

In vale: Lloyd Coats

Lloyd Stewart Coats
MB, BS, FRACS, FAOrthA
1931-2006

Lloyd Coats was born in Western Australia on 1 October 1931, the youngest of three children. At the age of 11, the family moved to South Australia, but Lloyd never forgot his Western Australian roots. He attended Rose Park Primary School, and his secondary schooling was at Prince Alfred College. At Princes, Lloyd started to show the all-round qualities for which he is particularly remembered by the orthopaedic community in South Australia. He excelled as a student, played a significant leadership role at the school, was involved in sporting activities, and edited the school magazine. He was also, at that time, the leader of the junior orchestra at the Elder Conservatorium of Music.

In 1950, Lloyd began his medical course, and again involved himself in the University life at large. Among other things, he represented the University of Adelaide at hockey as goal-keeper, was involved in union activities at the university, and was a member of the university Air Squadron, achieving the rank of Flight Lieutenant. He was also known to frequent the refectory, where he met his future wife, Emily Cowan, and they married in 1957 after he had graduated.

In that year, he worked as an RMO at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, and in his second year of residency he went with the thoracic surgical team to New Guinea for three months, which stimulated his interest in surgery. He continued as a surgical registrar, gaining his FRACS in 1964. Subsequently, he went to the UK to further his orthopaedic education at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and Princess Margaret Rose Orthopaedic Hospital in the unit of Professor J I P James.

On his return to Adelaide, he was appointed as an honorary clinical assistant in orthopaedic surgery at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital (TQEH) and the Adelaide Children's Hospital and, later, honorary orthopaedic surgeon at TQEH from 1969.

He was instrumental in setting up the accident service at TQEH (of which he became the full-time director in 1976), which is a model that showed considerable foresight at the time. As a result of his expertise in setting up this unit, he was invited by Professor J I P James of Edinburgh to help establish an orthopaedic and trauma service in Kuwait in 1981. He then returned to TQEH and remained on its staff until his retirement in 1994.

Because of his personal qualities, he was approached by numerous groups at various times in his career, both within the hospital setting and in the community in a broader sense. He served on the executive of the Medical Staff Society at TQEH, becoming its chairman in 1978 and 1979. At various times, he was on the state council of the Australian Physiotherapy Association, the state and federal councils of the Australian Medical Association, and the ACTU labour caucus working party on health, and was a member of the Nurses Board of South Australia.

Within the orthopaedic community, he contributed to undergraduate and graduate teaching, he was on the South Australian Council of the Australian Association of Surgeons, and he was chairman of the South Australian branch of the Australian Orthopaedic Association in 1985 and 1986.

Another major contribution he made to the South Australian medical community was in his capacity as chairman of the South Australian Salaried Medical Officers Association, where he led negotiations to improve the conditions of all staff. His local work gaining national recognition, he went on to become the foundation federal president of the Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation (ASMOF).

In 1994, he was admitted to the AMA Roll of Fellows, in recognition of his contribution and service to the AMA and the medical profession.

In his spare time, Lloyd played tennis in the summer, was for many years the club doctor and surgeon of the Sturt Football Club, and was also a gifted carpenter, making quality furniture and



also a boat. His early interest in music continued through his life, and he was a regular concert attendee of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, the Australian Chamber Orchestra, and the Barossa Music Festival.

In the last few years of his life, Lloyd's health deteriorated, and he was nursed at home through a long illness. He was fortunately able to come and visit TQEH in early 2006 and see the new orthopaedic department and wards, and meet some of the staff who remembered him from his earlier attachment. He died on August 11, 2006, and is survived by Emily, his wife of 49 years, and their children Michael and Joanna.

Christopher John Butcher
Thomas McIntyre Stevenson

Mr Christopher John Butcher and Mr Thomas McIntyre Stevenson are orthopaedic surgeons, and were friends and colleagues of Lloyd Coats.

AMA Roll of Fellows

The AMA is calling for nominations of members who have given outstanding service to the AMA for consideration of admittance to the AMA Roll of Fellows. Ordinary members of the AMA may nominate members of the Association who have given outstanding service to the AMA and merit special recognition. AMA(SA) members wishing to nominate a colleague are encouraged to write to the CEO, AMA(SA), PO Box 134, North Adelaide 5006, and mark it 'Personal and Confidential', to be received no later than 1 December 2006.