



Amputee
Society
of Hawke's Bay/
East Coast Inc.

Newsletter

January/February
2015

Annual General Meeting

The 2015 AGM will be held on
Sunday February 15th 2015

1.30 pm

At the hall

J H Mason Village

18 Durham Drive

Havelock North

There is a carpark behind the hall and the hall is wheelchair friendly
afternoon tea will be provided following the meeting

Anyone needing transport to and from the AGM please phone Diane
at 06 8774294 or text 021434833



Wednesday 4th March

at the Napier RSA Vautier St Napier

The quiz starts at 7pm, come early for a great table and dinner

Make up a team with a maximum of six players...or contact Diane to
join an existing team, decide on a team name and have some fun

- ◆ Cost \$5 per player
- ◆ Prizes for the winning teams
- ◆ Raffles
- ◆ Good food, reasonably priced

The proceeds of the evening will go to the Amputee Society of Hawkes Bay and East Coast

President's Reflection on 2014

This has been a year of learning and development for me personally. After being elected to the president's role at the 2014 AGM. I set to work with a vision of what the Amputee Society would look like by AGM 2015. The whole team has worked tremendously hard to achieve the goals we set.

Colin, as vice president, has been a great source of information around protocols and procedures. He has a huge knowledge of the history of the local and national organisations and I have sought his advice frequently. His spectacular success for the year has to have been the Monster Garage Sale, on which he and Heather worked energetically for many months, before it came to fruition on a grey day in October. It was a lucrative fundraiser which was masterminded and led by Colin.

Our financial membership has more than doubled since the last AGM. This achievement is largely due to the tireless work of our Field Officer, Geoff. Every member has had contact from Geoff during this year, most face to face, at least once. This includes members "up the coast". Geoff has made fantastic inroads into the hospitals both in the Bay and in the East Coast area. This has taken relentless effort to sell the society with a renewed, professional image and raise a positive profile. We are now receiving regular referrals from hospital staff and excellent feedback. We were among the most prompt to embrace the new national branding and we have a brighter more modern public face as a result.

In addition to his Field Officer role, Geoff has kept us ticking along financially as treasurer. We end the year in a more healthy position with finances earmarked for upcoming projects and an updated banking system which is both easy to use and efficient.

Throughout the year, the committee members have stepped up to help with the details of each project and event. As always, teamwork ensured the success of all events. Hunter retires at the AGM and we thank him for his service as past treasurer and committee member.

Our secretary, Colleen, has worked diligently during the five years of her tenure. Colleen has spent this last year capably supporting me and ensuring that I know what needs to be done when. The establishment of our popular water fitness program has been Colleen's project. Starting with her idea and resulting in the regular sessions of free, instructed water exercise, Colleen has led this initiative.

I will certainly miss her when she retires from the secretary's chair at the end of this term. Social events have been enjoyable and increasingly well attended. We started the year with a mystery car rally and ended in late November with a Christmas function which attracted a fantastic turnout, including a member from Gisborne. There were other opportunities for lunch dates during the year including visits to Speights Ale House and the Patangata Tavern. I have been delighted with our progress throughout the year. My vision is for a society which attends to the welfare of amputees from a variety of angles. Some members need support through the early stages of the amputee experience or through a crisis, whereas at the other end of the spectrum, some simply want to receive a regular newsletter and to know that we are there if needed. I have seen my role as the coordinator of all of our functions and the one who has an overview and a finger in multiple pies. Newsletters and member welfare have been my areas of particular focus. I've been privileged to represent our region on the national executive also. I have enjoyed the year and I've learned heaps. I've had a lot of laughs and I've shed a few tears at the funerals of members who have sadly passed away during the year. Because I am proud of what we have done and believe in our strengthening future, I have agreed to being nominated at the AGM, for another year. However, AGM's being what they are, there is no guarantee that my nomination will be successful; so in case this turns out to be my Swansong, thanks for the fabulous support and encouragement I've enjoyed and the coffee and personal stories so many of you have shared with me. Kia Kaha, Diane Walsh.

