

## Dr Denis Campbell

1935 - 2014

### Doctor's life was one of devotion

EVEN as a little kid, Denis Campbell always wanted to be a doctor.

He lived to help others, whether it was through his work as a surgeon in New Guinea, Townsville and Brisbane or managing Rotary's Bowelscan campaign.

Born on December 7, 1935 in Brisbane, he grew up in Albion and later went to boarding school at Downlands College in Toowoomba.

"He always wanted to be a doctor," Dr Campbell's daughter, Louise, said.

"He studied medicine at the University of Queensland and spent time in Townsville for his first year residency." Dr Campbell was then sent to New Guinea for four years before moving his family to Edinburgh, Scotland in the early 1960s.

"There was no surgical school in Australia in those days," Louise said. "He was a general surgeon and studied in the College of Surgeons Edinburgh." Dr Campbell then worked for a year as a registrar at the Mater Hospital in Brisbane, before they moved to Townsville where he set up a private practice and practised at Townsville General Hospital.

"He had a better opportunity in setting up private practice with less competition," Louise said. "And he'd already done his residency, he had a feel for what living in Townsville was like. "He wasn't one of those doctors who lived up in the clouds and earned lots of money; it was intuitive to him; it came with his body and soul."

Dr Campbell married his wife Barbara in Clayfield on January 31, 1959, after the pair met at a party. They had four children, Christine, Louise, Kate and Jamie and six grandchildren.

In 1994, Dr and Mrs Campbell retired to the Sunshine Coast. "The whole of his life he was heavily involved with Rotary in Townsville and down here and through his Rotary experience ran the Bowelscan program," Louise said.

Dr Campbell was also a member of the Men's Shed in Maroochydore and Buderim. "He was known as being a great bloke and being very community spirited," Louise said. He also loved golf and played at least once a week in his retirement.



**COMMUNITY-MINDED:** In his retirement on the Sunshine Coast Dr Denis Campbell was deeply involved with Rotary.