Royal Australasian College of Surgeons 7 May 2022

Obituary

Charles William Butcher 29/07/1937--- 14/04/2022

Charles Butcher was born in Rochester in Victoria one of 5 children. He worked full time on the family dairy farm until he entered the medical course in 1963 at the age of 26 after completing year 11 and 12 by correspondence.

Education

Secondary Education at Echuca Technical College.

Tertiary Education

1969 MB. BS. University of Melbourne.

1974 F.R.C.S. Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Glasgow.

1975 FRCOG (First Part)

1986 FRACS

Employment history

1970 Junior Resident Medical Officer. St Vincent’s Hospital Melbourne

1971 Senior Resident Medical Officer. Royal Perth hospital

1972 District Medical officer Wyndham District hospital

1973 Demonstrator in anatomy Glasgow University

Senior Medical officer Law Hospital. Caluke, Scotland

1974 General Surgical Registrar Royal Infirmary Glasgow

1975 Senior Medical Officer Pediatric Surgery Stobhill Glascow

Senior Medical officer Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Robroyston Hospital Glascow

1975 -1977 General Surgeon, Flying doctor service Derby.WA

1978 Senior Registrar Freemantle hospital WA

1979 Senior Registrar Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital WA

1980 - 1987 Specialist surgeon VMO Alice Springs Hospital

2000- 2005 Senior Surgeon Alice Springs Hospital

2005 Locum Surgeon Alice Springs Grafton ,Kalgoorlie ,Tonga

Awards 2007 OAM

Charles William Butcher was the quintessential humble, reserved and extremely talented all-around General Surgeon. He embraced many surgical procedures today considered strictly the province of the Sub Specialist. He provided a selfless one in two on call Surgical emergency service to the Derby and Alice Springs hospitals for several decades. He always enjoyed teaching and passing on his skills and experience to junior doctors in training. His surgical career took him to Ireland ,Scotland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Charles was devoted to maintaining the highest of professional standards and was committed to his patients and the hospital staff with whom he worked. He served on the Northern Territory Medical board for 10 years from 1990 and was a member of the Southern Region Road safety committee for 20 years. Charles served as an executive member and president of the RACS Division of Rural Surgeons for 9 years. So highly was Charles respected by his surgical colleagues, he became one of the first recipients of the “Surgeon of the Year “awarded by the Rural Surgeons of Australia at their Annual Conference. His work with the indigenous community was recognised and considered to be outstanding. This service was honoured with an Order of Australia Medal.

He was a member of the Council and Chairman of St Phillips College in Alice Springs for 25 years.

His interests lay in his deep religious convictions, learning and his sporting achievements, particularly in athletics. Above all he was devoted to his family. His loving wife of 56 years, Laurel, cared for him during his long and immensely sad battle with Parkinson’s disease. He was extremely proud of his 4 children David, Joanne, Elspeth, and George and his eight Grandchildren. To all of them he provided the ultimate role model.

David Freedman FRACS. May 2022