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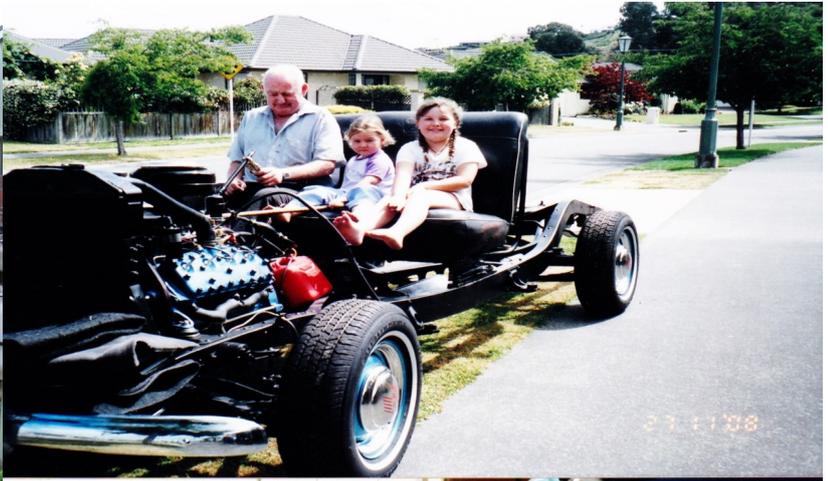
Member Profile: Colin Taylor

By Geoff Hansen



Colin & Pam Taylor live in Taradale, their kids are grown up with one of the three still in Hawkes Bay. Colin had a logging truck & trailer & contracted to Pan Pac delivering logs from the forestry to the mill. His truck operated over 2 shifts with Colin's son operating the other shift. Back in 1992 Colin was doing the afternoon shift & was having his truck unloaded at the mill. He had completed the unloading & had backed his truck up to mount the trailer on the rear & was working on the various hoses between the vehicles when a huge forklift (like the ones they have at the Port) ran into the back of his trailer. Unfortunately Colin's right leg got caught between the vehicles & was all but severed above the knee. A massive amount of flesh & around 4" of nerve had been torn from his leg. An ambulance was called immediately, however there was a mix up & the ambulance went to Hastings first, so it was around 45 minutes before it arrived & Colin was taken to Napier Hospital. He was conscious the whole time & remembers speaking to Dr Knight & saying "please make a good job of my amputation" so Colin was well aware he would lose his leg. So after around 4 or 5 hours of surgery it was amputated 6 or 7" above his knee. After a few weeks of recovery with the usual pain & discomfort Colin was discharged from hospital & due to good care & pressure bandaging of his stump began the process of getting an artificial leg. Colin was adamant he was going back to his job & Pan Pac contract & prior to his accident had ordered a new truck, & being a handy do-it-yourselfer Colin made hand controls & fitted these to his new truck & was back at work pretty quickly. He admits it took 2 or 3 weeks to get back up to speed with his business. The hand controls were easily removable so were not an issue for the other driver. Colin carried on with his business for 6 or 7 years then sold up & did a bit of part time work operating diggers & loaders. In 2001 Colin & Pam had a big change, they sold their house & purchased Thornton Lodge Motel in Waipukurau. It needed a bit of TLC & with both of their hands on attitudes they soon had things upgraded & updated. Although with Colin's contacts in the trucking industry the tennis court soon became a truck park at night with entrance gates being widened & a turnaround track put in. After 5 years they decided to sell the Motel & bought the beautiful home they still live in. Colin did a bit of part time machinery operating but his real passion was calling & in 2007 he purchased a 1946 V8 Ford that a chap down south had made a small start on restoring but given up. What with having to get up & down off his workshop floor as often happens with amputees the good limb takes an extra workload & Colin had to have a knee replacement. Unfortunately 4 days after his operation he had a major heart attack & found himself in Wellington Hospital having a quadruple bypass. The days in hospital were the only days Colin didn't work on the V8 & he had it fully restored in just over a year. As can be seen in the picture of Colin under his V8 he spread himself around a fair bit (haha.) The next project was a Farmall tractor in poor condition with a seized motor that has since been restored fully & Colin does plough days on it. In 2013 a 1982 Ford F100, which was rusted & in poor condition, was purchased as the next project. Colin was working on the carburettor of the F100 when I arrived & I had to hurry up as it was booked in for a wheel alignment that afternoon. Colin & Pam go to yearly conventions as American V8 Ford Club members & often do the monthly car runs. The vehicles are certainly immaculate & Pam keeps Colin going with lovely smoko breaks. Homemade tomato chutney was being made by Pam when I was there. I couldn't leave without Colin looking under the bonnet of my Ford & me giving it a few revs for him to check things. Not old enough to restore yet sorry Colin.

Thanks for sharing your story with us guys & all the best for 2015.



