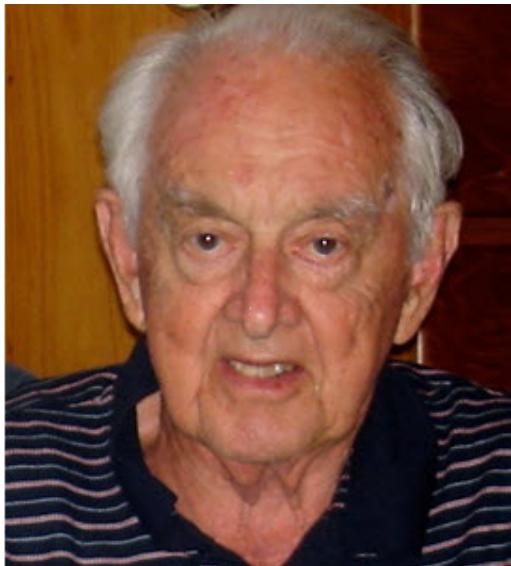


Montagu Edward (Bill) Williams

8 September 1921 – 6 August 2012 (MB ChB Otago 1952, RNZAF AF4213957, The New Zealand 1990 Commemoration Medal for Services to New Zealand)

“Dr Bill” Williams was born the son of a nurseryman in Te Awamutu in 1921. He attended New Plymouth Boys High School and then worked on the family nursery until WW2, when he enlisted in the RNZAF. He was posted to Canada for training and then to Wales, where he flew as a navigator on Lancaster bombers, completing his training just as the war ended.



After the war he returned to New Zealand and entered Otago University Medical School, graduating in 1952. He completed his House Surgeon years at Waikato Hospital. He married Helen in 1951, and their three surviving children all went on to become GPs.

Bill moved to Whakatane in 1953 to take up General Practice, and then in 1956 moved to live in Pakuranga, Auckland.

He bought Ian Broadfoot’s practice which had been formed in 1948 in nearby Panmure, only the second group practice in New Zealand, to join partners George Hitchcock, Irvine Cowie, and Des Hall.

Subsequent partners there were Peter Gibson, John Taylor and Ralph Reeves. He practised there until semi-retirement in 1983. In 1956 he was the first doctor at the newly-established Pakuranga Children’s Health Camp, treating more than 25,000 children over the next 45 years. Although he received several awards from the community for his services, his greatest satisfaction and enjoyment came from the children. During their short time under his care he made huge efforts to ensure any medical or surgical needs of the children were subsequently met, to better their future lives.

He set up several Industrial Medical clinics at some of Auckland’s larger industrial sites, where he attended on-site weekly for many years, becoming a foundation member of ANZOM. He also had a busy obstetric practice for 25 years, delivering over two thousand children.

He was an astute diagnostician, using his profound knowledge of anatomy and the disease process combined with his deep intuition for the human being in need. He had a gift for relating to all people, showing those in distress the positives in their situation, but not giving them false hope.

After retirement from Panmure he continued to enjoy seeing patients for another 20 years in the surgery he and Helen set up at their home, before they moved into the Pakuranga Park Village.

For recreation over his life he always enjoyed the sea, as well as travel to Fiji and the United Kingdom. He was an accomplished snow skier, helping to build a ski lodge on the slopes of Mt Ruapehu, which his children and grandchildren still use today.

In his retirement he continued his prolific tomato-growing, grew Frangipani, restored a classic MG car and remained a keen fisherman and sailor. His last outing on his boat was this year, at the age of 90. He was a caring and generous family man who gained the respect and admiration of a large number of patients and friends. Many of the former became the latter, many for decades.

He is survived and sadly missed by his wife Helen and his children Scott, Christine and Alex, as well as his nine Grandchildren and four Great Grandsons.

Scott Williams, Alex Williams (GPs, Panmure, Auckland) and Christine Williams (GP, Te Puke) wrote this obituary.