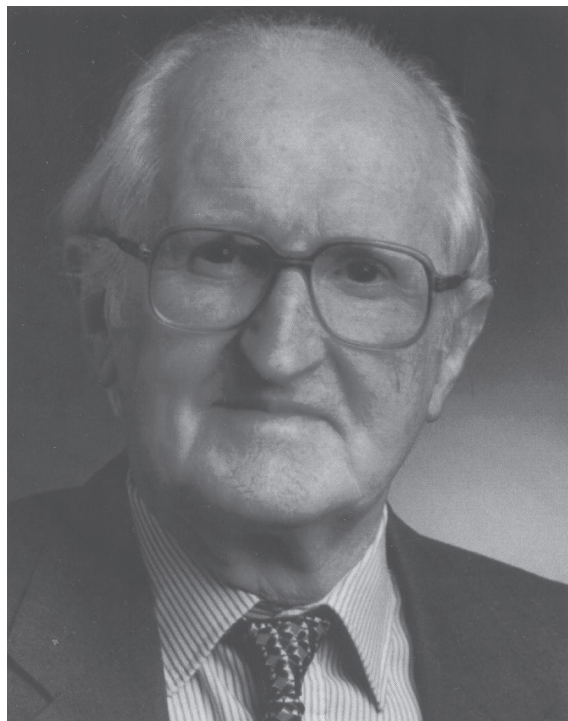


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## OBITUARY

Rowland Albert (Roy) Kennerley – 9 March 1923 - 7 January 2009



The death occurred recently at the age of 85 of Roy Kennerley, a scientist with the former Chemistry Division of DSIR. Roy was born in Carterton, gained secondary education at Levin District High School, and joined the public service as a cadet. Initially assigned to the Public Service Commission Office in Wellington, he moved to the Social Security Head Office as a clerk, and then signed up for military service in 1941. He served first with 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Regiment and then the RNZAF as a radar operator in the Solomon Islands campaign.

After the war, Roy graduated with his MSc in chemistry from Victoria University and then joined DSIR's Dominion Laboratory in 1948, where he led a research team working on the inorganic chemistry of cement and concrete. This was particularly important in the era of public works construction following WWII, when millions of tonnes of cement and concrete were used in bridges, hydro dams, airport runways, geothermal projects, and public buildings. Roy and his colleagues at DSIR's inorganic materials unit at Gracefield played a vital part in these developments, testing materials, advising cement works, and ensuring standards were drafted and complied with.

By the time Roy retired in 1983, the inorganic materials team had grown to twelve, five of whom held PhD degrees. Retirement saw Roy begin a second career - as a technical manager and consultant to the Milburn NZ Ltd. cement company from which he retired permanently in 1998.

In addition to his science, Roy Kennerley's other great interest was music. He was a church organist, teacher, accompanist, ensemble leader and conductor who set high standards. He first sang in 1949 with the Eastbourne Lyric Singers conducted by Maxwell Fernie, and later formed or led choirs at Tawa, Upper Hutt, and, more recently at Eastbourne. After studying the organ, he began a career as an itinerant church organist, accompanying church services wherever the need arose. He also performed with Schola Polyphonica and the NZSO, which he accompanied on the Wellington Town Hall organ.

Roy is survived by his wife Agnes, and a son from an earlier marriage.

Ken MacKenzie

### Help getting the message across

The British Science Media Centre has produced some one page brochures on communicating in soundbites. They have one entitled "Communicating risk in a sound bite" which can be freely downloaded at the address; [www.sciencemediacentre.org/uploadDir/admincommunicating\\_risk.pdf](http://www.sciencemediacentre.org/uploadDir/admincommunicating_risk.pdf)

A second is entitled "Communicating uncertainty in a sound-

bite", available at the address [www.sciencemediacentre.org/uploadDir/adminuncertainty\\_in\\_a\\_soundbite.pdf](http://www.sciencemediacentre.org/uploadDir/adminuncertainty_in_a_soundbite.pdf)

They also have a tips brochure for working with the media. Some of this is less relevant to New Zealand but still has helpful suggestions. It can be found at the address; [www.sciencemediacentre.org/uploadDir/admintop\\_tips.pdf](http://www.sciencemediacentre.org/uploadDir/admintop_tips.pdf)