

# Tireless work to cure children

By Wendy Spooner

AN AMAZINGLY dedicated doctor who made huge inroads into Aboriginal health in the 1960s and 1970s, Archie Kalokerinos, has died in Sydney aged 84.

Born in Glen Innes on September 28, 1927, to Greek parents, Archibides "Archie" Kalokerinos was as important a figure in Aboriginal health as Professor Fred Hollows.

The family ran the Paragon Cafe.

Dr Kalokerinos was described by his son, Peter, as "obsessive" about finding a cure for the terrible illnesses that ravaged Aboriginal children so badly in the North West of NSW and Central Australia that half of the children died.

Dr Kalokerinos even wrote a book about it - *Every Second Child*, one of three he wrote during his life, with the other two books being about opal mining.

Website author George Poulos (kythera-family.net) said Dr Kalokerinos was a towering figure within the Greek-Australian community.

"All these Aboriginal



**AWARDED:** Dr Archie Kalokerinos was awarded the Australian Medal of Merit for outstanding scientific research.

kids were dying... getting infections. Because of a prolonged series of infections they couldn't absorb vitamin C, so Archie injected them with massive doses and then kids who were about to die would suddenly wake up and continue to live," Mr Poulos said.

"He saved so many lives it wasn't even funny."

Dr Kalokerinos graduated from the University of Sydney in January 1951 and became the resident medical officer at Lismore Base Hospital.

He lived in Collarenebri between 1957-65, where he was the town's

only doctor and tried to help the people on the Aboriginal mission near the town.

But he didn't have the political nous that Professor Hollows had, partly because state and government authorities wouldn't listen to his pleas for help with Aboriginal health.

"He wasn't as politically capable as Fred: he upset a lot of people," Peter said.

"When you've got clinical evidence staring you in the face and you've got people (in government departments) that say 'It's not the case, it's very frustrating,'

Mr Poulos said: "He was very close to Fred

**VITAMIN C WAS THE CURE:** He lived in Collarenebri between 1957 and 1965, where he was the town's only doctor and tried to help the people on the Aboriginal mission near the town.

and Fred taught him ophthalmology (in the Northern Territory in the 1970s).

"He was a very intellectual man, always on the up, vibrant and

engaging. He was a deep man who engaged you at a deep level; he was honest."

Dr Kalokerinos was awarded the Australian Medal of Merit for

outstanding scientific research. He moved to Coober Pedy, in South Australia, chasing opal in 1965 and married his wife, Catherine, on December 17, 1977.

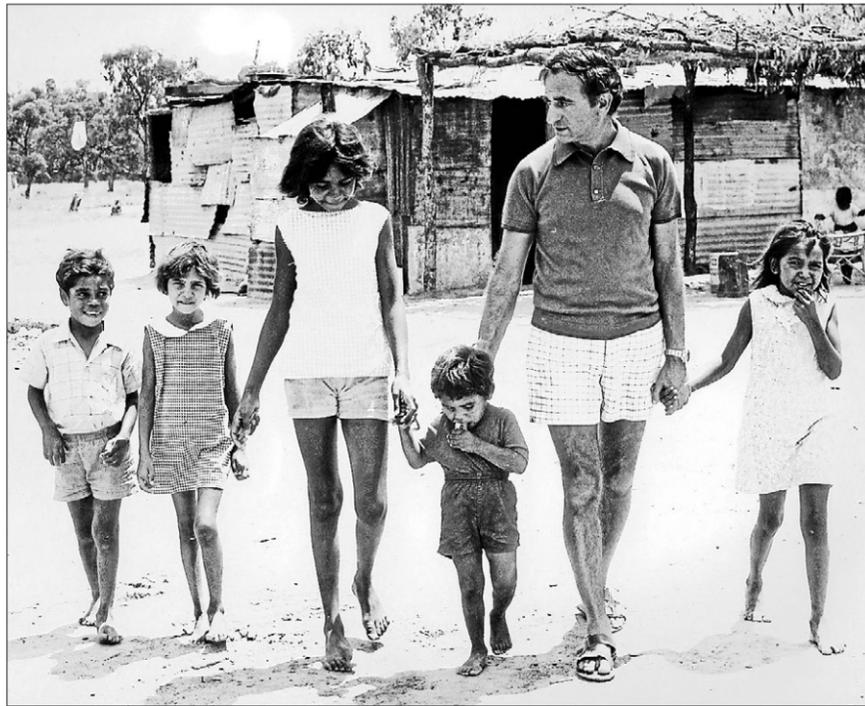
He worked in Bingara as a general practitioner for a decade from 1982, although he'd earned his surgeon qualifications by that stage, his son said.

