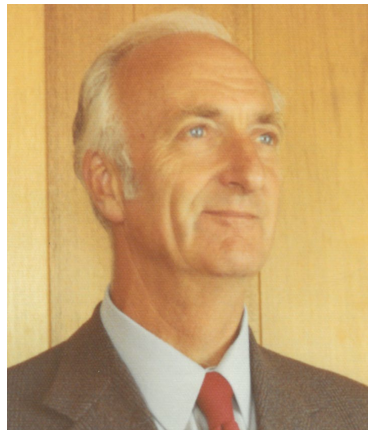


Arthur Stephenson OAM
1917 - 2001



Arthur Lavender Stephenson was born on 24 September 1917, in Simla, India. His father, Percival William Stephenson, was 29 and his mother, Grace Ermytrude Lavender, was 32. Arthur studied at Sydney University gaining his MBBS in 1941 and his FRACS in General Surgery in 1949.

Arthur joined the AIF in July 1942 and was initially sent as reinforcement to 2/9 Australian General Hospital, 17 miles from Port Moresby where the casualties from Kokoda were arriving out. After the war he worked in Sydney before moving to Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH) in 1946.

During this time BK Rank was making a twice yearly visit to RHH for a period of one week for plastic surgical work. Rank's primary interest was in babies with congenital abnormalities and requested that a local junior surgeon deal with the general run of other plastic surgery during the rest of the year. Stephenson was given an operating morning each week for plastic surgery. In 1954 he became an Honorary In Patient surgeon, dealing with the full range of general surgery while handling all the plastic surgery in the unit.

In 1972, Arthur formed the Plastic Surgery Unit along with JM Carney and relinquished all general surgical responsibilities. He worked at RHH from 1946-1982 and retired from private practice 1984.

Arthur died in February 2001 and received an Order of Australia Medal in June 2001 for service to medicine in the field of plastic and reconstructive surgery at the Royal Hobart Hospital.

Read [‘The Early Days of Plastic Surgery In Hobart’](#) by Arthur L Stephenson.