



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

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## NEWSLETTER

**No. 193**

**MAY 2017**

Here we are, nearly half of the year gone already - does it *really* go faster the older you get.....? With this newsletter is the March issue of **Purpose** - a little late getting to you but still a good read.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**A**Our 73rd AGM and dinner at the Otago Bridge Club on Saturday 11th March drew our usual core group of loyal supporters plus one or two newcomers. Unfortunately, due to a family crisis our guest speaker Robbie Francis was unable to be present. However, Simon McMillan ably filled the gap and told us about his four months in Indiana last year as part of a Fulbright Award in Teaching. David Johnston of Invercargill was re-elected President, Anna Grimaldi Vice President, yours truly Coordinator, and other committee members elected were Tony Horsfall, Simon McMillan, Rod Oakley, Holly Robinson, Graeme Sayer and Tony Wilson. At the end of the meeting, I was presented with flowers and a citation in recognition of my 50 years as Secretary (so much for sharing with a daughter who just had to pass it on!).

### **NEW MEMBER**

**N**A warm welcome to Marie McGrath of Dunedin - we hope to see you at one of our functions.

### **OBITUARIES**

**O**We have recorded with regret the passing of Des Condon of Riverton and Stuart Laughton of Dunedin.

### **HERE & THERE**

**H****Taxi Vouchers** - Otago people who use the vouchers and have provided a photo will have received a letter from the Otago Regional Council saying that they should receive personalised ID swipe cards by the end of May and giving instructions on how to use them. You will then need to return your unused vouchers to the Council. If you use the vouchers but haven't gone through the process of supplying a photo there will be a limit to the time you can use the vouchers so you should act quickly to get yourself onto the system.

**Our thanks** to the Invercargill Licensing Trust for their recent grant towards Southland administration expenses, and to the Lion Foundation and Bendigo Valley Foundation for their grants towards conference travel and accommodation. (A report on conference will be included in the next *Purpose*.)

**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 Wilson to make arrangements (455-8426).

Our **Evan Mitchell Celebratory Dinner** in Balclutha will be held on Saturday 2 September - more details in the next newsletter.

**Emailed Newsletters** - We're very keen to have more of you receiving our newsletter and *Purpose* by email. Please let me know ([lorrstan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lorrstan@xtra.co.nz)) or tick the box on the form (over page).

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

Dunedin and Districts - Lorraine Peacock 455-6347 and 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

Patron: Mr C L Birks, MB, ChB, FRACS

Affiliated to the Amputees Federation of New Zealand Inc.

## INTRODUCING HOLLY ROBINSON

If you haven't met her personally you will no doubt have read of Holly's accomplishments in the news or seen her on TV. Holly was recently one of eight from Otago to receive a NZ Youth Award - hers was for representing NZ as the flag bearer in the opening ceremony of the Rio Paralympic Games and also for breaking the world record for the F46 javelin and being placed second overall.

A recent reprint of the Amputees Federation's book *An Ongoing Challenge* includes Holly's profile (written by Jane Smith).



Holly, who is of Ngai Tahu descent, was born without a hand and forearm on her left arm. A no-nonsense West Coast family did not let her feel sorry for herself so she soon learned how to manage eating, dressing, and handling books and paper, not easy with only one hand. She started school in Hokitika. On the first day children in the playground bullied her and commented on her arm. She was prepared. She knew how to stand up for herself and twin brother Jonathon was there in support. Her ebullient personality and competitiveness helped her overcome many obstacles and she was soon involved in competitive sport - rugby, basketball, netball, swimming and badminton. From Hokitika Primary School she graduated to Westland High School where her favourite subject was PE and she concentrated on athletics field events - javelin, shot put and discus. She was selected to compete in the CCS Disability Action Games where she was recognised as an exceptional talent.

Paralympics New Zealand awarded her a scholarship to Taieri College near Dunedin so that she could work with Paralympic coach Raylene Bates and take advantage of the facilities at the High Performance Sport New Zealand Training Centre. This was a huge boost to her athletic career. Holly has since competed with distinction at the 2012 Summer Paralympics in London and the 2016 Summer Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro.

These days Holly is working for Sport Otago as Walk n Wheel coordinator 2017. She enjoys working rather than studying all the time, particularly since this job involves working with young people, encouraging them to be more active. She shares a flat with four others and does all her own cooking. Training takes most of her spare time as she strives to be the best in the World. Her performances in International competition show outstanding progressive improvement with the javelin from a throw of 30.61m in 2011 in Australia and a 7th world ranking to 41.22m in Brazil in 2016 and a 2nd world ranking.

*Well done Holly! We're proud of you!*

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## SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Use this form if you haven't yet paid this year's sub or haven't paid for last year (there will be a red dot on the front of your newsletter).

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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).