



**Amputee
Society**
of Auckland &
Northland Inc.

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May 2021

Hello Everyone

At our AGM on 28 March 2021 we just had enough members attending for us to have a quorum.
Please think about making plans to attend next year.



Attendees at 75th AGM



camera

Of course Janis is behind the

Since the AGM we have co-opted Colin Smith, to join us on the committee. He joined us at our Zoom meeting on the 5 May

As you can see from the letter head the previous committee have mostly changed responsibilities. Don't panic, Janis Bourne is still on the committee as are Mali Lulupu and George Marr.

I will take this opportunity to introduce myself. As you can see I live in Whangarei so the opportunity to meet you all face to face is unlikely but I am looking forward to seeing an email from you or getting a phone call or a letter.

I am the mother of two daughters and two sons, and grandmother of six, aged between 18 and 7 years. I appreciate the help they give me when they are around, most of them do not live in Whangarei.

Most of my working life I was a bookkeeper, although some jobs included administration duties. My main hobbies are genealogy and scrapbooking and I often combine them to tell my family stories. I enjoy gardening and I am glad I was able to find a home where I could continue this activity when I chose to have my left leg amputated above the knee.

When my knee swelled two days before Christmas 2013 I thought I had twisted my knee and visited a physio. Fortunately she soon realised that there was something more serious than ligament issues and referred me to a specialist. A scan didn't show anything other than ligaments so he booked me in for day surgery at the local orthopedic clinic. It was a bit of a shock to wake from the anesthetic to be told that "gunk" had appeared when they opened my knee. It was an immediate transfer to Whangarei Base Hospital.

Five days later after another visit to theatre and countless blood tests I was informed I had a fungal infection. "What!, how did that happen? There is no wound around my knee" "Oh I remember spiking my knee with a phoenix palm branch. Would that do it?"

Possibly was the answer from the numerous medical people standing around my bed. I spent the next six or so weeks in hospital, including three weeks in Auckland, as the medical world struggled to find a cure. Apparently a lot of people get bacterial infections from these dangerous plants. It is not usual to get a fungal infection. Eventually a drug was found and I was discharged with a very sore and swollen knee, crutches and a lot of drugs.

In December 2014 my specialist told me that there was not much more they could do for me. I think he knew that amputation was going to be the only answer but was reluctant to operate. Fortunately ACC sent me to see a microbiologist who was kind and gentle. He told me that I did not have too many options, especially as the drugs I was taking were taking a toll on my liver and kidneys. As I walked back to the car I told my sister I had made a decision. I would have an amputation. Six months later in June 2015 I had the surgery and so my life changed. And that is another story.

Kathy Palmer

"Times they are a changin" - Computers and phones are unfortunately becoming a main communication tool. But at the same time emails are great for organisations like ours. The cost of communicating with you by email is \$0.00

For many of you we only have a snail mail address. We would appreciate being able to update our database with your email address, if you have one. Just send an email with your name to anamputeesociety@gmail.com This will save us quite a bit in postage and printing costs.

For those without email addresses, do not worry, we will continue to post you newsletters, and any other relevant information.

Have you paid your membership for 2021 - Just \$10.00 to our bank account ASB 12 3061 0190809 00 with your name and m/ship as the reference.

Alternatively the lovely ladies at the Limb Centre reception will give you a receipt and ensure we receive your \$10.00

And as a last resort for the next few weeks cheques can be posted to 1A Denby Cres, Tikipunga, Whangarei, 0112.

On that note have you contacted your bank to ask about alternative arrangements once banks cease processing cheques. Some banks have already done this and the rest are bringing this policy in over the next couple of months

Nicholas Graham Hewton

13 October 1948 - 22 April 2021



It is with regret that I report the passing of ex committee member and Total Mobility Officer, Nicholas (Nick) Hewton, on Thursday 22 April 2021.

Nick attended his first Annual General Meeting in 2006, and quickly became involved in the society.

He was first to arrive for envelope stuffing of newsletters and Purposes. (The fact he lived close by was irrelevant.) This was before the days of emailing.

Nick quickly became the Newsletter proof reader, correcting obvious spelling errors.

At the time the society held bi-monthly "Social Events", that is a social event every two months. These ranged from Mid-Winter Christmas Dinners, to Cake, Coffee and Chat, to special guest speakers, for example the then Limb Centre Manager, Paul Bargh, on the different limbs available, and many more.

During his rehabilitation, Nick had spent time in Rehab Plus, Carrington Road, and took over the Assessments for Auckland Transport Total Mobility, from their staff. This was an unpaid voluntary position. Nick enjoyed meeting fellow amputees at Rehab Plus or in their homes. He would often revisit amputees to ensure they were able to use their cards and get places, in order to live as normal a life as possible.

Having lost both his legs below the knee, about 2005, Nick drove a modified car with hand controls. He drove many times to visit his mother in Invercargill and other places of interest to him all over New Zealand.

In 2010, Nick was hospitalized and lost a lung. The writer had never heard this before, but found out our late Auditor and fellow amputee, Colin Gosse had been born with only one lung. We learn new things every day.

In recent years, Nick had been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. This had prevented him from attending our social gatherings or meetings. His last attendance at an Annual General Meeting was 2014. His wonderful work with Auckland Transport as Total Mobility Assessor has been taken over by Janis Bourne.

Nick was a very private person. No funeral service was held. His body has been cremated and will be put to rest with his parents in Queenstown.

One year, Nick's birthday, corresponded with a Social Event and it was decided, without Nick's knowledge, to acknowledge this with a Birthday Cake. Cake baked, and everything prepared. Nick phoned; I don't think I will come today, not feeling too good. The cat was out of the bag, and he was told of the surprise. He arrived and was duly surprised and pleased. Unlike the Nick we knew, he did not stay long. When we first met him, he was employed at Sky City. Not totally sure as to what his position was, but he often spoke of walking up and down many flights of stairs. Two-legged, able bodied people balk at that much exercise.

Rest in Peace, Nick, no more pain and suffering.

Nick had a favourite saying, "Que Sera Sera" "What will be, will be", a song sang by Doris Day and Frank De Vol.

As remembered by Janis Bourne

DESIGN A BANNER

Over the past few months the committee has been discussing options for the type of publicity banner that is best for our purposes. Last week we made a decision.

It will be in this pull up style



and A3 in size, a little smaller than the one pictured. Now we need a design that will reflect our region and/or amputees

We think we have a member, whanau or friend out there who would like to design something for us. The actual artwork must be 590mm wide, 1390mm high. Not quite full A3, to fit printing requirements.

The words "Amputee Society of Auckland and Northland Inc" and "anamputee@gmail.com" must be included along with our logo



Otherwise we will leave the final work to the artist. The design that is chosen to be used will include the artist's name.

Initially we would like to have a copy (photograph) of all artwork on hand by 31 August 2021 so we can make an initial decision.

WHANGAREI GROUP

Here in Whangarei there is a group of amputees, spouses and carers who meet on the third Wednesday of each month at Kensington Tavern for lunch and conversation. Meals are reasonably priced with a variety of choices.

From this month we will be in the main dining room where it is a little quieter and we hope to invite a speaker to join us in the near future.

Phone Kathy 09 43 06 499 or Colin 09 43 51 636 for more information. We would love to see you there.

I hope you have enjoyed this newsletter. I would be happy to hear from you if there is anything you would like to see in future newsletters, You are welcome to write an article that may interest other members

Kathy Palmer

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