

In vale: David Craven

David Edward Craven

MB BS, FRACGP

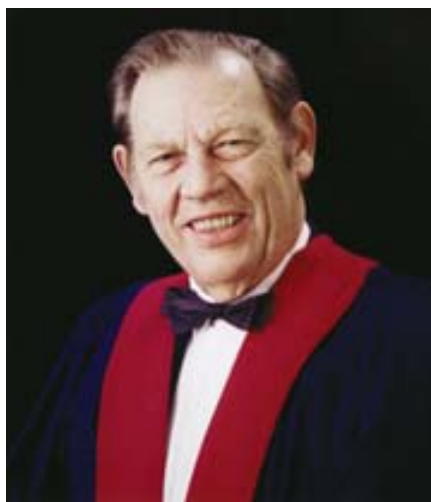
1921 – 2007

David Edward Craven had a long and active life with extensive interests. He was born in Adelaide in 1921, and his early schooling was at Queen's School, North Adelaide, followed by St Peter's College. David then studied medicine at the University of Adelaide, graduating in 1943 with high honours. Following one year at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, he joined the AIF Medical Corp as a captain and was posted to Larrimah in the Northern Territory and later to Morati, New Guinea. From there, with a number of friends, he volunteered and joined the British Commonwealth Occupation Force, spending eighteen months in Japan, returning to Australia in mid-1947.

In 1948 David went to the UK to further study medicine, spending time at the Middlesex and then West Middlesex hospitals, where he met Dilys Rees, a young Welsh doctor. They were married on 2 December 1950 at St Andrews Church, Sudbury, in London.

On returning to Adelaide, David joined the 'Cherry Brothers' General Practice at Port Adelaide, with shipping and many industrial factories in the area. In spite of a very busy schedule, he played a major role in the formation of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. The SA faculty was formed in 1958 and he was a founder member, vice chairman of the SA Faculty Board (1963-1964), chairman (1964-1967) and provost (1968-1970). He was also a life member of the AMA(SA). When he eventually left general practice he became the industrial medical officer for the Kelvinator Factory.

On his retirement from medicine, David and his wife were able to spend much more time on their farm at Hindmarsh Valley, where his interests were Poll Hereford cattle and Wiltshire Horn sheep. David was always passionate about animals and this was shown by his interest in zoos, which he visited whenever possible, both in Australia and overseas. He was made a life member of the SA Zoological Society in 1973, was elected to the Zoo Council in 1978, and was vice president in 1982 and acting president from May 1983 until March



1985. In addition, he served on the Open Range Zoo Park Committee, which eventually resulted in the Monarto Zoo.

David had a love of sport, was a keen golfer, a life member of the South Australian Cricket Association and had a particular interest in horse racing. He raced many horses and his greatest triumph was being part-owner of Yangtze, the 1964 Caulfield Cup Winner.

In the early '60s he was appointed Course Doctor to the Port Adelaide Racing Club and later to the South Australian Jockey Club, of which he became a life member.

David had a long commitment to 'Minda'. He spent nearly ten years on the board and was greatly respected for his opinion and advice. A past president told me: "He was strong in his support and defended the rights of the child, a special, feeling man with remarkable common sense and a great sense of humour". He retired in the mid-90s.

David enjoyed greatly the companionship of his many friends, with whom he shared his pastime interests. He loved his bridge and played regularly with friends. For 10 years he regularly attended the Adelaide Oval Bowling Club and, when no longer able to drive, he took himself to the oval on his gopher. When he retired from golf, he continued to join his companions at lunch at the club.

David is survived by his wife Dilys, daughters Sara and Gwynne and grandchildren Jordan and Madeline.

Dr John Skipper

John Skipper was a friend and colleague of David Craven.