

Happy Easter!



Te Kāhui Mutumutu o Te Upoko o te ika-a-Māui  
Amputee Society of the Greater Wellington Region Inc

"Providing support for amputees and their families."  
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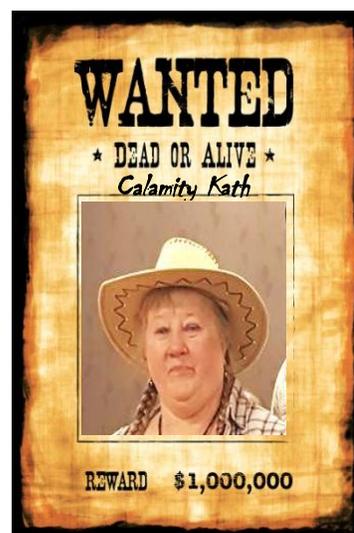
April Newsletter 2017

Kia ora koutou katoa, Talofa lava, Greetings, Howdy!



Amputee Federation of New Zealand Annual Conference  
Novotel Hotel, New Plymouth, April 7 - 9, 2017

A **BIG** thank-you to the Amputee Society of Taranaki for hosting a fabulous Conference.



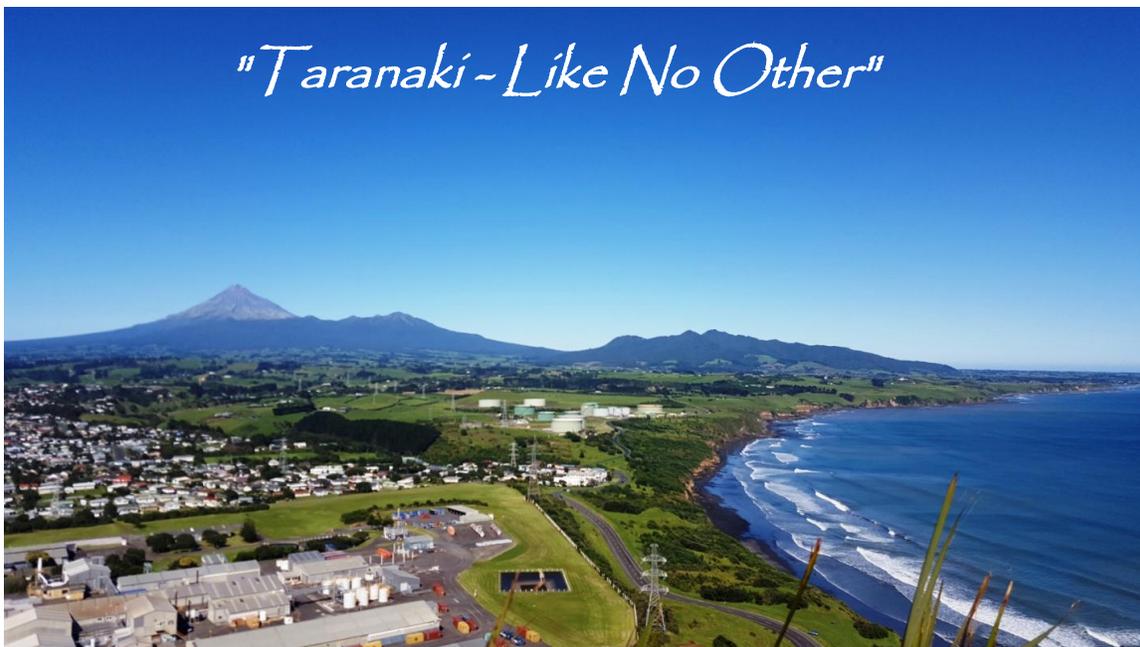
Howdy partners, the city-slickers from Wellington made a mighty grand effort to dress-up for the hoedown at the local Taranaki saloon. What a great night of fun, food and entertainment. The outlaw, Downright Dirty Dave Dastardly [far right] won a jug of moonshine for best dressed dude. Calamity Kath, Wanted for horse rustling and suspected involvement in a moonshine heist, was last seen hightailing it for the hills with Sherriff Jo's posse in hot pursuit. The one million dollar reward for the capture of Calamity Kath, Dead or Alive, would really help our Society no end, so please, if y'all catch sight of Calamity Kath, call into your local Sheriff's office.



