



# ANTHONY SPRIGGINS

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON

Originally from Melbourne, Adelaide-based orthopaedic surgeon, Tony Spriggins, has a career that's seen him work in some of the world's leading hospitals, alongside internationally recognised surgeons. Given this, it might seem surprising that Tony has, for many years, been providing his service to patients in Mildura. However, his genuine affection for the community and his desire to ensure people in this region have access to quality care, keeps him coming back.

After various stints overseas, Tony settled into Australian life, initially working at the Children's Hospital in Adelaide and 35 years later, he's still in the South Australian capital and as passionate as ever about the work he does.

"There's nothing that gives me greater pleasure than making a real difference to a patient's life.

"For example, a patient will come into my office in lots of pain, barely able to walk due to degenerative joint disease and I can reverse that. I see them six weeks after surgery and they're walking well, without a limp, without pain; it's really turned their life around.

"To see someone able to enjoy their life again, is very satisfying."

Tony's relationship with Mildura started well before he began consulting here. In fact, it was our reputation as a competitive rowing destination that first brought Tony to town.

"I was a rower in my earlier days and at university I used to come and row out of the Mildura Rowing Club during regattas, so I knew Mildura pretty well and I always liked it."

Years later, when one of his colleagues, who worked out of a practice in Mildura, was set to retire, he invited

Tony to take over from him. Tony didn't hesitate.

"It's been great ever since. I've met a lot of nice people, colleagues and patients. I've enjoyed fabulous hospitality and I'm helping patients get really good outcomes, through the care they're receiving."

Life for Tony has never been in first gear. He gives the impression of being an extremely driven man. He has a competitive edge - evidenced by his sporting background which has included competition level rowing, riding and duathlons - and finding a balance between work, play and family (he has three children with his wife, also a doctor) wouldn't have been without its challenges. Add monthly trips to Mildura into the mix and Tony's schedule must have been a daunting prospect at times.

However, like everything in his life, Tony was determined to make it work because in his view, Mildura deserved him to.

"Country people are very deserving people. Just because they're regional doesn't mean they should be deprived of quality medical care."

Tony's the first to admit that as Mildura grows, we should have our own orthopaedic surgeons, living and working in town. However, until then, and while Tony has the energy, one gets the sense he's more than happy to continue caring for a community that he says, is made up of 'the nicest people you could ever wish to meet.'