Dr ARCHIE KALOKERINOS, 1927 - 2012

“Archie” Kalokerinos was born ‘Archivides’ Kalokerinos, to Greek parents from the island of Kythera, in Glenn Innes, Australia, on September 28 1927. He was always proud of his Greek heritage - “...my Greek background acted, always, as the guiding light through the darkness and unknown.”

“Dr Archie” as he was affectionately known, took his medical degree from Sydney University in 1951 and then spent six years in England. On his return to Australia he was appointed Medical Superintendent of the hospital at Collarenebi, a town 500 miles north-west of Sydney. In 1965 he tried his hand at opal mining at Coober Pedy. He became disillusioned with opal mining, he returned to medicine at Collarenebi, where he served until 1975. Dr Kalokerinos became very concerned about the high mortality rate of Aboriginal children in north western New South Wales. He came to the conclusion that the infants had symptoms of scurvy, a deficiency of vitamin C, and he treated them accordingly.

At one stage, in one Central Aboriginal community, every second Aboriginal Infant was doomed to die in infancy. The death rate, in the area supervised by Archie Kalokerinos dropped to zero after Archie applied his “counter intuitive” therapy. Dual Nobel prize winner Linus Pauling, in the foreword to Kalokerinos’ book Every Second Child, endorsed his views, and his clinical acumen. In 1975 Phillip Noyce produced the compelling film docudrama about Dr Archie Kalokerinos and Aboriginal healthcare, entitled “God Only knows Why, But it Works”.

Opening the Kytheraicos Conference II, in Canberra, on the 15th September, 2006, then Prime Minister of Australia, John Howard, asserted that he could “...think of no other group that has more totally integrated itself into the mainstream of Australian life, yet preserved a passionate love of their home culture than the Greeks. They have really shown the rest of the world and the end, there is nothing like teamwork”.

Archie was the beloved husband of Catherine and adored father of Ann, Helen and Peter. Family and friends are warmly invited to attend Archie’s service of Thanksgiving at St Michael’s Anglican Church, Vaucluse, 2030, today Wednesday 7th March 2012, commencing at 2pm. Wear something bright. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Alzheimer’s Australia.

Envelopes will be available.