

## *Obituary*

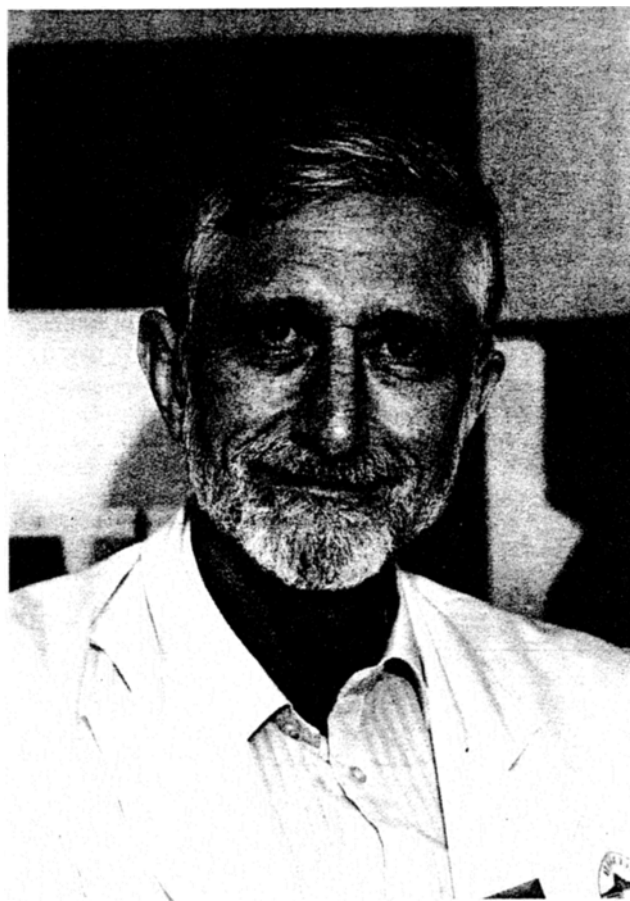
### **Dr. Peter Walter Theodore Brandt, MBE**

Dr. Peter Brandt died on 19 September 1991 after a long battle with myeloma.

He was born in the village of Ketschendorf, not far from Berlin, on 13 November 1929. In 1933 the family emigrated to New Zealand to escape the rising terror of anti-Semitism. Although greatly relieved to be able to start a new life, almost all assets were left behind in Germany. Life in New Zealand in the post-depression years was hard, but the Brandts were a resourceful and happy family. Following education at Dairy Flat Primary School, Northcôte College and Auckland Grammar School, Peter graduated MB ChB (Otago) in 1954. After working in Blenheim and Westport Hospitals, he returned to Auckland in 1958 to train in radiology. From 1961 to 1963 he was a radiological registrar in the Middlesex and Hammer-smith Hospitals in London. He was admitted as a Member of the Royal Australasian College of Radiologists in 1960, a Fellow of the Royal College of Radiologists in London in 1963, and a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Radiologists in 1973. His appointment as radiologist to the cardiological and cardiothoracic surgical units at Green Lane in 1964 allowed him to spend a period of study in Sweden and America en route to New Zealand. In 1969 he joined Drs. Colin Alexander and David Abbott in part-time private practice, later becoming senior partner of the Auckland Radiology Group.

Peter had all the attributes of an outstanding radiologist. In the first place, he had a superb three-dimensional mind. He was also thorough and painstaking, so that almost nothing was overlooked. Coupled with these characteristics were a lifelong desire to learn and a preparedness to learn from anybody, of whatever station in life, who had a new insight. He was never satisfied unless the best possible result was achieved.

These skills led him to develop innovative techniques in cardiac radiology and to make many original observations. He was an author in some sixty publications. By the late 1960s his unique contribution had attracted international recognition, and he was frequently invited to work as a



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visiting consultant or professor in other centres. These included half a dozen centres in Australia, in India, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Bristol, Birmingham, Alabama and, on two occasions, the Brigham Hospital in Boston. In 1974 he was the Rouse Fellow for the Royal Australasian College of Radiologists, in 1975 the first Rohan Williams Travelling Professor to the Royal College of Radiologists, and in

1981 the Kempson Maddox Lecturer for the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand. In 1991 his professional contribution was recognized with the award of an MBE.

Apart from this, Peter was one person always asked about when colleagues from Auckland visited other centres. Such enquiries came out of affection as well as respect. Peter was a clear and patient teacher. He could present things with great clarity and was willing to go over ground repeatedly with those of us who were slow learners. He retained his gentle and serene manner throughout his working life. Although subject to all the stresses of a professional life, he rarely showed anger, never without justification. Despite his gentle manner, he was not prepared to sanction a course he believed wrong, and was never prepared to accept second-rate work. He always led by example, and inevitably raised the standards and understanding of those working with him. He was always courteous and supportive to everyone in his working environment and, not surprisingly, he was surrounded by people totally loyal to him.

Peter also had many other interests and talents. He was an excellent craftsman, particularly in wood,

and many examples of his work are evident in his home. He had a great interest in music and theatre and never lost his interest in sport, particularly rugby after his days in the First XV at Auckland Grammar School. He was a member of many environmental organizations. Above all, he was a devoted family man.

It came as no surprise to those who knew Peter well that he handled the inexorable decline in his health with fortitude. In the last months of his illness, his determination to work and to teach while his strength lasted was universally appreciated. He continued to show the thoughtfulness, quiet wit and determination which had characterised his life. We have lost a highly respected colleague and very special friend who has made a notable contribution to his profession.

Peter is survived by his wife of 36 years, Adele, daughter Luise and sons William and Theo.

*Dr. John Neutze  
Chairman of Cardiology  
Green Lane Hospital  
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