



Rotary Club of Alice Springs

John Hawkins Memorial Scholarship

Dr John Hawkins

Dr John Hawkins was born and brought up in Tasmania. He graduated Medicine from Melbourne University in 1953 and worked in Tasmanian hospitals until 1960. In 1961 he came to Alice Springs as Senior Surgical Registrar at the Alice Springs Hospital, and worked in that capacity for 10 years. He then became Acting Medical Superintendent, combining the oversight of the surgical work of the hospital and administrative duties.

He was made a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and was a member of the Medical Board of the NT. He embodied the highest tradition of the medical profession and was awarded the MBE after his death.

For many years he was the only surgeon in Alice Springs and on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In spite of this workload he made time to become involved in many community organisations, including the Rotary Club of Alice Springs where he was President in 1968, and an active organiser of the Henley On Todd.

Dr Hawkins was an enthusiastic film maker with many of his films show on Australian television. He was also the President of the Alice Springs Film Society.

He organised film festivals in Alice Springs, and was approached by the BBC to work with them.

He died of a heart attack whilst canoeing in Katherine Gorge in 1979 at the age of 51. Dr Hawkins was described as a man who gave life to the community.

He is remembered by this scholarship and the John Hawkins Lecture Theatre at the Alice Springs Hospital.