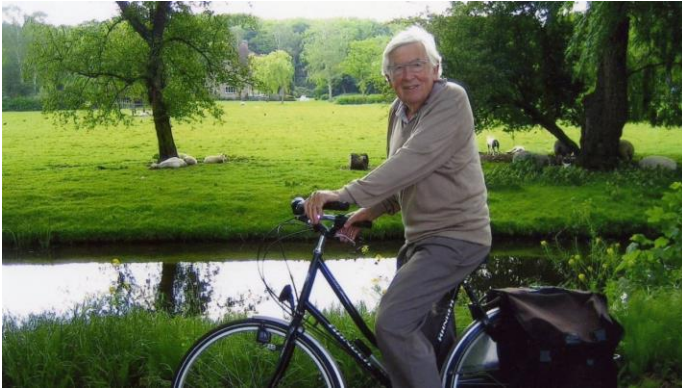


John Richmond Laurence Fry (1921–2018)



Born in England on August 31, 1921, John moved to New Zealand as child. He attended Croydon School (now Wellesley College) in Days Bay from 1933 – 1934.

John had a distinguished career in social services, and [*Their stories – our history*](#) provides a detailed account of his life.

After a period with the Merchant Navy in Europe during WW2, John enrolled in a diploma in social science at Victoria University, the country's first professional social work course.

He started his career with the Child Welfare Division of the Department of Education and in 1956 married Ruth Neligan.

John became Whakatane's first district child welfare officer, then moved to Timaru to open a new Anglican Social Services office. In 1972, he was appointed president of the New Zealand Association of Social Workers (NZASW), of which he became a life member.

In 1973, he became the first community advisor for the Christchurch City Council, where he established the Community Services Division.

Outside of social work, John had a vast volunteering record including involvement with Civil Defence, various social networks, and the Prostate Cancer Support Group. John was also was a volunteer guide at Christchurch Cathedral until the 2011 earthquakes. He was granted a Volunteer Recognition Award and was a life member of the Council of Social Services in Christchurch, and the Anglican Care Trust Board.

At the age of 80, John revisited his love of cycling. He rode his bike around the central city and Hagley Park until well into his 90s.

John passed away on September 2, 2018, aged 97. He is survived by his three children - Rachel, Juliet and David, two grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.