

Obituaries

It is with great sadness that we note the death of Richard Rainey who passed away in April 2017.

Richard Barton Rainey - OBE (1929-2017)

Richard Rainey died on April 14th, 2017, in his 88th year in Nelson. Richard and his wife Molly moved from Wellington to Nelson in 1957 where Richard joined the law firm Pitt & Moore. Richard loved the Nelson region and all it had to offer, professionally, musically and recreationally.

Richard had very happy memories of his school days at Wellesley, attending Wellesley on the Terrace from 1937- 1943. After Wellesley, Richard attended Wanganui Collegiate and after studying at Victoria University, Wellington, chose a legal career, following his father, John, a prominent lawyer in Wellington.



Richard was recognised as an authoritative and thoughtful lawyer and also held many other professional and community roles including being the District Inspector of Mental Health for Nelson and Marlborough, the President of the Nelson District Law Society, a council member of the NZ Law Society and chairman of the Law Practitioners Disciplinary Committee.

Richard and his wife Molly were stalwarts of the Nelson Cathedral congregation where Richard sang in the choir. He was a huge supporter of the Nelson School of Music, performed and taught there, served on the Trust from 1964 and was Chairman from 1968 to 1986.

For many years, Richard was the Chancellor of the Anglican Diocese of Nelson. He loved the outdoors including walking, tramping, climbing, cycling, squash, tennis, swimming, snow and water skiing, fishing and rowing.

The list of his interests and other public involvement goes well beyond the scope of this obituary. He was recognised for his outstanding community service and was awarded an OBE in 1991

Richard is survived by his wife Molly, his four sons Jo, Bill, Pete and Tom, and 10 grandchildren.