



Dr Josephine Motbey

Dr Josephine Motbey, known to all as Jo, was NSW's first female ENT surgeon in over 50 years. Jo qualified as an ENT surgeon in January 1993, training through the NSW ENT training system, becoming a member of ASOHNS, and going on to serve rural and urban patients for nearly 30 years in her practices in Bega and Beecroft.

Jo followed up her otolaryngology training in NSW, with a paediatric fellowship at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, UK, returning to Australia to commence at The Children's Hospital in 1994, subsequently named "the New Hospital" and now "The Children's Hospital at Westmead" (CHW), Sydney. Jo stopped working at CHW in 2012, when **the combination of a rural practice and family commitments** meant that she could not juggle the heavy on-call **requirements**. **During** this time she served as Secretary of the CHW ENT Department and also inaugural Secretary to the newly formed Australian and New Zealand Paediatric ENT craftgroup, renamed ANZSPO. Jo continued to have a paediatric-dominated practice throughout her career, caring for patients with compassion, respect and skill. Patients unanimously speak highly of Jo for these reasons.

As soon as she was qualified in 1993, Jo set up an ENT service in the Bega. She initially also worked as an associate with John Curotta in Blacktown then opened her own rooms in Beecroft in 1994. She travelled between Sydney and Bega regularly and so reduced the divide between city and rural health care. Many newly qualified ENT Fellows would help her in the work in Bega, travelling down for a few days a month, gaining valuable country experience and supporting the rural practice. She is a strong advocate for good rural health and provided much needed ENT service for nearly 30 years. Bega patients must now travel at least 200km to either Canberra or Sydney to seek any ENT care.

Jo became a mother in the mid 1990s, to her beautiful daughter, Alex. Jo was one of the first female ENT surgeons to balance children and a surgical career. She was much supported particularly by her loving parents. Although common today, in those days there was no offer of maternity leave, nor was there open discussion of fitting in work around the responsibilities of children. In her matter of fact way, Jo juggled the two responsibilities, being a champion for both parts of her life, and so changed the way we practice today. Her experience, sage advice and understanding was a role model to women in ENT, particularly in NSW where she is well known.

Jo is a person with many causes, rural health and paediatrics being just some of them. Jo is a keen gardener, an animal lover and an environmental advocate. Her century old family home in Bega was tragically lost in the bushfires of 2019. She is a person of determination and quiet resilience, rebuilding a fireproof dwelling on her family's farm.

In 2021 she announced her retirement, after almost 30 years of serving the community as an ENT surgeon. She will continue to contribute to her local community, the environment and remains a great friend and colleague to many in the ASOHNS society.

Dr Jo Motbey is a worthy recipient of the ASOHNS medal for services to otolaryngology.