



# J R MCKENZIE TRUST

1940-2015

## 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HONOURING A LEGACY  
CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT  
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

*2015 marks the 75th anniversary of the Trust's establishment. Over this time the Trust, set up by Sir John McKenzie, has given over \$83 million to support New Zealanders in need.*





## History — Ko tō mātou whakapapa

**S**et up in 1940 by Sir John McKenzie (KBE), and continued today by his family, the J R McKenzie Trust has a long and proud history of helping to build stronger communities in New Zealand. Over the past 75 years the Trust has given over \$83 million to support New Zealanders in need.

Sir John McKenzie established the Trust by donating a third of the profits from his successful nationwide chain of department stores, McKenzies.

His strong personal belief in providing benefits and assistance to people in need was based on his own poor origins and his need 'to give something back' remained constant throughout his life and the lives of McKenzie generations to come.

In its early days the J R McKenzie Trust was one of the largest, if not the largest, non-government funder in New Zealand.

Sir John's son Sir Roy (ONZ, KBE) greatly increased the Trust's size and profile, set up several other charities, and was a major figure in New Zealand philanthropy until his death in 2007.

Over the decades the Trust has been an early supporter of many of what are now New Zealand's leading community organisations – groups such as Women's Refuge, People First, CCS Disability Action, the Stroke Foundation, Relationship Services, Rape Crisis and Age Concern. The Trust has also supported many local and ground-breaking organisations working within marginalised communities.

Our key areas of focus today are disadvantaged children and their families, and Māori development. As an independent philanthropic Trust we work with our partners across the public, private and voluntary sectors to contribute to our vision of 'A socially just and inclusive Aotearoa New Zealand'.

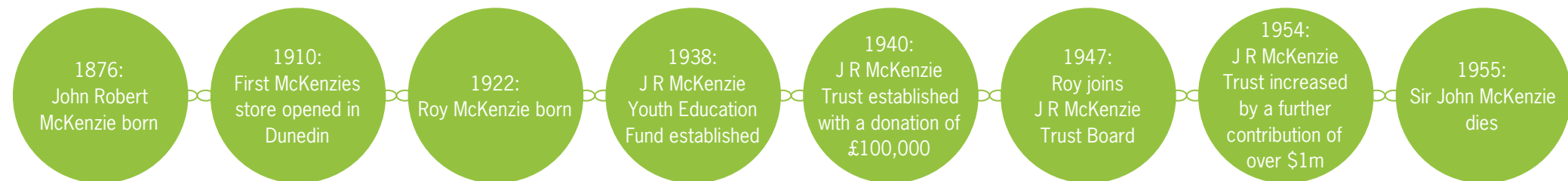
Our approach is apolitical and our focus is on building the problem-solving infrastructure of the community in a way that mobilises all its diverse parts – tackling causes, and empowering iwi/hapū and communities to work together and lead their own solutions.

In 2015 we will honour the legacy of the McKenzie family, celebrate the Trust's achievements over the past 75 years, recognise the contributions of the New Zealanders and organisations involved, and look forward to the next 75 years.



Currently the family is represented on the J R McKenzie Trust Board by cousin David Vance and Chris McKenzie, a great-grandson of the founder.

**For more information about the McKenzie family and Trust you are can visit the McKenzie Room, J R McKenzie Trust, Level 4, 116 Lambton Quay, Wellington or our website: [www.jrmckenzie.org.nz](http://www.jrmckenzie.org.nz)**



## History — Ko tō mātou whakapapa

### Sir John Robert (J R) McKenzie, 1876-1955

**S**ir John left school at the age of thirteen to deliver newspapers. When he died in 1955, he was one of New Zealand's wealthiest men.

JR to his friends, Sir John was the epitome of the self-made man - honest, hardworking and generous. A leading retailer, company director, philanthropist, Rotarian and sportsman, he contributed more than three million pounds to New Zealand charities in his lifetime.

In addition to establishing his philanthropic trusts, Sir John actively supported numerous charities and voluntary organisations. He had special concern for the needs of returned servicemen and underprivileged children, for whom he was determined to provide education opportunities that he had been denied. In his retirement he enjoyed horse breeding and harness racing at the family homestead near Christchurch. He died aged 79 in London in 1955. Twelve months later Lady May McKenzie passed away. Given her fondness for gardening, it is fitting that she is remembered with a Memorial Garden for the Blind in Wellington.



*New Zealand mourns the passing of a most generous benefactor and sportsman.*

*He was one of our finest citizens, who made an outstanding contribution in many directions to the life of our country.*

*~ Prime Minister, Rt Hon G S Holland*

1966-85:  
McKenzie  
Education  
Foundation  
established

1970:  
Sir Roy becomes  
chair of  
J R McKenzie  
Trust

1986-95:  
Roy McKenzie  
Foundation  
established

1992:  
Deaf Decade  
(later called Deaf  
Development Fund)  
established

1993:  
Sir Roy steps  
down from  
J R McKenzie  
Trust Board

2007:  
Sir Roy McKenzie  
dies

2010:  
J R McKenzie  
Trust creates new  
strategy

2014: JRMT  
receives IFIP  
award for funding  
indigenous  
development





## History — Ko tō mātou whakapapa

### Sir Roy McKenzie, 1922–2007

**W**hen Sir John passed away in 1955, Sir Roy continued the McKenzie family tradition of ‘service above self’.

He contributed to the fledgling stages of many charitable organisations, including the hospice movement, bilingual teaching, music therapy and adult education. He supported the establishment of Women’s Refuge at a time when little was understood about domestic violence. Other organisations to benefit from his active and hands-on support include: Te Ōmanga Hospice; Deaf Institute of New Zealand Trust; Ngā Manu Trust; Outward Bound Trust; NZ Council for Educational Research; Birthright; SPELD; NZ Institute of Mental Retardation; National Parks Centennial Commission; and the Rotary Club of Wellington.

In 1993 Sir Roy finally retired at the age of 70 but continued to take a very active interest in all aspects of the work of the Trust.

Sir Roy died in 2007 and Lady Shirley in 2012, leaving behind grandchildren, great grandchildren and a wonderful legacy of support for those in need. Their two sons John and Peter served on the J R McKenzie Trust Board, and other family members continue to contribute today.



*Lady Shirley McKenzie and Sir Roy McKenzie*



*Top: John and the late Peter McKenzie, Sir Roy’s sons.  
Bottom: Chris McKenzie and David Vance  
the current family members on the  
J R McKenzie Trust Board.*

*The Dominion Post editorial and obituary described Sir Roy as  
“The millionaire who mucked in”.*

