



## Rotary Club of Wellington

### **Citation for the award of a Sapphire Pin to Paul Harris Fellow Roger Evison**

Roger was born on 3 December 1920 in Christchurch. His mother was a primary school teacher and his father was editor of the Christchurch Press. He was educated at the Beckenham primary school then at Christchurch West High School. After he completed his schooling he moved to Wellington to be with his parents there.

Roger's first employment was as a civil engineering cadet with the Wellington City Council and during his time there he studied part time at science and engineering as an undergraduate at the Victoria College of the University of New Zealand.

He enlisted in the New Zealand Army at the beginning of 1941, and served with 22 Field Company, until April 1941, then with the Engineer Training Unit in Foxton from July 1941.

He was promoted Lance Corporal, May 1941.

He transferred to the Royal New Zealand Air Force in September 1941 as a Surveyor's Assistant, and then subsequently served in the Pacific area with No.2 Heavy Construction Squadron for fifteen months.

He was promoted Corporal, February 1942, while in Fiji.

Roger returned to NZ for fifteen months service in New Zealand with the Air Force, and was also seconded at times to the Public Works Department.

He was promoted Sergeant, November 1943.

From January 1944, six months was spent in the Pacific Area on an expedition organised by the Public Works Department for the construction of radio stations and reconnaissance for an airfield.

Transferred into the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force, 25 September 1944, and commissioned with the rank of Second Lieutenant.

Embarked for overseas service 28 September 1944, and was seconded to the Royal Engineers in India. He was engaged in the construction of a large airbase near Karachi, in what is now Pakistan.

In November 1945 Roger was appointed to the rank of Major, whilst still serving in India.

He applied for release from service in England so he could pursue professional opportunities, and was released from service in England on 2 September 1946.

He worked as a structural and civil engineer with the Walton Council and after a year there moved to Mouchel Civil and Structural Engineering Group and was placed in charge of the construction of a very large power station near Brighton.

He married Pat in London on 28 August 1948 and they returned to New Zealand in 1949 to again work for the Wellington City Council until they moved to the Hawkes Bay where he worked for Hawkes Bay Asphalts. While with this firm Roger designed pile drivers Mk 1, 2, and 3 which enhanced the process and speed of building bridges.

Their first son John was born in Napier in 1952 and they moved back to Wellington in 1954 where Anne was born 1956 and Timothy in 1959.

Roger joined Ian Macallan & Co, Consulting Engineers and shortly after joining the firm Ian died and at his widow's request Roger took over and held the firm together. As lead engineer he managed some very significant projects. The second ferry terminal at Picton and the cooling tower at the Ohaaki geothermal field at Broadlands to name just a couple. The firm became a multi disciplinary consulting engineering group opening branches in Fiji and Palmerston North.

Roger is a Fellow of the Institute of Professional Engineers NZ (IPENZ)

Roger, as a member of the Wesley Social Services Trust, was the Project Managing Engineer for the Wesleyhaven Retirement Home and Hospital in Lower Hutt.

He became a member of the Rotary Club of Wellington in 1963, and is therefore the senior member, was President 1974 /75 and made a Paul Harris Fellow in 1997.

In 1994 Roger caught the Children's Day bug and his determination and tenacity during the next five years saw the day become a reality on 29 October 2000; celebrating its tenth anniversary this year.

Roger was a member of Rongotai College Board serving as chairman for several years; he has also been heavily involved at St Christopher's Presbyterian Parish at Seatoun.

A devoted and keen skier Roger was not happy on the easier well groomed fields; he preferred to become a member of the Craigieburn Valley Club with its steep slopes and basic tow ropes.

The Club has this to say about its venue:

"If you are an advanced or expert rider then Craigieburn is your holy grail"

He is a member of the "One Ski in the Grave Club". Roger skied until he was eighty six.

Roger has been an outstanding member of our community, and of our Rotary Club. We are honoured to have this opportunity to recognise in a small way his achievements by the presentation of the Sapphire Pin of the Paul Harris Fellowship.



Stephen Brown  
President