



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

## **NEWSLETTER**

**May/June  
2014**

### **Editor's Note**

Hi Everyone, above is the bright new logo of the Amputee's Societies and the Federation. The logo replaces the triangle which was designed in 1948. The new logo was adopted at the recent National Conference as part of a complete rebranding of stationery, publications etc, by the nine Societies and the Federation. The logo represents the diversity of amputees and amputations, depicting how we all support each other and by ongoing activity, that life does not end with amputation.

### **A few words about Amputee Society Subs**

- It's time for the boring subject of subs again. Some have already paid them for 2014, but many are still to do so. In the past we have simply put a notice in the newsletter, but in these busy days it seems that subs often go on the "back burner" and don't get paid.
- The Amputee Society's financial year ends on the 30th November, so inevitably, subs are due on the 1st December each year.
- For new members who joined and paid near the end of the financial year, we make an exception and carry that initial subscription through to cover the next financial year. Lifetime members are also exempt from paying subs. We have several methods of payment available: online banking, cheque to our post office box or even cash still works for us. Details are below and also on the invoice.
- The annual subscription is \$10 each for amputees and associate members eg partners, spouses etc
- For that you receive:
  - **Six newsletters per year**
  - **Distribution of Purpose magazine**
  - **The services of our Field Officer in hospital and at home**
  - **Activities arranged for your enjoyment eg FREE water fitness program**
  - **Support in times of challenge**
  - **Affiliation with our National Body who negotiate on our behalf to keep the benefits we have eg our free Limb Service**
  - **Assistance with some expenses at the National Conference GIAG program**
- We have decided to include an invoice with the newsletters of those who are due to pay.
- Associate members are also most welcome.
- If there is no invoice, you are up to date.
- If you feel we have made a mistake, please contact Geoff 06 870 3357, or Diane, 06 8774294, or if you have any difficulty with payment, please call us, we're here to help.
- Online Banking: **03 1518 0032642 00**
- Postal Address: Amputee Society, **PO Box 369, Hastings**
- Cash in an envelope with your name on it, handed to any committee member.

### **Gordon Alexander Grant**

It is with sadness that the committee acknowledges the death of one of our long time members, Gordon Grant, who passed away suddenly on May 5th. Gordon lived on Ngamatea Station in Central Hawke's Bay, and earlier at Patoka, with farm work being his occupation for many years. Gordon was described as "a friendly face" at Amputee Society get togethers, having been an amputee for ten years.

Gordon's funeral was held on May 9th at Waipukurau. The Amputee Society was represented by three of our senior members, who reported that the service was very well attended with many heartfelt tributes paid to Gordon by friends and family. The President and Committee send sincere condolences to Lola and family.

**May He Rest in Peace.**



### **The National Amputee Conference 2014**

Sunny Nelson lived up to its name by turning on stunning weather for the recent annual Amputee Conference. Thanks to generous funding from Lotteries, four members, Diane Walsh, Hunter Collins Kelly, Geoff Hansen and Joan Parker attended from Hawke's Bay/East Coast. Two of our younger amputees enjoyed the Give it a Go experience. Our delegates were Hunter and Geoff, while Diane represents us on the executive committee to which she was re-elected for a further year at the national AGM which was held on the Friday evening.

Saturday offered a range of options for conference goers, including a visit to Nelson's famous outdoor markets.

Saturday afternoon was packed with interesting and topical sessions. (Watch out for a full report in the next Purpose magazine) On Saturday evening the conference dinner was overrun by fearsome pirates and with delicious food, some great local beverages and good music, was a rocking success. Spot some of our local pirates below. After a feedback presentation from the GIAG team on Sunday morning, the conference closed for lunch, with many attendees airport bound.



