



Don was educated at New Brighton District High School and then at Christchurch Technical College.

He left school at 17 and worked in a "wireless, music shop". With the outbreak of WW2 he enlisted in the RNZAF and was trained for two and a half years in radar and communications. He saw service in the Pacific.

After the war he worked at NZ Radio Corporation doing maintenance work, then as a technician at Post & Telegraph in New Plymouth. Whilst in New Plymouth he was asked by a local anaesthetist to construct an anaesthetic monitoring device for heart rate, drip rate and temperature. Don built the device in his home workshop. (see: NZMJ 1962, 61:219).

In September 1965 he was appointed the first medical electronics technician at Wellington Hospital.

Don became intimately involved with the early use of pacemakers and built a number of temporary units. He was involved with many of the early pacemaker implants (all but the first seven), and personally followed-up patients with implanted pacemakers for some years.

Don was involved in maintaining monitoring equipment in the cardiothoracic theatre and in the first CCU.

He designed and built the first programmable stimulator used at the hospital.

Don did pioneer work in highlighting the potential dangers of electrically-powered equipment connected to patients. He played an important part in tutoring cardiology technicians.

Under Don's leadership, a strong medical electronics department evolved. He retired in 1983.