



Meet Rodger Quigley

Rodger was born at Ellesmere Hospital in 1945 to parents who were farming at Leeston. Rodger vividly remembers life growing up on the family farm and said he used to have to feed out the cows before he caught the school bus around 8am to attend Ellesmere Primary and then later, Southbridge High School. He recalls sneaking out at night, so the ranger wouldn't catch him, to collect swan eggs and going floundering with his Dad on the Lake. Rodger also used to go duck shooting and clay target shooting with his father. One of his jobs was to load the targets onto the machine for the shooters and for this he was paid a half-crown. Rodger said that was enough to go to the pictures on a Saturday night, buy Jaffa's, an ice cream and still have change left over!! His memories of his childhood living on the farm are good ones and he said it was a great outdoors life for a child.

He left school in 1960 at 15 years old and went driving trucks for Ellesmere Transport based out of Leeston but later moved to Southbridge when he was transferred to the depot there. During this time, he was heavily involved with the local rugby club coaching junior teams for around 10 years and he recalls a young 7 year old lad starting at the club...Daniel Carter. He left Ellesmere Transport after 17 years and went to work for the old Ministry of Works based at Burnham as a grader driver where a supervisor once told him off for working too fast! After 18 months, he moved to town and drove buses for 6 years from 1983-89 whereupon he went back to driving trucks for 2 years for the firm, Rapid Despatch. His next career move was to drive trucks for the Railways and after 2 years doing this, he was offered the opportunity to become an owner/driver for Tranz Link. Rodger said that this was the hardest decision he had ever had to make in his life but he is pleased that he took the opportunity and was able to pay off his truck within the first 3 years.

Rodger had previously been diagnosed with diabetes in 1987 and had a huge scare one day when driving his truck on Brougham St, he fell asleep at the wheel and was lucky to avoid a serious crash. Due to ulcers and gangrene in his leg causing massive pain, Rodger literally walked away from his business for health reasons and not long after, made a decision to have his leg amputated below the knee. This was in July, 2008 at Christchurch Public

Hospital and it is a decision that he has never regretted as he is now pain free apart from the odd phantom pain.

Around 3 years ago, Rodger had a major health scare when he contracted Legionnaires disease as the result of shovelling compost off a trailer and NOT wearing a mask. He was in intensive care for 6 days and at one stage, was told that he would not pull through the illness so he is a great advocate of telling people they MUST protect themselves by wearing a mask and gloves whenever handling potting mix/compost. Rodger says the type of people he likes the most are "Anyone that gives me food"!

* Favourite food: Oysters and crayfish. * Favourite place: The Gold Coast. He would love to visit Adelaide and travel the Murray River one day. * Favourite activities: Golf at The Everglades Club and he confesses to being a rugby crank and car crazy. * Favourite music: Country and Western. Has seen Neil Diamond in concert who he said was fantastic. * Favourite movie: Any Western. * Favourite book: "The Press"! He has enjoyed the experience of visiting the hospital with Graham Flanagan from the Limb centre on numerous occasions to help educate young nurses about amputees and is most appreciative of the wonderful service that amputees receive from the staff at the Limb centre.

Looking back on his life, Rodger admits to having been "a bit of a lad" at times but nowadays, leads a much quieter life with his golf and socialising with his wife Kathy and their friends holding much importance in his life. Rodger said that it was very hard adjusting to losing his leg as it all happened very quickly but he has tried to make the best of a bad situation by enjoying what life has to offer.

Rodger and Kathy, who have been together for 32 years, were living in Dallington at the time of the earthquakes but were red zoned and moved to Sovereign Palms at Kaiapoi 3 years ago. They have 2 sons who are very supportive to their parents and this is greatly appreciated by Rodger and Kathy. They are proud grandparents to 3 grandchildren and are due to be great-grandparents in December to a little baby girl.

