

doing more
with less!



Amputee Society

Canterbury & Westland Inc

PO Box 26-148 North Avon

Christchurch 8148

E-mail: info@amputeeinfo.co.nz

Web site: www.amputeeinfo.co.nz

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Quote of the Month:

Your time is limited so don't waste it living someone else's. *Steve Jobs, founder of Apple.*

Fun Fact:

A flock of crows is known as a "Murder of Crows"

Editor's Message:

Disclaimer: The information contained in this newsletter does not necessarily reflect the views of the Amputee Society of Canterbury/Westland

I would like to use this column to wish all members and their families a happy & safe 2016. Please take note of our local AGM notice further on in the newsletter.

This newsletter will provide an opportunity for members to register their interest in attending the Amputees Federation of NZ AGM & conference in Christchurch on April 15-17 at The Sudima Hotel in Memorial Ave. Personally, I would love to see a great turnout of our members as a lot of hard work has been put in by the committee with fundraising & organising to make this a successful event. For those of you who receive this via email, I have attached a registration form and for anyone else who would like a form sent, please make contact with me asap as registrations close on March 12th. A completed registration form **needs** to be completed if you wish to attend any sessions so that we can properly cater for guests. Can I remind those members from outside of ChCh, that some funding is available to cover room costs but I do need anyone that is interested to make contact with me as soon asap.

A brief description of the programme for the weekend is the official opening on the Friday evening around 7.30pm followed by supper and the Federation AGM.

Saturday morning provides an opportunity to enjoy a CBD Rebuild bus tour (\$20), lunch (\$25) and then many guest speakers in the afternoon. A Dine & Dance (\$55) in the evening and on Sunday morning, more guest speakers, one of whom is John Baye from New Orleans, USA who will speak about "Triumph Beyond Lifes Tragedies -Beyond Amputation." The conference will conclude after lunch (\$25). Costs for

Friday supper (incl wine & juice), morning & afternoon teas will be covered by our Canterbury/Westland Society.



Affiliated with the Amputees Federation of New Zealand Inc.

Article:

From a book by Dr Joe Wheeler "Christmas in the Heart"

No Man Need Walk Alone.

I don't suppose you ever knew Esau Tinker, he was a tall gawky fella and owned the General Store down at the Corners. Was a real nice gentleman, as gentleman go but a little noisy & quite the gallivanter. Didn't have any use for religion, the Parson would try and talk with Esau and so would the Deacons but it wasn't any use. Nobody could quite ever seem to get inside his skin.

Well, one year just before Xmas, Esau was up in the garret looking for last years' red and green paper and tinsels when he came upon an old newspaper, 'most 20 years old. He picked it up, read it over & it tickled his funny bone so that he bought it down to the store and put it on the counter among the Christmas supplies where people would see it. They'd come to do their shopping and look over the toys and chocolate Santa Clauses and the like of that, then they'd spy the paper. Thinking it was the last edition they'd pick it up and sometimes scan it over quite a spell before they'd catch on to it being an old one. Esau, he'd just sit back, watch them and when they caught on, wouldn't he laugh! Now, Esau kept the paper there for quite a few days and most of the folk in town had been in buying presents and had been fooled so the novelty was kind of wearing off when Esau chanced to look out the window and he saw Old Hitch Thomas coming along on his peg leg. Old Hitch lived about 2 miles out of town in a little shack way back in the woods and he didn't come in to do any buying except about every 5 or 6 months. I imagine he knew it was Xmas and that everybody was doing some shopping. As he didn't have anybody to give presents to he reckoned that he might as well come in and buy some beans and flour, at least have the fun of doing something for the holidays. He was just one of those poor unfortunates who ain't necessary to nobody else and so the folks in town had just come to look on him as an outsider. Xmas time to an outsider can be the loneliest time of the year.

Well, when Esau saw him headed for the store he tipped the boys off not to say a word about the paper. While Old Hitch was stocking up on vittles, he chanced to look at the paper. He picked it up and read it real serious and seemed to puzzle a mite before he laid it down. When his vittles' was wrapped up he paid for them and went out without saying a word. The boys laughed fit to kill because Old Hitch hadn't caught on that it was an old paper. A couple of days later, the day before Xmas to be exact, when Esau was opening up the store about 6 in the morning, he looked down the road and there was Old Hitch swinging along on his wooden leg and tucked under his arm, a crutch. Hitch has had a leg of timber ever since anybody in these parts knew him and Esau wondered why he was carrying a crutch unless it was to use if the leg gave out on him. Esau didn't think any more about it and went on to tending the store. That night though, about 9 as he was closing up, he looked down the road again and there plugging along through the snow and making poor headway was Old Hitch Thomas whistling, happy as a lark

Continued:

but Esau thought he was walking kind of funny. As he got closer, he realised why, Hitch only had one leg and he was swinging himself along as best he could.