Colin's World



Report on Water Fitness for Amputees

Colleen Kelly

Hello to you all,

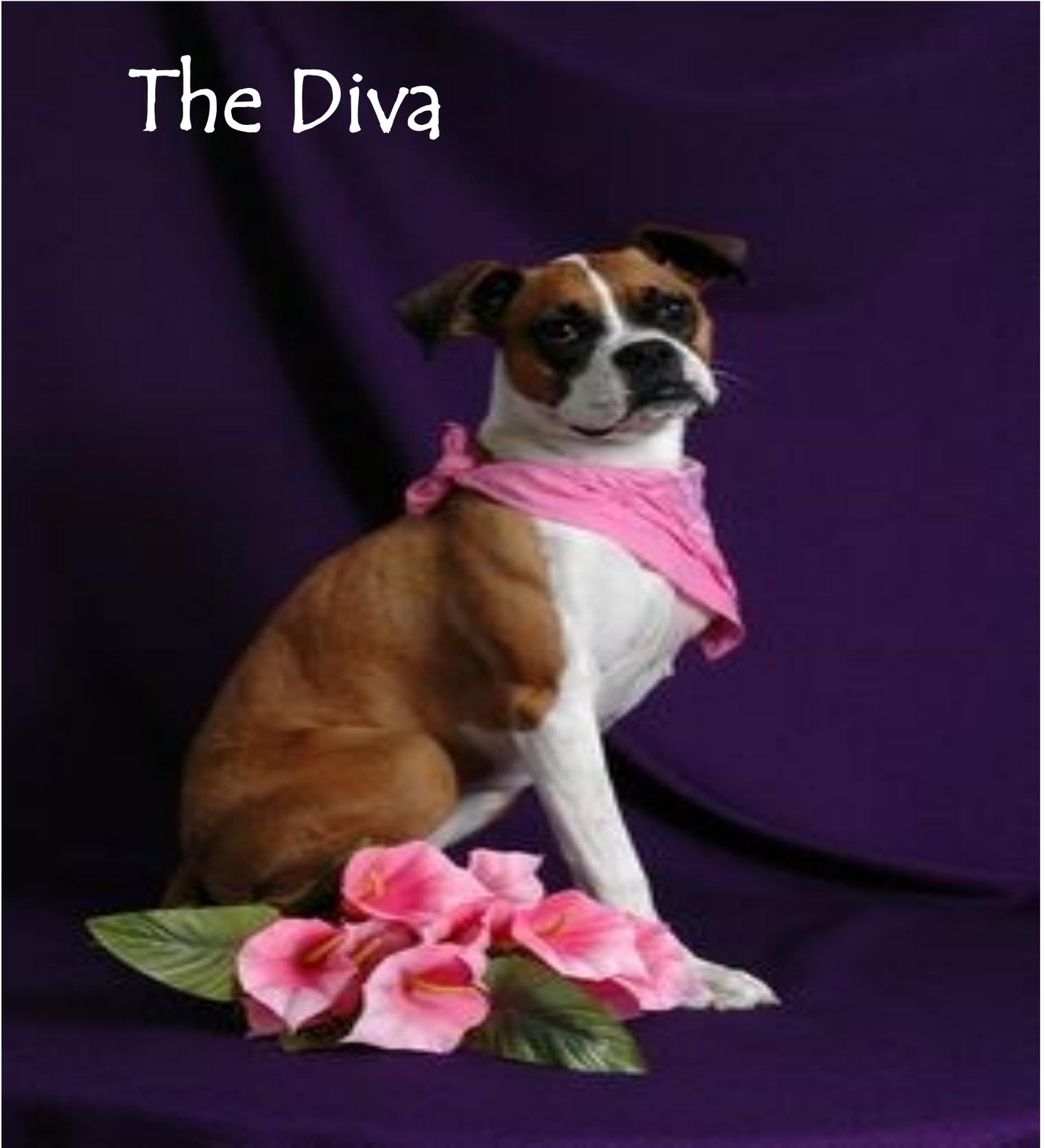
As you know The Amputee Society of Hawke's Bay/East Coast Inc has been running a swimming programme for all amputees in our region,

Overall this has been a great success with our members attending all sessions when able. The best thing about this is that all can participate regardless of age and ability and as it is low impact puts no pressure on stumps. The programme is based on deep water aerobics but is tailored to suit amputees; there is an instructor at the poolside directing the exercise and another in the water for assistance when necessary. Everyone in the water wears a flotation device with safety being a priority, and all are encouraged to do just what they are comfortable with. Feedback from the participants is very positive, reporting the freedom and warmth of the water is great for joint flexibility, weight loss and general wellbeing, The programme is free to all society members.

The plan is to run the programme again this year and the committee asks for a greater amount of involvement from the wider society members, they would not be required to get into the water but help the swimming participants with their prostheses and getting in and out of the pool.

Anyone who feels able to help, please speak to a committee member.

The Diva



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HB & East Coast Amputee Society newsletters and brochures.

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