



Amputee  
Society  
of Waikato, Bay of Plenty  
& Districts Inc.

## Committee

Waikato, Bay of Plenty & Districts Incorporated

President - Lee Cook - Hamilton

Vice President - Ruthie Coltrane - Hamilton

Secretary - Jill Moody - Hamilton

Funding Officer - Vikki Robinson- Cambridge

Committee member - Matt Bryson, Edgecumbe

Committee member - Jean Cave, Hamilton

Committee member - Joan Blake, Hamilton

Contact

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*We are seeking new committee members to join us in the creation of inspiring, informative, connecting and educational forward thinking initiatives.*



**Amputee  
Society**  
of Waikato, Bay of Plenty  
& Districts Inc.

## Our Supporters

our grateful thanks to all of the organisations below for their  
generous support over the years.

You make a significant difference to our Society.



**Norah Howell  
Charitable Trust**





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## Our Mission

"Information, support and well-being for those affected by amputation"

## Our Area



# Our Field Officer

Kerry Wilfred-Riley



*article coming soon*

# Our adventures

As one of those organisers of the 2018 Amputee snow trip, it was an absolute blast.

We all had such a fantastic time. Many amputees that came on the trip had never tried snowboarding or skiing before.

We all challenged ourselves on the snow.

We compared our legs with each other, gave advice about our legs and sockets etc.

We all meet new amputees who came from all over New Zealand. With your support this could not happen.

Thank you so much New Zealand Community Trust and thank you Outi [Adaptive Instructor] and the instructors.

We look forward to next year.

Regards

Matthew Bryson



*"The Amputee Ski Trip changed my life. My right hand and foot are missing and my left leg ends at the knee. I never knew I could snowboard and now ....."*

Thank you very much to our sponsors, New Zealand Community Trust.

The Amputee Ski Trip changed my life. My right hand and foot are missing and my left leg ends at the knee. I never thought I could snowboard and now that I know I can I am excited for many more trips to the slopes in the future!

Thank you!

Dan

What an amazing weekend up north with such a phenomenal group of people! Thank you so much for the invite on the Amputee Snow Trip 2018.

Special thanks to the fabulous Sandy and her team at Snowy Waters accommodation in Raetihi (highly recommended).

Also a huge thanks to Outi the Adaptive instructor up at Turoa for keeping us organised and helping!

Finally a big shout out to the [Amputee] Waikato Society and NZ Community Trust for supporting this epic trip getting like minded people together for skiing fun times.

I can't wait until next year!

Emma

Big thanks to all the fantastic people/businesses who sponsored our trip and made it all possible.

Snow boarding was a new experience for me, one that I hope to master in future years.

Ben

## Thank you to our sponsors NZ Community Trust

I've worked as a ski buddy and adaptive ski instructor throughout Europe before moving over to New Zealand in 2016. When I heard about the ski trip Matt was organising last year I was super keen to get involved. After seeing all the effort he put in single-handedly last year I thought he could do with a bit of extra help, even just to share ideas, for this year's trip. Although last year's trip went really well and we had a good group of amputees and helpers, there were a few things Matt and I felt could be improved. For one the MYAC hut up the mountain was good for access however, having hanging triple bunks probably wasn't the best idea for some of the amputees! It also meant that if the weather was not good there was little to do up the mountain as an alternative to skiing. This year we chose Snowy Waters Ski Lodge in Raetihi, near Ohakune. Sandy, the hostess, was fantastic and was very accommodating with all of our needs. She even woke up at 5am to make a full English breakfast for the hungry troops! We have already locked in the same accommodation for next year since it was such a perfect location which suited everyone's needs. It also has capacity for 28 sleepers and we have committed to fill the space so it looks like the group will be expanding further for next year. There were many new faces this year and a much more diverse group than last year. People came from all over the North Island and it was nice to hear the different stories as to how people heard about the trip and what their aspirations for adaptive skiing were. One person in particular, Dan Ajello, was set on snowboarding as a triple amputee. He had a very clear motive which meant that he would have to walk around on his stumps all day when he wasn't on the board! Amazingly his tenacity pulled off and he was able to ski from the top of the Giant chair lift down to the bottom by the end of his first day ever snowboarding. Matt has been great to work with throughout the whole process. He is very organised and it has been a pleasure supporting him with this event. I look forward to organising next year's event with him and carving up some powder on the slopes with him again. I also want to thank the Amputee Society Waikato, Bay of Plenty & Districts Inc; the NZ Community Trust (for their generous funding); and Outi, our Adaptive Instructor, for all of their help in making this event a success. Couldn't thank you guys more for your help and support of this year's amputee ski trip. Seems to keep growing each year and looking forward to more fun and frolics next year

Mark MacIntosh - Physiotherapist



# Membership

being part of a phenomenal community!

