# AGENDA ITEM 1.7

**IN Memoriam and Obituaries**

**IN MEMORIAM**

The College has received notification of the passing of the following Fellows:

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| Mr John William Owen | 5/10/1948 – 16/4/2022 | Victorian Orthopaedic Surgeon |
| Mr David Robert Holden Kennedy | 9/04/1929 – 19/1/2021 | Victorian Urologist |
| Mr John Hargreaves Hodgson | 1/09/1924 – 12/9/2021 | NSW General Surgeon |

**OBITUARY**

**ANDREW ALEXANDER MacDIARMID FRCS(Ed) FRACS**

**ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON**

**9 NOVEMBER 1950 – 19 OCTOBER 2021**

Andrew (known to most of us as Andy) MacDiarmid was highly regarded as an orthopaedic surgeon in the Bay of Plenty, and his colleagues feel privileged that he was a big part of their group. Andy was a passionate advocate for every patient, treating all equally no matter their background or station in life. He played a large part in the collective endeavours to develop the now high-quality orthopaedic services in the Bay of Plenty. In making major contributions to orthopaedic education and examination, as well as patient care in the Cook Islands, Andy leaves a legacy that will have few equals.

Andy was born in London while his father, Alex, was completing English College of Surgeons examinations. His mother Dorothy (nee MacMillan) was a nurse. Andy had 3 siblings; Diana and Duncan being the first 2 children in the family followed by Andy and his younger sister Janet. The family subsequently moved to Gisborne, New Zealand, where Alex worked as a General Surgeon. Interestingly, Andy’s grandfather, JB MacDiarmid, had previously worked as surgeon at Tauranga Hospital.

Growing up in Gisborne Andy attended Te Hapara Primary School, where he showed a love of nature, and it was not surprising to his family that he decided to follow medicine as a career. His secondary education was at Wesley College in Auckland 1963 - 1967, and Auckland Grammar School 1968. Andy entered the Auckland Medical School in 1969, graduating in 1974.

After graduation Andy worked as a House Surgeon at Gisborne Hospital, then spent a year in Dunedin where he worked part-time as an anatomy demonstrator at the University of Otago Medical School and part-time in the Dunedin Hospital Emergency Department. The following year he worked as a Junior Registrar at Tauranga Hospital, where he was strongly influenced by Mr Coates Milsom, a pioneering provincial Orthopaedic Surgeon with a practice extending throughout the Bay of Plenty and the Central North Island. Following his year in Tauranga, Andy was selected to enter the New Zealand Orthopaedic Association (NZOA) Training Programme, gaining his FRACS in 1982. Subsequently, Andy undertook fellowships in Toronto, Heatherwood Hospital, Ascot and Wexham Park Hospital in the United Kingdom. During his time in the UK Andy completed the FRCS(Ed) examination.

Returning to New Zealand in 1984, Andy spent a further 2 years in Auckland before he joined the consultant orthopaedic staff at Tauranga Hospital, and commenced in private practice. Although based in Tauranga his practice included the wider Bay of Plenty region and Whakatane Hospital. He also undertook locums at Gisborne Hospital on a number of occasions, as well as at other hospitals in New Zealand when they were short-staffed and in need of orthopaedic cover. Andy was a very strong supporter of public hospital practice and his desire to help the disadvantaged in the community never changed. He treated all his patients with dignity and respect no matter what their background or circumstances. Chris Dawe recounts his close association with Andy over 40 years, beginning during their shared training days in orthopaedic surgery in Auckland, and continued strongly following their appointments as orthopaedic surgeons in Tauranga. Collaborating in the management of many cases over the years, and sometimes operating together, Andy could be relied upon to provide wise and practical advice. A passionate advocate for doing the right thing for the patient, Andy inevitably became *the conscience* of the Tauranga orthopaedic group, a mantle he maintained throughout his career. Although not widely known, Andy undertook a large amount of work on a pro bono basis for disadvantaged patients.

With a strong interest in education, Andy was active in mentoring junior staff and orthopaedic trainees. He served as a member of the NZOA Training Committee for a number of years from 2002, including two years as Chair, followed by appointment to the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Court of Examiners in 2008, a role he continued for the next eight years. With wholehearted commitment to each of these responsibilities, Andy had a very significant influence not only in the selection of many orthopaedic surgeons in New Zealand, but also in ensuring that standards were maintained during training and in the final Fellowship Examination.

Andy was one of the pioneers in Orthopaedic Outreach to the Pacific Islands, first going to the Cook Islands as a trainee intern in 1974. This had a profound effect on him so that subsequently, after settling in Tauranga, Andy continued to visit the Cook Islands annually. In this, he was instrumental in raising the standard of orthopaedic care in the Cook Islands, as outlined in the comment by Dr Deacon Teapa – *“Dr MacDiarmid was my mentor and personal friend and a ‘great son’ of the Cook Islands people. He has treated many of our people in the past 30-plus years and has visited the Cook Islands almost every year as well, except last year due to COVID. I am lost for words how to describe this true Cook Islander and a Cook Islands warrior. He has had a huge impact on my training in New Zealand, and his ongoing support has been so overwhelming. All of those who were treated by Papa Andrew will miss him dearly, especially those who experienced his warm hospitality and generosity after their operations in Tauranga”*. Besides other tributes from his Cook Islands colleagues the Cook Islands Minister of Health, the Honourable Vainetutai Rose Toki-Brown, noted – *“Dr MacDiarmid was a great friend of the Cook Islands and helped many people, not only in his time here but also at his Tauranga base. In latter years he would operate on our people in Tauranga – replacing hips or knees – and then have them stay at his home while they recuperated”*.

In 2016 in recognition of his significant service, not only to the Pacific Islands but also to the Bay of Plenty community, Andy was presented with the RACS Outstanding Service to the Community Award – an award richly deserved and which he was very proud to have received.

Andy had a long and devoted passion with the sea and, in particular, fishing and diving. The ocean was definitely Andy’s happy place where he spent long hours fishing and generally thinking about life. One of his greatest joys was the purchase of his own boat, *KECHEMBA*, his pride and joy. Andy was very generous with the use of his boat, taking out family, friends, orthopaedic colleagues and trainees on a regular basis. He had a very extensive knowledge of the best fishing spots in the Bay of Plenty, and his GPS co-ordinates for them will be keenly sought after by many people. Andy was also an enthusiastic gardener with a very large and rambling home garden. Generous in providing fish to many, Andy also shared the produce of his garden and orchard. Guitar playing was a further source of relaxation for Andy.

Our thoughts are with his children – Sam, Anna and Katie – and his wife, Gill. We also extend our sympathies to his wider family and to the wider orthopaedic community in New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific Islands.

**Chris Dawe FRACS, Richard Keddell FRACS and Sam MacDiarmid MBChB**