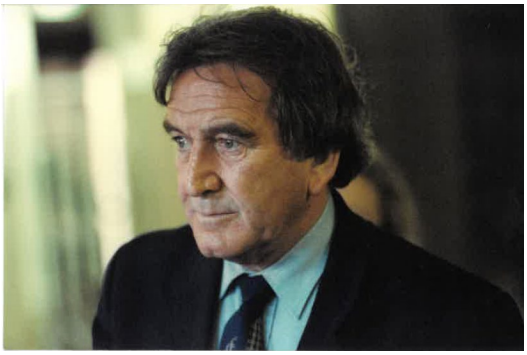
Australian Society *of* Plastic Surgeons

William Wilson

1943 – 2019



William Francis Wilson was born in Tallangatta, Victoria on 13 June 1943**.** He was educated locally, completed matriculation with high distinction gaining entry to the Faculty of Medicine at Melbourne University.

He undertook medical studies at Trinity College, graduating with Honours in 1966. In 1971 his intelligence was recognised by his surgical teachers, gaining a Fellowship at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

He elected to take further training in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and was mentored by the late Mr. J. T. Hueston. He became a Consultant in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the Royal Melbourne Hospital and the Western General Hospital. He had a particular flair for hand surgery and conducted original research thus improving surgical outcomes for those who suffered hand injuries. In 1975 he became a Foundation member of the Australian Hand Surgery Society.

He had a particular interest in fine art and combined this with his interest in hand surgery putting together a memorable presentation of "The Hand in Art". His interest in the arts was extensive and he was a great supporter of the Victorian State Opera. This resulted in him being a cast member in many of their productions.

He also had an interest in farming, in particular cattle breeding. He was proud of the progeny he raised in the Simmental line which resulted in many ribbons at the Royal Melbourne Show.

One of the first to establish a private surgical practice away from the city, he established a private practice at Cabrini Hospital in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and Hand Surgery.

Another passion was George Bass and his Simmental stud farm was in fact in the Bass Shire. He collected memorabilia of George Bass. The most notable being a compass that Bass had used to circumnavigate Australia. This is now on show at the Mitchell Library in Sydney.

He retired from practice in 2005 leaving behind many surgeons who were fortunate enough to have him assist in their education. He was a lecturer in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Melbourne University from 1975. He also was a surgical tutor at Trinity College.

He was a past president of the Medico Legal Society. He had a way with words that made a dull medico legal report not only informative but entertaining.

He is survived by three daughters and two grandchildren as well as his constant companion and support during the past fifteen years Ms Jo Garvey.

Credit: Ian R. Carlisle