



Roy Hunter Stevenson was born in Wellington 17 July 1893, the only son of engineer John Stevenson and Mary nee Hunter. He was educated at Otago Boys' High School, attended commerce classes at Otago University, and began work for his father's firm, Dunedin Engineering & Steel Co. From 1916 to 1919 he served with the NZ Engineers. While in camp in Christchurch, before going overseas, he married Alicia (Lissa) Howes, on 17 January 1917.

Immediately after the war Roy Stevenson studied steel processing at Sheffield University, before returning to Dunedin to take over the management of the family firm. Obviously the firm prospered and provided the family with the means with which to become major philanthropists in Dunedin.

Lissa and Roy had two daughters and one son. The family lived in Alton Avenue in the house which later became La Scala. The Stevensons soon became involved in many charitable organisations, and frequently opened their home for fund-raising occasions, even when their children were small. During the Depression Lissa Stevenson helped many needy families with food and clothes. She was also interested in the Red Cross, Cancer Society, Girl Guides, Rachel Reynolds Kindergarten, and many

other organisations. Because of her support, a ward at the Salvation Army's Redroofs Maternity Hospital was named after her.

Roy Stevenson was an executive member of the RSA, SPCA, Crippled Children's Society, Tuberculosis Association, Old people's Welfare Council, Empire Cancer Campaign Society, national Society on Alcoholism, YMCA, YWCA, and Dunedin Public Art gallery, and he served on the committees of over 30 other organisations. As well as organising appeals, he made many personal donations. In 1955 he was made MBE for his philanthropic work and he was knighted in 1961.

Both Sir Roy and Lady Stevenson were particularly interested in the Foundation for the Blind, and travelled to Australia to investigate the training of guide dogs and the production of talking books so that these services could be introduced to New Zealand.

Sir Roy died in Gisborne on 10 May 1963, after which Lady Stevenson continued supporting many of the causes they had adopted, until her death in Dunedin on 17 April 1975.

Both Roy and Lissa are buried in Dunedin's Andersons Bay Cemetery and commemorated with a simple headstone.