



# Amputee Society of Auckland & Northland Inc.

Affiliated to the Amputees Federation of New Zealand Incorporated  
P O Box 71171, Rosebank, Auckland 1348

**Patron** Mr. Geoff Lamb ONZM, FRCS, FRACS

**President**

Mrs. Mali Liupuhi  
Phone (09) 828 5276

**Vice President**

Mrs. Marlene Bennett

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Mrs. Janis Bourne  
Phone (09) 833 8057  
Email: janisbourne@xtra.co.nz

## March 2015 Newsletter

Dear All

Christmas is but a memory now that March is here. Goodness the year is going quickly. What a wonderful summer we have had. I hope all amputees have not suffered too much with your stumps. I tried and failed to buy more Prantal Powder. The container I had, showed a use by date of June 2010, not that I actually think it would/could be of no further use.

The committee amputees and their caregivers enjoyed a lovely Christmas Lunch at Brick Lane, New Lynn. The food was wonderful, the company and conversation even better. There was Christmas crackers and party hats for everyone. Those attending enjoyed the change of venue from the Limb Centre.

The photos tell it all.



We are all eagerly waiting for our lunch



Our President, Mali Liupuhi and Field Officer, Kerry Wilfred-Riley, looking very cozy



Marlene Bennett and Mr. Geoff Lamb share a conversation

Christine Amosa was able to bring her new Assist Dog, Leo. He evaded my camera.

Our next function will be the Annual General Meeting to be held on **Sunday 22 March 2015** at the **Auckland Artificial Limb Centre**, starting at **1pm**.

This is a chance for everyone to have their say.

A quorum of 10 paid financial members must be present before we are able to commence our meeting.

We need to have a minimum of 7 on the committee.

This includes, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and a minimum of four committee members.

Our present Vice President, Marlene Bennett, has decided not to stand for this position this year. Marlene has an extremely long history with amputees and she has served on the committee for many years. Thank you, Marlene for your contribution to our society.



Our auditor, Colin Gosse, who has just turned 90 years of age and has been an amputee for 65 years, has decided not to continue his wonderful duties as our auditor. In his own words, "All the clients he did their accounts have now died". His wonderful wife Laura suffers from Parkinson's disease. These days are spent looking after each other. They have just celebrated 65 years of married bliss. Oh to be married for that life time.

With the resignation of secretary/treasurer, Janis Bourne, the committee is looking for someone, or several people to take her place. The committee is looking at splitting the position for two people (A separate Secretary and Treasurer). If anyone is interested, has computer skills, willing to listen to fellow amputees, be at the fore front of the society and would like to step up, please make yourself known to the committee.

## Subscriptions are now due

Our financial year is from 1 December to 30 November.

Some have already been received, thank you. Donations are always welcome and much appreciated.

Unless a change is made at the Annual General Meeting, these have not changed for many years and remain at just **\$5.00** per year. We have wonderful new receipt books with the new logo.

These subscriptions can be paid by sending to the secretary/treasurer at the above address, paying the lovely ladies, Anne or Tracey, at the Auckland Artificial Limb Centre or by direct credit to the society bank account, which is:-

ASB 12 – 3061 – 0190809 – 00

Please give a name as a reference.

Remember, as a Total Mobility Card user, you must a financial member of a support agency such as the Amputee Society.

Enclosed please find the March 2015 Purpose, with lots of wonderful articles and stories. Read the reply Chris Ross gives to a letter written to the Editor of the Purpose.

Remember we have our Federation conference on the weekend 17 to 19 April 2015, in Wellington. The conference is in conjunction with the "Give it A Go" programme for our younger amputees. Mali Liupuhi and Janis Bourne are our delegates.

### *REFLECTIONS by Janis Bourne – her story*

*Sometime in the middle to late 1960's, my dearly departed mother introduced me to the "Civilian Amputee Association". I would think it was at the time when I no longer met the criteria of the Crippled Children's Society. It was explained to me the CAA would help me to obtain employment. I thought, Whatever!*

*Time moved on, I left the small mining township to the bright lights of the city. Visits to the Limb Centre were irregular. Life went on, mother passed away, I got married, had children, father and husband passed away, the children grew. I did notice the CAA notice changed to AMPUTEE on the notice boards in the Limb Centre.*

*A letter arrived from the Auckland Health Board advising the Limb Centre would close and our limbs would be made by an Australian company named as RML (Rehabilitation Management Ltd) and their rooms would be at the Laura Ferguson Trust. This all seemed impossible. How could the Limb Centre close!*

