



Amputee
Society
of Canterbury &
Westland Inc.

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May 2022 Contents

**Editor's Message/Profile/
Article/Messages/Conference
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**Please note the new
address for sending
correspondence. We have
cancelled the P O Box due
to cost increases.**

Quote of the Month:

Work like you don't need money, love like you've never been hurt, dance like no one's watching. *Unknown author.*

Fun Facts:

Hawaiian pizza originated in Canada.

The smallest bone in your body is in your ear!

The national animal of Scotland is a unicorn.

Editor's Message

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

March 3rd. On February 8th, a group of people started their occupation of Parliament grounds in Wellington. My initial reaction was that I respected their democratic right to make their views known to our Government, as many protesters have done in the past. Very quickly, I realised that this was much different to anything we had seen previously when I saw signs & placards that were rude, abusive and threatening. I, like many NZ'ers, were appalled at what we saw transpire over the next 23 days and there is only one word that describes these so-called protesters and their behaviour...**RABBLE**. Over 23 days, this highly embarrassing group, physically & verbally abused other NZ'ers who had their own views & I have nothing but disdain for these people who kept chanting their ridiculous motto of FREEDOM. To abuse schoolchildren who exercised their right to wear a mask, assault police, deny Wellingtonians & emergency services their rights of access to city streets, showed utter contempt & disrespect to sacred Maori land, desecrated the grounds of "our house", put a Port-a-loo on the steps of the War memorial, light fires & damage a children's playground is totally abhorrent to most NZ'ers. It was a total and utter display of contempt and disrespect for their fellow humans and they should be ashamed at their disgusting & shameful behaviour. I saw protesters using weapons against Police & run away like cowardly dogs yelling "f...g pussies". We know who the spineless cowards are. FREEDOM....what a joke. I challenge any one of those protesters to take a good, long and hard look at what is happening in Ukraine as women & children say goodbye, maybe for the last time, to their menfolk and then come back to try & claim that their democratic rights are being denied !! I wonder how many of them are that passionate about "rights", that they will volunteer to fight the Russians to stand up for REAL FREEDOM ? **Not ONE!**

MEET NOEL LANG:

Noel was born at Riccarton in 1946 and was the 4th born child to his parents. He has 3 brothers and one sister, all of whom are still alive. His father was a traction engine driver and spent a good deal of his life working for Bowmans transporting threshing machines around the rural areas of Canterbury. Later, Noel's father worked for the Riccarton Borough Council driving the steam roller and Noel recalls his dad coming home for lunch on the machine and being taken for a short ride behind the steering wheel. His Mum was a stay-at-home housewife but sadly she passed away at the early age of 38 when Noel was only 7 years old. His Dad remarried a few years later and Noel has fond memories of the family going to Waikuku every year for the Xmas holidays. The family had



moved from Riccarton to St Martins and after his father remarried, they moved to Waltham, living right across the road from the Waltham Pool. It wasn't until this move happened that Noel's father bought a car so before that, a bicycle was the only form of transport and Noel can recall being put on the bike seat and his father riding to Riccarton to get supplies.

Noel didn't start school at Beckenham Primary until he was 6 due to ill health and then moved on to ChCh South Intermediate. His secondary schooling was at the ChCh Technical Institute but Noel couldn't wait to leave school. As soon as he turned 15, he left school and obtained a farm labourers job for the Broughton family at Waireka, near Darfield where for the next 2 years he did all forms of farm work including driving machinery. After this, he moved to another farm at Killinchy near Leeston for another year before moving back in to town to, in Noel's words, "chase the girls". For the next 2 years Noel worked for the ChCh City Council on the rubbish collection trucks, a job which he loved and kept him very fit. He was living in a boarding house and became friendly with a chap who hailed from Hokitika. His friend invited Noel to join his family for the Xmas holidays and it was there that Noel met his friend's sister, Rea. Noel and Rea started dating and over the next few months Noel recalls making many trips over to Hokitika to spend time with Rea and he decided to give up his CCC job to move to Hokitika permanently where he obtained a job with the NZ Forestry Service that involved clear felling and planting. Noel and Rea married in 1966 their first child, Toko, was born in 1967. Shane was born a year later in 1968, Fiona in 1969, Gary 1971 and lastly, Jacqueline in 1972. All the boys still live in Hokitika while the two girls reside in Napier. Around 1972, Noel and the family moved back to ChCh where he took truck driving jobs and then worked for the NZ Railways based at Springfield. In 1977, the family moved back to Hokitika where Noel worked for the next 5 years at the Fletchers mill at Ruatapu, a private sawmill at Three Mile for the next 5 years before another 5-year stint on the gold dredge at Kumara before being made redundant from this position.

