



BEFORE

'Having caught myself on a re-run of *Sons and Daughters* on TV, I felt the one part of me that hadn't collapsed - my face - was suddenly allowing gravity to do its worst,' Rowena says. 'I said to myself: "I don't want to lose the one asset I still retained."'

AFTER

Now, looking several years younger, Rowena couldn't be happier with the age-defying results of the surgery. 'Dr Pincock did a wonderful job!' the actress exclaims.

ROWENA WALLACE

MY PLASTIC SURGERY DIARY

EXCLUSIVE PHOTOS

The brave actress goes under the surgeon's knife

WHY SHE DID IT

It's the face behind a thousand evil plots, but even TV's conniving Pat the Rat would be hard-pressed to say a bad word about alter ego Rowena Wallace's recent transformation.

The star of the '80s drama *Sons and Daughters* has undergone extensive cosmetic surgery - including an eye lift and neck lift.

'I am 62 years old now and the show that made me famous is almost 30!' she says.

'I have always been in favour of anything that will make you feel better about yourself.'

Rowena feared undergoing cosmetic surgery was out of reach after recent financial problems - but the procedure was offered free by a fan, leading Sydney facial plastic surgeon Dr Tobias Pincock.



'I decided I wanted to restore Rowena back to her former self,' says Dr Pincock of his free surgery offer.

WHAT SHE HAD DONE

Dr Pincock examined Rowena, deciding to target the areas that were ageing her most.

'I'd read of Rowena's woes and felt incredibly sorry for her,' Dr Pincock says of her battle with debilitating scoliosis and social security fraud charges. 'The pressure of the past few years was showing in her face and I felt that it was dramatically hampering her chances of work.'

Dr Pincock decided the actress needed both an upper and lower blepharoplasty,

THE HEALING PROCESS

The extensive cosmetic procedures took three hours to complete and were performed under general anaesthetic.

'When I first saw myself in the mirror all I thought was I had done five rounds with Mike Tyson,' Rowena says.

'To make matters worse, in a groggy state during the night I grabbed what I thought were special eye drops and put them into my eyes. Unbeknown to me it was oil of

cloves, which I was supposed to put on my aching tooth - boy, did that put a spanner in the works!'

Over the next three weeks, Rowena rested and waited as the bruising went down and the pain subsided. 'They warned me that I would have good days and bad days and that once the anaesthetic wore off I would be thinking: "Oh God, what did I put myself through this for?" Well, the doc was right, I did feel that, but only for a few days - then I began to feel OK.' ▶



With the surgeon's pen in full force, Rowena says one last goodbye to her old face.



Facial plastic surgeon Dr Pincock carefully plans the actress' cosmetic procedures.

also known as an eyelift, a minimally invasive neck lift with liposuction, facial liposuction plus non-surgical rejuvenation in the form of Juvederm and Botox.

'We decided that my jowls and double chin had to go and my eyes and cheek area in particular needed some work, too, from the ravages of time,' Rowena jokes good-naturedly.



At times, the painful recovery process left Rowena questioning her choice.



Rowena can't thank Dr Pincock enough for his great work and generosity.

THE RESULTS!

Having shed decades from her appearance, Rowena is thrilled with the final result.

'Dr Pincock did a wonderful job,' she says. 'Even though I boarded the plane back to Melbourne wrapped in bandages, I knew this would be the start of a new beginning.'

The heavy bags around Rowena's eyes have disappeared and the skin on her face and neck is noticeably smoother.

'It's my birthday this month and I couldn't imagine a more heartfelt birthday present,' she says.

'I've had so many "woe is me" stories written as I have publicly stumbled from one disaster to another. At last I have something positive to say.

'Dr Pincock* has given me a second chance and this time I am not going to fritter it away. And you can take that to the bank!' **NI**

By Phil Somerset
Photos: Andrew Jacob



FLASHBACK TIME: PAT THE RAT

With her silver hair and acerbic tongue, Pat the Rat was the TV baddie we loved to hate.

Rowena took the role of Patricia Hamilton on the hit soap *Sons and Daughters* in 1982 and within three years she'd won a Gold Logie.

Soon after that she quit and, in a case of art imitating life, Pat the Rat disappeared from our screens. According to the storyline, she went to Brazil to have cosmetic surgery.

'I didn't realise it at the time - when I chose to walk away from that show early - that the

character that made me a household name was the best role I'd ever been given. Despite being offered huge money to stay, I walked,' Rowena explains.

'I should never have left. The show would have lasted a lot longer than it did and I would be in a far better financial position today. There is the power of hindsight I guess.'

*Dr Pincock is a member of the Australasian Academy of Facial Plastic Surgery. For more information regarding these procedures, visit www.drrobinaspincock.com.au