"Hello Hitch," says Esau. "What's ailing you?"

"Nothing" says Old Hitch swinging up on his crutch. "Feeling chip as a cricket. Never felt better in all my life"

"But where's your wooden leg? Lost it in the snow?" says Esau.

"No" says Hitch. "I didn't lose it but you know the paper you had on the counter the other day?" Esau allowed that he remembered so Hitch continued. "When I was buying the vittles' in your place, I took a look at it and I seen something I couldn't get over. No sir, I tried my best but I couldn't."

"What did you see?" says Esau, not quite so comfortable now.

"I saw that notice in there," says Old Hitch, "about that little boy who was run over by the jigger wagon and had his leg jammed so bad that they had to cut it off. It said how poor the family was and it would be nice if someone could see the little fella get a wooden leg so he could run about and do things. Said he lived almost 12 miles out on the river road in the house that sets back on the bank"

Esau made a noise in his throat, could have been anything from "yes" to a cough.

"Well," says Old Hitch, "when I got back home I commenced thinking about that little fella. Seeing I was a boy myself when I lost my leg, I knew how he must be feeling. I'm pretty old and can't get around much, so I picked up this morning & walked to where the paper said he lived. There weren't anybody home & the place looked deserted but I calc'lated they must be away for the day somewhere. So I took my leg off and had some green & red ribbon with me & tied it to the door. I reckon he'll be pretty tickled when he comes home, don't you think so?"

Esau just stood there and he couldn't have said a word if his life depended on it; he knew the little fella had died years before and the family had moved away but he would have cut his tongue out before he told Hitch who had that day walked close to 28 miles to give his wooden leg to a little boy for Xmas.

"Well," says Old Hitch, swinging up on his crutch, "I guess I'll be getting on."

Hitch put his hand on Esau's shoulder and said, "Esau, I was all alone when I walked over and left my peg leg for him but on the way back, I ain't been walking alone. No sir, I ain't been walking alone." And with a wave of his hand and a smile on his face, Old Hitch swung off for his little cabin back in the woods. Esau stood there, the tears rolling down his cheeks as he watched the old man swing himself along as best he could on one leg and a wooden crutch. As he stood there that Xmas Eve, the bells on the church started to ring out the glad tidings and Esau dropped to his knees to make a Xmas present of his heart to the ONE who had walked back with Old Hitch Thomas.

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 & 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!



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.

Jim McIntosh continued

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 & 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 & Cheryl have continued to live back in Christchurch and currently reside in Avondale.

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 & 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.

Editor's note: It was my absolute pleasure to visit with Jim & Cheryl and they always make me feel most welcome in their home.

APPRECIATION:

I would like to gratefully acknowledge the most generous support that the Society has recently received from Russell McKenzie, the owner of the New World Supermarket at St Martins via the Foodstuffs Community Trust. This sponsorship will allow us to provide welcome bags to our out of town visitors for the conference and we are most appreciative of this support. Thank you Russell.

Society AGM:

Sunday March 13th, 2016.

Hornby Working Mens' Club.

AGM & Luncheon.

Meet @ 11am...AGM @ 11.30am.

Raffles & Guest Speaker.



It would be great to see a good turnout at our March AGM. The meeting itself has historically been conducted in a very short time and we would welcome anyone wishing to put their name forward to serve on the committee for the coming year.

Luncheon cost:\$25 per person to be paid in advance, by **March 4th.**

To save Margaret having to make so many phone calls, could members please ring Margaret on 03 3497585 to express your intention to attend **by March 4th.** Margaret will call the balance of the membership.

Pay by cash:Ring Ava on 03 3821873 or Margaret on 03 3497585.

Pay by cheque: Amputee Society. P O Box 26-148. North Avon. ChCh 8148.

Pay on line: Amputee Society of Canterbury/Westland 0308 30 0264400 00

It was extremely pleasing to see such a great turnout of members at our Christmas function in November and the committee would like to thank all those that came along on the day and enjoyed good food and even better company.

