

## OBITUARY

### DR TYSON DONELEY ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON 4 MARCH 1979 – 28 AUGUST 2025

A great friend and colleague, gifted surgeon, and much loved father and husband, Tyson tragically passed away on August 28<sup>th</sup> 2025 after an incredibly brave, and prolonged battle with pancreatic cancer.

Tyson was a widely respected and successful lower limb surgeon with a subspeciality interest in hip and knee arthroplasty. He was a valued colleague, mentor and friend in the Orthopaedic community both locally and abroad.

As a school student Tyson possessed an amazing talent for understanding complex concepts, widely read, and diligent at his work, Tyson dominated academically. He achieved this comfortably despite the odd late night after a Reds game at Ballymore, and other social pursuits. At the end of his schooling Tyson received a first round entry into undergraduate medicine in Sydney where he then spent the next six years. Whilst in Sydney Tyson rowed for the Men's Eight, he had a passion for the sport of rowing since school, and he remained a competitive rower until his diagnosis. Tyson's performance at university was outstanding, graduating with honours. He subsequently moved back to his home state of Queensland to begin his medical career, and was successful in his application to Orthopaedic training after excelling in the RACS examinations, and impressing his supervisors.

After registrar training Tyson was selected to attend the Exeter hip arthroplasty fellowship in England. He traveled over with Megan his wife a radiologist, and young Tyson Junior. After completing his time in England he returned to Australia for further fellowship training on the Gold Coast with David Liu and Ray Randall.

On returning to his hometown of Brisbane, Tyson translated his knowledge and experiences into a highly successful hip and knee surgery practice, initially as Director of Orthopaedics at QE2 hospital and subsequently in private practice, founding The Brisbane Orthopaedic Clinic. At the time of his diagnosis, he had a busy and successful private practice that he had started from the ground up, and also continuing with his role at the public hospital, treating public patients and teaching registrars. He was loved by his patients who appreciated his excellent surgical skills, and his down-to-earth friendly manner. Beyond that he was widely respected in the orthopaedic, and medical community more broadly.

It is a true tragedy that after decades of working towards this success, he could only enjoy it for a handful of years before it was cruelly taken from him. However, there are now thousands of patients who benefited greatly from Tyson's skill and care, and can testify to his abilities as a surgeon. It is a great thing that the fruits of his talents and hard work will live on in those he treated, and in the registrars that he taught.

Despite all of the above Tyson's most valued achievement was his marriage to Megan in 2008, the love of his life, and their three young children. They were the focus of his existence and there is nothing that he was more proud of than the family he and Megan created together. A loving and supportive father and husband, they remained his primary focus.

In December 2023 after just rowing the Head of the Yarra yet again he was diagnosed with stage four pancreatic cancer. After the initial shock, he threw himself headlong into tackling this disease in an attempt to try and stay alive for his young family. After initially being given an expectation of living for weeks to maybe a couple of months, Tyson fought tooth and nail to make it almost 2 years from his diagnosis, undergoing extensive surgery and countless rounds of chemotherapy to stay alive. His bravery in battling this disease was astonishing, and despite his incredible misfortune, his focus always remained on trying to get the most out of what he had, knowing that he had so much less left than he deserved.

Despite Tyson's life being tragically and unjustly cut short, he led a full and productive life. He leaves behind legacy in his work and most importantly in his family that lives on, and he'll be remembered and loved forever.

He will be greatly missed.

Dr Tim McMeniman