



Amputee
Society
of Canterbury &
Westland Inc.

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Quote of the Month:

Anyone can get old. All you have to do is live long enough.

— *Groucho Marx*

Fun Facts:

A mole can dig a tunnel that is 300 feet long in just one night.

The first man to be pulled over for speeding, Walter Arnold in 1896, he was going 8 mph.

Editor's Message

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

In the August newsletter, the editorial offered an analysis about the impending General Election to be held on October 14th & the choices for the public. That election is now "done & dusted". There is a disclaimer (above) which clearly states any information is independent and not necessarily the view of the Amputee Society. Unfortunately, the piece prompted one society member to resign their membership. This was a regrettable response from a member who has benefitted greatly from Amputee Society sponsorship over many years and would presumably have continued to do so in the future. I find this reaction bemusing. We all express opinions every single day. Even if it is about what we think the weather is, a news item on TV or who we think might win a sports contest. They are all just opinions which add to the tapestry of everyday life, which contribute to debate and discussion. Can you imagine how boring and mundane life would be if we all thought 100% the same way and never offered an alternative view or expressed an opinion? The key takeaway here is, feel free to express an opinion, but respect the right of others to express a contrary one. Freedom of speech and expression, especially on political and other public issues, is the lifeblood of any democracy. Good democracies are usually filled with many voices expressing different or even contrary ideas and opinions. A free and open debate will often lead to the best option being considered and will be more likely to avoid serious mistakes. So, one can accept that this person has in fact expressed their own opinion – which is their democratic right and respected by the writer – but it's a shame they chose to respond as they did and deny themselves participation in such a wonderful and enriching organisation as the Amputee Society. Had they chosen to express their opinion differently, that response would be appearing right here.

MEET ALAN DEARDEN:

Profile compiled by Alan's wife, Rose.

Alan is a little different than a lot of amputees in that his below knee amputation was by choice, not the result of an accident.

Born in 1951 with Bi-Lateral club feet he endured callipers and many, many operations during his childhood.

As the third child in a family of six he realised very early in life to stand up for himself or miss out. He was a feisty kid who often found himself in strife with his teachers and parents. Nobody could tell him that he wasn't able to do something that his siblings or classmates did. He enjoyed his childhood growing up in Bromley which was an adventure land for kids with farmland surrounding the area.

Alan went to St Anne's catholic school in Woolston, then to Xavier College until he had a run in with a Marist Brother over something he had not done. He then left Xavier College and did his last year of education at Aranui High school.

He left school at 15 years old and took up a job as a trainee manager at Self Help (the first supermarket chain in NZ). Sales was in his blood and some say he had the gift of the gab. So, he worked in a variety of Sales jobs over the years.

He married Rose one week after his 20th birthday, and they have built a life together and had two children, Gina and Stephen.

Never one to let the grass grow under his feet, Alan bought a Taxi Licence with Blue Star Taxis, this was the first but not the last time Alan of being self-employed. Alan's Dad died young around this time at age 54 sparking an attitude in Alan to live life to the fullest. A few years later Alan sold his taxi and went to work at Wrightcars Toyota in Cashel Street as their Commercial Salesman, a job he loved. When the company was sold to Garry Donnithorne, Alan was promoted to Sales Manager. However, as changes came to the Motor industry, Alan and Rose sought a new adventure, and moved to the Gold Coast in Australia. At this time Alan was having severe arthritis pain in his right foot and thought the warmer weather would be better than the cold of Christchurch. Alan had his own business on the Gold Coast contracting to Australia Post delivering bulk mail and parcels to the numerous Post Offices along the Gold Coast to Tweed Heads.

After 7.5 years they returned to Christchurch and in partnership with another couple, Alan and Rose built a Café Bar in Hoon Hay. However, after a couple of years, Alan's pain in his left ankle was becoming unbearable. So, they sold the Café and Alan, after consulting a couple of surgeons, went ahead and had a below knee amputation of his right leg. The pain relief was instant. Alan's daughter made the comment that he had a personality transplant also. He was back to his happy self. 8 weeks and Alan was back playing golf with his Prosthetic leg on.



