

## Tribute to Maurice Payes

Shalom. My name is Richard Perry, and I am the current president of the Eastern Hutt Rotary Club. I'm standing before you to pay tribute to Maurice on behalf of our club members, and to express our sincere condolences to Shirley and their family

Maurice has been a member of our club since 1975, over 40 years. Under the banner of Rotary, he has performed many acts of service and generosity to the community in which he lived

He held seven different leadership roles in the Club, before being chosen as Club President for the 1986-87 year.

He then went on to carry out Rotary responsibilities at District level. District 9940 oversees and encourages the activities of clubs from New Plymouth southwards. At that level he was involved in Rotary Foundation, which among other things raises fund worldwide for the elimination of polio and facilitates educational scholarships and exchanges. He was involved in the Vocational Service District Committee, which promotes youth and young adult leadership courses in New Zealand. In 1994 he was District Chair of Rotary's Emergency Box Scheme. This was an enterprise originated by our club and adopted nationwide by Rotary Clubs, whereby clubs funded individual boxes of tools and equipment for use by families caught up in natural disasters overseas – Thousands of boxes were created and stored at places like Whenuapai airdrome, in readiness for immediate shipment overseas when disaster struck.

Maurice also served as the District Governor's Area Representative in 1990.

In 1991 Maurice was awarded Rotary's highest honour, a Paul Harris Fellowship, in recognition of his dedicated service as a Rotarian. As one Rotary member has remarked to me, Maurice may have been a short man, but he cast a long shadow.

Maurice was a most amiable person, whose company was enjoyed by all who sat with him at our weekly meetings. He had an endless fund of jokes, and a wry sense of humour, which he exercised to the enjoyment of us all. This made him an ideal person to take up the role of Club Sergeant from time to time, whose role each week is to gently pull the leg of members who have suffered a minor embarrassment, or achieved something of note; while extracting a fine to support the charitable fundraising of the club. In this last year he was not sergeant, but was usually called upon at the end of the Sergeant's session, to produce a joke or tall story. His contribution was the icing on the cake.

Just one example of how Maurice contributed to our club, right up to the end of his days.

Recently, our club introduced a power point backdrop to our meetings, in which successive slides pop up showing our past club presidents. So we will still have Maurice's smiling face looking down on us each week.

Maurice, we will miss you. May you rest in the bosom of Abraham, and remain long in the memory of your people.

Richard Perry

14 June 2018