MEET NOEL LANG CONT:

The marriage broke down after this so Noel moved back to ChCh where he worked for many years for the Municipal Electricity Department (MED) as an underground cabler. In 2005, he contracted an infection on the back of his right hand which Noel states was mis-treated by the medical authorities ultimately leading to amputation of his right arm at the shoulder in 2007.

Noel has been retired for a number of years now and has lived for the last 9 years at a camp ground at Ouruhia (near Chaney's Corner) in his very well set up caravan. Noel said that he thoroughly enjoys his current life and works part-time for numerous racing clubs as an attendant. Noel is an avid sports fan and his favourite sport to watch is rugby league.



FAVOURITE FOOD: "I eat anything and everything"

FAVOURITE PLACES: Napier, Kaikoura & Singapore.

FAVOURITE ACTIVITIES: Cycling, watching all sports but especially rugby league.

FAVOURITE MUSIC: All modern music. Favourite artist is Celine Dion.

FAVOURITE BOOKS: Non-fiction & history.

Noel cherishes the close relationship he has with all his children and grandchildren and said that they get along as they are all fun orientated. He stated that the breakdown of his marriage was a particularly hard time of his life and he regretted having to leave Hokitika. Noel said that the greatest risk he ever took was re-marrying in 2010 but sadly, his wife Sylvia passed away in 2015. Travel to Singapore, Thailand, Australia and many parts of NZ remain as wonderful experiences for Noel. *When asked the question, "When are you most happy"? Noel laughed and said he is happy **ALL** the time. The author can readily confirm this. Noel has a bubbly, friendly nature and is an avid supporter of the society.*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD MARCH 13TH:

The 75th Annual General Meeting of the Canterbury/Westland Amputee Society was held on Sunday March 13th at the Hornby Club. Around 20 members attended and it was terrific to see one of our life members, Heather Plows, in attendance. Office holders were re-elected with no change to personnel from the last few years but we would like to extend a very warm greeting to Sally Wihone who, most appreciatively, has joined our hard working committee. The society sponsored a very enjoyable morning tea and Justine organised some wonderful raffle prizes. Before the AGM commenced, we shared a minutes silence to remember the sad passing of our life member, Rod Boyce, and for all those members who have passed in the last 12 months. Sue Lemieux, our ex-secretary from 2012-2015, passed away recently in Florida, USA and condolences are extended to her family.

ANZAC DAY:



Anzac Day has passed once again and it was heartening to see the respect shown by tens of thousands of New Zealanders to those who sacrificed their lives in historical conflicts. The two images say it all.