ALAN DEARDEN CONT:



On Rose's 60th birthday Alan and Rose retired. Well, that lasted a year, then Alan took up a position with GoBus transporting Special Needs Children to and from school each day. When Cross Country Rentals took over the NZ Education contract, Alan transferred over and was soon made Driver Trainer, a position he still holds. The company employs 130 drivers in Christchurch and another 150 approx. around the country.

Alan has never let his amputation hold him back, if anything it gave him a new lease of life.

FAVOURITE FOOD: Bacon & Eggs every weekend and any seafood.

FAVOURITE PLACE: Ireland because of his love for Guinness.

(Alan beside his home brewing set up in his garage)

FAVOURITE ACTIVITIES: Home brewing, Golf (has played a round at the famous St Andrews course in Scotland), swimming and fishing.

FAVOURITE MUSIC: Country & Western.

FAVOURITE AUTHORS: Is an avid reader. Authors, Lee Child, James Patterson, Michael Connolly & Paul Cleave (who writes fiction about Christchurch)

Alan and Rose like to travel and some of the countries that they have visited are, Australia (numerous times), Japan, China, Italy, Spain, Ireland, Romania, France, Germany, Scotland and England.

PILOTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Able Flight's mission is to offer people with disabilities a unique way to challenge themselves through flight and aviation career training, and by doing so, to gain greater self-confidence and self-reliance.

Although based in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA, this is a terrific "feel good" article that highlights the support offered to people with disabilities. The



picture shows the seven graduates from the 2023 programme. Able Flight was created by pilots who believe that the life-changing experience of learning to fly is best shared, and designed the Able Flight Scholarships to enable people with disabilities to pursue that experience. Able Flight is a nonprofit organisation and is supported by the generous donations and sponsorships of individuals, foundations and corporations. *Proudly, we have our own local member, Ross Millichamp, who is a double amputee, a qualified pilot and owns his own plane.*

CHRISTMAS FUNCTION:

After the successful event held last year, we have made a booking to hold our Christmas function once again at The Redwood Hotel. We would love to see a good turnout from members/friends and look forward to catching up with you all on the day. There will be great raffles on offer so bring your spare cash.

PLACE: The Redwood Hotel, 340 Main North Rd, Redwood.

DATE: Sunday, November 26th.

TIME: From 12 noon and lunch @ 12.30pm.

COST: \$40 but the society will subsidise the cost by \$10 pp making it **\$30 per person payable on the day.**

Please advise of your intention to attend by contacting Justine on 021 1055189, amputee.cw@gmail.com or Mark on 027 2381958, mark.bruce@xtra.co.nz by Nov 24th.



QUIZ FUNCTION:

A huge thank you to all those that turned out to support our major fundraiser that was held at The Cranford Alehouse on Sunday, October 8th. It was a hugely successful event with around 70 people attending and having a whole heap of fun with the quiz, fantastic raffles (thanks Justine & Alesha) and great company. Congratulations to Ivan & Caryl Kippenberger's team who were the "top dogs" on the night and received a \$100 voucher to be spent at the Alehouse. We must also thank Andy Norton from The Alehouse & Robyn Haughey for their generous sponsorship of vouchers for the placegetters. The most innovative and clever team name on the night undoubtedly went to the team containing Glen Threadwell and Gus Van Oyen who are both arm amputees. Glen is minus his left arm and Gus his right arm. Picture them standing together....and what did they call their team???? **"THE BOOKENDS."** Well done Glen and Gus...very clever and so funny.

"HAVE A GO ARCHERY DAY"

On Saturday, August 19th, a group of around 30 members, their families and friends, attended the Have A Go Archery event held at the Christchurch Archery Club in Rawhiti Domain, New Brighton that was organised by Peke Waihanga in collaboration with the Amputee Society of Canterbury/Westland.

All those that attended had positive feedback about their enjoyable experience of trying something "different". A BBQ lunch was provided by the society at the conclusion of the archery that allowed attendees to mingle and chat. Many thanks to all who made the effort to attend and to Matt Bryson of Peke Waihanga for the sponsorship and organisation of this fun day.



