

Sir Michael Fowler

School House 1943–1947 College No. 5193



Sir Edward Michael Coulson Fowler KBE, FNZIA

Sir Michael is an eminent New Zealand architect, artist, author and politician who served as Mayor of Wellington for a decade.

Born in Marton on 19 December 1929, he boarded at Christ's College where he relished every opportunity, loved gymnastics and won four boxing blues. His passion for drama, art and design led him to complete a Master of Architecture at Auckland University. He started his professional career in London in 1954, returning to New Zealand in 1957 where he worked in his own practice.

As well as architecture, he wrote and illustrated several books, painted in watercolours, and won three three-year contiguous terms as Mayor of Wellington from 1974–1983. His progressive social and urban changes for the city incurred significant political controversy. However, his impact was widely regarded as being transformational, greatly enhancing the liveability of the capital.

He was knighted in 1981 and the Sir Michael Fowler Centre, Wellington's principal concert performance hall ,was opened in 1983 and named in his honour.

