OBITUARY

Murdoch Macrae Herbert
QSO (born 28/2/1924 – died 4/8/2014)

Murdoch was born and educated in Glasgow, Scotland.

After obtaining his MB ChB in 1946, he served with the Royal Army Medical Corps in Palestine in 1947–48.

Murdoch re-turned to Glasgow where he trained as a GP Obstetrician. After initially practising in Clydebank, Murdoch became dissatisfied with working in the UK’s new National Health Service (NHS).

As a result, Murdoch brought his wife Jessie and three children to New Zealand. In 1963 he worked as a GP in Wainuiomata, Wellington. In 1965, Murdoch was invited to join Gibbie Abercrombie and Keith Watt in their practice in Milford, Auckland.

For the next 40 years Murdoch has been regarded as a most respected GP Obstetrician who attended in excess of 3000 deliveries.

Murdoch actively involved himself in medical politics and other local issues. Through his membership of the North Shore NZMA, Murdoch, with his colleagues, set up the North Shore After Hours GP Service, now called Shorecare.

He strongly advocated for improved access to services for North Shore patients, particularly urgent access to Caesarean sections for maternity patients. These campaigns resulted in the opening of a General Hospital on the North Shore in 1984. Murdoch’s advocacy on obstetric and other issues resulted in his membership of national maternity service tribunals in the 1970s.

He was a foundation member of the Royal NZ College of General Practitioners and became the President in 1991–1992. In 2005 he held the office of President of NZMA. Furthermore, he served on many Association and College committees during the 1980s.

Murdoch was also an active and respected member of New Zealand’s senior medical body, the Medical Council, for 13 years from 1987 to 2000.

In 1991, Murdoch was awarded the Queen’s Service Order (QSO) for services to Medicine and the Community.

Dr Alan Sutherland (a colleague of Murdoch at Dodson Medical Centre Milford for many years) wrote this obituary, which originally appeared in the bulletin of the Probus Club of Milford.