

Purpose

Journal of the



**Amputees
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Incorporated

MARCH 2023

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are invited
and welcome

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Included in this Issue

The National Executive	2
Editorial	3
Profile - Jill White	4
Profile - Herb Hart	6
Something to laugh about	8
Gems from our History	9
News from the Regions	10
Affiliated Amputee Societies	12

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EDITORIAL

Now that we have finished the silly season, enjoying time with family and friends, relaxing and ringing in the new year it is now time to slide back into old and new routines.

As we enter the new year, there is a sense of excitement and anticipation in the air. We have the opportunity to reflect on the past year and look forward to what the future holds. One of the most exciting opportunities of the new year is the annual conference.

The annual conference is a great chance to meet people from all around New Zealand, learn from experts in various fields, hear amazing stories of overcoming obstacles and connect with like-minded people. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from Keynote speakers, our GIAG attendee's get the opportunity to partake in amazing activities it is an invaluable chance to learn, grow and make meaningful connections.

For me, I personally found last year's Conference a great chance to put faces to names and meet some truly amazing people, and I look forward to meeting more new people this year. I highly recommend that anyone who has ever thought about attending conference but has been too shy, to put their name forward with their local Society and take the leap, you will not regret it and will walk away with new friends.

Come say hi to me as I look forward to meeting everyone there.

With good wishes *Alesha Kelly*

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and **Like** us (Closed Group also available)



PROFILE - JILL WHITE

My name is Jill White, I have been part of the amputee family for 58 years. I lost my left leg above the knee when I was knocked off my bicycle in December 1964. My parents Trish and Bill White lived in Bexley and raised 12 children; they were the best parents one could ask for. Dad owned his own butcher's shop, grew a huge veggie garden and Mum was busy taking care of us. I had five sisters and six brothers & when asked where I came in the family, I would say "5th from the bottom". I spent my childhood along with my sibling's climbing trees, building huts & playing back yard cricket.

After my accident I was not able to play netball so I took up umpiring on a Saturday down at Hagley Courts. I was President of the New Brighton Netball Club and also took on the roles as Treasurer & Secretary when we were struggling to get a committee and also help coach their younger teams. I was also Assistant Treasurer of the New Brighton Rugby Club and was President of the Canterbury/Westland Amputees Society as well as helping with a swimming for the disabled group at Burwood Hospital.

I started school at 5 and attended Wainoni Primary School. We lived in Bexley Road right over the road from the school so as you can imagine there were lots of "Whites" at the school and to add to that, my oldest sister was a teacher there for some 40 years. I would regularly get asked by my Mum if I had homework and I would say no. However, as I was in my sister's class, (the teacher) she would also do me in and tell my Mum that yes in fact I did have homework. Couldn't get away with anything. After primary school, I went on to Aranui High School and at the age of 16, I left mid-term and went to Digby's Commercial College for six months to learn typing and shorthand. (It was what girls did then) After Commercial College, I then joined the BNZ as a typist.

Over the years, I progressed up the ladder as a teller, telephonist & then supervisor. I also worked for the Bank as a Work Study Analyst and travelled to various branches throughout NZ studying processes and staffing. I was relieving in Retail Banking when I decided to take redundancy in 1995 and move on to something else. I then started work at Signature Security as the Contact Centre Manager in their 24-hour Call Centre, then moved on to their sales area. When Signature was taken over by ADT, I decided that I didn't want to work for a company that was Global and the culture was not what I wanted to be part of. So, it was a time to reassess my life again. I applied to NZ Red Cross as their Meals on Wheels Co-Ordinator. Amazing job, managing & arranging drivers to deliver meals & with wonderful people who were always willing to help others. I still work for Red Cross now in their Contact Centre and love working for an organisation that makes a difference.

I think when I look back, being an amputee never held me back. My amazing parents never singled me out as being different. My friends also tell me that they never viewed me as an amputee. I remember I was on crutches with a peg leg playing backyard cricket with my sibling 6 weeks after I left hospital. No special treatment for me except that I batted more often than I fielded. The one constant in my life was the support of the Artificial Limb Centre, their wonderful staff and the encouragement they gave me when I was an 11-year-old who had had a traumatic accident and had no idea what the future held for me. The Limb Centre continued to support not only me but also my parents who had never experienced anything like this before and my Mum always remembered Mrs Wyse (Amputee Society) for her kindness and support. So, I will finish this by saying how lucky I am to have such a great family, lots of friends and there is support out there.....**you just need to ask for it**

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PROFILE - Herb Hart

Herb was born at Greymouth Hospital on September 8th, 1942 and was the 4th born of 7 children to his parents who lived at Rununga. Herb's father was a trained butcher, also a commercial fisherman before working most of his life in the mines and his mother was a stay-at-home housewife. Herb attended Greymouth Technical High School before leaving school in 1957 at 15 years of age and starting work at the Liverpool State Mine at Rewanui. He said that the lure of working in the mines was a big drawcard for the young Rununga lads. In 1960, he transferred to work at the Strongman Coal Mine and was lucky enough to survive the explosion in 1967 that killed 19 of his workmates and friends. In 1968, Herb married the love of his life, Anne Crowley and they have been blessed with 2 wonderful sons, Greg in 1968 and Leigh in 1970, both born in Greymouth.

