



OBITUARIES

Bryan Furnass

Sue Wareham



Stanley Bryan Furnass, known as Bryan, was a general physician in its broadest sense. He saw human health and the health of our planet as intimately connected, long before this pivotal link became more widely accepted.

Bryan grew up in Manchester, was educated at Manchester Grammar School, and received a scholarship to attend Oxford University Medical School, where he lived at Merton College. He graduated in 1949 and completed postgraduate physician

training at the Middlesex Hospital. This was followed by two years in Sierra Leone on compulsory national service with the Royal Army Medical Corps; he specialised in tropical medicine. However, most of Bryan's adult and professional life was spent in Australia, where he and his wife, Anne, and their young family arrived in early 1960. He was the foundation director of the Australian National University (ANU) Medical School in Canberra, and remained there for 25 years until he retired in 1991.

Bryan's passion for healthy people on a healthy planet grew, and he wrote, educated, and collaborated on this theme widely and persuasively, and with even greater vigour in his retirement. Among humanity's threats he included our capacity for self destruction with nuclear weapons. Bryan received recognition as a Member of the Order of Australia in 1994 for his service to health education and promotion. It was only the impacts of a stroke in 2016 that curtailed his ability to speak out publicly. Bryan was highly respected in many fields, medicine being at the heart of them. He rightly saw humanity's changes to our environment and our climate as threatening our wellbeing on many fronts.

Bryan was a loved and loving husband, father, and grandfather. He leaves Anne and their five children.

Biography

Consultant physician and foundation director of the Australian National University Student Health Service (b 1927; Oxford 1949), died after a fall on 4 March 2017

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