



## **Matthias Blatner-Clinical Prosthetist-ChCh Artificial Limb Centre.**

For those of you who have not had the pleasure to meet Matthias, this interview should give a great insight into Matthias's story of how he has arrived to be the newest Clinical Prosthetist at the Limb Centre. Matthias was born in the district of Garmisch-Partenkirchen, southern Germany in July 1976. His home town of Murnau am Staffelsee lies on the shores of Lake Staffelsee which is on the edge of the Bavarian Alps, some 70 kms south of Munich. Matthias has a sister and parents who still live in Germany.

When Matthias was 18, he left school and took up an apprenticeship to become an Orthopaedic Technician. His work right from the outset had him carrying out "hands on" work as well as the theory component and he spent some 5 years working in Munich. He completed his master's degree and spent time working in his father's prosthetic business before continuing elsewhere in this field.

In 2008, Matthias and his partner, Andrea, embarked on a planned four month world trip but after arriving in New Zealand, they both liked the country so much, they applied for and received working visas' that allowed them to stay in the country. Andrea was able to obtain work in her chosen profession of nursing but opportunities for Matthias were strictly limited due to the low turnover rate of staff within the NZ Limb Service. Not to be deterred, Matthias obtained employment in various occupations such as, chef, barman, handyman/builder and servicing ski's. Matthias finally obtained an opportunity at the Christchurch Limb Centre and started at Burwood Rd in December, 2013.

He is thoroughly enjoying working at the Limb Centre and says he feels most happy when on his surfboard, skis and spending time with his family.