Dr Kalokerinos was featured on television show *This is Your Life* and was named the Greek Australian of the Century by Melbourne newspaper *Neos Cosmos*.

He leaves behind his wife, son, daughter Helen Barrow and a grandson, Oscar.

A service of thanksgiving will be held tomorrow from 2pm at St Michael's Anglican Church, Gilliver Ave, Vaucluse.

Because Dr Kalokerinos had Alzheimer's disease in the last two years of his life, the family requests that donations be made to Alzheimer's Australia in lieu of flowers.



**ADVOCATE OF ABORIGINAL HEALTH:** With a patient at Collarenebri Hospital in the 1960s.

## Shooting leaves police stumped

POLICE have appealed for information about a shooting at Collarenebri on Sunday night.

Police said a 40-year-old man arrived at Collarenebri Hospital seeking treatment for a gunshot wound to his stomach just before midnight.

He discharged himself from hospital a short time later.

Police were informed

and searched homes in Walgett St and Narran St for clues into the mysterious shooting.

Officers from the Castlereagh Local Area Command said inquiries were continuing yesterday. Anyone with information that might assist investigating officers is urged to contact Walgett Police Station on 6828 6899 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

## Charges expected over armed hold-up

NARRABRI police were last night interviewing a man who they believed was responsible for the robbery of a truck driver in Narrabri.

They expected to lay charges against the man after he was arrested at a local home yesterday afternoon.

The 31-year-old Coonamble resident is believed to have been involved in an armed robbery on the outskirts of Narrabri on February 21.

Police said a man allegedly approached a truck driver, produced a handgun and demanded money.

No one was injured during the incident.

No further details were available before press time last night.

## March is polite pets month!

We would all like to have courteous cats and delightful dogs, but sometimes behaviour problems occur. Common questions we hear from owners include excessive barking, aggression, boisterous or destructive behaviour, toilet training issues and how to co-exist with other dogs or cats in the household. Other problems include managing anxiety and phobias in dogs, preventing dog bites, how to train dogs, stopping cats marking, and socialising pet birds.

For specific advice about your pet's behaviour, owners should talk to their veterinarian, because if there is a problem the sooner you take action, the easier it will be to fix. Please feel free to come in and discuss any behaviour problems you have with your pets.



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See you at the movies Today... Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March

**Special SCREENING Saturday March 17 Tickets \$14 Time 2.30pm**

<b>(3D) Underworld Awakening</b> 98min Today: 9.15pm.	<b>Safe House</b> 125min Today: 12.15pm, 4.30pm, 9.00pm.
<b>The Artist</b> 110min NEW THIS WEEK NO FREE TICKETS Today: 11.00am, 3.00pm, 7.15pm.	<b>This Means War</b> 102min Today: 10.30am, 2.45pm, 7.00pm.
<b>Contraband</b> 120min Today: 12.30pm, 4.45pm, 9.00pm.	<b>The Vow</b> 114min Today: 10.15am, 2.30pm, 6.45pm.
<b>The Decendants</b> 125min Today: 5.00pm.	<b>Any Questions for Ben?</b> 124min FORUM GOLD MANAGER'S SPECIAL Today: 2.15pm*.
<b>The Devil Inside</b> 97min NEW THIS WEEK NO FREE TICKETS Today: 10.45am, 12.45pm, 5.15pm, 9.15pm.	<b>Iron Lady</b> 115min FORUM GOLD MANAGER'S SPECIAL Today: 12.00pm*.
<b>Project X</b> 98min NEW THIS WEEK NO FREE TICKETS Today: 1.00pm, 2.45pm, 7.00pm, 7.00pm*, 9.30pm*.	<b>The Grey</b> 132min FORUM GOLD MANAGER'S SPECIAL Today: 4.30pm*.

\*Forum Gold Session Over 18's ONLY

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