



AMPUTEE SOCIETY OF OTAGO & SOUTHLAND INC.

Affiliated to the Amputees Federation of New Zealand Incorporated

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NEWSLETTER

No. 176

FEBRUARY 2013

A very Happy New Year to you all - may 2013 be everything you want it to be and more!

69TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, DISTINGUISHED GUEST SPEAKER, and DINNER

The date is Saturday 2 March at the Otago Bridge Club in Otaki Street, Dunedin, and we are delighted to advise that, following the AGM (scheduled for 4 pm) our Guest Speaker will be the Hon Jo Goodhew, Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector, Minister for Senior Citizens, Minister of Women's Affairs, Associate Minister of Health, and most importantly the Minister who has been delegated responsibility, by the Minister for Social Development, for artificial limb services in NZ. We feel privileged that the Minister accepted our invitation to speak at the meeting and we hope many of you will take the opportunity to come along and hear her views on limb services to NZ amputees, how these services can be extended to geographical areas outside the main Limb Centres, and how the needs of the elderly are best catered for.

There will be an opportunity for people to mingle and talk with the Minister, after which the dinner will follow at approximately 6 p.m. An excellent menu with a wide choice of mains and desserts will cost you only \$20 pp, the Society subsidising the actual cost of \$28 and providing liquid refreshments. We will run raffles to cover some of the cost so bring along your spare coins and if you would like to donate a raffle prize that would be appreciated. There will also be some after dinner entertainment. There's plenty of parking at the Bridge Club but get in touch if you need transport.

Please give this important occasion your support. Complete the enclosed form (page 4) and return it to me by Saturday 23 February. Payment for the dinner prior to 2 March would be appreciated.

Included with this newsletter (page 3) is the Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2012. The Annual Accounts will be tabled and available at the AGM, but let me know if you would like a copy sent.

MEMBERSHIP

As at the end of December our membership was 242 - down quite a bit on the previous year. This is due mainly to subs not being paid and currently there are again a large number of members who haven't paid for 2012. If this applies to you, there'll be a red dot at the top of this page and you can either send me a cheque, pay direct into our bank account (see page 4), or pay on your next visit to the Limb Centre. A reminder too that spouses/partners are most welcome to join as Associate Members.

In an effort to boost our numbers, this newsletter is being sent to a large number of "unfinancial" members and also, with assistance from the Limb Centre, those who have never belonged to our Society. We do encourage you to rejoin or join; we believe we have much to offer.

OBITUARIES

Our sympathy has been extended to the families of Isabel Greig of Mosgiel, Michael Newey of Invercargill, Judith Talboys of Mosgiel (many of you may remember that for many years Judith donated Christmas parcels for distributing to Dunedin amputees), Ron Byers of Oamaru (a member since 1969 and a past Committee member), and Murray Kerr of Auckland. Murray was the last surviving war amputee of those who became honorary members of our Society upon the winding up of the Otago and Southland War Amputees Association in the early 1990s.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members: Don Duck of Oamaru, Alan Byrne of Gore, and Christine Uren of Invercargill.

**AMPUTEES FEDERATION CONFERENCE and GIVE IT A GO! for 16-30 year olds
WELLINGTON 15-17 MARCH - HOW ABOUT JOINING US?**

INVERCARGILL CLINIC

Friday 19 April is the date tentatively set for the next Limb-fitter's Clinic at Kew Hospital. This is an opportunity for you to consult a limb-fitter if you have minor problems or repairs without having to travel to Dunedin. If you wish to attend, ring Sue at the Limb Centre on 0508-474-474.

RECALL FROM 2012

We had some good get-togethers in November and December of last year.

