



Amputee  
Society  
of Canterbury &  
Westland Inc.

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## May 2024 Contents

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## Quote of the Month:

The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we do fall.

*-Nelson Mandela*

## Fun Fact:

If you find yourself feeling useless, just remember: it took 20 years, trillions of dollars, thousands of lives and four presidents to replace the *Taliban* with the *Taliban*.

## Editor's Message

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

This issues editorial is all about HYPOCRISY....it's meaning and how we have seen it play out, in the worst possible way, in our political arena of late. The Oxford Dictionary states, HYPOCRISY, *the practice of claiming to have higher standards or more noble beliefs than is the case*. Case in point is after the debacle of the previous Government's performance with all their misfits, Kiri Allen, Phil Twyford, Stuart Nash, Trevor Mallard, Michael Wood, Jan Tinetti and Meka Whaitiri, the party strove (ineffectually) to defend their actions and shortcomings when all of NZ could plainly see that they needed to be "shipped out" for their abysmal behaviour and performance. When the current PM moved swiftly to make changes in his Cabinet after 6 months in Government, we had Chris Hipkins, Willie Jackson and other Labour faithful jumping on the attack train to condemn the National Party for it's actions!!! **This equals the HYPOCRISY definition**. If we look back at the previous Governments track record, in no particular order and to name but a few issues. Their lack of preparedness of our Civil Defence and Emergency Management plans, their inability to implement drastically needed change and investment in our mental health system, roading and services infrastructure, the spiralling cost of living, inflation out of control, the light rail catastrophe, letting our health system fall in to a perilous state, failing to attend to the pay equity concerns of our teachers, police and nurses and their tunnel vision approach around boosting the welfare state handouts with nothing in return. (the architect of NZ's welfare state, Michael Joseph Savage died in 1940...move on Labour, it's a new world where you should receive what you put in). The Labour Party now have the gall to criticise the current administration on ALL these matters...**THIS EQUALS HYPOCRISY** and the Oxford Dictionary got it right. Welcome to the crazy and **hypocritical** world of politics.

## MEET RICHARD TAYLOR:

Richard was the third born child in his family in Southport, near Liverpool in 1959. His parents had the 3 children in England and another 4 children once they had emigrated to NZ when Richard was only 6 months old. The family left England on the last of the ships carrying what was known at that time as "The 10-pound Poms". After a 3-week voyage via The Panama Canal, there was a stopover in Tahiti before the ship arrived in Auckland. Richard's father had obtained a welding job with the Ministry of Works on the Waitaki Hydro Scheme project and they immediately boarded a train in Auckland and arrived at their destination, Oamaru, some 3 days later. Richard's mother told him that she used to place him in the overhead mesh luggage racks for his sleeps on the train journey.

The family stayed in Oamaru until Richard was 5 and then moved to Linwood, ChCh as his father had obtained a new welding position. Richard attended Linwood Ave Primary before the family moved to Templeton and he went to Templeton School then Lincoln High School where he used to bus to and from school. During this time, Richard recalls his dad being away for months on end working on the Tiwai Point Aluminium smelter near Bluff. The rest of his siblings had been born by this stage and Richard recalls how busy his Mum was running the household as well as being the Postmistress at Templeton at the same time. While at Lincoln High, Richard was involved in an Art production called, "The Lincoln County Incident" that was picked up by the NZ Arts Council who, after adding colour and audio, released the film at the Cannes Film Festival. Richard was a very capable footballer and made his school's First XI side while he was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> form and captained the team in his 4<sup>th</sup> form year. Richard left school at the end of his 4<sup>th</sup> form year to become an apprentice jockey for a Riccarton trainer, Kelvin Quayle. In two and a half years, Richard had 46 race day rides but never got that elusive first win. Around this time, Richard was cutting lucerne one day on the work property when his Swandri jacket got caught in the teeth of the cutter dragging his left arm in to the machine and resulting in his arm being so badly damaged that amputation was the only option.