"information, support and well-being for those affected by amputation".

We'll provide you with information that inspires, informs, that gives you handy hints to assist you in your daily life, guides you through challenges, makes you laugh now and again, keeps you in touch with what's happening in the community, with advances in technology, with what adventure or event or social gathering is planned next and when, shares with you the stories of others in the community and connects you with them - if you want to be connected.

There is so much on offer in this community of phenomenal characters, courage, tenacity, friendship, support, advocacy and tribe.

Here's what else you can expect ...

a quarterly [or more] newsletter packed with interest & information

the 'Purpose' .... a quarterly national magazine for amputees

events & social gatherings

advocacy for rehabilitation, prosthetics, vehicle and so much more

the support of our Field Officer - Kerry Wilfred-Riley

... read about Kerry and how she connects with amputees

## *to become a member*

of the Amputee Society, Waikato, Bay of Plenty & Districts Incorporated

simply:

Email your name, address and phone number to:

amputeeswaikatobop@gmail.com

or post to:

The Treasurer

Amputee Society Waikato, BOP

PO Box 15130, Dinsdale, Hamilton 2343

AND pay your \$10 annual subscription fee to: Online: 03-1555-0088303-000

(please enter name in reference)

*and we'll be in touch to welcome you!*

# Our Stories

## MATTHEW BRYSON

### in my own words

My name is Matthew Bryson. I'm 34 years old, and I live in Edgecumbe. I lost my leg (BK) just over four years ago by getting caught up in an auger at work. On June 12th 2014, I started my day like I normally do, and never anticipated what would happen to me this day.

If someone had said to me that I would be fighting for my life and that I would lose my leg I would never have believed it. When I thought my life was ending, I said to the man above that I didn't want to die. I wanted to continue to live my life and felt that it wasn't my time yet, there were many things I still wanted to do. For some reason I survived one of the most horrific accidents I think anyone could have gone through.

Being an amputee has opened up my world. I went to my first Give It A Go (GIAG) in conjunction with the Annual Conference in 2015. This was my first amputee event and I didn't know what to expect. I was really nervous about attending. I'm glad I went, and I haven't missed a conference since.

Losing a part of my leg hasn't changed me too much. I still run my Japanese drumming group, and I still belong to a local community group called Edgecumbe Development and Improvement Team (E.D.I.T). I wanted to get back to my life as fast as possible. Within a month of the accident I continued to go to E.D.I.T meetings and drumming practise even though I was weak and on crutches. After nine months I went back to work full time. This was way too soon as I was still using crutches and I could barely walk with my prosthetic. During this time was the most challenging, however I came out the other side smiling.

If I want to do something I will do it. I was wanting to create an event for amputees that was challenging and fun. I approached the Waikato, BOP & Districts Amputee Society to see if they would support me in an event I wanted to create - an amputee snow trip! I used to snowboard in Japan, but had never tried snowboarding using my prosthetic leg. I created New Zealand's first amputee snow trip in 2017.

14 of us attended and it was magical! We have just finished our 2nd amputee snow trip on the 31st August to the 2nd of September. We had 19 people including support people from all over New Zealand join us. We couldn't have done this without our funder, New Zealand Community Trust. It was a weekend that challenged us all and brought us together.

Mark McIntosh, a physiotherapist from Auckland, helped me to organise this event. Mark loves getting involved and helping out. As the weekend was a huge success we are already planning for next year's amputee snow trip. I also belong to the Amputee Federation, having been selected for the last two years. I'm also helping to organise GIAG 2019. I love getting involved and bringing people together.

If I hadn't lost my leg I wouldn't be doing these things. I like to think things happen for a reason and maybe some of these things I talk of are the reason I survived.

Happy living.

Matthew Bryson

Be sure to watch the Attitude programme on TV1 - Matthew Bryson has been filmed for the programme which is due to air sometime in the next month.

article entered 20 September 2018

*Tell us your story ...*

e: [amputeeswaikatobop@gmail.com](mailto:amputeeswaikatobop@gmail.com)

see our latest newsletter for more ...