



The HAROLD HOLMES SCHOLARSHIP AWARD was set up by Rotarian Harold Holmes in 1991 when Harold established a charitable trust with \$10,000 of his own money later increasing that to \$50,000. For 21 years, the Trust operated as a separate Trust but in 2012 it was passed over to the Geyser Community Foundation to manage, retaining separate advisory Trustees who considered and chose the annual recipients. The current advisory Trustees are myself, Harold's Grandson Ryan Holmes, original Trustee Tony Hill, Paul Wilson and Geyser Trustee Kierin Irvine. Today the value of the Trust funds is around \$90,000.

As this year is the 25th Anniversary of the Scholarship we are going to spend a few minutes to recognise the work of this remarkable man - Harold Holmes.

I first met Harold in 1990 when I joined Rotorua Rotary Club and there is no question that Harold had a significant influence on me as he did to many others. His enthusiasm to get things done was infectious. Helped by the 7am wake up calls Harold epitomised the saying that "The Early Bird Catches the Worm". Major projects that I worked on with Harold on - besides the Holmes awards - were the Volcanic Playground at the lakefront – still in its original form after 20 years and the Rotary Home and Leisure Show. Harold was always looking for a project and I recall he worked hard to get a water playground up and running using geothermal heat but unfortunately he could not make that happen. I believe Harold has the record for introducing the most new members to this club. Something like 25.

I also recall the regular fishing trips with Harold that in typical Harold manner were organised with military precision.

Harold was born in England on 18th April 1915. He came to New Zealand at the age of 14 on his own under the assisted passage scheme for poor people. He had to work for two years before the Government would pay for his parents and siblings to emigrate as well. Harold spent those first two years on a farm at Kaiwaka.

Harold ended up in the RNZAF and in his son Wayne's words "they buggered his back" and he arrived in Rotorua with a desk job in 1942. In 1945 he spent 9 months in QE Hospital with a spinal injury. That was where his future wife Eileen worked.

Harold became a successful business man establishing Holmes Printing and Packaging being the forerunner of the international and local development business Holmes Group run by Harold's son Wayne and grandson Ryan. Despite the demands of running his own business Harold was always looking for new community projects, establishing the Rotorua Bloodbank, Keep Rotorua Beautiful and he was very active in Scouts and conservation and many other community initiatives.

The Harold Holmes Annual Scholarship is the brilliant initiative of Harold's that identifies and supports outstanding young leaders from our community that has worked well for 25 years and will endure permanently into the future.

P.P. Murray Patchell
16 January 2017



Trustee Ryan Holmes presenting the 2016 Harold Holmes Scholarship Award to Chantelle Cobby.



Kierin Irvine (Trustee), Allen Foote (President), Chantelle Cobby, Murray Patchell (Trustee), Ryan Holmes (Trustee).

Contributions can be made to The Harold Holmes Fund online through www.geysercf.org.nz

