

## Obituary From Scotch College, Melbourne



**Dr Kenneth George HOWSAM ('38)** was born at Malvern, the son of a bank manager, on 8 March 1921. He attended Scotch from 1934–37. In 1940 he joined the Melbourne University Rifles, and from an unknown date until 1947 he served in the RAAF, and was a flight lieutenant at Laverton on demobilisation. Ken married Betty Rae Gray on 14 July 1945, and their sons David (SC 1962–68) and Robert (SC 1964–69) attended Scotch. Ken was an ophthalmologist who was a member of the senior medical staff and administration of the Eye and Ear Hospital from 1947–82. He lived at Inverloch and died on 24 May 2008. A funeral service was held for him at the Anglican Church of Ascension, The Crescent, Inverloch, on 30 May. The following is extracted from the obituary in the Herald Sun of 2 July 2008:

Doctor Ken Howsam became medical superintendent of the Eye and Ear Hospital in 1947 after completing a Diploma of Ophthalmology at Melbourne University. He was an excellent eye and ear, nose and throat surgeon who specialised in removing foreign bodies from eyes. He guided the reconstruction and expansion of the rundown hospital. Ken was obsessed with education, and helped set up Melbourne University chairs in ophthalmology and otolaryngology at the hospital. In conjunction with Dr John Colvin, he established the William Gibson lectures for eye and ear, nose and throat undergraduates.

Ken insisted on high standards from his specialists, and in 1969 played a key role in forming the Royal Australian College of Ophthalmology, of which he was elected president for 1981–82. He retired from the hospital in 1983 but continued to work for it in a reduced capacity. He was presented the College's first gold medal in 1987. His was a formidable intellect, known for his careful preparation, sincerity and single-mindedness. Ken retired to Inverloch, and died at Epworth Hospital of mesenteric artery thrombosis.