

## Meet Kate May



In early March, due to Debbie Hockley taking a period of extended leave, Kate May started as the new full-time physiotherapist at the Burwood Limb Centre on a one year contract. Meet her below and do make her welcome when you next visit the centre.

Kate was born at Ashburton Maternity Hospital in 1987 and has 2 brothers, both of whom still live in Methven and her parents still work and live on the family farm. Kate is the daughter of prominent harness racing driver and inductee into the Addington Raceway Hall Of Fame, Ricky May. Kate attended all her schooling in Methven and completed her secondary schooling at Mt Hutt College before moving to Dunedin for four years to undertake her physiotherapy training. Upon graduation, she worked at Greymouth Hospital for 18 months before coming to ChCh Public for another 18 months. Kate then decided to embark upon her OE and worked as a physiotherapist in the UK for around 2 years. During this time, Kate said she was lucky to be able to travel extensively around Europe and her accomplishments are detailed further on in this article. She has been working at Burwood Hospital for around 2 years and starts her one fixed term position at the Burwood Limb Centre on March 5th where she will be employed on a full time basis. Kate is enthusiastic about this opportunity to broaden her skills and knowledge around people suffering from limb loss and can't wait to start in her new role. Kate has a long term partner and they both enjoy the outdoors lifestyle. Accordingly, she likes people who are into this lifestyle, are active and appreciate the wonderful opportunities that lie at our "back door". As a child, Kate remembers many happy times at the family farm and was a keen horse rider. Although she admits that she does not ride much these days, she recalls her and her brothers being active helpers with her father's involvement with horses. Kate stressed that they were very happy times and she counts herself as lucky to have grown up in the wonderful rural community around Methven. Her family are very important to her and she said that her hard working parents have been exceptionally supportive of her throughout her life. When only a teenager, she found it hard to deal with the sudden & unexpected loss of her grandmother, who had been living on the family farm. Her grandfather still lives on the property and she loves "going home" to see all the family. Growing up, she thought Christchurch was a HUGE city and it was a real treat to drive to the city to buy McDonalds as there was no outlet in Ashburton at the time!!!!

Kate admitted that the greatest risk she ever took was to leave NZ in 2013 on her OE but the experiences she gained whilst away have confirmed to her that it was the right decision. FAVOURITE FOOD: Pasta & cheesecake FAVOURITE PLACE: Central Otago but also enjoyed many of the countries visited. FAVOURITE ACTIVITIES/HOBBIES: Tramping/watching sport/time with friends and has just started playing golf (badly she says).

#### KATE MAY CONTINUED:

FAVOURITE MUSIC: Likes old and new. She is going to the Ed Sheeran concert in Dunedin in March. FAVOURITE MOVIE: Admits to being a romantic comedy fan. FAVOURITE AUTHOR/BOOK: Kate says she is an avid reader, likes all sorts of genres but especially likes books based around a series. TRAVEL EXPERIENCE: Kate's list of countries visited makes impressive reading for someone so young...to the point that they are listed here. UK, France, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Italy, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Bosnia, Croatia, Montenegro, Albania, Turkey, Czech Republic (where she worked as a physiotherapist in Prague for a circus group), Denmark, Switzerland, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, Malaysia, Jordan, Israel, Egypt, Morocco, Tanzania, Kenya, South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Uganda, Rwanda and last year she and her partner visited the USA. What an achievement Kate. Kate admits to not being that comfortable around large crowds and her friends say she is rather shy. Kate, it was my very real pleasure to interview you for the newsletter and on behalf of the Canterbury/Westland Amputee Society, we genuinely wish you all the very best in your new role and being able to see your smiling face at the Limb Centre.