

# Newsletter May/June 2018



As this is being written, it is hard to believe that we are supposedly well into Autumn. Who said there is no such thing as climate change/global warming.

Below we have two reports submitted from some attendees at recent annual conference, which was held in Wellington.

## 72<sup>nd</sup> National Council Meeting and Opening of the 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference 2018

Held at the Brentwood Hotel in Kilbirnie Wellington 20-22 April

Acting President David Johnston welcomed Paul Eagle the Member of Parliament for Rongotai. Paul welcomed everyone in attendance and gave respects to the fallen for the upcoming ANZAC day and then spoke of the changes and great facilities that Wellington could offer for people living with disabilities, then followed by officially opening the Conference weekend.

The Greater Wellington Regional Society sung a Waiata in response.

The business end was underway and Wally spoke of the CCS merger and read Mark Bruce's Presidents report in his absence, Treasurers report was given by Lorraine Peacock and a Notice of Motion to change some rules has been put together by the solicitor in Section 2 of the constitution.

The Patron and Vice Patrons were re-elected.

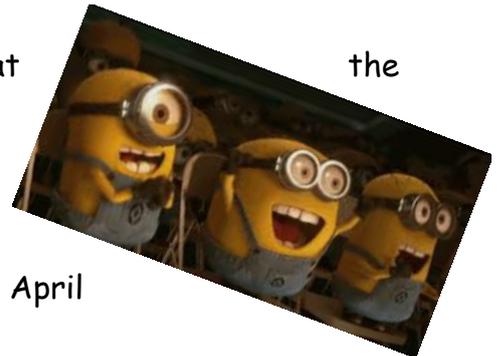
Ken Te Tau spoke of the new disabled toilet that they rallied for in the Wellington Airport.

David Johnstone spoke of the 30% increase to the Amputee Federation website and also gave information on cheaper software and computers for the use of Charitable organisations. This being Tech Soup.

Lee Cook spoke of a recent CBD build in Hamilton that had not allowed for any disabled access upstairs, the build was < 18 months old.

A membership and vote number was discussed from the floor although could not make any changes as this needs to be done in writing prior with a remit forwarded earlier.

A special award to Wally Garrett was presented for Life Membership and the acknowledgment of the many years of service to amputees. Ken



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Te Tau presented Wally with a Pounamu honouring his service. Well done Wally.

At the conclusion of the meeting, it was confirmed that next years conference will be held in Dunedin, a tartan theme to follow suit. So, dust off your Kilt, and start eating your porridge in preparation for the 75th anniversary of the Otago/Southland Amputee Society.



A wee beautiful birthday cake was also presented to Matilda from the GIAG crew followed by singing Happy Birthday.

Bevan Joyce

Note from Editor : Apparently we learnt that Bevan's real name is actually

Aunty Bevan.....

Upcoming dates for meetings and venues are as follows:

21 July - NP Club at 11am

18 August - Pioneer Village Stratford at 11am

15 September - NP Club at 11am

"The injured runner is like a recent amputee victim, continually forgetting that the limb isn't there, crestfallen at each realization. What we need more than anything is a suitable prosthetic and an attitude adjustment." - Lauren Fleshman

As everyone knows Wellington can't be beaten on a beautiful day. We were very lucky to have 3 days of gorgeous weather from 20-22 April. We stayed at the Brentwood in Kilbirnie.

Friday night was the usual meet and greet and Election of National Representatives. Our own Wally Garrett was awarded Life Membership to the Amputee Federation for service rendered. We were all proud of him.

As usual there were a couple of options for a bus tour on Saturday morning. We opted to go to Te Papa and were inspired and moved by the Gallipoli Exhibition. It was so lifelike and poignant and the timing couldn't have been better with Anzac coming up a few days later.

Half the group elected to go to Zealandia, a native bird sanctuary. The positive comments afterwards have made it a place for us to visit when in Wellington next.

After lunch the business end of the weekend started with speakers and sponsors.

I personally, was particularly impressed by 2 sessions. Firstly, Janette Searle spoke about recycling spare limbs and equipment overseas to India and The Pacific where there was an ever-growing need. This was inspiring and leaves us with a mission to collect in any surplus so it can be recycled.

The second speaker I want to mention is Paula Tesoriero, Disability Rights Commissioner. She was very eloquent when talking about her role and the sharp learning curve she has had over the last 10 months. It was interesting to hear about the UN coming to do a check on our current status in New Zealand in supporting people with disabilities. According to her data we are doing poorly and it is not surprising to hear this when we have all heard many stories about poor access in the public areas as well as in housing delays in modifications.

Saturday night was time to mingle and dance to the band 'First Day Covers.' It was an island theme. We enjoyed the meal and the music with many of us dancing happily.

An enjoyable gathering in Wellington had by all. Now we're saving our pennies to go to Dunedin for their 75<sup>th</sup> Celebration and Conference in 2019. Am trying to find my tartan for the occasion.  
Anne Fromont



## A Chance to hear the Take My Hand story

We've been really fortunate to be invited to participate and speak at several conferences and gatherings lately.

Last Saturday (21 April) TMH told our story at the [Amputee's Federation](#) Annual Conference. The Federation is the national body for the various Amputee Society's around the country. They're an awesome and inspiring group of people who have a focus on supporting and promoting the welfare of amputee's in our country.

The speaker on just before us was Melissa Noonan, the CEO from [Limbs 4 Life](#) in Australia. They are an organisation that provides peer support programmes and mentoring for amputees across Australia. Melissa told her story, and the story of how Limbs for Life came about. Wow .... just wow! What an amazing, inspiring, passionate, energetic woman, and what a brilliant thing she and her team too.

We were thrilled to be involved in the conference and honoured that they wanted to hear our story. Thanks Amputee Federation for the invitation.

Next Month (5th of May) the University of Auckland, [Social Innovation New Zealand](#) are hosting their 2018 Conference.

TMH will be on a panel with [oDocs](#), [Kidscoin](#) and TRA talking about social innovation and technology. The conference looks fascinating so if you are in Auckland get a long!

And if you can't get along but want to hear our story, you can check out the [TedX Auckland talk that Janette did in 2015](#).

Posted on 22nd April 2018 by admin

