



AMPUTEE SOCIETY OF OTAGO & SOUTHLAND INC.

Affiliated to the Amputees Federation of New Zealand Incorporated

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NEWSLETTER

No. 180

FEBRUARY 2014

A very Happy New Year everyone - may 2014 be everything you want it to be and more!

70TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, NOTABLE GUEST SPEAKER, and DINNER

Seventy years is a significant milestone for our Society which was established in 1944 (if you would like a copy of our history just let me know); maybe it's almost time to be thinking ahead to the 75th Jubilee celebrations? However, back to the present and this year's AGM which is on **Saturday 1 March** at the Otago Bridge Club in Otaki Street, Dunedin. We are delighted to advise that following the AGM (scheduled for 4 pm) our Guest Speaker will be **Professor Dirk De Ridder**, the head of Dunedin's neurosurgery research unit. The title of Professor De Ridder's talk will be "**Phantoms in Captain Ahab and Beethoven's Brain**" - as you will have guessed, one of Professor De Ridder's areas of expertise relates to phantom pain, a reality to which most of us can relate in varying degrees. We feel privileged that Professor De Ridder accepted our invitation to speak at the meeting and we hope many of you will take the opportunity to come along and hear what he has to say. There will be an opportunity for people to mingle and talk with the Professor, 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's plenty of parking at the Bridge Club but get in touch if you need transport. Please give this occasion your support. Complete the enclosed form (back page) and return it to me by Saturday 22 February. Payment for the dinner prior to 1 March would be appreciated. Included with this newsletter is the Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2013. The Financial Statements will be tabled and available at the AGM, but let me know if you would like a copy sent.

ANNUAL GOLF DAY

For various reasons we had to cancel our golf day at Riversdale in November but it has been rescheduled to take place at the 12 Oaks Golf Course in Mosgiel the day following the Annual Meeting, i.e. Sunday 2 March. We hope that out-of-towners will stay on for the golf and that local players will give it their full support. Tee off time will be 11 am, the green fee is \$8, the Society's golf cart and some spare clubs will be available, and a light afternoon tea, as well as bar facilities, will be available at the end of play. Players will of course compete for our usual trophies. So that we have an indication of numbers, please let Tony Wilson know if you intend taking part - phone 455-8426 or email wingie@clear.net.nz.

INVERCARGILL CLINIC

Thursday 10 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.

OBITUARIES

Our sympathy has been extended to the families of Donald Gill of Invercargill, Doris Scott of Invercargill, and Marie Rabbette of Dunedin. I wonder how many of you go back far enough to remember that Marie was the receptionist at the Limb Centre in the 1960's? We were also sorry to farewell Maggie Oakley, a long time supporter of our Society.

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to Zeta Main of Dunedin, Robert Clark of Invercargill, and Neil Dunick of Invercargill.

MEMBERSHIP

As at the end of December our membership was 240 - down a little on the previous year, due mainly to non-payment of subs which results in deletions from our membership database. Currently there are again a large number of members who haven't paid a sub for last year and if this applies to you, there'll be a red dot at the top of the front page of this newsletter. To bring this up to date, you can either send me a cheque, pay direct into our bank account (see back page), 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, to those who have never belonged to our Society. We do encourage you to rejoin or join.

As was decided at the last AGM, subs have increased to \$10 this year. It was last increased in 1990 to the present \$5, having gone up by minimal amounts over the years from the original rate of Five Shillings (50c) for men and Two Shillings and Sixpence (25c) for women in 1944. Definitely well behind the inflation rate and of course excellent value for money!

HERE & THERE - Just a few items of information and snippets for you to note:

- **Thank you** to members and supporters who donated towards the raffles at our meeting in Invercargill and our end-of-year barbecue. These raised \$166 and \$95 respectively and helped offset expenses on those occasions. It was good to see so many at our Invercargill meeting - we really value your support - and although numbers were down at the barbecue, it was good to catch up with those who were able to be there.
- **Photos** taken by Jane Smith at our functions can be viewed on Otago/Southland's page on the Federation's website www.af.org.nz.
- Our thanks to the **Lottery Board** for their grant and to **Fulton Hogan** for their \$1,000 donation towards our Young Achievers' Fund.
- And speaking of young achievers, congratulations to **Anna Grimaldi** for being named para-athlete in the NZ Secondary School Athletics Championships in Hamilton in December. Anna set four NZ records - no mean achievement!
- **Total Mobility 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 taxi vouchers need to complete an initial application form available from Maurice & Mavis Elford (215-6715). Once on the register, you then contact Lisa Griffiths at the Invercargill City Council (211-1777) for your supply of vouchers. A reminder to everyone that the 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).
- **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 12 February, 12 March and 16 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!