"NZ TOTAL CARE MOBILITY WHEELCHAIR TAXI SERVICE"

Having experienced major issues over the last few years in trying to arrange wheelchair taxis for our elderly mothers, I would like to advise of this service that is available to people with mobility issues. NZ Total Care Mobility has been operating for nearly 3 years and adapted vans with wheelchair hoists to cater for those experiencing difficulty with their mobility. After speaking to members who have recently utilised this service, feedback has been extremely positive. There is no issue with the booking process, they can take same day bookings in most cases, drivers have been on time, friendly & helpful in assisting passengers, they operate 24/7 and they are an accredited provider with ECAN for the use of the Total Mobility card. Total Care still have spaces available, at the time of writing for Christmas Day bookings.

Phone Number – 03 3511599 or 0800 003131

Contact Persons – Shirleen Prasad and Raj Singh

Mobile - 021 02365521 Shirleen/021 02316227 Raj.

Email address - admin@totalcaremobility.co.nz



SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER:



We slipped up on our process earlier this year by failing to send out subscription invoices...we will rectify this at the start of 2024. Subsequently, we have had to chase subscriptions throughout the year and we thank everyone who has made their \$10 payment. If you are at all unsure what your subscription status is, feel free to contact either Justine on 021 1055189 or Mark on 027 2381958.

AMPUTEE AWARENESS:

On Friday 6th and Saturday 7th October, the Society once again had a stand operating at The Palms Mall to coincide with Amputee Awareness Week. Justine and Alesha did a fantastic of stocking the stand with lots of giveaways and resources that many members of the public were interested in. They also put together a wonderful hamper that people could go in to the draw for if they made any donation to the Society. This initiative was well supported and the Society gratefully received over \$100 in donations. Many thanks to all those members who gave so generously of their time to spend time on the stand to answer questions and chat to the general public. Your service to the Society is greatly appreciated.

CRAIG HARRINGTON OFF TO THE USA:

I'm sure many of you will have seen Craig, an amputee society member, recently on a TV One News article featuring his involvement in Crossfit. If you hadn't, many of you will know Craig as a familiar face at Peke Waihangā, Burwood Limb Centre. Craig is following his passion for the sport and recently competed in the "Oceania Throwdown", an international competition held in Brisbane where he placed a very credible 2nd=. Craig completed his online qualification to attend the "Wheelwod" Games, which is the adaptive communities Crossfit Games. This event is to be held in North Carolina, USA in early December this year and there will be over 200 athletes from all over the world competing over 3 days of competition. To assist Craig, the society has made a cash contribution to support Craig in his endeavours and we wish him every success as he pursues his dream. Go well Craig and safe travels.



Smile Awhile

**Why did the cows return
to the marijuana field?**



It was the pot calling the cattle back.

**I HAD A BLAST AT THE STORE TODAY.
I ASKED THE YOUNG CHECKOUT GIRL
IF THESE WERE FRONT OR BACK LEGS**



**SHE DIDN'T KNOW AND SAID I'LL GO ASK.
WHEN SHE GOT BACK SHE SAID,
"NOT" FUNNY.**

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**

Braintree Wellness Centre. 70 Langdons Rd.
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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Jo Boereboom 03 942-5320
farmtree58@gmail.com

Other Committee Members

Vaughan Mangan-Woods
Janice Frost, Lisa Gray,
Andrea Thompson,
Ralph McGuigan.

West Coast Contact

Will Sturkenboom
03 732-8312
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 Mark Bruce

**Peke Waihanga/Artificial
Limb Service**

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

Lynleigh Ashcroft
Lynleigh.Ashcroft@nzals.co.nz
Caroline Leaper
Caroline.Leaper@nzals.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.



Christchurch City Council

Disability Golf NZ

For any enquiries about
becoming involved, anywhere
in NZ, please contact
Andrew Woo, 021 885678
disabilitygolfnz@gmail.com



Need Computer Help ?

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at very affordable rates.

www.computertutor.nz

Mobile 027 2909246

Home 942-5320

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