

A Tribute to Ian and Jenny McKinnon

Comments by Sir Roderick Deane on the occasion of a lunch with friends at the Wellington Club on 13 November 2019 to mark Ian's retirement from the Wellington Regional Council.

Gillian and I wanted to give this lunch to mark Ian's retirement from the role as one of our leading Regional Councillors but of more importance we wanted to pay tribute to two people who have been such wonderful leaders in our community in so many diverse and important ways.

Ian's splendid career has been marked by strong leadership and substantial contributions to our communities. But beyond that, we all think of Jenny and Ian in terms of the warm and enduring friendships we all benefit from, and the generosity of spirit and many kindnesses they bring to our lives and which are hallmarks of their lives.

For someone to have been one of the finest Headmasters of his generation, of schools as distinguished as Wanganui Collegiate and Scots College, Lower Master at Eton, and then Chancellor of Victoria University of Wellington, City Councillor and Deputy Mayor, Regional Councillor, Chairman of the New Zealand Correspondence School, Chairman of the earlier Council of the Wellington College of Education, and Member of the Wellington Club Committee no less, amounts to a wonderfully impressive array of important roles.

Ian was appropriately honoured for his outstanding achievements in these roles by being appointed a Freeman of the City of London, Companion of the Queen's Service Order and later a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit. Ian has also been a Justice of the Peace for many years.

Former pupils one encounters speak unfailingly well of Jenny and Ian, even those pupils who needed some firm guidance at times. However, their contributions stretch well beyond the formal high positions they have held and involve much day to day work within the communities they have served. It is very well illustrated by their help to refugee families in teaching them English but there are other examples too numerous to mention.

We all know what an amazing support Jenny has been to Ian. She is the most gracious and warmest of friends, kind and generous, and a hostess and cook with few equals. She cares for people and we all love her for it.

So thank you Ian and Jenny for your extensive contributions to so many causes within our communities. You are both fine new Zealanders and we are all honoured to be your friends. Can I ask you to raise your glasses to toast these two outstanding and very special friends.

Roderick Deane

13 November 2019