



## NEWSLETTER

No. 184

FEBRUARY 2015

A very Happy New Year everyone - may 2015 be everything you want it to be and more!

### **71<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and DINNER**

This year's AGM will be on **Saturday 14 March** at the Otago Bridge Club in Otaki Street, Dunedin. Following the meeting, two of our up and coming paralympians (see Here & There page 2) will face an intrepid interviewer, with dinner following at approximately 6 p.m. An excellent menu with a wide choice of mains and desserts will cost just \$20 pp, the Society subsidising the actual cost of \$28 and providing liquid refreshments. Raffles will be run to cover some of our expenses and donations of raffle prizes being most welcome. There's plenty of parking at the Bridge Club but get in touch if you need transport. Please give this occasion your support - complete the enclosed form (back page) and return it by Saturday 7 March. Payment for the dinner prior to the 14 March would be appreciated.

Included with this newsletter is the Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2014. The Financial Statements will be tabled and available at the AGM, but let me know if you would like a copy sent.

### **M**EMBERSHIP

As at the end of December our membership was 232 - down on the previous year, due mainly to non-payment of subs which resulted in names being deleted from our membership database. Currently there are again a large number of members who haven't paid a sub for 2014 and if this applies to you, there'll be a red dot at the top of this page. To bring this up to date, you can either send me a cheque, pay direct into our bank account (see back page), or pay on your next visit to the Limb Centre. A reminder too that spouses/partners are most welcome to join as Associate Members. In an effort to boost our numbers, this newsletter is being sent to "unfinancial" members and also, with assistance from the Limb Centre, to those who have never belonged to our Society. We do encourage you to rejoin or join. However, if you do not wish to join, please let us know - we won't then trouble you again and it will save on our postage.

### **O**BITUARIES

We have recorded with regret the passing of Helen Dawson of Invercargill, Fred Anderson of Wanaka (a member since 1968), Nancy Munro of Dunedin (formerly of Oamaru), and Doug Findlater of Dunedin. Our sympathy has been extended to the families of these members.

### **N**EW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to Robert Kinney of Omakau and Jamie Coombes of Dunedin. We look forward to catching up with you at our gatherings.

### **I**NVERCARGILL CLINIC

Thursday 9 April is the date tentatively set for the next Limb-fitter's Clinic at Kew Hospital. This is an opportunity for you to consult a limb-fitter if you have minor problems or repairs, without having to travel to Dunedin. If you wish to attend, ring Sue at the Limb Centre on 0508-474-474.

## **D**ISABILITY EQUIPMENT EXPO

For those interested, this is taking place at the Edgar Stadium in Dunedin on Tuesday 3 March at 9 am till 2 pm. On display will be all kinds of equipment for those with disabilities, e.g. wheelchairs, shower stools, stairlifts, portable ramps, walking frames, mobility scooters, hoists, daily living equipment, pressure mattresses, standing frames, vehicle modifications, etc. etc. Check out the website for more details [www.showyourability.co.nz](http://www.showyourability.co.nz)

## **H**ERE & THERE

**Thank you** to members and supporters who donated towards the raffles at our meeting in Invercargill and our end-of-year barbecue in Dunedin. These raised a total of \$155 and helped offset expenses on those occasions. Our numbers were down at the Invercargill meeting and dinner, probably due in part to the atrocious weather conditions that day but those who were able to make it enjoyed each other's company.

**The Multisports, Golf and Barbecue** all took place during the weekend 8/9 November and the combining of these events is certainly the way to go, with good numbers taking part. Winner of the Multisports trophy was Jamie Coombes (one of our new members) and the golf winners were CAA Cup - Jamie, Runner-up Trophy - Rory McSweeney, Colin Lawrence Trophy - Peter Mortimer, and Supporters Trophy - Jason Little. Many thanks to Tony Wilson for organising the golf and to Rod Oakley for overseeing the clay target shooting.

**Congratulations** to our young achievers: Anna Grimaldi set a NZ paralympic record in the long jump at the Caledonian Ground in November when her 4.96m jump shattered the existing record by 12cm. The final track and field meeting in December saw Rory McSweeney enhance his ranking of 7th in the world with a throw of 46.58m in the javelin event para F44 grade. Holly Robinson, a silver medallist at the world paralympic championships in 2013, showed good early-season form by achieving a distance of 32.08m. Holly is ranked second internationally in the F46 grade with a distance of 35.57m.

