

**(Professor Emeritus Howard Hadfield Eddey CMG
BSc., MB BS (1934), FRCS, FRACS, FACS
1910 - 2004**

Howard Eddey was an eminent surgeon, teacher, administrator, and a caring and compassionate man loved and respected by his patients, colleagues and family. He ably served the medical profession in Australia and in South East Asia during a long and distinguished career.

Howard was born in Box Hill and after attending the local primary school, completed his secondary education at Melbourne High School. He was awarded school colours for rowing and held the position of Captain of Boats. He was a talented lacrosse player on the school team and at Melbourne University gained a blue for lacrosse and was also awarded an All-Australian blue in that sport.

Howard was very able academically and won many honours, exhibitions, prizes and scholarships on the way to gaining his medical qualifications in 1934. He achieved first class honours in chemistry, physics (he won the Physics Exhibition for Victoria in 1927), physiology, pathology and medicine. After completing his university training he became a resident at the Royal Melbourne Hospital with which hospital he was to have a long and happy association. In 1937 he travelled to England and studied at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London. He gained his fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons and won their prestigious Hallett Prize in 1938. Howard became a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in 1941 and later a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons in 1964. In between his studies and work Howard courted and in 1940 married the true love of his life, Alice, which was to be a happy union until her untimely death in 1987. Much of Howard's success in his most distinguished career can be attributed to the love, loyalty and support he received during his marriage.

Howard served with the AIF during the Second World War and was appointed Major, Surgical Specialist 2/13 Australian General Hospital. He was captured at the fall of Singapore and served in Japanese P.O.W. camps in Changi, Sandakan and Kuching. Showing strength in adversity, and obtaining the acquiescence of the guards, he was involved in making "kangkong" by the harvesting and the treating of a local wild vegetable, to produce a drink which was rich in riboflavin and vitamins. Howard ensured his fellow prisoners drank this frequently, as it reduced the incidence of beriberi and pellagra. During this time Howard and colleagues taught basic medical skills and he also wrote notes and drew detailed anatomical diagrams on scrap paper that was provided to him by a guard who was sympathetic to the prisoners' situation. This was a draft of a text book on anatomy which became the basis of a key anatomy text for medical students. Howard gave evidence at the war crimes trial of a guard, who had treated the prisoners humanely, and his evidence, together with evidence from other prisoners of war, resulted in a favourable outcome for the guard.

After the War Howard returned to the Royal Melbourne Hospital as an Honorary Surgeon