

Remembering
Emeritus Professor Thomas Smith Reeve AC CBE
(23rd November 1923 – 20th August 2023)

It was my solemn privilege to be in attendance at the funeral service for Tom, who died just 3 months short of his 100th birthday. Tom had a career with deep connections with American surgery. His deeply loved wife, Mary-Jo, had passed away in January 2021; they met when she was an OR scrub nurse where Tom was training in Albany Medical College Hospital, New York State. Just 10 days before his death, Tom was awarded with the inaugural Royal North Shore Hospital Alumni Medal (see: <https://www.nslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/News/Pages/RNSH-Alumni-night-resounding-success.aspx>).

Attached to this personal reflection and tribute are:

1. Biography for Professor Thomas Reeve, prepared by Dr John Brereton (C/T surgeon at RNSH) for the RNSH Alumni Evening.
2. Copy of the order of service for the funeral on September 5.

I wish to pay tribute to Tom in respect of his contributions to the ANZ Chapter of the American College of Surgeons and his mentorship and support for me in related endeavours.

I first encountered Professor Reeve in his lectures on thyroid conditions to medical students of Sydney University, likely in 1970. My next contact was in 1982 when I joined the Dept Surgery of Sydney University as a Senior Lecturer in Professor Miles Little's unit in Westmead Hospital and attended regular departmental meetings under Tom's chairmanship. Miles closely supported my initiatives towards improving Trauma Care and Tom was strongly supportive from more of a distance; both shared a strong desire to see improvements in the care of injured members of our communities. Sadly, Miles has also now passed away on September 29, 2023, at almost 90 years of age. My four years of surgical training in the USA was something which I had in common with Tom.

Professor Ken Cox was the first Australian Governor-at-Large in the Board of Governors of the ACS (1974-81) and he arranged for ACS fellows from ANZ to meet annually at RACS General Scientific Meetings (GSMs). The first ANZ Travelling Fellow of the ACS was Dr Donald Kaminski (St Louis, Missouri) in 1982. Tom Reeve followed Ken Cox on the Board of Governors and persevered with negotiations for creation of an ANZ chapter of the ACS. This was achieved on 5th February 1985 and Tom became the first chapter president. Dr C Rollins Hanlon, Director of the ACS, addressed the first meeting of the chapter, which was held on 3rd May 1985 in Sydney, and presented the appropriate testamur (Charter 101) to Tom (see photograph at Attachment 3); at that time, there were more than 200 ACS fellows in ANZ. The Travelling Fellowship was formalised to be a biennial opportunity with the award to Dr Thomas Peters (Jacksonville, Florida) who attended the GSM in 1986 in Adelaide and visited centres in Sydney and Brisbane. This became an annual award from 1989.

I became aware of the ATLS course of the American College of Surgeons in 1983. In 1985, having become a fellow of the ACS, I enquired of the ACS, without success, as to whether the ATLS course could be brought to Australia. I shared that correspondence with Tom Reeve who indicated that if I was prepared to commit to the project, he would make further enquiries; he indicated that he had made a similar previous enquiry. Tom was on the Council of RACS, and was to become President 1989-91; he was also a member of the Board of Governors and the International Relations Committee (IRC) of the ACS. There are other components of the history of the commencement of the EMST course in Australia in 1988, but is it clear that Tom's connection with ACS colleagues was highly influential. I clearly recall a conversation in 1986, at the foot of the steps of the Bosch Lecture Theatres at Sydney University, between myself, Tom Reeve and Miles Little in which these two senior colleagues and mentors challenged me directly regarding my willingness to lead an ATLS programme. After giving it a moment's thought, I declared that I would commit to 4 years to get the programme established. I had been provided, by Professor Tom Reeve and Professor

Tom Taylor (Orthopaedics and Trauma, Royal North Shore Hospital), with a copy of a 1985 Edition ATLS Instructor Manual which I was asked to review in order to provide advice regarding the implementation of a programme in ANZ. Tom steered John Graham (vascular surgeon at RNSH) to join me and Peter Danne on the original team who participated in an ATLS international instructor training course in San Francisco in 1987; this visit enabled me to be present at the Convocation of the Annual Clinical Congress of the ACS in that year and observe Tom being inducted into Honorary Fellowship of the ACS. Dr Oliver Beahrs, a mentor of mine during my 4 years of training at the Mayo Clinic, was Chair of the Board of Regents of the ACS at that time and he had written to me seeking some details of Tom's family and personal background to inform the citation; I was delighted to be able to forward contributions from Dr Bernie Amos, Bruce Barraclough and Leigh Delbridge.

In July 1995, I was invited by Tom to join him on a visit to Broken Hill Hospital to provide support to the acting director of surgery, review surgery and trauma care services and provide some teaching and encouragement to the local clinicians. I joined Tom for a one day return car trip from Broken Hill to Wilcannia to visit the Wilcannia Hospital – plenty of time to talk! I had been elected to the council of the ANZ chapter in May and I expressed some frustration with the rather narrow and senior traditional focus of vision and activities of the chapter. Tom was thoughtful and understanding and encouraged me to work for change. Tom's simple humanity was evident as we discussed issues of clinical care and health service administration with the hospital manager/matron in what Tom referred to as "the committee room" – the three of us lounging in the sunshine on the grassy slope behind the hospital, looking down on the Darling River.

