George Stewart Purvis
6 June 1926–6 December 2014
MB ChB Dip Obst FRNZCGP

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tewart Purvis will be remembered as
one of Papakura's longest serving Gen-
eral Practitioners.

After a childhood in Masterton, Gisborne
and Christchurch—followed by years in
Dunedin at Otago Medical School—he loved
the opportunities offered in the area of
Papakura in the early 1950s. It was warm,
fishing and boating were easy to access,
he made good friends who took him duck
shooting and it was near to Auckland
for shopping, movies and shows. He and
his wife, Leslie, raised five children in
Papakura, and as the town grew, so did his
community interests. Stewart became a
member of the Rotary club, served on the
foundation Board of Rosehill College and
became the Chairman, enjoyed learning
Morse code with the local Radio Club, had
fun with the Woodturners Guild, and for
over 40 years was dedicated to his patients.
Thousands of times he delivered babies
at Papakura's or Pukekohe's maternity
hospital, and knew exactly how many
minutes he needed to drive to each. House
calls were taken for granted in his era.

Before the morning, afternoon and evening
surgery (Monday, Wednesday and Friday
nights for over 40 years) he drove all over
South Auckland and as far away as Orere
Point. Many patients did not have transport,
and often he took his children for the drive,
to give Leslie a break and the children an
outing, where they were entertained by the
healthy members of the patient's families, as
well as their animals.

Flying was something he was fascinated
by. His father had trained as a pilot towards
the end of World War I, and with Ardmore being very close to Papakura, Stew became a designated Medical Examiner for Civil Aviation in 1967. He did try to learn to fly, but was plagued by airsickness, so was unsuccessful in attempts to become pilot. (Interestingly, his son Graham is a pilot.)

In 1998, he became a Fellow of the Royal College of New Zealand General Practitioners. In 1991, he was awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship by Rotary International for special and significant contributions to his Community and Rotary during 30 years of Rotary membership.

Upon retiring, he became interested in computing, joined the local Probus club and continued with his Rotary interests. Going on a trip to China with Leslie was a highlight of his early retirement. Overseas travel had always been limited by the difficulty in obtaining locums until then. He was a man with a huge range of interests, and would go to Whitcoulls or the University Bookshop regularly to buy armfuls of books on topics he found interesting. Maintaining a large property and tinkering in the toolshed kept him busy and his grandchildren entertained—they used to beg for rides with him on his ride-on mower.

Stewart and Leslie were both well known and respected in Papakura. Sadly, Leslie died six months after Stewart. They are survived by their 5 children, and numerous grand and great grandchildren.

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