Society News:

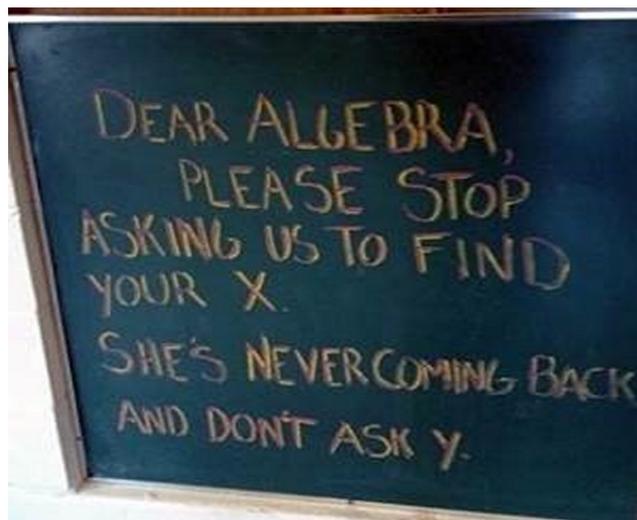
A big thank you to Michael & Pat Mellon for their most generous donation towards our costs for the conference..your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Also a huge thank you goes to The Richmond WMC & MSA for their generous grant of \$500 towards our conference costs.

A reminder that **subscriptions (\$10) for 2016 are now due.** Payment can be made by cheque, online or at the March AGM. Many thanks for your continued support.

**Thank
you**

Smile Awhile



Web Sites

**Amputee Society of
Canterbury & Westland Inc.**

www.amputeeinfo.co.nz

The Amputees Federation of NZ

www.af.org

Amputee Information

www.mossresourcenet.org

International Diabetes Federation

www.idf.org

Parafed Canterbury

www.parafedcanterbury.co.nz

Disability Awareness in Action

www.daa.org.uk

Amputee News

www.amputeenews.com

Disability Rights Commission

www.drc-gb.org

UN Programme on Disability

www.un.org/issues/m-disabl.asp

WEKA-NZ Disability Info

www.weka.govt.nz

Disabilities Information Service

314 Worcester Street, Christchurch

PO Box 32-074, Christchurch

(03) 366-6189

(03) 379-5939

9.00am - 4.30pm

Email: admin@aspirecanterbury.org.nz

Website: www.aspirecanterbury.org.nz

Amputee Coalition (USA)

www.amputee-coalition.org

NZ Limb Service www.nzals.govt.nz

Kipp's Patch www.kipps-patch.com

Nation Wide H&D Advocacy

Service – 0800 555050

**Amputee Society of
Canterbury & Westland
Inc.**

PO Box 26-148
North Avon CHCH 8148

President

Mark Bruce 03-337 5747
mark.bruce@xtra.co.nz

Vice President

Margaret Hunter 03- 349-
7585

jim.marg.hunter@clear.net.nz

Secretary

Eileen Popplewell 03 3499415
Ceallaigh4@xtra.co.nz

Treasurer

Taxi Co-ordinator

Ava Thomas 03-382-1873
avat@clear.net.nz

Funding Co-ordinator

Mark Bruce 03-337 5747
mark.bruce@xtra.co.nz

Visiting Co-ordinator

Events Co-ordinator

Margaret Hunter 03- 349-
7585

jim.marg.hunter@clear.net.nz

Newsletter Editor

Mark Bruce 03-337 5747
mark.bruce@xtra.co.nz

Web Site Manager

Jo Boereboom 03-942-5320
farmtree@prardise.net.nz

Marketing Coordinator

Ed Jones 03 3844 947
ed@jungletoyz.co.nz

West Coast Contact
Will Sturkenboom 03-732-
8312

Artificial Limb Service

330 Burwood Road, Christ-
church
Phone 03-383-0501
Fax 03-383-3566
Hours: 8.00am - 4.30pm

Manager

Graham Flanagan

Office administrator

Pauline Afitu
www.nzalb.govt.nz

Association Bank Info

Westpac 03 0830 026 4400 00

**Burwood Hospital
Hydro Pool**



Wed: 4-30pm-6-30pm

Sundays: 1pm – 2-30pm

This is with Parafed and there
is a \$2.00 charge.

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Home 942-5320



Christchurch City Council

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