**Hot News** - Check out the Latest News on the Federation's website ([www.af.org.nz](http://www.af.org.nz)) and take the *Stuff* link under "Artificial Arms Helping to Build Big Muscles" to see a video of Holly and Anna showing their skills. Good stuff indeed!

**Golf Cart** - A reminder that our golf cart at the 12 Oaks Golf Course in Mosgiel is available to all members. If you wish to use it, please phone Tony Wilson to make arrangements (455-8426).

**Committee Meetings** - Members are welcome to join us at the Otago Bridge Club rooms. Forthcoming meetings are scheduled for Wednesdays 4 February and 11 March at 7.30 pm.

**Taxi Vouchers** - A reminder that Otago members can contact me for vouchers which entitle you to a 50% discount on taxis. Southlanders who would like taxi vouchers need to complete an initial application form available from Maurice & Mavis Elford (phone 215-6715). Once on the register, you then need to contact Lisa Griffiths at the Invercargill City Council (211-1777) for your supply of vouchers. Note that Total Mobility taxi vouchers can be used anywhere in NZ, even in those cities such as Auckland which use swipe cards.

**Photos** taken by Jane Smith at our functions can be viewed on Otago/Southland's page on the Federation's website [www.af.org.nz](http://www.af.org.nz).

**Changed or Changing your Address?** Don't forget to let me or Sue at the Limb Centre know.

**Newsletters** - An increasing number of members now receive their newsletters by email. If you would like to be included, tick the box on the form (back page).

**Facebook** - Have you "Liked" us on FB yet? Go to our website [www.af.org.nz](http://www.af.org.nz) and click on our name to LIKE us!

**OUR VISITORS** - Get in touch if you would like a visit or just a chat.

Dunedin and Districts - Lorraine Peacock 455-6347, Tony Horsfall 453-1261, and  
Rory McSweeney 027 264 0305

Invercargill - David Johnston 214-1548 and Alice Smith 216-4271

Gore - Bill Lee 203-8263

Oamaru - Jan Browne 439-5543

Lakes District - Tetli Carey 409-0484

## **AMPUTEE SOCIETY OF OTAGO AND SOUTHLAND INC.**

### **ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014**

Another year is behind us. The loss early in the year of one of our valued committee members, Evan Mitchell, was a shock to us all and I would ask you all to have a moment's reflection on his life and that of others who have passed away recently.

The Society is grateful for the support of our sponsors, with grants from the Invercargill Licensing Trust, NZ Lottery Grants Board, the Otago Community Trust and Pub Charity. Also many thanks to all members for their donations and support through raffles at our various functions.

We appreciate also the support of our auditors, Crowe Horwath.

Those who attended the AGM in March were privileged to hear Professor Dirk De Ridder, Head of Dunedin's Neurosurgery Research Unit, speaking about the various levels of phantom pain and methods of treatment.

The Balclutha dinner was well attended and this function will be known in future as Evan Mitchell's Celebratory Dinner - a fitting memorial for Evan who would attend committee meetings come hell or high water.

Our Invercargill meeting had a disappointing turnout which can only be blamed on the terrible weather of rain and hail. Many thanks to David and Vonnie for their organisational skills which made the day a success under the most difficult conditions.

The multisports and annual BBQ was well attended and very successful - long may it continue.

Our congratulations must go to our athletes who have performed exceptionally well this past year with some breaking New Zealand records. Our continued support for our young stars must be a priority in order to foster their development.

Our committee is always vigilant in recruiting new members who need to be reassured that they always have our support through their early and sometimes traumatic days of transition. Many are unsure of what the future holds for them.

The upcoming National Conference in Wellington in April this year promises to be a highlight of our calendar and I urge everyone who is able to attend to do so.

I thank you all for attending this AGM and wish you well for the coming year.

Tony Horsfall  
President

## **OUR GRANTS**

Applications are invited for grants from the following funds:

**Meffan and Pankhurst Funds** - Welfare grants up to a maximum of \$300 in any one year are available to members to help improve independence and quality of life. Some examples of purposes for which grants can be made are: health and medical services; subsidising of travel over and above taxi vouchers; the cost of hiring a mobility scooter; home comforts, e.g. wood, coal etc; equipment which will assist independence and/or mobility.