We are grateful and would like to thank our sponsor The Lion Foundation for their support in allowing us to attend the Amputee Federation Conference in Taranaki and be informed and inspired by some outstanding guest speakers and also enjoy the company of fellow amputees and their families.

We are grateful for the support from:





We were blessed with absolutely beautiful picture-post-card weather in Taranaki after heavy rain bucketed down over most of the country only days before which saw the Whanganui river rise to extreme levels. During our road-trip to New Plymouth, we witnessed the water surging down the numerous rivers and tributaries but thankfully the waters didn't breach the Wanganui township.

While I was in New Plymouth I decided to scale Paritutu rock and captured this amazing view from the top showing part of the township and coastline with beautiful Mount Taranaki in the background.

As I write this newsletter another weather system [Cyclone Cook] is bearing down on New Zealand which is still trying to recover from previous flood damage and the residents of the Edgecombe township, which is still inundated with flood water, are bracing themselves for



more adverse weather.

<http://getthru.govt.nz/>

Tropical Cyclone Cook is tracking its way down the country tonight and severe weather warnings are in place, our thoughts and prayers go out to all the effected families.

The recent big quakes felt in Wellington were a wake-up call for us Wellingtonians, so please make sure you too, are prepared to get through all types of natural disasters.

*We are grateful for the support from:*



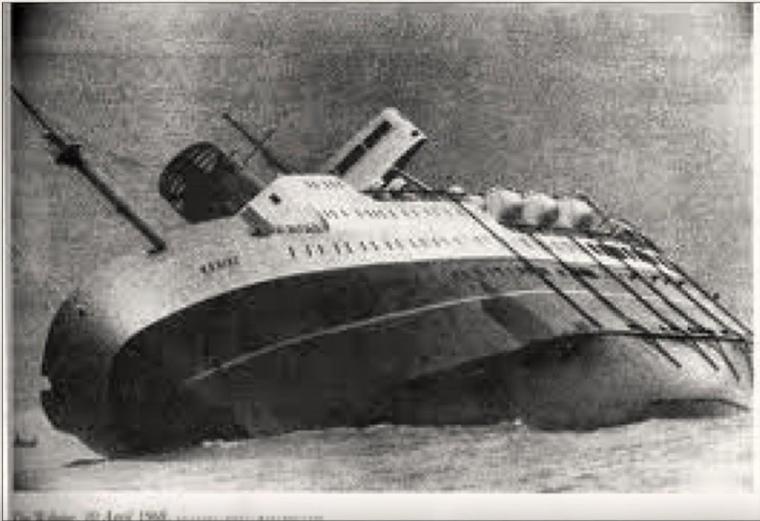
10th April 1968 NZ news

# The Worst Disaster

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**The Wahine Disaster**

There were 744 passengers and the crew on the Wahine. 51 lost their lives when the Wahine sank. The Wahine was built in Scotland less than two years before it sank. 691 survivors and many survivors were wrapped in a blanket.



*The wahine sinking*

April 2017 marks the anniversary of the Wahine disaster, next year 2018 will mark the 50th. Interestingly enough, today 12/04/17 the Met Service are saying that Tropical Cyclone Cook which is currently tracking its way south, down NZ could bring the same storm intensity as that of Tropical Cyclone Gisele that put the Wahine on the notorious Barrett Reef at the western entrance to Wellington harbour in 1968.



A Civil Defence emergency has already been declared in the Coromandel - Thames region, other parts of the country will soon follow suit. Motorists are being advised to delay or even cancel planned Easter holiday road trips across NZ, and citizens are being encouraged to buy extra supplies and hunker down at home and ride out the storm. The storm is expected to hit Wellington in the early hours of Friday 14th.

