



**Sir John Desmond Todd KNZM, 12<sup>th</sup> February 1927-29<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

It is with great sadness that we honour and farewell Old Boy, Sir John Todd who died in July 2015 after a short illness aged 88. We were honoured to have Sir John as a Patron of the Wellesley College Foundation scholarship campaign- **Promising futures for boys** and delighted to advise that due to his generosity to the campaign, there will be a scholarship in his name- the Sir John Todd scholarship, to be awarded in 2017.

Sir John Attended Wellesley College, initially on the Terrace in Wellington from 1936 and then after its move to Days Bay in 1940 where he became a weekly boarder. He was Dux in 1943.

In 2011 after 24 years at the helm as Chair (1987-2011), Sir John retired from the Todd Corporation. The highly respected business leader was also one of the country's top philanthropists as well as a leading patron of the arts, and chairman of his family's charitable Todd Foundation.

He started his career aged 18 in 1945 at the Todd Motors Assembly Plant in Petone, and after studying accountancy and commerce at Victoria University worked his way up through the company, becoming managing director in 1968, and then Chairman until his retirement.

His family also in the 1930's established the first indigenous oil supply firm, starting with reserves imported from the former Soviet Union, and went on to join Shell and BP in discovering and exploiting the Maui Gas field. Sir John was involved in the original JV agreement to explore for gas in NZ. This resulted in the creation of a joint venture known as Shell Todd services (STOS) which employs 400 people. STOS has interests in the Kapuni, Maui, Pohokura natural gas fields in Taranaki.

For more than 60 years this partnership has defined the oil and gas sector and today continues to supply more than 70 per cent of the country's natural gas. Its interests have since been extended into onshore oil and gas production, and electricity.

Among his many positions, he was also a founding patron and trustee of the Arts Foundation and Royal NZ Ballet. Sir John also dedicated a lot of his time to charity work with the Todd Foundation, which focuses on helping children and families. Sir John said "making money is not a sin, but if you are successful you have a moral responsibility to help others."

And he lived by that.

From beginnings as a Central Otago fell mongery and wool-scouring plant, Todd Corporation has evolved into a \$3 billion conglomerate with major energy interests as well as investments in land, retirement homes and information technology.



Sir John at Wellesley's new Library opening, gifting book on the Todd Family.

Sir John is survived by his wife Lady Teena and family.