

Bill Walker OAM

14 May 1929 - 11 November 2022

Years active: 1999 - 2022

Clubs: Novocastrian, Seaside Pirates



Bill was born in Randwick, NSW, the youngest of eight children.

At school, Bill excelled at swimming and would be the school champion in one of his favourite strokes, breaststroke.

Bill studied medicine at Sydney University, graduating in 1953 and started his medical career at Cessnock Hospital. This is where he met his wife Doris, a nurse. Bill later worked at Paramatta Hospital where he experienced road trauma injuries, paediatrics and obstetrics. He considered formal surgical training and moved to Perth to the Princess Margaret Hospital.

Bill worked overseas in the UK, later returning to Australia to apply for work as a plastic surgeon in Newcastle in 1968, working in the public system and private practice until 1994. Over about 34 years, Bill travelled over the world mainly to underprivileged countries mostly working with patients with cleft palates. He continued to work until the age of 86. He offered his services free of charge and would later arrange for some patients to travel to Australia for surgery.

Bill was convinced that it was the best way to deal with his asthma and COAD.

He joined masters swimming in 1999 and his masters competitive swimming began. He would swim for about an hour a day on at least 5 days a week.

He would compete whenever he could at state and national meets and also included World Masters Championships: Christchurch (2002), Stanford USA (2006), Perth (2008), Gothenburg, Sweden (2010), Riccione (2012) Kazan (2015), and Gwangju (2019), his last competition with 4 Golds and a Silver. He had a collection of 24 Gold medals from these international events.

His other interests extended to playing hockey, playing the piano and he learned to fly at the age of 65. Bill was also a Rotarian for almost 30 years, in both Newcastle and later in Mosman.

Individual	National Records	State Records
LCM	24	42
SCM	24	51