



## Meet Roderick Boyce:

Rod was the second born child at Blenheim in 1942 and his older sister still lives in his hometown. Rod's father was a local contractor and his mother was a stay at home Mum while the children were younger then worked part time at the TAB. Rod attended Blenheim Borough Primary before completing his secondary schooling at Marlborough College. Rod has vivid enjoyable memories of his childhood and he said it was a happy time, biking, swimming, fishing and family activities. He spent a great deal of time with his grandparents who lived at Renwick and recalls them putting on Xmas dinner for 50 people in 3 different shifts!!! His job was to make the fruit salad for those 50 people by mixing all the fruit in the bathtub!!!

He left school at 18 and his first job was with Lands & Survey in Napier where he spent 6 years in this role. Whilst in Napier, Rod enjoyed being involved with the Pirates rugby club and made many friends through his rugby involvement. Rod's father passed at 47 years of age so he decided to move back to Blenheim to be closer to his mother and continued to work for Lands & Survey as a survey draughtsman. Prior to this move, Rod had met a young lady, Betsy, who worked for the Toll Exchange but had transferred to Wellington so he regularly used to catch the inter islander ferry from Picton to Wellington on weekends to see Betsy. Rod & Betsy decided to marry and reside in Blenheim where Betsy obtained a job in a clothing factory while Rod continued working for Lands & Survey. Their son, Johnny, arrived 3 years after they married and Rod obtained a part-time job as a barman at Barry's Hotel then the Grove Tavern to supplement the family income. The lease of Barry's Hotel became available and in 1983, Rod took over running the business until March, 1985. At this point, Rod and his family decided to make a move to live in Christchurch as an opportunity came up for him to manage The Golden Mile Tavern at Templeton. The family bought a house at 75 Moffett St, Islington where Betsy's mother lived with them and this is still the house that Rod lives in today. After 2 years, the hotel was sold so Rod moved back north to live and find work near Canvastown but he found steady work hard to come by so after a year up there, he made the move back to Christchurch. He took a temporary job at the Islington Works before taking over as the night manager of the Riccarton Club. In total, Rod stayed on in this role for 8 ½ years until 1997 and said he enjoyed his time there.

It was in 1992 that the family suffered a major tragedy. They were travelling north to Blenheim in separate cars to attend a wedding when Betsy's vehicle left the road near Ward and crashed head-on into a power pole. Sadly, Betsy passed away in Wairau Hospital as a result of the injuries sustained which was a very traumatic time for the family. After returning to Christchurch, the family did the very best to put this tragedy behind them and resume the routine of family life. In 1997, Rod left the Riccarton Club to work at the New Brighton Tavern but it was while playing golf with some of his friends at Hanmer Springs in 1998 that changed Rod's life dramatically.

He was experiencing severe pain behind his right knee which was diagnosed as an aneurism and after 2 weeks of treatment, a decision was made to amputate his leg, above knee.

Rod became involved with the Amputee Society and served in many roles assisting the society and members. In 2013, Rod was granted Life Membership for his services to the local society and he is justifiably proud of this recognition. He continues to attend committee meetings on a regular basis and attends most of our functions. With the aid of a golf cart, Rod still plays golf with his friends on a regular basis and enjoys the company of his fellow golfers. Rod admits that he takes a liking to people who "say what they think" and even if he disagrees, he does not hold any long term grudges.

Favourite food: Admits to being a meat & veggie man but also enjoys trying out the many restaurants in and around Christchurch.

Favourite place: On a 2010 world trip, he visited the highest pub in Scotland but also enjoyed visiting Paris & Hawaii.

Favourite activities: Playing golf and is an avid Karaoke participant (has a good voice and sings regularly)

Favourite music: Country & 60-80's music.

Rod states that Betsy's passing and dealing with his amputation were very difficult times to deal with and the biggest risk that he ever took was taking on the lease of the hotel in Blenheim. Rod's son, Johnny, currently lives in England but returns home to visit Rod and family.

*I have personally known Rod for over 10 years and have always enjoyed his company and forthright approach to matters. He has attended many national conferences where his input and fun approach has been most appreciated by many amputees. Many thanks for your many years of wonderful service Rod and I thoroughly enjoyed visiting you in your home to compile this profile. Wishing you many years of happy golfing ahead.*