



HUMANS OF THE ROYAL

Rosario Ross Mangano (1932 to 2012)

Biomedical Engineer Rosario 'Ross' Mangano served Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital with distinction for 61 years. Ross started as an apprentice at the hospital in 1950, aged 18, and was still on staff at the time of his death in 2012.

Ross dedicated his working life to RBWH and the Royal Children's Hospital, sourcing and maintaining medical equipment to support and improve patient care.

After his apprenticeship, Ross studied Applied Electronics and set up the hospital's first biomedical maintenance team. Led by Ross, the team focused on emerging clinical technologies, understanding the importance to patient safety, and established what is now called Biomedical Technical Services.

Ross campaigned tirelessly for professional recognition of the emerging biomedical industry. He devoted what time he could to the Society for Medical and Biological Engineering, serving as its President for 25 years.

He was involved with other societies and colleges, never stopped learning, and attended countless conferences. Ross was recognised with the Engineers Australia Medal, among other accolades.

But his commitment to helping patients and mentoring staff endured.

Ross worked closely with staff of the Multidisciplinary Pain Centre, and managed the lesion generator used to interrupt pain pathways in the spinal cord in patients with debilitating cancer pain. As a result of Ross' hard work and dedication, many patients were either taken off painkillers or had dosages reduced.

He also supported Engineering students, was involved in introductory training of new technicians, and guided suppliers through the process of selling medical equipment to the Government.

Ross knew everyone at the hospital and staff in every department knew and respected his devotion to patients, work ethic, humility and courtesy.

His memorial service was filled to capacity with consultants, biomedical engineers, nurses, allied health professionals, administrators and support staff from the hospital.

An online guestbook became a moving tribute to Ross Mangano, with colleagues describing him as a "passionate supporter", "unrecognised hero" and "one of the most respected people".

One message captured the sentiments of many with the simple words "RBWH will just not be the same without you."