first year engineering results. Midway through his second year he made a course change to Science, due to his growing interest in Physics. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1926, having majored in Physics and Applied Mathematics.

After a short period as demonstrator in the Physics Department of the University of Tasmania, Mac Urquhart worked as a physicist in the Defence Department Laboratories in Victoria before moving to Bristol University in 1928 to study Theoretical Physics.

In August 1932 he returned to Australia, taking up a position as a lecturer in Mathematics at Melbourne University, a position he held until 1943 when he returned to Hobart to recover from tuberculosis. In 1947 he joined the Mathematics Department of the University of Tasmania as a lecturer. In 1952 he was promoted to the position of Senior Lecturer, and in 1966 to the position of Reader in Mathematics, six weeks before he died.

Mac Urquhart's legacy to Mathematics was the students whom he lectured in Melbourne and Hobart. He was a fine teacher, fond of the Socratic method, encouraging and expecting his students to think constructively about the problems he presented to them.

Mac Urquhart was a founding member of the Australian Mathematical Society and the first President of the Mathematical Association of Tasmania. Outside his world of Mathematics and his students, Mac loved the Australian bush and was an authority on South-West Tasmania.

It is fitting that the most prestigious student award made by the Mathematical Association of Tasmania bears Mac Urquhart's name. The logo of the Association contains the diagram associated with a theorem discovered and proved by Urquhart, a theorem which he described as the most interesting theorem of Euclidean geometry.
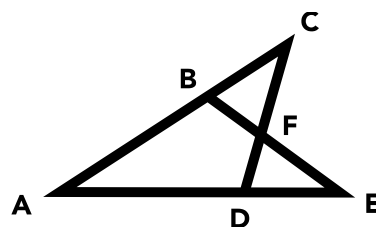
Let AC and AE be two straight lines intersecting at A.
Let B be a point on AC, D a point on AE, and suppose
that BE and CD intersect at F.

If AB + BF = AD + DF,
then AC + CF = AE + EF.