## **Member Profile: Rob and Tina Eaglesome**

**By Geoff Hansen**

Member Rob Eaglesome & Tina live in Wairoa in a lovely cottage that has a modern/vintage juke box in the lounge & plenty of sheds. Rob is a dedicated member of the Wairoa British Motorcycle Club. Back in 2009 Rob rode a Harley Davidson Dyna Super Sport 1450 & Tina had an 83 Harley Davidson 1340 Shovel Trike painted cream and black.

The story begins with Tina's daughter Jade suddenly getting "Good posture syndrome" a rare autoimmune disease in which antibodies attack the lungs and kidneys, leading to bleeding from the lungs and to kidney failure. It may quickly result in permanent lung and kidney damage, often leading to death. Diagnosis is often not reached until very late in the course of the disease. Jade was 19 and was flown to Wellington and on arrival was diagnosed with 5% lung capacity and both her kidneys had failed. Three times during Jade's stay in intensive care Rob and Tina were asked to turn off life support which they vehemently refused, saying Jade was a strong girl and would recover. On Jade's 26<sup>th</sup> day on life support the Dr's noticed a slight improvement and after a 3 month stay in ICU she was well enough to be transferred to a ward. The family was all tested for availability and compatibility for a donor kidney however none were suitable. In desperation Rob the step-father asked to be tested and it turned out he matched in 5 of 6 compatibilities which was enough for Rob to be his step daughter's donor. Jade had endured dialysis and chemotherapy and was told she would never be a mother.

On February 15 2010 Rob donated a kidney to Jade and as is often the case it takes the donor longer to recover than the recipient. On April 16 after recovering from surgery Rob is off on his bike to Gisborne however 50kms north of Wairoa around Moerere Rob was forced across the road by a car performing a U turn and hit an approaching van. The bike caught fire as did Rob himself, fortunately he was not burnt alive but suffered multiple injuries including 12 broken ribs, broken sternum, broken femur, both arms injured, one with compound fractures the other with serious dislocation resulting in Rob's elbow being in the middle of his triceps. Rob was awake but has little or no memory of this time or much of his early days in hospital when his left leg was amputated below the knee. He remembers being told by the surgeon he had catastrophic injuries. Rob had 2 days in Gisborne Hospital but was flown to Hastings due to the severity of his injuries. He spent 5 weeks in hospital and after pleading his case to be released, he was, however he has endured 5 more operations since leaving hospital, the most recent being in February this year. It took Rob 18 months before he walked again with numerous procedures having to be redone to ensure the best stability for him. Even with all this Rob is still riding a Harley having just purchased a 2011 Rocker that's only done 300kms. I'm sure Rob would like to hear from anyone interested in his 97 Harley Davidson Road King with the Jack Daniels paint job (per photos) if it hasn't been purchased yet.

By the way Jade is progressing well and is the proud mother of Halo who Rob & Tina refer to as "The Miracle Baby" given that Jade was told she would be unable to have children.

Thanks Rob & Tina for sharing your story with us. It is inspiring in many ways.



**Rob and his  
handsome  
Harley**



I left home at 1.30pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> March and got to Wairoa Hospital around 3.00pm for my meeting with Joanna Cunningham the Hospitals Occupational Therapist. She showed me around, and of course we ended up in the smoko room. Joanna had given me a few local contacts one being a Physiotherapist, so I called in to her business to make myself known and gave her some information on the Society. I arrived in Gisborne after 5.00pm got unpacked & settled in for the night. I got over to the Orthotics Department in the morning for the East Coast Limb Fitters Clinic around 8.15am and Jim Greig was there to meet me, and told me he would stay with me all morning. He had as usual organised a lunch for the local members at Snackisfaction Cafe in town. At midday I put Jim's wheelchair in the boot of the car and we drove down there for lunch. Rob, Peter, Chris, Jim & myself were there for a delicious and cheap lunch that included tarakihi and shrimp rolls, and I managed to take two back to the Motel in a doggie bag for later. I dropped Jim off home and went back for the afternoon's appointments, which ended up being a bit light. I got to meet the Hamilton Limb Centre's resident Physiotherapist Mary-Clare. She had done a presentation to the Gisborne Hospital Physios in the morning and arranged for them to come over and observe a new amputee getting a fitting for a new leg. With that days appointments over I rang a few of our members and drove out to meet Dave Ferkins who has a farm and a large agricultural harvesting business. Dave showed me around some of his plant, silos & equipment & we had a great talk. There were a few appointments the next morning but it was all over by around 10.30am so I packed up, said goodbye to Claude and Carein the Fitters and Reg the Orthotist and headed off. I stopped off in Wairoa to see a couple of members and got to check out Rob's new Harley. Very nice, dragged myself away and back on the road off home finishing another satisfying Gizzy trip. Hope to catch up with more of you in September.