**Coyle Young Achievers' Fund** - Grants up to \$500 in any one year are available to young people up to the age of 30 to help with cultural and sporting interests and hobbies. Young people are encouraged to get in touch with the Coordinator or a Committee member to discuss possibilities.

**Application Forms** for all grants are available from the Coordinator and will be considered by the Finance Sub Committee after the closing date of 31 May. Applicants must have been a financial member of the Society for at least two years and, if successful, grants will be paid only upon the supply of a quote or invoice, with payment made to the service provider. Note that it is our policy that grants will not exceed the interest earned on our investments in any one year.

**COME AND JOIN US ON SATURDAY 14 MARCH**

**Fill in the form on the back of this page**

**USE THIS FORM TO SAY YOU'LL BE AT THE AGM  
AND/OR PAY YOUR SUBSCRIPTION**

	Yes	No	Number Attending
I will be present at the AGM and Dinner on 14 March	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Payment to cover the following can either be made by cheque (made out to the Amputee Society of Otago & Southland Inc.) or by direct credit to our bank account 031355 0277644 00. If paying by direct credit, please detail your name and what the payment covers, e.g. dinner/sub/donation etc. Receipts will be sent out with the next newsletter.

Dinner (\$20 per person)	\$ .....
Membership subscription (\$10)	\$ .....
Associate Membership for spouse/partner (\$10)	\$ .....
Donation (Donations over \$5 are tax deductible)	\$ .....
Total	\$ .....

Name .....

(Include name of spouse/partner if subscribing as an Associate Member)

Address .....

Phone .....

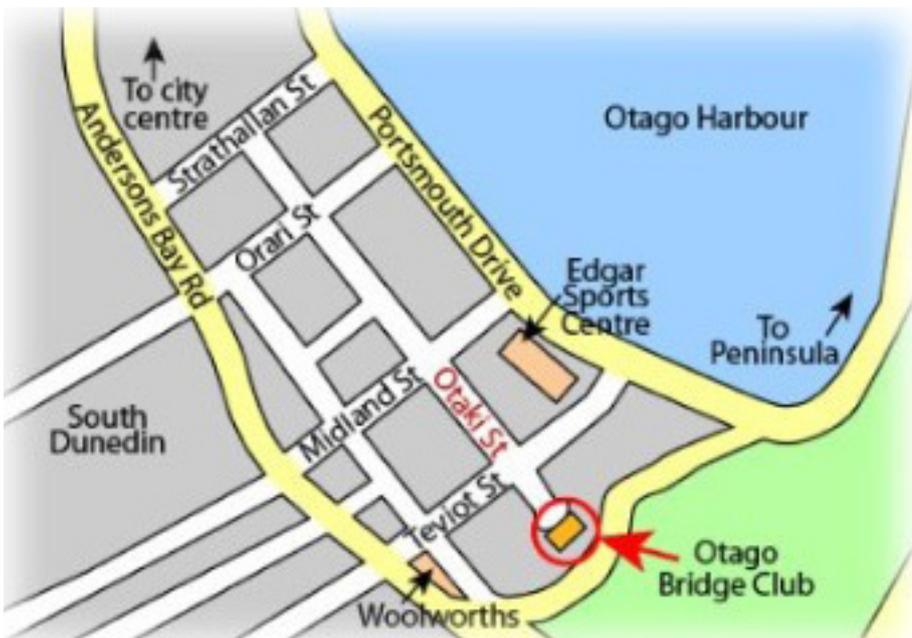
Email .....

(Please tick the box if you would like to receive your newsletters by email)

If paying by cheque, return with form to Lorraine at 213a Bay View Road, St Clair, Dunedin 9012

If you are receiving this Newsletter with an invitation to Join or Rejoin and no longer wish to receive this correspondence, please tick this box and return to the Coordinator at 213a Bay View Road, St Clair, Dunedin 9012

**VENUE FOR AGM - SATURDAY 14 MARCH**



From the city, drive along either Andersons Bay Road or Portsmouth Drive  
Turn into Teviot Street and then into Otaki Street