

Meet Nick Pratley

For those of you who do not know Nick, he is a committee member having been elected at this year's AGM in February.



Nick was born in Christchurch in 1973 to parents, Peter & Diana and Nick has an older brother, Jason. Currently, Nick is single and living with his Mum & Dad in Somerfield due to his ongoing health problems which require care & support from his family. Nick stated that he is sincerely grateful to his Mum & Dad for their love & support but his goal is to become well enough to live independently.

Nick attended Somerfield Primary, ChCh South Intermediate before moving on to Cashmere High for his secondary schooling. Upon leaving school in 1991, Nick completed his bakery apprenticeship at Pak N Save Moorhouse Ave before changing stores to Riccarton and he worked at Pak N save for around 5 ½ years. It was during this time that Nick was diagnosed as being a diabetic and health problems started to arise. He then became a Residential Social Worker for The Glenelg Children's Health Camp up on Glenelg Spur where he worked for around 2 years until the 2011 earthquake. His role then changed to being a Youth Mentor when the Camp had to move to a temporary location in Pages Rd while a new facility was being built. After 2 years in this role, Nick was forced to relinquish his position due to ever increasing health problems which caused him to become unwell. Nick said that he was suffering from a bad cough and following a visit to his Dr, he ended up having a quadruple heart bypass operation in 2013. The loss of two toes was the initial procedure which culminated in him having his right leg amputated below knee in 2015. Currently, Nick undergoes dialysis every night for around 9 hours.

The last few years have been extremely tough for Nick and his family and says that it has been very hard to come to grips with all these major changes in his life. He said that he didn't feel sick but was diagnosed as a diabetic and what he thought was just a bad cough ended up in him having a quadruple bypass so it has made him vitally aware that one simply does not know what is around the corner!. Looking back, he regrets that he did not take on board what people close to him were saying when offering advice.

Nick recalls his childhood as being a very happy time, Xmas & summer

holidays camping out at Spencer Park and enjoying full days of sun & fun near the beach. He also recalls many days spent at his school pool (Somerfield) where lots of family & friends would meet. Nick says that his family is important to him and is lucky to be surrounded by such a loving, caring and supportive group who have stood right alongside him throughout all the health issues he had

As he grew up, he thought that what he wanted his life to be was just like he experienced with his family...uncomplicated, enjoyable and healthy but he feels he has missed out somewhere along the way.

Notwithstanding this, Nick says that although he finds it difficult to stay positive because of the health issues, he is doing his best to progress matters forward with the goal of one day, being independent again. He enjoys being involved with the Amputee Society and is also a volunteer at Hohepa School in Barrington St where he is an aide in the Day Unit. He said that he loves working with great people, both clients & staff and that he derives a lot of satisfaction from this voluntary work.

Favourite Food: Roast meals...lots of meat...easy on the veges !

Favourite Music: Easy listening.

Favourite Movie: Pulp Fiction with John Travolta, Bruce Willis & Samuel L Jackson.

Favourite Book/Author: Steven King.

Activities/Hobbies: Before his amputation, Nick enjoyed playing outdoor bowls at Beckenham for around 4 years and he is hoping to return to the greens. As a younger man, he played senior rugby as a prop for Sydenham. In those days, he topped the scales at 112kgs...now he is 68kgs !!!!!

Favourite Place: Around 4 years ago, he went on a road trip around the North Island and visited Ahipara which is situated at the South end of 90 mile beach in Northland. He loved it that much, he stayed for a week!.

Nick thinks that the greatest risk he has ever taken was to travel alone to China in 2007 where he spent around 4 weeks holidaying. The following year, he travelled to Thailand where he spent 4 weeks volunteering at an Elephant Nature Park near Chang Mai. Although he thoroughly enjoyed the experience, he said that the volunteers were not treated very well by the park staff. Australia is also a destination that Nick has travelled to. He said that he feels happy when planning/working towards a goal so future travel is definitely something that he would like to achieve in the years ahead.

It has been both a privilege and my genuine pleasure to have met and become friends with the Pratley family.

