

MEET MALCOLM FLECK

Malcolm was born in Christchurch in 1952, raised in Shirley and attended Quinn's Rd Primary, Shirley Intermediate then Shirley Boys High School. He was the oldest sibling and has two younger brothers. He currently lives in Bromley with his wife Diane and they have two adult children, Adam (30) & Gareth (28) and 2 grandsons, Xavier (7) and Syllas (9). Malcolm remembers his childhood as being very enjoyable and said his family was a close knit unit. He loved his rugby and played for the Shirley Club, where his father was heavily involved, from age 6 through till about 17. Malcolm was also a regular attendee at Crichton Cobber's Youth Club and participated in boxing & wrestling. He feels he was a "bit of a rebel" in his younger days and recalls an incident that happened when he was around 11 years old when he was with his father up at Mt Cheeseman. Malcolm decided to "ride" the steel wire rubbish line down into the valley below and came off halfway down. He ended up in hospital and in a coma for 3 months after suffering a brain bleed. He joked that this is why he is a "dunce" nowadays! Upon leaving school, he completed a printing apprenticeship but left the profession in 1977 after him and Diane married to work and live in Twizel for 7 years working as a welder for the Ministry of Works on the hydro-electric scheme. He became the DJ at his local hotel and performed this duty on weekends as he loved his music. Malcolm recalls their Twizel rent being \$3.50 per week for a 3 bedroom house but the price of groceries/meat was very expensive due to having to be trucked in. After returning to Christchurch, Malcolm re-entered the printing profession for 5 years, then moving on to working for a roading contractor for another 2 years. After this, Malcolm bought his own truck and ran a carrying business (Mal's Carriers) in Christchurch for the next 13 years before the job took its toll and the family moved on to a lifestyle block at Tuahiwi where he became a part-time "Ostrich Farmer" with a few cows, sheep and chickens added in. He took a job as a freezing worker for the next 2 years and then after moving back into town, he worked as a support worker for people with intellectual disabilities at Brackenridge Estate for the next 7 years. Due to the rigours of his previous work, Malcolm's right ankle "collapsed" and in 2009, he was forced to undergo amputation of his leg below the knee. In March, 2018, after experiencing 3 years of serious infections in his left leg, he was forced with having to make the decision, the hardest of his life, to have his left leg amputated above the knee. Malcolm said he never envisaged that becoming a double amputee would create so many issues with his mobility but he has received wonderful support from his wife, Diane, throughout his life. Malcolm has always had a passion for motorcycles and is still a member of the Ulysses Club for motorcycle enthusiasts over the age of 40. He likes people who share the same interest in motorcycles as himself and currently owns a 1500cc BMW "trike". Once some modifications have been completed, he is looking forward to riding his power chair up the ramp, locking himself in and getting out on the road once again. He and Diane still own a mobile home and used to enjoy travelling away on weekends to Little River, Kaikoura and afar. Because of his mobility issues, he finds it hard to access the mobile home now and intends selling it in the near future.



Kaikoura was very special to Malcolm where he could indulge his passion for diving and fishing. He admits to liking people who share his love of motorcycles but nowadays he prefers to spend time around home rather than going out to socialise as access issues can often pose problems. He does enjoy going for walks together with Diane and having lunch dates in the weekend at different Restaurants and cafes around town. He also enjoys going down to Eastgate Mall in his power chair to meet up with a couple of fellow amputees for a "yarn" FAVOURITE FOOD: Most

seafood, especially Blue Cod and Paua patties. FAVOURITE PLACE: Kaikoura. FAVOURITE MUSIC: The Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Tina Turner, Janis Joplin and BAGPIPE MUSIC. FAVOURITE MOVIES: The Woodstock movie, thrillers/action/drama. TV series, The Blacklist. Diane and Malcolm have travelled to Australia & Hawaii and are very keen to go on a cruise around the South Pacific in the near future. Good luck Malcolm & Diane. Always a pleasure to visit with you in your home and I hope you can get away on that cruise in the very near future as well as you riding that trike Malcolm.