Tom was very supportive during my time as president of our chapter (2000-2005). In 2000 and a couple more years, he invited me to accompany him to the annual meeting of the ACS IRC; he had been a regular invitee to this meeting during the annual congresses of the ACS, in recognition of the unique ANZ Travelling Fellowship program. I was then elected to membership of the IRC in 2004, becoming Chair in 2010. During my time as chair, I initiated a review of international activities of the ACS to support the development of a strategic plan for the years ahead. As part of this process, I circulated a 26 item survey to colleagues within the IRC and ACS leadership and also to colleagues, such as Tom and Murray Brennan whose background knowledge and insights I greatly respected. Not surprisingly, I received a helpful, supportive and robust contribution from Tom, even at the age of 86 years.

We have lost a founder and very strong supporter of our ANZ chapter, an outstanding advocate for high quality surgery, a valued mentor to many ANZ fellows of the ACS and a wonderful leader in our Surgery profession. However, we are an important part of Tom Reeve's legacy as we continue to foster international collaboration for the benefit of worldwide communities.

Professor Stephen A Deane. October 2023.

Biographical Details Prof Reeve Alumni Evening

Biography for Professor Thomas Reeve AC CBE FRACS

The first and founding Professor of Surgery at the Royal North Shore Hospital, Professor Reeve is revered by generations of surgeons. He was appointed Professor of Surgery in 1974, retiring from academia in 1988. He was elected President of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in 1989. He has Honorary Fellowships of the American College of Surgeons, The American Surgical Association, The College of Surgeons of South Africa, The Philippine College of Surgeons, The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, The Asian Surgical Association and The American Association of Endocrine Surgeons. He is a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia, Commander of the British Empire and was awarded the Hugh Divine Medal, the highest accolade that the RACS awards. Subsequently he has continued to work with the Cancer Council of Australia and the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia to develop the Australian Cancer Network: in working parties since 1994 has developed clinical guidelines for the treatment of six major cancer pathologies.

The Medical Staff Council thanks him not simply for his mentorship, but for the way he has taught us to be mentors. We are thankful not simply for his academic contribution, but for showing us the vitality of science and academia in everyday medicine. We are thankful not simply for his kindness and care, but for showing us how to be kind and how to care, for our patients and for each other.

During a childhood in Queanbeyan, the grief of seeing school friends dying from polio, diphtheria and mastoiditis, set against the example of John James FRCS, the quiet and kindly family doctor, led inevitably to his studying medicine at Sydney University. Early steps from general practice in Collinsville, North Queensland, across the world to Albany Medical College, New York State were on a path seldom trodden. Thus he laid the way for later Australian surgeons to train in North America. The friends he made at this time provided a constellation of institutions where North Shore and Australian surgeons would later be welcome to train, and equally from which fellows would come to train at RNSH. The openness of American surgery to trainees from a wealth of nations led to this network being worldwide. The scientific and technological prowess of surgery in the USA at this time bore bountiful fruit on his return to Australia. With him came his lifetime support and strength, Mary Jo, whom he had met in the operating theatres at Albany.

At RNSH in 1956 Frank Rundle initially employed Thomas Reeve as a research fellow in his areas of interest: thyroid surgery and studies, isotopes and cancer chemotherapy, a prospective database for thyroidectomy, ultrasound of the breast, the animal experimental facility. Many of these were pioneering in this country. In

1958 he became one of the first Australians to obtain American Board of Surgery qualifications, later obtaining his FRACS on these credentials.

Ultimately, the academic unit he created, although based initially on thyroid surgery, has overseen the introduction of vascular surgery, cardiothoracic surgery, oncological surgery and chemotherapy, and surgical ultrasound. The unit flourished with the assistance of Monk, Tracy, Coupland and Appleberg. We thank him for such diverse contributions as the inception of databases in Australia; for the emphasis of meticulous surgical technique based on scientific and anatomical principles for new generations of surgeons; for education at the operating table, the ward and the lecture theatre for students registrars and surgeons alike .

John Brereton

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Emeritus Professor
Thomas Smith Reeve AC CBE
"Tom"



23rd November 1923 - 20th August 2023

Lived 99 $\frac{3}{4}$ years

5th September, 2023

Northern Suburbs Memorial Park, North Ryde



Order of Service

Gathering Music
Bagpipes

Welcome & Introduction
Paul Venticinque - Celebrant

Eulogy
Anne Reeve, Graham Reeve, Tommy Reeve

Photo Montage
Part 1 - Family

Tributes
Emeritus Professor Bruce Barraclough AO FRACS
John Vandervord Student and Friend

Poem
"Character of a Happy Life." Sir H. Wotton
Read by Steve Orr

Tributes
Mr. John Hanrahan AM FRACS, FRCS
Mr. Ray Hollings AM FRACS, FRCS

Photo Montage
Part 2 -Home, Friends and Colleagues

Tributes
Dr John D'Arcy O'Donnell AM
Professor Tom Hugh FRACS

Tributes
Tommy Reeve - A few quotes

Final Words of Comfort
Paul Venticinque - A Moment of Silence & Gratitude

Closing Music - Bagpipes

Vale Tom

"Fortune has indeed smiled on me. As I look to the future, remembering colleagues, nurses, students and patients, I remain aware that 'I have gathered a posy of other men's flowers and only the ribbon which binds them is mine (Sanskrit).'"



Our special thanks and appreciation to you for your prayers, support, and presence today.

Please join us afterwards for refreshments in the function centre.

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