Max Warwick Dunstone AM, MB BS, FRACGP

MAX DUNSTONE was born in Adelaide on 6 July 1926. He was educated at Parkside Primary School, Prince Alfred College and Adelaide University, graduating in medicine in 1948. After a year as Resident Medical Officer at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, he entered general practice in 1950.

Max could be described as one of the best general practitioners in South Australia. He had a substantial obstetric practice, was an excellent family doctor, and excelled in the academic and research areas of general practice. He was discerning and sound in clinical diagnosis, conscientious and thorough. His thoughtfulness, kindness and compassion were appreciated by his patients, family and medical peers, who regarded him with much respect and affection. He even learned to speak Italian to develop better communication and empathy with his Italian patients.

Max was regarded by his colleagues as an excellent teacher. He recognised the wealth of medical information available in general practice and was able to use it in a practical way in developing the Research Committee of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP).

His involvement with the RACGP was extensive. He was one of the first Board members (from 1958). Between 1958 and 1990 he served on eight College committees, his most notable work being in the capacity of Chairman of the SA Faculty Research Committee (1960–1990) and Chairman of the National Research Committee of the RACGP Council (1976–1979). He became a Fellow in 1972,

and was Chairman of the SA Faculty Board (1974–1976) and Provost (1976–1978).

Max held other notable appointments during his career, including that of Medical Officer for the City of Adelaide Central Board of Health (1979–1994), Board member for the SA Cancer Registry Board (1976–1986), and Chairman of the Medical Records Committee and Peer Review Committee of the North Eastern Community Hospital (1978–2000).

Max's innovative approach to research was acclaimed by his peers. His research articles, some of which were published in the *Medical Journal of Australia*, were influential in the field of obstetrics in South Australia during the late 1970s. At that time, GP obstetricians delivered 84% of infants born in South Australia and Max made an assessment of their performance. His research was probably one of the contribut-

ing factors to the rise in standards of obstetric practice: by the early 1980s, South Australia had the lowest perinatal mortality rate in the world, at 5.5 per 1000 (compared with Sweden [8] and Australia [9]).

In his leisure time, Max enjoyed tennis, golf and stamp-collecting. He was of strong religious persuasion and was a warden of St Aidan's Anglican Church in Payneham, SA.

In 1986, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia "for service to medicine as a general practitioner for 36 years, with involvement in community-based medical research".

Max died on 7 April 2002 of cancer of the urinary tract. *Vale* to a great doctor of high achievement, integrity, equanimity and humility.

Robert Cooter

Edwin Cordeaux Blomfield MB BS(Hons), OAM

EDWIN CORDEAUX BLOMFIELD was born on 25 December 1917 at Inverell, New South Wales. His early schooling was in the New England region and he completed his secondary education at North Sydney Boys' High School. While studying medicine at the University of Sydney (1936–1942), he stayed at St Paul's College. After graduating, he spent three years as a Resident Medical Officer at Hornsby District Hospital, where he met his future wife, Florence Kelsey, a nursing sister. They were married in 1945.

In 1947, after two years in the army, Ted set up a general practice at Pambula, on the far south coast of New South Wales. He was the sole medical practitioner, prescribing and dispensing medicines, attending clinics in adjacent towns, and visiting patients in isolated areas.

In 1949, Ted moved with his family to Bega. During his many years there, he delivered more than 3000 babies in the district, and was a great teacher to both nurses and doctors. He was highly skilled in surgery, anaesthesia and obstetrics, and, as there were no specialist doctors resident in Bega Valley until 1968, he had to deal with many emergencies of various kinds. He was also a foundation member of the Bega branch of St John Ambulance Australia in

1986, and over the years gave freely of his time teaching first aid and supporting the service.

Ted had a gentle nature and was generous and friendly, with a quick wit and an endless supply of jokes. He affected the lives of many people in his community. He contributed greatly to the life of St John's Anglican Church in Bega and was a long-standing member of the Rotary Club, which recognised his contribution with a Paul Harris Fellowship, one of its highest awards. He was a supporter of Little Athletics, Meals on Wheels, and other organisations. He was a director of the Bega and District Nursing Home and was involved with the planning of "Casuarina Hostel", an assisted-care facility for the elderly. In 1998, he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his services to the community.

Ted's hobbies included surfing and photography, and in later years, especially after his retirement in 1997, he enjoyed travelling to many parts of Australia.

Ted will be remembered for his dedication, sense of humour and caring nature. He was a humble man who always had time for people — one of nature's gentlemen.

Ted died on 12 December 2001 of pneumonia, a late complication of cardiac bypass surgery.

John D McKee