HAND MOVEMENT RESEARCH

The Dept of Psychology at the University of Otago is seeking participants for a research study exploring phantom limb sensations following amputation of an upper limb at any level of the arm or hand. - they are also testing people with congenital absence of one limb. The study takes place at the EEG lab in the Department of Psychology at the University. The techniques are all non-invasive and require that participants perform some tasks using the intact limb under different experimental conditions while they record brain activity using a cap placed on the scalp. Each session takes about 90 minutes and participants will receive compensation in the form of New World vouchers. The experiment is an attempt to learn about the relationship between pain or other phantom limb sensations and brain activity in people with amputation in the hope of developing further treatments. All data will be collected for research purposes only and will be coded using letters and numbers that bear no relation at all to names or identities.

If you would like more information about the study or have any questions, before or after participating, contact Liz (Professor Liz Franz) by email: franz.liz@gmail.com or Lfranz@psy.otago.ac.nz or Terence Mayne (MSc student) terence.mayne@otago.ac.nz, or leave a phone message at 479 5269 (Franz's office).

The project has been reviewed and approved by the University of Otago Ethics Committee.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013

It has been a mixed year for the Society with times of sadness and enjoyment. We should all reflect for a moment on those who have passed away during the year, in particular Hinemoa Graveson who was a valued member of our committee for many years.

The Society is grateful for the support of our regular and new sponsors: Invercargill Licensing Trust, NZ Lottery Grants Board, Otago Community Trust, Pub Charity, and Fulton Hogan. Our thanks to members for their donations and to those who have donated prizes for the raffles which help subsidise the cost of our various functions. We also appreciate the support of our auditors Crowe Horwath, formerly known as WHK.

The AGM held in March was an enjoyable event where our guest speaker was the Hon. Jo Goodhew, the Minister with responsibility for artificial limb services, amongst others. Ms Goodhew spoke about the need to encourage older people to take part in activities and share their many skills and experiences with others. The evening consisting of a lovely meal and light entertainment was enjoyed by 34 members and partners. It was decided at the AGM to increase the annual subscription from \$5 to \$10 which we believe is still good value for money.

In an attempt to assess what activities members would like the Society to provide, a questionnaire was sent out with a mid year newsletter. Disappointingly only 4 replies were received from which we can conclude that everyone is content.

Congratulations to Holly Robinson and Rory McSweeney who were selected to represent New Zealand at the IPC World Championships held in France in July.

A mid winter dinner was held at the Balclutha Town and Country Club in June with attendees from Otago and Southland. The meal was enjoyed by all.

The Invercargill annual meeting, held on November 9th had a good attendance, where a presentation on recycling was most interesting, followed by a meal.

The now annual Quadrant multisports was held on December 7th with a barbecue the following day at the Twelve Oaks Golf Club in Mosgiel.

A reminder about the upcoming National Conference and Give it a Go: Focus on Youth event which is being held in Nelson 21-23 March 2014.

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

Lakes District - Tetli Carey 409-0484

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 in any one year 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.

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

Yes

☐

No

☐

Number
Attending

☐

I will be present at the AGM and Dinner on 1 March

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 (\$10) \$

Associate Membership for spouse/partner (\$10) \$

Donation (Donations over \$5 are tax deductible) \$

Total \$

Name

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

Address

Phone

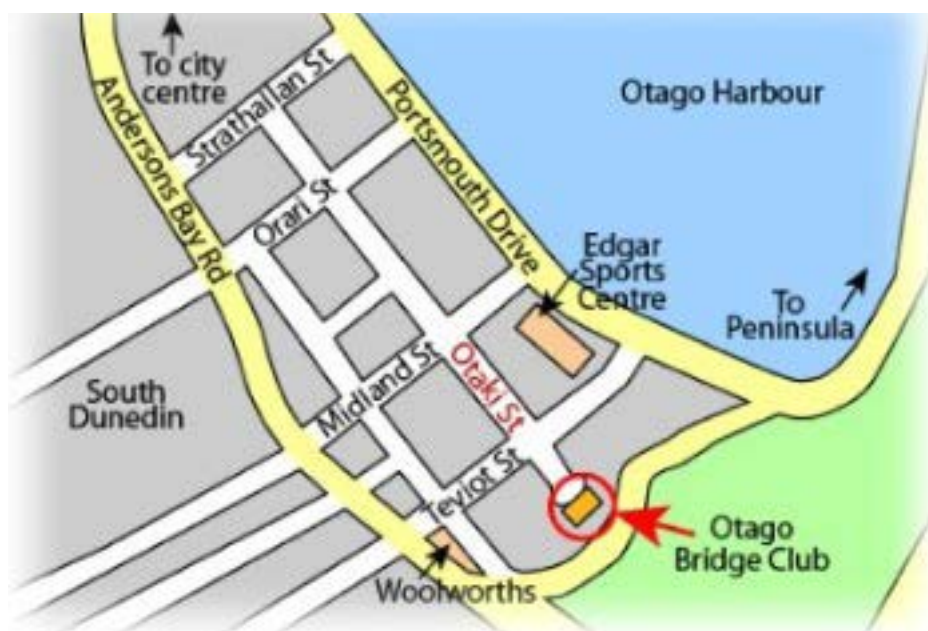
Email

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

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

VENUE FOR AGM - SATURDAY 1 MARCH



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