



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

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NEWSLETTER

No. 192

FEBRUARY 2017

A very Happy New Year everyone - may 2017 be everything you want it to be and more! Enclosed with this newsletter is a magnetized calendar for your fridge - we hope you find it useful.

73rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and DINNER

This year's AGM will be on **Saturday 11 March** at the Otago Bridge Club in Otaki Street, Dunedin, at 4.30 pm. Following the meeting, our Guest Speaker will be Robbie Francis, Founder of the Lucy Foundation (read more on page 2 - but better still, come along and listen to an inspiring talk!) Following Robbie's presentation, dinner will be served 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 of prizes would be very 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 4 March. Payment for the dinner prior to the 11 March would be appreciated.

Included with this newsletter is the Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2016. The Financial Statements 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 had dropped to 194 - the lowest for some years. This can be attributed in part to non-payment of subs which is easily overlooked, so we are sending this newsletter to a number of previous members in the hope that you will rejoin. There are also a number of current members who haven't paid a sub for last year (2016) and if you are one of these, there'll be a red dot at the top of this page. It would be appreciated if you could bring this up to date - either send me a cheque, or pay \$20 (covering 2016 & 2017) 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 very welcome to join as Associate Members.

BEREAVEMENTS

We have recorded with regret the passing of Mavis Walsh of Invercargill, Ron Booth of Dunedin and Helena Houlden of Tuatapere. Our sympathy has been extended to the families of these members.

NEW MEMBER

No new members this time - here's hoping for a huge influx next time round!

INVERCARGILL CLINIC

Thursday 6 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: Mr C L Birks, MB, ChB, FRACS

Affiliated to the Amputees Federation of New Zealand Inc.

HERE & THERE

Recall from 2016 - There was a good turnout of members at our November events - the meeting and dinner in Invercargill and our annual golf and barbecue at 12 Oaks in Mosgiel. Winners of golf trophies were Tony Wilson (CAA Cup), Liz Rogers (Runner up trophy), Peter Mortimer (Colin Lawrence trophy for putting), and Jay Little (Supporters trophy). Thanks again to Tony for organising the event.

Congratulations to Anna Grimaldi on being awarded the MNZM in the New Year Honours - fantastic!

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 to make arrangements (455-8426).

Taxi Vouchers - Most of you who use the taxi vouchers in Otago have gone through the process of supplying a photo for a personal ID smart card. The Otago Regional Council which administers the scheme is yet to issue the cards but in the meantime anyone wanting to be assessed to qualify for the 50% discount should contact me. 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 a supply of vouchers.

Limb Centre WiFi - If you find yourself having to spend some time at the Limb Centre and own a laptop or i-pad, you can now access WiFi while waiting for the repairs/alterations to be done. An excellent move!

Are you a swimmer and living in Dunedin? The St Clair Salt Water Pool now has a hoist available to assist with getting into the pool - you need to ring them first (455-6352) to ensure it is available.

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.

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 and click on our name to LIKE us!

AGM GUEST SPEAKER - ROBBIE FRANCIS

Presentation Title: *They tried to bury us. They didn't know we were seeds.*



Naming a social enterprise after a prosthetic leg might seem unusual, but to me it just simply makes sense. My name is Robbie Francis - I am a 27 year old PhD student from the University of Otago. I was born with a condition called phocomelia, which meant I learned to walk on an artificial leg that became familiarly known as 'Lucy Leg'. I am the first to admit that I grew up in a world of opportunities and privilege. But things could have turned out very differently - a thought that hit home after I returned from working as a disability rights monitor in Mexico City. In the words of kiwi singer Brooke Fraser - *Now that I have seen, I am responsible*. There was no way I could continue with the status quo, knowing what I now knew and having seen what I saw. Documenting the problem was not enough - I wanted to become an active part of the solution. So The Lucy Foundation was born... a group of young people committed to working with local communities to promote education, employment and a culture of disability inclusiveness through environmentally, economically and ethically sustainable trade. Our aim? To create an entire value-chain of Mexican coffee that is totally inclusive of people with disabilities - from seed to cup!

(Come along and listen to Robbie at our AGM - having heard her speak at one of our National Conferences, I can assure you it will be inspiring!)

AMPUTEE SOCIETY OF OTAGO AND SOUTHLAND INC.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

Greetings and Salutations at the beginning of another year to all members and interested parties. May your year be happy and blessed. I am David Johnston and was somehow elected your President at the 2016 AGM. A few weeks later at the Federation meeting held in Christchurch I was elected onto the Federation Executive. This year I intend not to fall asleep during meetings so I can keep an eye on what is going on.

During the 2016 year we have met regularly as a committee, although I have been cheating a little by staying at home and letting the technology do the walking. While the other committee members go out on cold nights and meet at the Otago Bridge Club, I stay home nice and warm in Invercargill and join the meeting via Skype. Thanks to Lorraine and her trusty laptop this usually works.

I watched The Rio Paralympics with great interest this year as 3 of our committee members competed. Our immediate past President Rory McSweeney used his strong arm tactics to get into medal contention and won a Bronze (Javelin), the lovely Holly Robinson won Silver (Javelin), and our dear Vice President Anna Grimaldi decided only Gold was good enough as she leapt her way to victory (Long Jump). Congratulations to you all. Congratulations also go to Anna who received a MNZM (Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit) in the New Year's honours.

We have had several functions during this past year. The 72nd AGM of the Society was held at the Otago Bridge Club, Otaki Street, Dunedin, on Saturday 12 March 2016; 29 attended this including Associate members, partners and friends. Following the meeting, our Patron, Mr Chris Birks, gave an interesting talk on his personal background, his expertise as an orthopaedic surgeon, and recent advancements in prosthetics, including the introduction in New Zealand of osseointegration. This was followed by a beautiful meal.

On 13th of November the Golf and Barbecue outing at 12 Oaks Golf Course was very successful. Twenty-seven attended the Invercargill Meeting at the Invercargill Workingmen's Club on the 19th of November when the Guest Speaker was Community Constable David McLardy. A good and convivial evening was had by all finishing with a lovely buffet style meal.

We are grateful for the support received in the way of grants during the year namely from the Invercargill Licensing Trust, NZ Lottery Grants Board, Otago Community Trust and Pub Charity. Thank you also to those members who have given donations to our Society. Without the help of these grants and donations it would be nigh impossible for us to function. A big thank you also goes to our Auditors, Crowe Horwath, for the service they provide.

Condolences go out to all those who have lost family and friends this year. We have lost a few faithful members.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM and dinner on Saturday 11 March.

David Johnston
President

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

Dunedin and Districts - Lorraine Peacock 455-6347 or Tony Horsfall 489-4479

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

COME AND JOIN US ON SATURDAY 11 MARCH

Fill in the form on next page

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 11 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)

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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 11 MARCH



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