



# HUMANS OF THE ROYAL

## Dr Aubrey Pye (1901 – 1994)

Aubrey Pye was the longest serving medical superintendent in the history of the Royal Brisbane Hospital.

A surgeon, Dr Aubrey Pye came to Brisbane as Assistant Superintendent in 1931, and assumed the duties of General Medical Superintendent the following year, continuing in the role until his retirement.

Dr Pye supervised the surgical work of the hospital until the first Surgical Supervisor was appointed in 1939, and remained on call for after-hours emergency surgery during the war years. On his retirement in 1967, the hospital's centenary year, his successor Alan Knyvett reflected:

"This hospital is one hundred years old on this site and Dr Pye has been its captain for over one-third of that time. He has seen it grow from a small town hospital to a major teaching institution. He has grown up with it and become so much a part of it that everyone connected with it, young and old, knew him personally and well. In his earlier days he was an excellent operative surgeon, in later days a greatly respected administrator and in all these days a gentleman and a friend.

"His greatest reward must surely be the respect, friendship and gratitude of the many thousands of medical practitioners throughout Australia and overseas who had served under him."

Aubrey Pye was made a Commander of the British Empire in recognition of his services to health in Queensland. The house in the hospital grounds where his family grew up, as well as the surrounding gardens, bear his name.

Importantly, Aubrey Pye left an ongoing legacy to the Royal Brisbane Hospital. Both his children trained and worked at the hospital – son Jim as a Urologist and daughter Beth as a Registered Nurse. Son-in-law Tony Morton was the hospital's first resuscitation officer, and subsequently pioneered the practice of Intensive Care Medicine in Brisbane.

Five of Pye's grandchildren, Jennifer and Catherine Pye, and Elizabeth, James and Adam Morton have worked at the Royal, with eldest James a Haematologist in the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit today.

In 2018, the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital's 151<sup>st</sup> year, Aubrey Pye's eldest great-grandchild Sarah Morton will commence her training as a Medical Intern.



*Kindly submitted by Dr Adam Morton*