



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

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## NEWSLETTER

**No. 188**

**FEBRUARY 2016**

A very Happy New Year everyone - may 2016 be everything you want it to be and more! Enclosed with this newsletter is a magnetised calendar for your fridge - we hope you find it useful.

### **72<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and DINNER**

This year's AGM will be on **Saturday 12 March** at the Otago Bridge Club in Otaki Street, Dunedin, at 4.30 pm. Following the meeting, the Guest Speaker will be our incoming Patron and Limb Centre consultant, Chris Birks. Dinner will follow at approximately 6 p.m. - an excellent menu with a wide choice of mains and desserts will cost just \$20 pp, the Society subsidising the actual cost and providing liquid refreshments. There will be raffles to cover some of our expenses and donations for prizes would be most welcome. 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 by Saturday 5 March. Payment for the dinner prior to the 12 March would be appreciated.

Included with this newsletter is the Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2015. The Financial Statements will be tabled and available at the AGM - but let me know if you would like a copy sent.

### **M**EMBERSHIP

As at the end of December our membership was 206 - down on the previous year, again due mainly to non-payment of subs which leads to names being deleted from our membership database. At the present time there are a number of members who haven't paid a sub for 2015. If this applies to you, there'll be a red dot at the top of this page and it would be appreciated if you could bring this up to date - either send me a cheque, pay direct into our bank account (see back page), or pay Sue at the Limb Centre. We depend on your support to continue providing a service to the amputees of Otago & Southland and value your membership. A reminder too that spouses/partners are most welcome to join as Associate Members.

### **B**EREAVEMENTS

We have recorded with regret the passing of Murray Smith of Kaitangata, and Ngaire Burgess of Balclutha (previously Invercargill and a member since 1979). Our sympathy has been extended to the families of these members.

### **N**EW MEMBER

A warm welcome to Lesley Hill of Fairfield.

### **I**NVERCARGILL CLINIC

Thursday 7 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.

Patron: Professor A K Jeffery ChM,FRCS,FRACS,ONZM

Affiliated to the Amputees Federation of New Zealand Inc.

## HERE & THERE

**Thank you** to members and supporters who donated towards the raffles at our meeting in Invercargill which raised \$135 and helped offset our expenses. We really appreciate the support given by our Southland members to this annual get-together.

**Our Annual Golf competition and Barbecue** took place during the weekend 7/8 November, with good numbers taking part in both. However, only the clay target shooting of the **Multisports** event was able to be held and the 10 pin bowling and pool will now take place on **Friday 26 February**. Those wishing to take part please meet at the Tenpin Bowling Alley in Kaikorai Valley Road (Stuart Street end) at 6 pm. Any questions and to confirm you'll be there, get in touch with Rory on 0272640305.

**Congratulations** to our young achievers on their success at the IPC World Athletics Championships in Doha in October (see Rory's Annual Report for details). We wish you all well in Rio!

**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).

**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 (phone 215-6715). Once on the register, you then need to contact Lisa Griffiths at the Invercargill City Council (211-1777) for your supply of vouchers. Note that Total Mobility taxi vouchers can be used anywhere in NZ, even in cities such as Auckland which use swipe cards.

**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](http://www.af.org.nz).

**Changed or Changing your Address?** Don't forget to let me or Sue at the Limb Centre know.

**Newsletters** - An increasing number of members now receive their newsletters by email. If you would like to be included, tick the box on the form (back page).

**Facebook** - Have you "Liked" us on FB yet? Go to our website [www.af.org.nz](http://www.af.org.nz) and click on our name to LIKE us!

## PROFILE - DAVID JOHNSTON, VICE PRESIDENT



Hi my name is David Johnston and I have been on the committee for 3 years. I reside in Invercargill and at the age of 21 I had cancer in the right iliac crest (part of the pelvis), this was removed with surgery along with my right leg – better safe than sorry. The procedure is called a hemipelvectomy or hind quarter amputation, there are several of us here in the Otago Southland region who have had this surgery. With the help of the Dunedin Artificial Limb Centre and a prosthetist called Eric Dempster a limb was designed and made and within 5 months I was walking again, first with 2 sticks, then one and 6 months later no sticks. Being short, young and fit was very beneficial to the outcome. Now 40 odd years later I am still short, not young and unfit.

