OBITUARY

DR IAN RUSSELL WALLACE FRACS
EAR NOSE AND THROAT SURGEON
23 MAY 1951 – 18 JUNE 2026

When one reflects on the legacy that one leaves after a full life, it's often the lesser known aspects that capture our spirit. So it was with Dr Ian Russell Wallace, an accomplished ear nose and throat surgeon and devoted family man. He was quiet, patrician, decent, and caring.

Those of his colleagues who knew Ian well were aware of his surgical accomplishments and his gifted hands. Undoubtedly the best trained surgeon in our field in Perth when he returned from his training and Fellowship in Toronto, he could perform intricate acoustic neuroma surgery on a Monday, complex head and neck cancer surgery on the Wednesday and a facelift and external rhinoplasty on Friday.

Ian was born in Adelaide on 23 May 1951 the second child after his sister Margaret with two younger brothers Neil and Brian. He attended St. Peter's school from year to 5 to 12 and whilst at Medical school met and married MaryLou Bishop. Ian and MaryLou moved to Perth in 1974 where he worked at the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and subsequently worked for the RFDS out of Wyndham where he was encouraged to do ENT surgery by the late Dr Jack Sunderman OAM, pioneer in the field in Western Australia. Back in Perth Ian was advised by ENT Surgeons Cam Bracks and Terry McManus to undertake his training in Canada rather than in the UK. He was accepted into the prestigious Toronto University OHNS training scheme in 1978 and later completed a one-year fellowship in neuro-otology at Sunnybrook Hospital under Dr Hugh Barber, one of the fathers of Canadian neuro-otology and a researcher in vestibular disorders. He topped the FRCS(C) examination in 1981 and moved back to Perth the following year, obtained his FRACS, joined the visiting staff at ' Charlie's', commenced private practice and worked in many private hospitals. He also worked in Narrogin, Bunbury and with the Western Australian Country Health Service throughout the State. In 1989, he joined the ENT Department at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children where he spent a number of years bringing his skills to children's ear surgery.

These skills allowed him to be a significant contributor to the beginnings of cochlear implantation (of which he performed over 100) and acoustic neuroma surgery in Perth. Later in his career Ian developed a particular interest in aesthetic facial surgery and rhinoplasty became his forte.

Another passion was viticulture which he studied, culminating in his developing a vineyard at Rosa Brook in Margaret River which was named Cricketwood.

But it was in a spare time that the otherwise gentle and sensitive doctor indulged his spirit of adventure, whether it was parachuting, hot air ballooning, surfing in Nicaragua or the Maldives, rally car driving or twice completing the Rottnest channel swim. He also enjoyed golf later in life.

Ian developed prostate cancer in 2001 and despite radical surgery and radiation therapy had persistent disease until he developed a significant radiation induced sarcoma in 2024 and underwent further radical surgery in 2025. In his last year he courageously fought through sustained chemotherapy and immunotherapy.

Ian passed away peacefully on Thursday 18th of June 2026 at Bethesda. He leaves three children and seven grandchildren.

A life well lived !

Vale, Ian.

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