

OBITUARY

**MR RODNEY NORMAN WESTMORE FRACS FRCSEd
OPHTHALMOLOGIST
16 JUNE 1941 - 10 OCTOBER 2020**

For many years I was Rodney Westmore's colleague in Launceston. Initially we practised independently, but about twenty-five years ago we joined forces and built a combined day surgery and consulting rooms. Over the years that I knew him I could not have asked for a better partner in this enterprise and in ophthalmic practice. He was equally ready to give advice as well as to receive it, and his opinions were always thoughtful and helpful. I particularly recall when I was dealing with a patient with what I felt were unreasonable demands and complaints, that Rodney told me to do what was necessary to keep the patient happy. "A friend is much better than an enemy". This attitude to life permeated his work and was typical of him.

Rodney was born in Melbourne and attended Melbourne High School, followed by Melbourne University for his medical degree. His training in Ophthalmology took place at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, and he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1971. He subsequently did a fellowship in London and was admitted as a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1973.

He and his wife Carol moved to Launceston in 1974. He was a visiting medical officer at the Launceston General Hospital as well as being in private practice in Launceston. He had a broad training and skills in many areas of Ophthalmology and, as befitted someone practising in a rural area, he could turn his hand to many things. Many of our registrars in training commented about how much more varied their training with Rodney was as compared to their city rotations. In the early days that I knew him he would carry out retinal, orbital and ptosis surgery. He joined me in entering the field of refractive surgery early on. As various disciplines became more highly specialised, he would gracefully retire from them. I think he was particularly proud of his surgical visits to Uganda as well as to East Timor. I can remember him excitedly packing an enormous suitcase with drugs, intraocular lenses and surgical instruments before leaving on one of these expeditions.

He had many and varied interests outside his professional life. There has been a strong tradition among Tasmanian ophthalmologists of being involved in farming. He embraced this enthusiastically and initially had a farm on King Island. When travel to the island became more daunting, he bought a farm at Greens Beach and a few years later moved to another farm, Patterdale, located at Deddington in Northern Tasmania. This farm had been the abode of renowned Colonial artist John Glover. A project to restore the artist's derelict home and gardens was carried out by Rodney and his wife Carol and is a great credit to both. Tours showcasing the award-winning restoration and the history of John Glover are now run by Carol.

Rodney was a Captain in the Army Reserve in the Prince of Wales Light Horse Regiment and took great pleasure in being able to drive an APC (armoured personal carrier) in his younger days. He was a member of the Naval and Military Club for many years and the Launceston Club. Rodney was a keen trout fisherman, wine buff, collector of antiques and Persian carpets, and supporter of fine arts.

He is survived by his wife Carol, children Guy and Anna and grandchildren James, Emma, Annabelle and Alice. Rodney led an active and respected professional life, a strong family life and had many and varied interests. Ultimately what more can any of us ask for other than this evidence of a life well lived.

This obituary was provided by Mr Nick Downie FRACS

