



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

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NEWSLETTER

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Hello everyone and welcome to our Newsletter with its new logo! This logo, which replaces the triangle that had been in existence since 1948, was adopted at the recent National Conference and the Federation and nine Societies are now in the process of rebranding stationery etc. For those of you not reading this on-line, you will be able to see the vibrancy of the new colours with the next issue of *Purpose*; in the meantime, the March issue is enclosed - a couple of months out-of-date now but we hope you find it good reading nevertheless.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Twenty-eight members, partners and friends attended the 70th AGM and dinner at the Otago Bridge Club on Saturday 1st March. Elected to the Committee were: President - Tony Horsfall; Vice President - Rory McSweeney; Coordinator - Yours Truly; Committee - David Johnston (Invercargill), Simon McMillan, Evan Mitchell (Balclutha), Holly Robinson, Graeme Sayer, and Tony Wilson. Thank you to those who donated towards the raffles which raised \$170 towards the evening's expenses.

The number attending the meeting was disappointing, given that we had a really interesting guest speaker (what can we offer to get more of you along?!). Professor Dirk De Ridder, head of Dunedin's neurosurgery research unit, talked about the pathways that take pain to the brain and contribute to the varying levels of phantom pain and also spoke about the various methods of treatment for phantom pain.

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following new members since the last newsletter: Les & Margaret Lane of Palmerston; Lester Mulligan and John McRae of Temuka; Newton Marshall and Karen Bell of Invercargill; Robert Bain of Oamaru; Keith King of Timaru; Gavin Wilson, June Burr and Bob Barnes, all of Dunedin.

OBITUARIES

We have recorded with regret the passing of Dorothy Emerson of Timaru; Elva Jack of Mosgiel; Jim Lamb and Mervyn Newton of Gore; and Brian Hannagan, Elizabeth Bremner and Craig Peterson, all of Dunedin. We are most grateful to Craig's family and friends for donations of \$865 made to our Society at his funeral.

MID WINTER DINNER

This proved to be very popular last year so we're off to the Balclutha Town & Country Club again on Saturday 7 June - time approx. 6 pm - and plenty to choose from on the menu at reasonable prices. Transport will be provided from Invercargill and Dunedin - ring either David (Invercargill 214-1548) or me (455-6347).

HERE & THERE

National Conference - Thanks to a generous grant from Pub Charity, 14 of our members again joined the Conference and Give it a Go event in Nelson 21-23 March. It was a most enjoyable and stimulating weekend - a report will be included in the next issue of *Purpose*.

Emailed Newsletters - An increasing number of members now receive their newsletters and *Purpose* by email. If you would like to be included, email me at lorrstan@xtra.co.nz.

Overdue Subs - There are still a few members who haven't paid their sub for 2013. If you have a red dot on your newsletter this applies to you and we would appreciate you bringing your subs up to date by paying for 2013 (\$5) and 2014 (\$10) as soon as possible.

HERE & THERE (cont.)

Our thanks to the Invercargill Licensing Trust for their recent generous grant.

Congratulations to Holly Robinson on her recent success in China - 2 NZ records, 1 Oceania record, a PB in the shotput and a PB in the javelin. Fantastic!

Committee Meetings - Members are welcome to join us at the Otago Bridge Club. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 28 May at 7.30 pm.

OUR GRANTS

Applications are invited for grants from the following funds:

Meffan and Pankhurst Funds - Welfare grants up to a maximum of \$300 in any one year can be made from these funds to help improve independence and quality of life of members. Some examples of purposes for which grants can be made are: health and medical services; subsidising of travel over and above Total Mobility taxi vouchers; home comforts, e.g. wood, coal etc; equipment which will assist independence and/or mobility.

Coyle Young Achievers' Fund - Grants up to \$500 can be made to young people up to the age of 30 to help with cultural and sporting interests and hobbies. Young people are encouraged to get in touch with the Coordinator or a Committee member to discuss possibilities.

Application Forms for all grants are available from the Coordinator and will be considered by the Finance Sub Committee after the closing date of 31 May. Applicants must have been a financial member of the Society for at least two years and, if successful, grants will be paid only upon the supply of a quote or invoice, with payment made to the service provider.

NEWS FROM MARK AT THE LIMB CENTRE

The Dunedin Limb Centre is currently experiencing some staffing changes for various reasons and I would like to take this opportunity to let you all know what is happening behind the scenes and some of our plans for the future. A number of amputees will know Eric Avery as a long-term prosthetic technician who has worked in our workshop for over 20 years, fabricating a number of limbs and completing a huge number of repairs over this time. Eric has unfortunately been on long-term sick leave for back issues and a number of other medical problems that have resulted in him being unable to work for the past two years. It has now reached a point where both Eric and the NZALS need to progress and with this in mind Eric was medically retired at the end of April. Eric has a number of unique skills that will be missed by us all and has been involved in a number of one-off projects that have been of direct benefit to a number of amputees over the years. We wish Eric all the best with his ongoing rehabilitation and future. We are currently looking for a suitable replacement for this position and do appreciate your understanding as we progress through this process. We all look forward to having a full contingent of staff soon.

Also, from 1 July our friendly office administrator, Sue Kennedy, is reducing her work hours to spend more quality time for herself and family. Sue is planning to reduce to a four day working week and will not be at the Limb Centre on Fridays. Sue's extended weekends will have some minor effects to our regular office service on Fridays, especially with phone contact. However, we will continue to answer all calls directly as best as we can, or if we are not immediately available we will respond to any messages (and/or contact details) left on the answer machine. I do encourage you to leave us a message should we not answer your call straight away and we will return your call as soon as we possibly can. I would be happy to talk with any amputee or support person regarding the staffing changes at the Dunedin Limb Centre should you have any concerns (Phone 0508 474 474).

Until next time, take care *Lorraine Peacock*

SUBSCRIPTION form for those of you who haven't yet paid this year's sub or have a red dot!

Membership subscription (\$10) \$

Associate Membership for partner/spouse (\$10) \$

Donation (Donations over \$5 are tax deductible) \$

Total \$

Name

(Include name of partner/spouse if subscribing as an Associate Member)

Address

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(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. Or you can pay by direct credit to our bank account 031355 0277644 00 (please identify with your name).