AMPUTEES FEDERATION 75TH JUBILEE CONFERENCE:

With wonderful support from Pub Charity Ltd, members of the society attended the conference in Wellington over the weekend of April 8-10th. It was heartening to have 1st time attendees, Alesha Kelly, Alan Foster, Bob & Tricia Newby & Leigh Ellis. Others to attend were Justine Mangan-Woods, Mark Bruce, Janice Frost, Margaret Scott, Lisa & Darryn Gray plus GIAG attendees, Morgan Jones, Katrina Maxwell & Grace Johnstone. Friday night was the official opening by Paula Tesoreiro, a fellow amputee, Paralympian and Disability Rights Commissioner with the Human Rights Commission. Ken Te Tau performed a wonderful mihi whakatau (welcome) before he fellow Wellington members sung a waiata (song) with Mary Humphreys doing a fine job on the pois. Paula then made a presentation to our retiring national coordinator, Lorraine Peacock, to recognise the incredible service that Lorraine has provided to the NZ amputee community having held the position since 1986. The evening was also memorable for the launch of the book that Lorraine compiled marking the 75 years history of The Federation. An enjoyable mingle & greet followed



with supper served. Saturday morning was the national council meeting where Justine was elected to the position of Treasurer & Alesha to the coordinator's role before lunch & returning in the afternoon to enjoy presentations from guests & sponsors. The dine and dance was held in the evening while enjoying the band playing music to match the theme of the event, the 1940's-1970's. On Sunday morning, we listened to more guests & input from the youth about their activities from the day before and

after lunch, goodbyes were made before heading for home after a wonderful weekend.



LIMB CENTRE UPDATE:

For anyone who has been over to the centre in the last couple of months, you will have seen the significant progress that has been made on the new building. The estimated date for completion is still near the end of September. Below are a selection of images with dates showing the progress attained.



Sep 2021



Feb 14



Feb 18



Feb 18



March 10
Framing up



April 27

April
27



KEEPING VIGILANT !!!

In February, I was contacted by a fellow member, who is a double amputee, mother and works part-time. She raised an extremely important issue with me which I want to share with fellow members. She recently experienced some issues with the components of her prostheses and sought assistance from the Limb Centre. Temporary repairs were carried out but these have not been entirely successful and she was forced to have her "old feet" attached whilst waiting for the new components to arrive from overseas. This has ultimately led to her suffering pain in her stumps, ill-fitting/ feeling legs as well as decreased mobility & function. She posed the following questions;

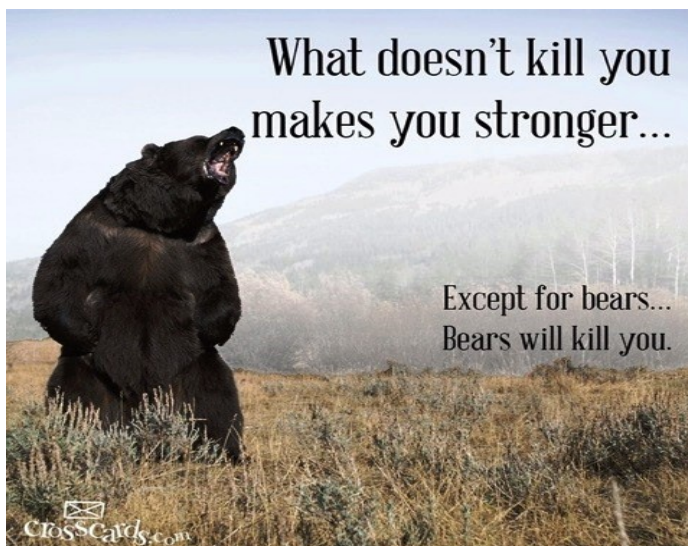
- *Is there a time frame where by limbs should have a service/ WoF? (Checking fit, socks, sockets, liners), are the legs still doing what they are meant to be.*
- *If the user has an issue- and contacts the limb centre, if there a way, maybe a triage system that can be used to figure out who can do the job, (tech or prosthetist), and how urgent is the request.*
- *How can we ensure that amputees are mobile to their best level?*
- *If the limb breaks, what is the back-up plan, mobility wise.*