If anything hunkering down as a family for a few days may be a good thing but please keep safe and secure and make preparations to get thru, indeed; by all accounts this will surely be an Easter Weekend to remember.

**\*Remember, being prepared means ensuring you have enough meds to last up to 7 days\***

We are grateful for the support from:



## The Committee for 2017



I would like to introduce to you our committee for 2017 who were elected at our recent AGM. We would like to thank the Wellington Artificial Limb Centre for the use of their premises to hold our meeting. We said thank-you and farewell to Jenny Thompson and Don Millward our two life members for their many years of dedicated service for amputees and their families as they stepped down from the committee. We welcomed Dave Humphreys to the committee table and value his experience and contribution to the group.



We are delighted to be able to announce that we were successful in our application for Lotteries Funding. The Lotteries committee accepted our application and deemed that it satisfied their requirements and met the needs and aspirations of the target group, namely amputees and their families. This funding will continue to support the work of our Field Officer in our local region. We value the role of our Field Officer and his work which we feel is vital to health and wellbeing of our amputee community. We would like to thank Sean Gray from the NZALS, Linda Marino from the Whanau Support Unit at Wellington Hospital and amputee Les Pauling from Porirua, for their letters supporting our funding application.

*We are grateful for the support from:*





## New Central Regional Manager Appointed

We would like to welcome Rebecca Grooby, who has accepted the position of Central Regional Manager and look forward to her leadership, her skills as a prosthetist, and her desire to meet the needs of amputees and their families at the Wellington Limb Centre and regional satellites. Currently a Clinical Prosthetist at the Auckland Artificial Limb Centre, Rebecca will be taking up this new appointment some time in the month of June 2017. I'm sure you will all make her feel welcome. I look forward to working alongside Rebecca and hope to bring you her story in our next newsletter.



The 70th National Amputee Conference was officially opened by the Mayor of Taranaki, Neil Holdum who shared a childhood memory about an amputee farming labourer who was supported by his father and the Taranaki rural community, who all chipped in to ensure he was suitably employed, housed and fed. Neil's inquisitive nature saw him asking his father how this man lost his leg but dad didn't think it was appropriate for his young son to know. Some years later Neil asked his father again, "how did that man lose his leg?". Dad replied, "alcohol followed by a motorcycle crash took that mans leg." Perhaps information sharing with children was different back then, but what I liked about this story was the fact that the whole farming community surrounded this amputee to provide employment and shelter, each taking it in turn to care for and support this man.

What a great message this is for all of us, because all too often we can find ourselves having to navigate through many of life's difficult challenges alone and unsupported. As attendees at the Annual Conference, we all felt the support and inter-connectedness from fellow amputees. We all drew encouragement and enlightenment from shared life experiences which in turn gives us hope and confidence for a brighter future, not only for us but all amputees who will one day follow. We will be hosting the 2018 Amputee Federation Annual Conference here in Wellington, we would love to see you and experience what the conference has to offer.

*We are grateful for the support from:*



### Membership Renewal: 1 Dec 2016 - 30 Nov 2017

At the AGM in April, members agreed to increase subscriptions from \$5 a year to \$10.  
We value your continued membership of the Society which allows us to be a viable group.  
Your support allows us to respond to the needs of the Amputee community.



I wish to become a member/renew my membership - of the Amputee Society of the Greater Wellington Region and enclose payment to cover the following:

Membership subscription (\$10)	\$ .....
Associate Membership for my partner/spouse	\$ .....
Donation (tax deductible)	\$ .....
Total enclosed	\$ .....

Internet Banking: Westpac Bank Porirua **03 0547 0712589 01** [NB: IRD rebate is available for donations of \$5 or more]

Name (s) ..... Type of Amputation.....

Address .....

City ..... Post Code .....

Phone number ..... Mobile .....

Email .....

Post to: Treasurer  
27 Waiho Terrace  
Elsdon  
Porirua 5022

We are grateful for the support from:

