

Bryan Allen Bartley, 1928 – 2015

Prepared by John La Roche April 2015



Bryan Bartley, ONZM (Officer NZ Order of Merit), BE (Civil), Distinguished Fellow IPENZ, Fellow Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, and Honorary Fellow Institute of Quarrying (UK), died in Auckland on 24 March. He was farewelled at a funeral service on 30 March by large number of people from all walks of life, including those from the many professional and community organisations in which Bryan had played significant roles.

After completing his engineering degree at Auckland University in 1950, Bryan worked for Auckland City Council. Two years later he joined Winstone Ltd working in their quarries section. In 1961 he decided to go to Malaysia where he managed the Gammon Malaysia Ltd quarry for building the Kuala Lumpur Airport. In 1963 he returned to Winstone Ltd. where he was the Quarries Engineer responsible for the seven quarries owned by the company. Bryan continued at Winstone's, retiring in 1985 after 22 years' service as General Manager, Winstone Central Engineering Services.

During his time at Winstone's, Bryan had met Wellington City Council City Engineer, Jim MacDonald who had invented a rock crushing machine. Bryan persuaded Winstone's to build one and together with Jim he significantly improved the design. After Winstone's decided not to continue with the development, Bryan and Jim patented their BARMAC Rock crushing machine which crushed rock against rock and producing a range of rock sizes including regular shaped sealing chips for roading. BARMAC machines are now used worldwide with 4,500 crushers bearing the BARMAC brand along with another 1200 copy machines. Bryan and Jim won the UDC Inventors award for the BARMAC machine in 1979. Bryan was Chairman and founding member of the UK based Institute of Quarrying in New Zealand and in 1989 he became the first International President of this Institute.

Bryan was also a keen yachtsman and with John Blundell he developed and patented the Kiwiprop self-feathering propeller for racing and cruising yachts. Their propeller sells around the world and by 2010, 750 propellers a year were being manufactured.

Bryan served the Institution of Professional Engineers (IPENZ), first on the Auckland Branch Committee becoming Branch Chairman in 1977, and in 1980 serving Chair of the very successful IPENZ Conference. As an elected IPENZ Council Member, he was the Vice President for Professional Practice from 1982 to 1984 when he was responsible for the overhaul of disciplinary procedures. While a member of the IPENZ Council, he was appointed to the Council of Unitec

Institute of Technology becoming Chairman from 1990 to 1997, a period of significant growth in student and academic numbers.

Bryan was a long serving member of Auckland Civic Trust and President from 1980 to 1984. In recognition of his long service he was elected a life member. Other boards on which Bryan served were Auckland Electric Power Board, Auckland Heritage Trust, The Association of Polytechnics, the Building Research Association and the IPENZ Heritage Engineering Auckland Chapter. Here Bryan played a significant part in the writing of "Evolving Auckland – the City's Engineering Heritage", a 335 page book published in 2011. Bryan was also involved in the Inventors Club and the Mt Eden Probus Club.

Bryan was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2000 and awarded a Distinguished Fellowship of IPENZ in 2006. Bryan has achieved significant progress for many organisations, all with his characteristic quiet and unassuming modesty. With his charming wife Elaine he has made a huge contribution to the progress of our society and will be greatly missed.

Reference: Oral Interview by John Fitzmaurice November 2010