

Maxwell O'Mara

1923 – 1990



Max O'Mara was born on September 28th, 1923, the only son of Timothy and Mary Rose O'Mara. He had one sister Marie Elizabeth, and his early life was spent at Forbes and Mudgee. He had a governess at home and then attended Waverley College and finished his education at Riverview. He entered the University of Sydney to graduate M.B., B.S. in 1945.

During the Second World War he was commissioned as a Captain in the AAMC Reserve.

His junior medical years were spent at the Newcastle General Hospital and in 1948 he travelled overseas to become the ENT Registrar at West London Hospital where he remained until 1950, passing the D.L.O. London examination in 1949.

He then became Chief Assistant in Otolaryngology at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford in 1951 obtaining the F.R.C.S. (England).

This was followed by training in Plastic Surgery, at the Birmingham Wordsley Hospital in 1951 and 1952 and then the Registrar at the Burns Unit Accident Hospital, also in Birmingham in 1953.

He returned to Australia and gained the Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in 1956. He soon established a flourishing private practice as well as obtaining Honorary Plastic Surgery appointments at St Vincents and Sydney Hospitals where he started the Plastic Surgery Departments, as well as the Royal North Shore Hospital and St Margaret's Hospital for Women.

He was a founding member of the Section of Plastic Surgery of the College of Surgeons in Australia and the Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons. A member of the British Association of Plastic Surgeons, the AM.A. and Pan-Pacific Surgical Association.

He became Chairman of the N.S.W. Chapter of Plastic Surgeons in 1970 and was a member of the Plastic Surgery Committee of the Division of Plastic Surgery for many years and a member of the regional Sub-Committee of the Board in 1978.

Max was fortunate in marrying Mary Patricia ('Bunty') Mayo in 1955 and this happy union produced eldest daughter Mary-Ellen, his son Timothy Charles and Margaret Anne (now Dixon).

Always pleasant in the operating room, he was a man of strongly held opinions. He was never dull and his great sense of humour led to many operating room anecdotes.

Following his retirement from surgical procedures at St Vincent's and Sydney Hospital he continued an active medico-legal and workers' compensation practice in Macquarie Street. He died on March 9th, 1990.

His tall, spare frame, his somewhat cynical and sarcastic wit and high intelligence will be missed.

Credit: Bruce W. Taylor (1995)