The boys now live in Auckland and Herb and Anne are proud grandparents to 2 boys and 2 girls. Their son Leigh is a well-known NZ comedian who features regularly on our TV's and is the frontman for the "Hellers" adverts. Herb said the greatest risk he ever took in his life was moving from the West Coast to Marton in 1969 to start a tunnelling career that would eventually take the family to many different countries around the world from 1972 for the next 30 plus years.

1960- 1969. Strongman Mine. 1969- Marton. 1970-1972. Taupo to work on the Tongariro Hydro & Kaimai Rail Tunnel. 1972-1975. Worked for a Swedish Co in Hong Kong building a 45km long tunnel. 1975-1976. Melbourne working on the underground rail tunnel. 1977-1982. For the same Swedish Co, in Peru working on one of the longest tunnel jobs ever undertaken. 100 kms of tunnel through the Andes Mountains to bring fresh water to irrigate the Atacama Desert on the west coast of Peru.

They lived at 3,600 metres above sea level and Herb was responsible for a 50km long section of the project that consisted of dams, tunnels and canals. 1983-1985. Central Java, Indonesia working on a hydro project. 1987-1989. Hydro project in Sri Lanka.

PROFILE - Herb Hart continued

It was on this project that Herb lost his leg when his right foot was crushed between two rail wagons. His company hired a Lear jet that flew Herb to Singapore for treatment and an initial operation to try and save his leg. From Singapore, he was flown back to NZ on an Air NZ flight and the amputation of his right leg BK was performed in Christchurch in February, 1988. After 3 months of rehab, they returned to Sri Lanka, with a spare leg in tow. 1989-1992. Travelled to the UK where he took up a position of Superintendent on the UK side working on the channel tunnel. 1992-1994. Transferred to another hydro project in Malaysia. 1995-1999. Saudi Arabia where he worked on a 10km long oil pipe line tunnel. 2000-2002. Back to Peru to work on yet another hydro project as construction supervisor.

It was at this time that Herb decided to retire and in 2003, they purchased the property in Kaiapoi where him and Anne still live. So much for retirement!! In 2010, the Norwegian Government asked Herb if he would go to work on a hydro project in Northern India where they were building a plant in the Himalayas at 3200m above sea level and he worked there until 2011. Herb's FINAL project was in 2012 where he was asked to consult on a huge hydro project in Georgia, a country wedged between the Black and Caspian Seas. Herb stated that the hardest times of his working life was the constant 24/7 worry that he had for being responsible for his workforce and their safety on the job.

In Herb's own words, "I must say that losing a leg has not really been much of a handicap although my last early morning run was on the day of my accident in Sri Lanka. I have always had great service from the Burwood Limb Centre although over the last couple of years, I've had trouble to get a good fitting leg. Many have tried without much luck and my old 2010 leg that I took to India is (although a bit battered) still hanging in there"

SOMETHING TO LAUGH ABOUT BAD DAD JOKES.....

- *What do the movies Titanic and The Sixth Sense have in common? Icy dead people.*
- *Why is England the wettest country? Because the queen reigned there for decades.*
- *You know there's no official training for trash collectors? They just pick things up as they go along.*
- *What's the difference between a golfer and a skydiver? A golfer goes whack "darn" and a skydiver goes "darn" whack.*
- *A friend of mine went bald years ago but still carries around an old comb. He just can't part with it.*
- *I want to die peacefully in my sleep like my grandfather did. Not screaming in terror like the passengers in his car.*
- *What sits at the bottom of the sea and twitches? A nervous wreck.*
- *What do you call a woman who sets fire to all her bills? Bernadette.*
- *I was kidnapped by mimes once. They did unspeakable things to me.*
- *I saw Usain Bolt sprinting around the track shouting, "Why did the chicken cross the road?" It was a running joke.*
- *What did the full glass say to the empty glass? "You look drunk."
Is it ignorance or apathy that's destroying the world today? I don't know, and I don't care.*
- *Did you hear about the Italian chef who died? He pasta-way.*
- *Why can't you explain puns to kleptomaniacs? They always take things literally.*
- *They all laughed when I said I wanted to be a comedian. Well, they're not laughing now! Wait...*
- *You're not completely useless. You can always serve as a bad example.*
- *Did you hear about the guy whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.*
- *What's the difference between a hippo and a Zippo? One is really heavy, and the other is a little lighter.*

If you are receiving Purpose in printed form and would like an e-copy emailed to you, please let us know.

