



ASOHNS
THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY
OF OTO-LARYNGOLOGY
HEAD AND NECK
SURGERY LTD

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Thomas Henry O'Donnell 1917-2006.

Thomas Henry O'Donnell was a prominent Sydney otolaryngologist who applied his organising ability in the nineteen sixties and early seventies to bringing internationally renowned otolaryngologists to Sydney to conduct courses for Australian specialists and trainees in the advancing areas of the specialty. He also fostered international relations particularly in the Asian region.

After A.I.F. service and obtaining higher qualifications he was a member of the honorary staff of the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children and the Royal North Shore Hospital until 1982 when he was appointed Consultant to both hospitals. As well as conducting a large private practice he was also on the Visiting Staff R.G.H. Concord until 1972.

Tom was Chairman of the N.S.W. State Committee of the then Otolaryngological Society of Australia 1966-1968 and Federal President of the Society 1981-1983 when closer relations between the Royal Australian College of Surgeons and the then O.L.S.A. were developing.

He was Secretary General of the very successful 4th Asia Oceanic Congress of O.R.L. held in Sydney and President of the Asia Oceanic Association of O.R.L. Societies 1979-1987. In 1985 he was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia for services to Medicine particularly in the field of Otolaryngology.

Tom was a friendly, cheerful, gregarious person who together with his wife Pat established friendships not only with his medical colleagues and other professions but a wide and diverse range of the community, restauranters, entertainers and the racing fraternity. These connections, together with Tom's enthusiasm and desire to enjoy life, enabled Tom and Pat make the visits to Sydney of their interstate and international friends enjoyable and memorable.

Unfortunately Tom's later years were plagued by illness particularly diabetes and complications. He will be sadly missed but fondly remembered by his family, his colleagues, local and international friends.

Written by Gerard J McCafferty

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