



MAY 2014 Newsletter

We hope this newsletter finds you in good health, fit and well. After a summer of very mixed weather I'm hoping for a mild winter to finish off all the outdoor jobs I promised I'd complete over summer (but never got around to..)

It's been a busy few months within our Society which includes the recent resignation of Jon our President, followed by our SGM (special general meeting) which saw changes to our committee appointments.

Some of you may not be aware but Jon recently left the Wellington area after he married Debbie and they moved to Napier due to her work. I would personally like to thank Jon for the work he did as our President. He was one of the motivational forces behind the resurrection of our Society eighteen months ago so I hope he continues his good work and joins the Hawke's Bay Society as he will be a great asset to them.

Recent Meeting

On Saturday 10th May 2014 we held a SGM at the Wellington Limb Centre where the following people were appointed or reconfirmed in their executive and or committee roles.

President: Kate Horan

Vice President: Ken TeTau

Secretary: Juanita Penhey

Committee: Graeme Bell, Jenny Thompson, Don Millward, Mary Humphreys.

At the meeting we drew our Easter raffle that we had been selling at the Limb Centre. Firstly I would like to thank the Limb Centre and in particular Michi for displaying the raffle, selling tickets and getting the basket delivered to the winner (without your help we wouldn't have sold nearly as many tickets as we did). We are pleased to announce the winner is **Margaret Keigan of Totara Park**, Upper Hutt. We hope you enjoy your basket of goodies.

Meet a Committee member

While on the subject of the meeting and appointments I would like to introduce this month's Meet a Member, our new Vice President 'Ken Te Tau'. Welcome Ken!

Ken Te Tau - Vice President - Amputee Society of the Greater Wellington Region Inc.

Ngāti Kahungunu me Rangitāne ki Wairarapa, Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Ue-Pohatu, Ngāti Porou,

Kia ora everyone. As of Saturday 10 May, I am your newly elected Vice President, filling the vacant role left by our previous VP (Kate the *bikie* Horan) who was duly elected and seen riding valiantly into the vacant President postion. Congratulations and a lovely fresh laurel to Kate our new President.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Jon Fitzpatrick who has stepped down as President of our society for all his hard work and dedication over the last year or so. He has been and is an amazing advocate for our amputee community. *Kia pai te huarahi kei mua i tō aroaro e hoa (may the road before you be gracious to you my friend).*

Well who am I? As you can probably tell I'm a cheeky Māori boy, born and bred in Porirua. I grew up in Titahi Bay. I was born with a congenital issue in both feet which required multiple surgeries during my early childhood which ended up being somewhat semi successful. Well fast forward to 45 years later, married with 4 kids and a lifetime of mischief and misadventure, I had totally thrashed and trashed my left ankle to the point of "no amount of surgery's gonna fix that boy." (well not those exact words from the paediatric surgeon) He suggested that I consider hacking off the aforementioned limb to alleviate the excruciating pain, get me out of the wheelchair and upright on a shiny new robot leg... it was a no brainer.

It's been 5 years and a bit since I awoke on the hospital bed minus my left leg below the knee, but wow! what a journey... but seriously folks it ain't easy! It's been literally one tiny small step at a time, but thankfully with the help and amazing support from all the staff at The Wellington Limb Centre, from whānau and friends I've been able to continue to entertain and wow audiences locally and globally with my band "The Pink Floyd Experience". (*That's me on the left trying to be a Rockstar*)



We at Amputee Society of the Greater Wellington Region are ordinary run-of-the-mill people just like you from all backgrounds and all walks of life looking to live our lives with purpose and meaning, encouraging all amputees to be all that they can be limited only by the stuff that we can dream up, (I am currently painting the outside of my house and can often be seen balancing precariously on a wooden plank). We all have our own personal and valuable experiences as amputees that can be shared and relayed to others, to exhort, to urge fellow amputees to know that we are all have immeasurable value coupled with a can do anything attitude be it in our homes, our workplaces or communities. So what's your story? what's your song? I would love to hear from you. Nō reira koutou mā tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.

Thanks Ken, for sharing your story we are very fortunate to have you onboard as our new vice president and of course very cool to have a 'rockstar' amongst our midst!

Of Interest

I was recently made aware via Facebook and the NZ Paralympics site of an amazing young girl “Paddy Walsh” who like myself was born without a fibula and subsequently became an amputee. Paddy featured on the Seven Sharp TV program and I was blown away by her attitude and determination. Her goal of raising awareness for amputees less fortunate than herself, in countries that have little access to limbs is highly commendable and one that I’d love to get behind!

I’m sure Paddy’s name is one we will hear more of, to find out more about her and her goal go to the following site:

<http://tvnz.co.nz/seven-sharp/little-girl-mission-help-other-children-missing-limbs-video-5973832>

Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences go out to Erica Tenquist and family who recently lost her husband John. Erica and John were wonderful hosts when we had a meeting late last year in the sunny Wairarapa.

Quotes (My favourites of the month)

The greater the obstacle, the more glory in overcoming it.”
— Molière

“Overcoming procrastination is not, I repeat, not about cramming additional work into your day . . . overcoming procrastination is about simplifying your life to make space for the activities that matter most.”

— Richie Norton

Upcoming events

I would like to see our Society become more active and there are many of you with very interesting back grounds and stories to tell. I just start to get into some of these interesting stories when I get reminded we are actually at a meeting and now is not the time to talk about them. However I would love to hear these stories and more about our members. As amputees we have a lot to offer each other in sharing our experiences of life as an amputee.

Would you like to come along for an informal ‘meet and greet’ perhaps over a cake and café at a café? Date and time to be confirmed.

I am including in the sub form a place for you to express your interest so we can arrange a catch-up amongst us!

Subs

It is that time of the year again and subs are due; the last page of this newsletter contains a simple form to complete and return to us. Could you please update any information you wish us to have and please indicate your preferences with regard to a social gathering in the future.

President's note

I was recently appointed as our President and I'm delighted to be in this role and to be given the opportunity to work with both the committee and you as members. I hope that I can serve our Society well and will endeavour to do my best. I am new to this type of role but hope to find my feet soon (excuse the pun, haha)

If you are interested in becoming a committee member or would like to have a chat about our Society or amputee matters, feel free to contact me on 237 7500 or email me at katedhoran@gmail.com

Warm Regards
Kate Horan

Membership Sub form

Name:

Address:

Please tick a box to indicate your preferred method of communication:

Electronic Normal Mail Phone

Subscription for year ended 30 November 2014 (\$5)

Donation (Amounts over \$5 are tax deductible)

Total enclosed \$.....

Or you can pay direct to the Society's bank account 030547 0712589 00

Please identify with your name.

Are you interested in an informal social gathering? Yes No

Please update any new details:

Home phone:

Mobile:

Email:

Please return via post to: Amputee Society of the Greater Wellington Region Inc
40 Kahurangi Heights
Aotea
Porirua 5024

Or fill it out, scan and email it to: blithey@hotmail.com

Thank you very much.