Have you seen our two publications?

A New Challenge - Advice for New Amputees and An Ongoing Challenge (reprinted 2022)

Both are available from the National Coordinator or your Regional Society

“Life isn’t about waiting for the storm to pass, it’s about learning to dance in the rain”

— *Vivian Greene*

“Gems” from our History”

* It has been my good fortune, as a AK amputee, to have a husband who insists that the loss of a leg is not a handicap but a distinction. He has boosted my morale continuously and sometimes unexpectedly, as perhaps the following instance will show. We were together on the street one day when a gorgeous redhead walked past. Her face and figure were enough to turn any man’s head, and my husband watched, with keen interest, her progress along the street. “She’s lovely, isn’t she?” I asked. He turned to me and said with a grin, “Too many legs!” (Unknown source)

*A man accused of stabbing his wife ask a Court in Cardiff for bail and offered his artificial leg as surety. William nurse, aged 46, said he was prepared to deposit his leg at the local police station. This would stop him leaving his house. His lawyer told Magistrates the Germans successfully used the procedure with prisoners during World War II. Nurse kept his leg and lost his bid for bail. He was remanded in custody for a week, charged with wounding with intent to murder.

* I grizzled because I had no shoes, until I met a man who had no feet.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

Auckland & Northland - In order to be prepared for 2023 Annual General Meeting, our committee have decided to change our meeting Date to Sunday the 30th of April 2023, starting at 1.30pm. All interested, are welcome to attend. Tea, Coffe and Asparagus rolls to follow. The original date of the 2nd of April 2023 has been cancelled.

Waikato, Bay of Plenty & Districts -Our society had their AGM on the 11th of February 2023. We welcomed new committee Members. A fishing trip will take place on the 25th of February 2023 thanks to Wish4fish. We are currently working on a 4X4 event with local 4X4 groups in the Waikato, Bay of Plenty regions. If you would like to attend any of our events, we would love to hear from you.
(Matthew Bryson, President)

Hawke's Bay/East Coast - It certainly has been a tumultuous time here in Hawke's Bay/East Coast due to the devastation caused by Cyclone Gabrielle and our region is hurting. What is uplifting is the way the community has come together to lend a hand in whatever capacity they can, it's going to take a long time, but we will rebuild and come out stronger. Our AMG had originally been proposed for the 12th March however due to the current circumstances we've opted to delay this until May, all members will be notified of the date in the next newsletter. In other news, our Society Treasurer and Federation President, Korrin, has entered the 10km Hawke's Bay Marathon event in May and would more amputees to join her if able.
(Korrin Barrett, Treasurer)

Manawatu & Districts - Bowlarama 10 pin bowls. Started last Monday February the 13th at 2pm. This event is every 2nd Monday of Each month. Our next bowling date is the 10th of April at 2pm in Cuba Street, Palmerston North. A very enjoyable afternoon at testing your skills of bowling. A committee luncheon is planned on Monday the 27th of February in Wanganui to bring both Wanganui area and Palmerston North together to discuss future events for this coming year. Our AGM is planned for the 29th of March at 2pm. The venue is still to be finalized.

Greater Wellington Region -The Wellington Society is excited for what 2023 holds for us. We have had our AGM, and planning is well in hand for a number of us to attend the National Conference in Christchurch - always a highlight in our calendar!

We have a number of events planned for this year - a fundraising movie, our Martariki Celebration dinner, Amputee Awareness Week and perhaps a sausage sizzle? Details for each will be in our newsletters.

(Rob Penhey, Secretary)

Top of the South - Top of the South have booked sausage sizzles for the year - our first one on February 26th. The profits from these great fundraisers have helped our society assist a member to have his vehicle modified and help achieve his goal of returning to work. The society had a wonderful Christmas get together in December - Father Christmas even made an appearance. Our next social event is a BBQ on the 25th of March after our AGM - it will be great to see everyone there.

Canterbury & Westland - Canterbury/Westland Society had a wonderful end of year, with a successful Christmas Function at The Redwood, it is now all hands-on deck for the 2023 National Conference, April 14-16, at The Crowne Plaza, in Christchurch. Hope to see you there!

(Justine Mangan-Woods, Secretary)

Otago & Southland - There was a good turnout of members at our Invercargill meeting and dinner and our pre-Christmas dinner in Dunedin. We are looking forward to catching up with members again in 2023.

(Lorraine Peacock, Coordinator)

Newsletters of Regional Societies are available on the Federation's website (www.amputee.co.nz) along with other useful information.

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