I have always liked gadgets and technology so it is no wonder I work at a computer repair shop for the afternoons these days. As a committee we meet on a regular basis – when I say meet, the others meet and I greet from a distance via skype; to them I'm just a series of pixels on a laptop screen. Most meetings are held in Dunedin

but once a year in November there is a meeting in Invercargill when there is always a good turnout of Southland members. I look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM in Dunedin in March.

**COME AND JOIN US ON SATURDAY 12 MARCH**  
**Fill in the form at the back of this Newsletter**

## **AMPUTEE SOCIETY OF OTAGO AND SOUTHLAND INC.**

### **ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015**

Hi everybody and a Happy New Year! I hope the silly season was a good time for all, spent with friends and family. I enjoyed barbecues, fishing, and of course the cricket! My name is Rory and I work part-time at the Limb Centre in the workshop as a prosthetic technician. I've been in this position for over a year now and am enjoying my role working on lots of limbs. I was studying mechanical engineering but have put that on hold to focus on Paralympic athletics. However, to reflect on the past year within our Society.....

We were sad to record the passing during the year of our Patron and Life Member, Professor Keith Jeffery. Prof (as he was affectionately known) took over the position of consulting surgeon at the Dunedin Limb Centre following the death of Mr Walden Fitzgerald in July 1974. He retired as an orthopaedic surgeon at the end of 1999 but continued at the Limb Centre until 2007. Prof was made a Life Member of our Society in 1995 and as well as being our Patron he was a Vice Patron of the Amputees Federation of NZ. He will be long remembered for his caring and compassionate manner and the dedicated service he gave to the amputees of Otago and Southland.

We are pleased to advise that Mr Chris Birks has accepted our invitation to be the incoming Patron of our Society and look forward to his association with us. Chris will be the guest speaker at our AGM on 12 March.

Our Committee has met regularly during the year and their support is much appreciated.

Functions held during the year - our AGM, the Evan Mitchell celebratory dinner in Balclutha, the multisports event, golf and barbecue, and the Invercargill meeting and dinner - were all attended by the usual core of our loyal supporters which we really appreciate.

Some of our 'young achievers' as we refer to them, competed at the IPC World Athletics Championships, in Doha, Qatar, in October, resulting in some outstanding performances. Holly Robinson, known as 'Hoki Fisha' due to her tribal roots in Hokitika, threw a personal best in the woman's F46 javelin of 38.18m winning a bronze medal. Anna Grimaldi, (the Grim Reaper), also jumped a personal best distance of 5.41m in the woman's F46 long jump, winning a bronze medal on count back in a thrilling contest to pip the Russian athlete by 2cm. I myself was also fortunate to take out a silver medal in the men's F44 javelin with a throw of 55.80m. The three of us will be competing in the Rio Paralympics later in the year.

We are grateful for the support received in the way of grants during the year, viz. the Invercargill Licensing Trust, the Lottery Grants Board, the Otago Community trust and the Bendigo valley Foundation. Thank you too to members for their donations, and to our Auditors, Crowe Horwath, for the service they provide. I hope to see many of you at the AGM on Saturday 12 March.

Rory McSweeney  
President

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

Dunedin and Districts - Lorraine Peacock 455-6347, Tony Horsfall 453-1261, and  
Rory McSweeney 027 264 0305

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

Gore - Bill Lee 203-8263

Oamaru - Jan Browne 439-5543

Lakes District - Tetli Carey 409-0484



**Amputees  
Federation  
of New Zealand  
Incorporated**

### **NATIONAL CONFERENCE and GIVE IT A GO! FOCUS ON YOUTH**

Sudima Hotel, Christchurch  
15-17 April 2016

Contact the Coordinator for a Programme & Registration Form  
Also available on our website [www.af.org.nz](http://www.af.org.nz)

# 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 12 March

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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)

☐

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

## VENUE FOR AGM - SATURDAY 12 MARCH



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