Jim Greig and mate Afriana



A good yarn over lunch



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please ask your family and friends to like us too**

### Important Notice

Due to the Privacy Act, it can be difficult to learn of new amputees for our Field Officer, Geoff, to contact. While we appreciate that some will choose not to take up the offer of contact, some may also miss out because we don't know about them. If you hear of an amputee, before or after their surgery, or an amputee who would like a call, for whatever reason, please give them Geoff's number or, if they would prefer, give Geoff their contact details.

Geoff 021 723 609 or 06 8703357



### Save The Date

27th July, 2014  
1200

We're planning a mid winter lunchtime get together  
at the iconic Patangata Tavern  
The pub is a 35 minute, scenic drive from Hastings  
and as usual there'll be plenty of room in cars for  
those who need or want transport  
The food is great and reasonably priced  
**More details in the July newsletter**

### FREE Water Fitness for Amputees

Our first ever **free** water fitness program especially for amputees, began again on Thursday, May 8th at 2pm and will run until May 22nd. We plan another course later in 2014.

It involves....

- Gentle exercise in warm water, supported by flotation equipment
- A trained water fitness instructor
- free to members including admission to the pool complex
- Assistance if necessary to enter and exit the pool
- Disability friendly environment

Numbers are limited, so please phone Colleen 8443289  
to secure your place.

*If you have a problem which is stopping you from joining us,  
please let us see if we can sort it out to enable you to come!*



### Total Mobility

Everyone in Hawke's Bay who has a disability which prevents them from travelling by bus for all or any of their daily activities, is entitled to apply for some financial help with the cost of taxi travel.

There are a wide range of circumstances which apply so an enquiry is worthwhile

Many amputees are eligible for this assistance.

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I have recently become an assessor for this scheme and I will be glad to give you formation and a free assessment if you decide this may be useful to you.

Check it out, you may be eligible.

Give me a call 06 8774294 (Diane Walsh)



Water Babies at the Onekawa Pools

### Hikoi 4 Life

Community health is a big interest for the manager, Porky and the staff at the gym at 400 Maraekakaho Rd, Hastings. Porky invites anyone interested in improving their fitness to go and visit the gym, look around and get the feel of what's on offer. The first session will be free, but prices (detailed below) are very affordable at all times, the aim being a healthier community. Everyone is welcome, regardless of disability, fitness, size or shape. Amputees are encouraged, with exercise regimes adapted to each individual's needs. Wheelchairs aren't a problem, as you can still participate and gain the strength and fitness that comes from increased activity. Three times a week there is an exercise session for Kamatua, the elders among us :) Anyone can discuss their needs with Porky by making a time to visit when he is available, or just drop in to chat with the friendly staff.

**400 Maraekakaho Rd, Hastings (cnr of Southhampton St)**

**06 8787825**

**5.30am till 8pm Monday to Friday**

**7.00am till 12md Saturday**

**\$20.00 per year**

**plus \$5 tag fee for swipe card to enter the gym**

**(this is a one-off and wont be charged again during your membership)**

**\$2.00 per session if aged less than 60**

**FREE if aged 60+**

**Casual sessions without membership \$5.00**

