

Bruce Walton Taylor
1929 - 2021



Born in Sydney on 28 April 1929, one of Australia's great yet humble plastic surgeons, Dr Bruce Taylor, passed away peacefully in his sleep on 27 February 2021 aged 91. Dr Taylor was a graduate of the Universities of Sydney, Toronto, British Columbia and Minnesota. Graduating with honours in both Medicine and Dentistry, he gained his Masters' Degree in 1965 and was a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

He served on the Executive Committee of the Australia and New Zealand Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, the Programme Committee of the American Society of Maxillofacial surgeons, was the convenor of plastic surgery meetings and workshops and the invited speaker for many overseas conferences.

At various times, Dr Taylor's appointments included:

- President, Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons and Chairman, N.S.W. Chapter
- Chairman, Board of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, R.A.C.S
- Secretary General, Asian-Pacific Section, International Confederation of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery and Executive Committee Chair
- St Vincent's General Hospital Chairman, Department of Plastic Surgery, Chairman of the Medical Board, Head of the Department of Plastic & Maxillofacial Surgery, Member of the Board of Directors and one of the founding fathers of St. Vincent's Clinic.
- Clinic Consultant Plastic Surgeon in Maxillofacial Surgery, Royal Newcastle Hospital

- Archivist, Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons
- Assessor, National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia
- Chairman, Department of Plastic Surgery, Scott & White Clinic, Texas

Dr Taylor's publications included journal articles, films, book chapters, a text on the Foundations of Australasian Plastic Surgery and a wider-ranging book "Plastic Surgery Origins and Innovators".

His residencies include Oral Surgery in New York, General Surgery in Vancouver, Canada, and Plastic Surgery at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester Minnesota and in Chicago, Illinois.

Dr Taylor's influence on the Specialty spread across Australia and internationally. He was a pioneering advocate of the inter-hospital rotation of plastic surgery trainees, prior to which their full traineeship was usually undertaken within one hospital.

Bruce Taylor's diplomacy and consideration for others would always melt any degree of aggressive stance. His humble nature in the midst of outstanding clinical results shone as a beacon to his trainees.

Many of the more senior Members of ASPS have very warm memories of Bruce, describing him as '*a top bloke who did a lot by serving ASPS and its members*'.

Credit: Russell Aldred