*Change the things we can, accept the things we cannot.*

*I visited RML for some repairs to my prosthesis and was told they would make me a new one, which would be ready in five days. I was duly impressed. No horrible casts to be made, no lengthy waits.*

*The impression was short lived. By the time weekends were taken into account it was more than seven days. I had had an operation, with no artificial limb I was rather house or rather chair bound. When the brand new prosthesis was completed it was too high for me, too big for my shoes/sandals'. I was told to stand with my legs apart so the height would not be noticed. Yeah Right!!!*

*About this time the Auckland Health Board decided to return the contract to the previous provider, Artificial Limb Board.*

*The Amputee Society of Auckland and Northland (Inc.) had sent many letters regarding the ineffectual RML and the many complaints they had received. Mine was nothing in comparison.*

*I decided I needed to see for myself what all the fuss was about. A meeting was being held in the War Memorial Hall in Dominion Road, Mt Eden, which I attended. The only person I knew was the receptionist from the*

*Limb Centre and her husband with whom I sat with.*

*The meeting got really aggressive, with the president at the time, walking out. I was appalled. We are all in this together, so why should there be so much anger and bitterness.*

*When the meeting finished everyone left. No mix and mingle, meeting new people, everyone just got into their cars and drove away. I drove home slowly thinking about what had just happened. I made a decision to phone the receptionist and explain how I was feeling after the meeting. We had a very long conversation on the Monday evening and she suggested I write my concerns to the Secretary.*

*Mental note to self, do not let people leave without some sort of personal contact, a kind word, friendly greeting. We may never see them again, but we can leave an impression, good or bad. I choose a good impression.*

*I wrote a very carefully worded letter which opened a very bit "can of worms". I had the Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer at the time phones me.*

*Due to circumstances I did not attend another meeting for some time.*

*I attended the AGM in 1999. Anger erupted at the meeting. A person self-nominated himself as Vice President and as a Delegate at the Federation Conference, which was being held in Rotorua and hosted by Waikato/Bay of Plenty District Society.*

*The Secretary/Treasurer threw down her pen and said she resigned and Janis Bourne could take over the position. I had offered to go onto the committee, as a new person to the society, I needed to see how things worked before taking on any further role.*

*Cups of tea/coffee with plain biscuits were available at the conclusion of the meeting.*

*Mental Note to self, surely the committee could do better than plain biscuits. Perhaps it could be due to a number of amputees being diabetic. Plain biscuits were always offered at the Limb Centre. I had thought it to be a cost cutting exercise. Make people feel important and that you as a committee have gone the extra bit to give them something nice to remember.*

*I was thrown in the deep end, so to speak. I knew nothing of running of the society.*

*The following year, I attended the Federation Conference in Wellington, first time on a plane, let alone attending a conference. The following year, the President of the time, volunteered Auckland and Northland to host the conference. How much deeper could I get! The conference went well, a few hitches, but well received.*

*The rest they say is history.*

*I had many years on the Federation Executive committee, a role I enjoyed, learned heaps and made many friends.*

*At the 2014 Annual General Meeting, I was honoured at being presented with a Life Membership of the society. An honour I had given to others and never expected to receive myself. A huge secret kept by many.*

*2015, is the time to move on, and vacate the role of Secretary/Treasurer. I have hopefully left my mark on the society.*

*I have made an effort to greet all those who attend our functions, introduce myself and make sure their needs are being met by the Limb Centre or elsewhere. I would not like others to feel the isolation I felt on the first meeting I attended.*

*We now provide afternoon teas, cakes, sausage rolls etc.; people bring a plate for the conclusion of social events. We have had barbecues, Mid-Winter Christmas dinners and many other social events.*

**Remember the  
Annual General Meeting,  
22 March 2015  
Auckland Artificial Limb Centre,  
Horopito Street, Mt Eden,  
Starting at 1pm**

We would really love to see as many Amputees and their caregivers as possible.

Regards

Janis Bourne

### **Telephone numbers:-**

**Field Officer:** - Kerry Wilfred-Riley telephone 027 376 1270 or (07) 849 6362

**Total Mobility Officer:** - Nic Hewton telephone (09) 833 4470

**Committee Members:** -

Carol Whiting – telephone 832 6311

Auckland Artificial Limb Centre

7 Horopito Street

Mt Eden, Auckland 1024

Telephone numbers (09) 630 0644 or Toll Free 0508 630 630

**This letter has been proudly produced with the support of the  
New Zealand Lottery Board Grant**