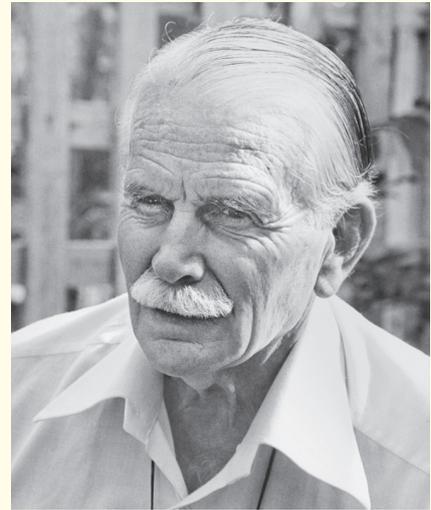


❖ STUART PATTERSON ❖

BACKGROUND

Stuart Patterson was born in 1911 in Aramac (QLD) where his father was the local doctor and his mother a registered nurse. By 1913, the family had moved to Ipswich where Stuart's father joined, and subsequently took over, his uncle's medical practice. Stuart was schooled at what was to become Brisbane Boys College and then attended Ipswich Grammar. He commenced tertiary studies at Sydney University, then completed his medical degree at Edinburgh University. Whilst there, he met Uletta and married her in 1937 in Birmingham. In 1938, they headed back to Australia on a coal carrier with Stuart as the ship's doctor. He worked at Brisbane General Hospital for two years as Resident, then joined his father's practice in Ipswich. In 1943, he left the practice to take up service as an army medical officer till the end of World War II.



Returning to the Ipswich practice at war's end, Stuart led a busy life, spending each day at the practice, doing house calls after hours and maintaining a strong commitment to community activities. He formed the New Settlers League in 1948 to help migrants from Europe settle in their new country. He started the Ipswich Beautification Council in 1966 with a dedication to tree-planting, a passion he maintained throughout his life. He was a Rotarian and, in 1987, was awarded the prestigious Paul Harris Fellowship. He was also a member of the Order of St John. For more than 50 years, Stuart and his father were Government Medical Officers for the Ipswich district, responsible for carrying out post-mortems and immunisation programs, and assisting with murder investigations. Stuart helped to establish the College of General Practitioners, served as an honorary consultant at Mater Childrens Hospital for 12 years and was president of the AMA. He was awarded an OAM in 1995 in recognition of his achievements in the fields of General Practice, Paediatrics, Preventative Medicine and to the community.

Stuart and Uletta raised five children, twins Jean and Jennifer then Rosemary, Roderick and Jonathan.

THE BUDERIM CONNECTION

Stuart and Uletta had bought a block of land at Alexandra Headland in the late 1940s. The family enjoyed camping holidays on the block before building a house there in 1960 and maintaining the family holiday tradition. When Stuart and Uletta relocated to their Sunshine Coast house in 1976, Stuart continued working as a doctor until he finally retired, aged in his early eighties. He and Uletta later moved to Buderim's Immanuel Gardens.

Stuart maintained a strong community involvement on the Sunshine Coast through membership of Rotary and the Royal Flying Doctor Service auxiliary while Buderim's Foote Sanctuary benefitted from his passion for tree-planting. Formerly a keen cricketer and tennis player, Stuart continued playing golf into his eighties and both he and Uletta were members of the Buderim Croquet Club.

When Uletta died in 2003, Stuart moved back to Ipswich and died the following year, aged 92. His ashes, along with his father's and Uletta's, are in the Memorial Garden at St Marks Anglican Church, Buderim.

Stuart was a great story-teller, a true raconteur. His autobiography 'An Ordinary Doctor' portrays the life of a man who led a most fruitful life. His second book 'Friends of an Ordinary Doctor' provides an insight into a man who relished the encounters that life brought his way.