- 40 members and partners joined us for the Invercargill meeting in November and enjoyed the meal and each other's company. Our thanks to those who donated raffles which raised \$210 towards the weekend's expenses.
- The weekend of 8/9 December was full on! The Quadrant Multisport Champions event took place on the Saturday and concluded with golf on the Sunday, with Tony Wilson being the overall winner. A few extras took part in the golf at the 12 Oaks Course and the winners were: CAA Cup - John Osborne (formerly of Dunedin but now living in Christchurch), Runner-up Trophy - Tony Wilson (Dunedin), Colin Lawrence Memorial Trophy - Simon McMillan (Mosgiel), Supporters' trophy - Heather McCarthy (Invercargill). Following the golf, there was a good gathering at the Allanton Hall for our end-of-year barbecue - thanks to the Mosgiel Volunteer Fire Brigade for bringing along their barbecue and cooking the sausages, and thanks also to those who donated raffles which raised \$122 towards the day's expenses.
- Note for Southland members - David Johnston is prepared to organise a multisports event in Invercargill if there is enough interest. Get in touch with David if you are a starter Phone 214-1548.

HERE & THERE

Taxi Vouchers - A reminder that Otago members can contact me for vouchers which entitle you to a 50% discount on taxis. Southlanders who would like travel vouchers need to complete an initial application form available from Maurice & Mavis Elford (215-6715). Once on the register, you need to contact Lisa Griffiths at the Invercargill City Council (211-1777) for your supply of vouchers. Central Otago members - you are now able to use our vouchers when hiring a taxi through Driving Miss Daisy in Alexandra (phone 448-5135). A reminder to everyone that our taxi vouchers can be used anywhere in NZ, including cities such as Auckland where they use swipe cards.

Golf Cart - A reminder that our golf cart at the 12 Oaks Golf Course in Mosgiel is available to all members. If you wish to use it, please phone Tony Wilson to make arrangements (455-8426).

Limb Centre Phone Number - Sue advises that some people are still using the old phone number. Note that it is now 470-9428 or toll free 0508 474 474.

Changed or Changing Your Address? - Remember to let me or Sue at the Limb Centre know.

Committee Meetings - Members are welcome to join us at the Otago Bridge Club rooms. Dates scheduled in the next couple of months are Wednesdays 13 February, 6 March and 10 April at 7.30 p.m.

Facebook - Check out the Federation's Facebook page - go to our website www.af.org.nz and LIKE us!

OUR GRANTS

Applications are invited for grants from the following funds:

Meffan and Pankhurst Funds - Welfare grants up to a maximum of \$300 in any one year are available to members to help improve independence and quality of life. Some examples of purposes for which grants can be made are: health and medical services; subsidising of travel over and above taxi vouchers; the cost of hiring a mobility scooter; home comforts, e.g. wood, coal etc; assistance towards the installation of a heat pump or the cost of ceiling and underfloor insulation and heating; equipment which will assist independence and/or mobility.

Coyle Young Achievers' Fund - Grants up to \$500 are available to young people up to the age of 30 to help with cultural and sporting interests and hobbies. Young people are encouraged to get in touch with the Coordinator or a Committee member to discuss possibilities.

Application Forms for all grants are available from the Coordinator and will be considered by the Finance Sub Committee after the closing date of 31 May. Applicants must have been a financial member of the Society for at least two years and, if successful, grants will be paid only upon the supply of a quote or invoice, with payment made to the service provider. Note that it is our policy that grants will not exceed the interest earned on our investments in any one year.

CONGRATULATIONS to two of our Committee members, Tony Wilson and Holly Robinson. Tony won the NZ Amputee Golf National Tournament in Christchurch in October (a full report will be included in the next issue of *Purpose*). Holly used the experience she gained at the London Paralympics to win gold in the AWD amputee grade in shotput, javelin and discus at the NZ Schools Athletics in December. All three distances were NZ records.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st 2012

Another year has flown by with ever increasing speed and I have no doubt that the coming one will pass with equal rapidity. Events from the past 12 months continued to provide a source of enjoyment, and occasionally mirth, for all participants.

We began with a well attended AGM in March which included a fascinating talk by David Neill on the Fred Hollows Foundation, followed by a very enjoyable meal.

