

OBITUARY
MALCOLM GORDON DUNSHEA
4 MARCH 1933 – 1 JULY 2022
OTOLARYNGOLOGY HEAD AND NECK SURGEON

Malcolm Dunshea was born in Christchurch, the only child of Dorothy McLaren (a seamstress) and Ronald Dunshea (a menswear buyer). He attended St Albans Primary School and commenced at Christchurch Boys' High School in 1947. There he played rugby and, a very capable athlete, set a national age group sprint record. He enjoyed singing, learned to play the cornet and in his final year was deputy head boy. Curious and with a liking for science, he completed Medical Intermediate at Canterbury University in 1952 and secured entry to Otago Medical School. A Mason's scholarship assisted with his costs. In Dunedin he initially lived at Arana Hall before flatting. Sailing on the Otago Harbour and membership of a barber's shop quartet were important leisure activities.

Completing a short-term placement at Gisborne Hospital during his sixth year, Malcolm worked as a house surgeon in Christchurch for the next two years. There he met, and subsequently married Lyndsay Rollason, a nurse. Obtaining a free passage on the MS Port Huon as ship's doctor, he travelled to the UK in 1961 with Lyndsay and their baby son, John, to follow a surgical career. There he obtained work as an ear, nose and throat registrar at Westminster Hospital in London. He completed the FRCS examination in 1963 and the same year a second son, Michael, joined the family. Malcolm subsequently worked in the South Warwickshire group of hospitals; the Warneford at Leamington Spa and the Stratford Infirmary at Stratford-upon-Avon.

Malcolm returned to Aotearoa New Zealand towards the end of 1964 hoping to obtain a position at Christchurch Hospital. Instead, he secured an appointment in Hamilton, joining Ollie Seeley and replacing the recently retired Roland Phillips-Turner. There he developed a practice providing both public and private otolaryngology care and gained his FRACS in 1968. Chris Seeley, who spent time in Hamilton during his training, noted Malcolm was always punctual, professional, and took his role extremely seriously. Being on call every second night required a close cooperative association with his colleagues. Despite the local population growing rapidly it was 15 years before Hugh Litchfield joined the team. Hugh observed that Malcolm was always a keen teacher, and instrumental in developing the ENT training programme. He was responsible for setting up and developing the Waikato head and neck clinic for surgery of often advanced cancer. Technically proficient, Malcolm very capably undertook complex surgery and, working closely with Auckland colleagues, published results comparable to those of leading international institutions. Malcolm retired as director of the Otolaryngology Department in 1998; retiring from surgery completely in 2002.

Malcolm was an active member of the New Zealand Society of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery serving as its secretary and, subsequently, president. He had an active role in the New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) serving as president of the Waikato branch and in 1985 he became president of the NZMA. He served a full term of eight years as an examiner for the FRACS final Fellowship Examination, during which Chris Seeley observed Malcolm spent six months studying prior to each examination to ensure his knowledge was appropriate for the level of the examination. He also served as a member of the board of Braemar Hospital.

With a real interest in the world around him, and with a love of history and the environment, he led the family to explore widely during holidays. The purchase of a bach at the end of the

road at Moureeses Bay in Northland provided the basis for many subsequent family holidays. Malcolm and Lindsay continued to travel widely in later life.

In addition to his professional life Malcolm served as a long-standing board member of Southwell School, became an asparagus farmer, played golf and bridge on a regular basis, and developed an extensive garden of native plants at his new house beside the Waikato River.

The death of Lindsay, his best friend and soul mate, in 2014 represented a major loss to Malcolm. Fortunately, a strong association with an old friend, Wensley Willcox, brought companionship and fun back into his life. During his last two years Malcolm ended up as a frequent patient in Auckland Hospital and, requiring supportive care, he moved to Grace Joel Retirement Village in Auckland. Congestive heart failure combined with a bout of COVID-19 ended a long and productive life.

Malcolm Dunshea died peacefully at Grace Joel Retirement Village on 1 July 2022. He was in his 90th year. He was the dearly loved husband of the late Lyndsay; loved father of John and Michael and grandfather to Tim, Helen, Sam and Ollie.

This obituary was presented with the help of Hugh Litchfield FRCS, Chris Seeley FRACS and Mike and John Dunshea.