In following up these issues, I spoke at length with the Southern Regional Manager. Re staffing levels, Matthias has lost 45 appointments a week due to losing three prosthetists recently. Two have returned to their home countries and another is on approved extended leave which he has delayed numerous times over the last 2 years. Added to this staffing issue, Covid is also impacting the service delivery with some staff having to take time off due to feeling unwell. A new prosthetist has started in Peke Waihanga's bid to restore staffing levels to provide a better service for consumers and they are actively seeking more trained staff. Unfortunately, there is no training provided in NZ so the service is totally reliant upon attracting prosthetists from overseas. In respect to available componentry, Peke Waihanga would have to hold an incredible amount of stock to be able to provide "off the shelf" availability. If one just thinks about right and left feet in varying sizes, you very quickly appreciate that doing this is simply not viable. Audit NZ cap the amount of stock Peke Waihanga can hold and this further exacerbates the immediate availability so, the service has to order components from either Australia, Germany and the USA. Covid, once again, has impacted upon freight delivery times.

Matthias reports that phone consultations are historically not the ideal solution to assess issues with prostheses and trying to triage over the phone has consistently resulted in less than positive outcomes. Bearing all these surrounding issues, I would definitely agree with the suggestion that amputees need to be proactive and instead of waiting for issues to arise, they should plan ahead and make regular appointments to have their limb and components checked by a trained professional. Please remember that **"If it's to be, it's up to me"** so please be aware of any changes and act upon them, have aids and support available in the event of serious breakdowns and have your prosthetic device checked before Peke Waihanga are the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff. We, as the consumer, have an integral part to play in being vigilant, proactive and advocating to make things better.

Questions you should maybe think about in self-checking your limb, *Does my limb still fit? How many socks am I needing to add? Are my liners in a good condition? Are any parts making an unusual noise? Is my limb rubbing? Am I able to still do what I used to do with my limb, or are there more restrictions? Keep the limb and socket clean so that the prosthesis is in a good condition. Using a Pro-Armour foot covering will help to protect the inner foot and its components.*

Smile Awhile



Web Sites

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

www.amputeeinfo.co.nz

The Amputees Federation of NZ

www.amputee.co.nz

NZ Artificial Limb Service

www.nzals.govt.nz

Peer Support

www.peersupport.nz

Parafed Canterbury

www.parafedcanterbury.co.nz

International Diabetes Federation

www.idf.org

Amputee News

www.amputeenews.com

Disability Rights Commissioner

www.hrc.co.nz

UN Programme on Disability

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

Paraloan 03 3795983

www.paraloan.org.nz

[Email: paraloan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:paraloan@xtra.co.nz)

**Nation Wide H&D Advocacy
Service – 0800 555050**

**Aspire Canterbury,
Disabilities Information Service**

17 E Bishopdale Courts, Bishopdale Mall CHCH
Website: www.aspirecanterbury.org.nz

Total Mobility. Contact Julie (03) 3669093

julie@aspirecanterbury.org.nz

LifeLinks. 0800 866 877

Web: lifelinks.co.nz Email: office@lifelinks.co.nz



**CCS
disability action**

Including all people

TE HUNGA HAUĀ MAURI MŌ NGĀ TĀNGATA KĀTOA
CCS Disability Action

224 Lichfield St, Ch-Ch. Thomas Callanan.

03 3655661/0800 2272255.

Email: canterbury@ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz

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wsturk@xtra.co.nz

Total Mobility Scheme

Agent: Aspire Canterbury
03 3666189
julie@aspirecanterbury.org.nz

Mobility Parking Permit

CCS Disability Action
03 365-5661/0800 2272255

Life Members

Rachel White Liz Rogers
Heather Plows Ava Thomas
Margaret Hunter

Peke Waihanga-Artificial Limb Service

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

Office administrators

Pauline Afitu/Lynleigh
Ashcroft
www.pw.co.nz

Amputee Society of Canterbury/Westland Inc

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.

Disability Golf NZ

For any enquiries about becoming involved, anywhere in NZ, please contact Andrew Woo, 021 885678



Need Computer Help ?

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www.computertutor.nz

Mobile 027 2909246

Home 942-5320

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