Also in March we saw the National Conference in Napier with the introduction of 'Give it a Go' for younger amputees which was a great success to be repeated at this years conference in Wellington March 15th – 17th. I would encourage as many members as possible to attend.

Our November meeting in Invercargill was again well supported – a good social occasion.

Congratulations to all our paralympians, many of whom achieved personal best performances coping under the pressure of crowds in excess of 80,000. No doubt they are all looking forward to Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

In December we saw the multisports event, which is quickly becoming an annual occurrence, followed by a BBQ for which the weather behaved itself.

This year saw the Society move into the cyber age with the addition of online banking to its list of many talents.

Membership is slightly down from 256 last year to 242 this year due mainly to non-payment of subs but also due to a number of members having passed away. Our sympathies are with the families of these members.

During the year the Society received grants from the Community Trust of Otago, the Community Trust of Southland, the Invercargill Licensing Trust, the Lottery Grants Board, Pub Charity and the Southern Trust. Although these grants were down in value from previous years, a sign of frugal times, the Society is very grateful for their continuing support. We appreciate also the support we receive from our Auditors, WHK, who undertake our annual audit free of charge.

I urge as many members as possible to attend the upcoming AGM on Saturday 2nd March where our guest speaker will be Associate Minister of Health Jo Goodhew and I am certain that her involvement in services to amputees will be of great interest to all.

Tony Horsfall
President

OUR VISITORS - Get in touch if you would like a visit or just a chat.

Dunedin and Districts - Lorraine Peacock 455-6347 and Tony Horsfall 453-1261

Invercargill - David Johnston 214-1548 and Alice Smith 216-4271

Gore - Bill Lee 203-8263

Oamaru - John Hutcheson 437-1283

MOBILITY PARKING PERMITS

Changes to the Mobility Parking scheme were introduced on 3 December which we are informed will make the scheme fairer and more transparent. The eligibility criteria changed on that date but is unlikely to affect the majority of amputees, i.e. be unable to walk or always require a wheelchair, or the distance you are able to walk is severely restricted by your disability. If applying for a permit for the first time, you will still need to have a doctor confirm your eligibility but if renewing the permit you will not have to provide any additional medical information. Application forms are now available on line at www.MobilityParking.org.nz.

DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL MOBILITY PARKING EXEMPTION

The DCC provides free parking on metered parking areas to residents of Dunedin City who hold a Mobility Parking Permit. This allows the driver (cardholder) to park without payment on any on street Pay & Display area or DCC off street carpark controlled by Pay & Display machines for the maximum permitted period. The maximum permitted period for all Pay & Display areas is displayed on the pay machines, on street signage, or at the entrance to off street carparks. You can get more information from the DCC website www.dunedin.govt.nz which also lists the locations of all the disability parks in Dunedin - to get an application form it is suggested you ring the DCC Customer Services Agency 477-4000.

USE THIS FORM TO SAY YOU'LL BE AT THE AGM AND/OR PAY YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

I will be present at the AGM and Dinner on 2 March

Yes

☐

No

☐

Number
Attending

Payment to cover the following can either be made by cheque (made out to the Amputee Society of Otago & Southland Inc.) or by direct credit to our bank account 031355 0277644 00. If paying by direct credit, please detail your name and what the payment covers, e.g. dinner/sub/donation etc. Receipts will be sent out with the next newsletter.

Dinner (\$20 per person) \$

Membership subscription (\$5) \$

Associate Membership for spouse/partner (\$5) \$

Donation \$

Badge (\$5) \$

Total \$

Name

(Include name of spouse/partner if subscribing as an Associate Member)

Address

Phone

Email

(Please tick the box if you would like to receive your newsletters by email)

☐

If paying by cheque, return with form to Lorraine at 213a Bay View Road, St Clair, Dunedin 9012

VENUE FOR AGM - SATURDAY 2 MARCH



From the city, drive along either Andersons Bay Road or Portsmouth Drive
Turn into Teviot Street and then into Otaki Street