

## IAN STEPHEN MACLEOD MURPHY (1905-1981)

### Memorial fund honours much loved doctor

'Spud' Murphy or 'Doc' as Dr Ian Murphy was usually called had hoped to leave his profession of medicine when he retired to Emerald in 1947. Dr Murphy's aim at that point was to breed turkeys. He had run a successful medical practice in Hampton for many years but when he arrived at Emerald to start his new life he found there was no doctor nearby. So Dr Murphy opened a new practice, the Emerald Medical Clinic, and he worked from there for the next 47 years.

His background made him eminently suited to life as a doctor in the remote area of the hills around Emerald.

Dr Murphy had been born in Nasik in Maharashtra, India where it was thought his father Stephen may have been in service in the British military. His guardian, John MacLeod, had enrolled him in Geelong College as a boarder in 1919 and he stayed there until he graduated in 1922 when he enrolled in medicine at the University of Melbourne.

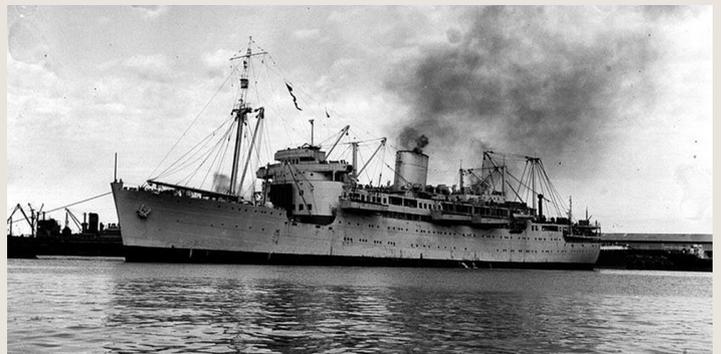
He enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy in 1939 as a Surgeon Lieutenant and was sent to London to work at a naval hospital. He soon went to sea and served on the HMS Spartiate.

Dr Murphy also served on the HMAS Kanimbla, the HMS Magnetic and the destroyer, the S.S. Napier. It was on the Napier that he had a near death experience when a piece of shrapnel unfortunately hit his tin helmet. He fortunately survived and kept the helmet as a souvenir.

Several local hotels were used regularly by Dr Murphy as the venues for unofficial clinics because some of his patients could not always travel to his rooms in Emerald. Neither could some patients always pay in cash so he happily accepted payment in kind - such as vegetables, eggs, chickens. Dr Murphy lived at his residence, Kirkubbin, on Edenmount Road Clematis.

In 1977, Dr Murphy was awarded the British Empire Medal for his services to community health. After Dr Murphy died suddenly in 1981 aged 76, the community mourned him greatly and a memorial fund was set up to support local students to attend university to study medicine.

He was buried at Emerald Cemetery.



*HMAS Kanimbla*

#### Find out more

Carter, P. *Tales of a Country Doctor*, (2014)

Jeppesen, J.C. *Constant Care: Royal Australian Health Services 1915-2002*, (2002)

Selleck, R.J.W. *The Shop: the University of Melbourne 1850-1939*, (2003)



#### DR JAN PENNEY BA, DIP ED, PHD

Jan is a professional historian who has worked across the fields of heritage, education and tourism. She has taught at several universities, including Monash University where she delivered the master of public history course. She is also a former Chair of the Heritage Council of Victoria. Jan was appointed to The Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust in 2010.



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