

## Roderick Chandler

1924 - 1992



Roderick P. Chandler was born in Cremorne, Sydney on April 12th 1924. He was educated at Mosman Preparatory School, at Epsom College in Surrey, and at Barker College at Hornsby in Sydney where he was the 440 yards athletic champion. He entered Sydney University in 1942 and graduated MBBS in 1947. His parents travelled extensively and Rod often accompanied them on trips to the UK, thereby developing his own enjoyment of distant shores.

He was a resident at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in 1947 and '48 and was then at Royal North Shore Hospital from 1949 to 1954 as a pathology registrar as well as a surgical registrar.

Rod travelled to the UK and worked at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London obtaining his FRCS in 1956. In 1956 he commenced plastic surgery training at Rookdown House Plastic and Jaw Unit (then at Basinstoke) and worked with Sir Harold Gillies, Sir Patrick Clarkson and with his chief and friend W.G. (Bill) Holdsworth. This was an era when plastic surgeons were taught to master an array of local and distant flaps without the benefit of our present-day understanding of the underlying vascular patterns. This artistry is well shown in an article authored by Rod and Sir Patrick Clarkson in the American Journal of Surgery in 1958 which reports a successful toe-to-thumb transplant, with nerve graft to improve sensation.

Returning to Sydney in 1959, Rod began work as a plastic surgeon at RNSH and held appointments as assistant plastic surgeon at St. George Hospital, Ryde District Hospital and Liverpool Hospital as a consultant. In 1960 he began a longlasting partnership with Basil Riley. Several years were also spent as a Wing Commander at R.A.A.F Richmond.

Rod stimulated many aspiring young surgeons to take up plastic surgery, instructed them with great flare in the mysteries of flap design and unselfishly gave them every assistance in practice. He was a true 'general' plastic surgeon for whom no defect was too large or too difficult to fill and no complication could not be overcome.

Apart from his work, Rod's great loves in life were his wife Liz, their daughter Sarah, music, travel and his colleagues and friends. As a doctor he was a great clinician, respected by his peers and loved by his patients. As a friend he was a joy to know, generous in giving, sharp in wit and with a sense of humour that knew no bounds. He died in Royal North Shore Hospital in February 1992.