



Meet Jim McIntosh

Jim's family and expectant mother were living on Kawau Island in the Hauraki Gulf, where his parents owned and worked 20 acres of land, when his mother travelled south to Taihape to his grandparents' farm for her to give birth to young James in 1944. Jim was the middle child of seven and he recalls his early childhood as being an exciting outdoors life on Kawau Island. He feels that his parents provided him and his brother and sisters a basic New Zealand upbringing. Told to go outside, make your own fun and don't even think about coming inside making the house untidy! </p>

The family had many shifts in the early days that took them to Henderson (Auckland), Masterton then arriving in Christchurch when he was 8 years old to live and grow up in New Brighton. He attended Central New Brighton School which in those days included a District High School but left school at 15 years of age to start work for his father in an engineering business at Prebbleton where he stayed for one year. Jim said that he did not like school as he had no interest in the subjects being taught. He wanted to take up a cabinet making apprenticeship but was unable to secure that position so worked for the next three years as a woodworking machinist in Opawa. After this, Jim took a job working with a pile driving firm that built bridges all over the South Island and he says that he got to see a lot of the country as a result. In search of a better wage, Jim obtained a job as an oyster opener where he was paid threepence per dozen of opened oysters and he said that some weeks he was able to earn 40-50 pounds... a far cry from the 3 pounds he was earning previously ! Jim recalls hard times as his father did not earn a lot of money but said that the family was cared for well and good meals were always placed on the table.

From the late 1950s' through the 60s', Jim became an ardent surfer and was a lifeguard as well. He recalls that when he was around 25 years old, he went to the New Brighton beach one evening as there was a huge swell and he wanted to catch some big waves. He claims that he was "way out the back" when he lost his board and was forced to swim back to shore but got caught in a severe rip which carried him further out and along the coastline. After 45 minutes swimming and with it getting dark, he was finally able to make it back to shore nearly one mile from where he entered the water. Jim says that had he not been such a strong swimmer, things could have turned out very badly.

When he was 23, he moved to Auckland for two years working as a boilermaker/welder before returning to Christchurch where he did a variety of jobs around the seasonal oyster opening. When he was 28, he met Cheryl, they were married a year later and produced 2 sons and a daughter. Two of their children now live in Australia and they have a total of 7 grandchildren of whom they are very proud. Jim and Cheryl have lived the majority of their married life in Christchurch apart from a 2 year spell when the family moved to Marsden Point in 1982 where Jim worked as a boilermaker on the Marsden Point Oil Refinery build. He recalled that it was a stipulation of his contract that he HAD to move back to the place he came from at the expiration of his contract. Since this time, Jim and Cheryl have continued to live back in Christchurch and currently reside in Avondale. </p>

At the age of 40, Jim first started to experience health problems with severe rheumatoid arthritis and this condition has worsened over the years since but Jim is thankful that medication has enabled him to function. Around 5 years ago, Jim had an artificial ankle joint implanted but due to a serious infection that he contracted, he spent nearly 8 months in hospital before he had to have his right leg amputated below the knee.

- Favourite food: Roast lamb, seafood and Asian cuisine.
- Favourite place: The Catlins in Eastern Southland chasing big waves to surf.
- Favourite movie: Any sci-fi movies.
- Favourite music: Enjoys ALL types of music.
- Favourite books: Jim claims to have never been interested in reading. That is why he left school.

Activities/hobbies: When he was physically able, Jim played rugby for New Brighton, surfed and was a keen fly/salmon fisherman. Nowadays, Jim stated that he is happy “pottering” around home doing chores and maintenance as much as his health will allow.

Jim sincerely wanted to state that although he no longer attends church on a regular basis, he has a strong belief in Jesus Christ and the scriptures.