



**Amputee
Society**
of Otago &
Southland Inc.

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NEWSLETTER

No. 190

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Hello everyone! I hope this finds you all well and happy and looking forward to Spring. We've certainly had some great weather over the last few months; however, I'm not sure that what's left of winter is going to be so kind!

Enclosed is the latest *Purpose*. Please take time to complete the survey - either online (at www.af.org.nz) or by returning the form on page 11.

MEMBERSHIP

Sadly, we record the passing of our oldest member, Martha Collier, who died recently just five weeks short of her 100th birthday. I enjoyed visiting Martha over the years - although her eyesight and hearing had deteriorated more recently, she certainly had all her "marbles" (a term she often used) and had a great sense of humour.

We warmly welcome Tom Winati of Green Island to our membership - we hope to meet up with you at one of our functions, Tom.

TOTAL MOBILITY TAXI VOUCHERS

Otago users of these vouchers will have received a separate letter from me advising of changes in the administration of this system. The paper vouchers are to be phased out and from early next year users will be required to have their own personal photo ID smart card (whoever said we couldn't keep up with what they do in Auckland!). If you use the vouchers, please get in touch so that we can arrange for you to receive an ID card or let me know if you wish to become a user. As far as we are aware (at the moment anyway) the system for Southland remains the same as before and you need to get in touch with Maurice & Mavis Elford (215-6715) for these.

HERE & THERE

Invercargill Clinic - This is tentatively scheduled for Thursday 13 October. Please check and confirm with Sue at the Limb Centre 0508-474-474.

Multisports, Golf & Barbecue - These annual events will take place during the weekend 12/13 November - please mark the dates on your calendar. Further details in the next newsletter in early November.

Invercargill Meeting and Dinner - Our usual get-together will take place on Saturday 19 November. Further details in the next newsletter.

Our thanks to the Otago Community Trust for their recent grant.

Good Luck! to our Paralympians (and Committee members) - Holly Robinson, Rory McSweeney and Anna Grimaldi - as they head to Rio. We look forward to hearing of your successes.

Evan Mitchell Celebratory Dinner - Unfortunately we had to cancel the dinner planned for 23 July - an alternative date will be arranged.

Patron: Mr C L Birks, MB, ChB, FRACS

Affiliated to the Amputees Federation of New Zealand Inc.

HERE & THERE (cont.)

Newsletters by Email - Almost half of our members now receive their newsletters by email and we're keen to increase this number, especially with the recent increase in postage to \$1 for standard letters. If you'd like to be included, email me at lorrstan@xtra.co.nz

Overdue Subs - There are still a few members who haven't paid their subscription for 2015. If you're one of these, you'll have a red sticker on your Newsletter, and we would appreciate receiving your subs for 2015 and 2016 as soon as possible. You can either post a cheque to me, pay to Sue at the Limb Centre, or direct credit to our bank account 031355 0277644 00 (please identify with your name).

Bags for Good Neighbourhood Programme - An application by our Society was successful and we hope to benefit from participating at the Warehouse in Dunedin. So if you happen to be shopping there, make sure you vote for us! Note that this is at the Maclaggan Street branch, not South Dunedin.

Seniornet Dunedin - Our Society photographer, Jane Smith, is a tutor at Seniornet Dunedin and strongly believes that technology is for everyone! You are invited to call them on 471-8855, send an email to SeniorNet.dunedin@clear.net.nz, check out their website seniornetdunedin.co.nz or Facebook page SeniorNet Dunedin, or just drop in to 43a Manor Place - they are open 10.00 till noon Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Walking Sticks - If you are wanting an excellent quality walking stick, I can personally vouch for those which are made to measure and available from the Gore Pakeke Lions Club. The sales convenor is Alec Balfour, 153 Broughton Street, Gore, Phone 03 2085122 or email balfour@slingshot.co.nz

IN THE NEWS

Amputees and related matters seem to have been very much in the news in the south lately. For example, the ODT article "Phantom limb pain research promising" on 16 July reported on "solid evidence to back an intriguing approach used to alleviate phantom limb pain in amputees". This centred around responses to mirror box therapy (a technique not unfamiliar to many amputees) and its more recent application to those affected by a stroke.

And we were thrilled to read about the achievements of one of our young members, Corey Symon. The following excerpts are reprinted from the ODT on 15 July.



Corey Symon has vowed to learn to play the cello after being fitted with his bionic arm for the first time.

The King's High School 14 year old was born without a right arm but is now the proud owner of a bionic arm built by American company Limbitless Solutions. The Company's Executive Director, Albert Manero of Florida, said his non-profit organisation fitted its first bionic arm in August 2014 and Corey's was the 16th the company had produced. The technology means that when Corey flexes a muscle, it triggers the fingers on the hand on the 3D printed bionic arm to open and close. He is now determined to play the cello and teach himself how to write with his right hand. The bionic arm replaces a basic prosthesis with a moving thumb and was built in Orlando, using pictures of Corey's right arm. The material to build the arm cost about \$485 but families were given the finished product free of charge.

While he was in Dunedin, Mr Manero gave a talk "Making a Difference - Using 3D technology to change lives" at the NZ International Science Festival event at the University of Otago.

Photo courtesy of Hayden Parsons, Otago Polytechnic

This video is also worth a watch....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SXW9VHcceRA>