

Dr Roderick Deane,

Telecom chairman, to Reginald (Reg) Roderick Deane (Chief Executive), general manager of the Wairarapa Electric Power Board and president of the Electrical Supply Authorities.

My dear Dad,

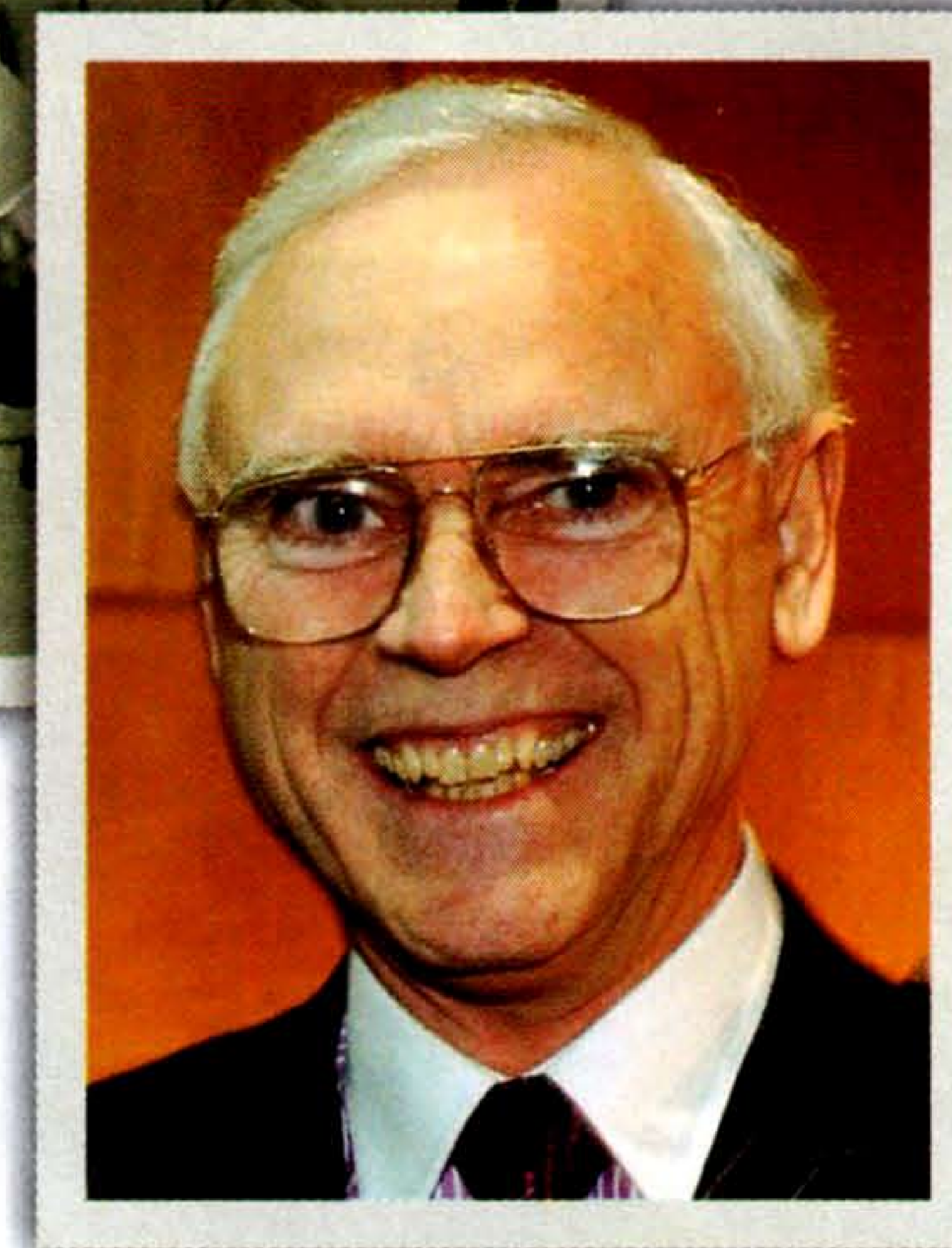
It is seven months since you left us and now we have the first Father's Day that we will not share in 63 years.

On your birthday recently, Gillian and I decided to go to St Paul's while we were in London to give thanks for your life. I dressed in my suit and tie for you, an unfashionable thing to do these days. This gave us the special attention of the ushers and great seats in the front row. We knew you would be pleased.

Two strong-minded males in a family were always going to find things to debate, sometimes vigorously. You were always so strict and insistent on modesty that I was touched to find all the carefully filed newspaper cuttings you had kept about me.

When I prepared your eulogy, I thought of my friend Robert Putman's writings on social capital. It reminded me of how many professional and community organisations you had belonged to and helped, and how people like you underpinned the strong and positive networks in our society. When you left us, everyone spoke of the respect they held for you and of your great integrity.

Thank you for all your love and support and wonderful organisational skills. We realised how the war years must have been so lonely and difficult, and I found this stranger who returned took much more of my mother's time than I was accustomed to for the years you were away. It was



a long time later that I realised the full import of you being the only person in your training group of eight who returned home. And I will always remember how important it must have been to the families of the others that you visited them on your return.

You took me to numerous hockey games throughout Taranaki, when you had no interest in this sport. On the other hand, you taught Jill and me to swim and surf, and together we loved the beaches and forming our family relay team. You were determinedly, endlessly, helpful in planning in great detail my courses at university and my first jobs. I was the great beneficiary of all of this.

You and my much loved mother gave Jill and me a framework within which to live our lives and follow our dreams.

Our memories of you will always be memories of a caring and loving husband, a devoted father and grandfather, something of a family patriarch, a chief executive, a community spirited citizen, a strong Christian, keen sportsman, and, as so many people who cared for you in your last year or two said to me, a real gentleman.

With love,
Roderick