

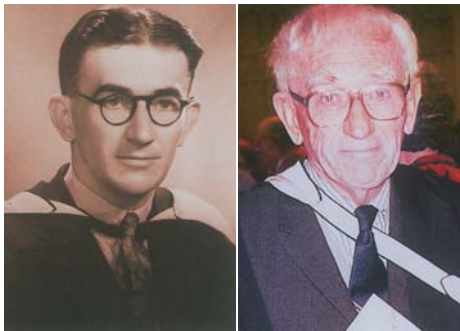
Member's century

THE AMA(SA) extends a very hearty happy birthday to longtime member Dr Raymond Wilbur Louis Crosby, who is celebrating his one-hundredth birthday with family and friends this month. Dr Crosby turns 100 on 26 September, and is the AMA(SA)'s oldest member. He is also a life member, having joined in 1941 soon after graduating in medicine from the University of Adelaide. He is the eighth oldest member of the AMA nationally, which is quite a statistic in itself.

Having gained a diploma of theology in 1931, Dr Crosby worked as a minister in churches around Adelaide to support himself while studying medicine.

In 1940 Dr Crosby worked as a resident medical officer at the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH), and recalls some quirky moments at the RAH, including when a group of medical students brought a cow up the lifts into the RAH's Bice Building (reason unspecified), and a first-floor bathroom in the same building being converted into a temporary swimming pool, with fracture plaster used to seal doors and windows. A number of leaks in the medical superintendent's office below went unexplained.

From 1941-46 Dr Crosby was a locum at a general practice in Hindmarsh and during the war he was an honorary captain in the Australian Medical Corps and a director of Local Casualty. He was



also an honorary demonstrator in pathology to the University of Adelaide for medical and dental students. After the war he worked for a time in Tasmania and as a locum in varied locations before settling in Blair Athol, where he practised until 1988.

Among other roles, he was a relieving medical officer at Yatala Gaol and Labour Prison and was the medical officer of health for the Enfield Council for 45 years, from 1950-1995, when he was made an emeritus medical officer of health. He conducted weekly immunisation clinics and school programs. Especially memorable was the poliomyelitis epidemic in early 50s. It was estimated that he gave 250,000 injections during his time at the council.

Dr Crosby's great interest was dermatology and he was a clinical assistant at the Dermatology Department at the RAH for 15 years and at the then Adelaide Children's Hospital for 10 years. He travelled extensively, visiting countries where people were suffering from smallpox and leprosy, including Bangladesh in 1975, and donated numerous films and slides of these conditions to the Medical School at University of Adelaide, also studying acupuncture in Taiwan.

In 1998 he and his wife Heather moved to West Beach and in 2000 Dr Crosby wrote about his experiences as a medical practitioner in his book *Sixty Years of Medical Practice – Expecting the Unexpected*. Ray Crosby currently lives with Heather in Fullarton and is looking forward to his 100th birthday on 26 September.