*(Jumping Cutts Brush at Riccarton Racecourse)*

Obviously, race riding was no longer a possibility but only 3 weeks after the accident, he took 2 horses down to Dunedin to race. He became a Groundsman at Riccarton Racecourse from 1977-82 before transferring to Paeroa (near Thames) to become the youngest racecourse caretaker in NZ. Richard had met his first wife, Catherine, in ChCh and their first born (son) was born at Thames Hospital in 1984. The family moved back to Ch Ch where Richard worked for Toyota at the Sockburn factory as a yardman then cleaning supervisor for

the next few years before a move to a supervisory role at the ChCh Town Hall for 3 years and during this time, his daughter was born in 1987. Richard is an accomplished singer and started his own business in 1990 called, "Captain Hooks Karaoke" which he ran until 2000. His marriage had ended in 1994 but in 1997, he met Angela before they moved to the UK in 2000 and they were married in

## RICHARD TAYLOR CONT :

2003 while living/working in London. He was the foreman for a property maintenance company from 2001-06 before landing the role of school caretaker at a Hackney (South London) School until 2014 when he and Angela returned to NZ. Richard obtained a role with Lighting Direct as a trade consultant in 2016 and is still in that role today.

For many years, Richard wore a "hook" prosthesis but in 2017 he received a Taska robotic hand which he said has changed his life although he still wears the hook if he has to lift something heavy. He took up golf in 1978 following his amputation and is still playing regularly to this day.



Richard is extremely proud of his 1987 achievement of completing a hole-in-one at the Harewood Golf Club, a feat that many able-bodied golfers never achieve. Being an avid singer/performer, Richard competed in the 1978 Golden Guitar Awards in Gore and performed either side of Suzanne Prentice & Brendan Duggan, two famous NZ Country singers. While on holiday in Las Vegas, he was invited to perform with a live band at the iconic MGM Grand Hotel.

**FAVOURITE FOOD:** Fish & Chips.

**FAVOURITE PLACE:** Las Vegas and the engineering of The Panama Canal.

**FAVOURITE ACTIVITIES:** Gardening, golf, watching sport, Karaoke.

**FAVOURITE MUSIC:** Country, Neil Diamond & Garth Brooks.

**FAVOURITE BOOKS:** Not a reader, waits for the movie to come out!

Richard said the early days after the accident were hard in dealing with the pain but his lifelong motto has been, "Just get on with life" and he enjoys being independent. He and Angela have been to Las Vegas 12 times and have taken 15 cruises around the Pacific, Baltic, Atlantic, Asia & the Mediterranean where sailing in to Venice is a very special memory for them both.

## A LITTLE EXTRA :

Sometimes, someone unexpected comes into your life out of nowhere, makes your heart race, and changes you forever. We call those people cops.

When you go into court, you are putting yourself in the hands of twelve people, who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

If you're sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

The 77th AGM of the Amputee Society of Canterbury/Westland Inc was held at the Hornby Club on March 10th. A small but loyal band of members was in attendance and official matters were attended to in a prompt manner before we were able to mingle and chat over an enjoyable morning tea supplied by the Society. Once again, Justine and Alesha had organised some great raffle prizes and congratulations to those who were winners on the day.

We had a discussion about innovative ways to promote the society and one good resolution was to encourage current members to make a friendly approach to other amputees who they see in their normal day to day activities. To this end, if you would like a supply of cards with the Society's details to hand to people you come in to contact with, please let Joanne know and she will post you out some cards. (Jo Boereboom 03 942-5320 or [farmtree58@gmail.com](mailto:farmtree58@gmail.com))

Officers elected were;

President. Mark Bruce. Vice President Alesha Kelly.

Sec/Treasurer Justine Mangan-Woods. Committee

Jo Boereboom, Andrea Thompson, Lisa Gray,

Vaughan Mangan-Woods, Janice Frost.

Congratulations to you all and a huge thank you for your selfless service to our organization.



## LIMB CENTRE SIGNS:

Many of you will recall the Amputee Society signage that used to be in the foyer and fitting rooms of the old centre. These were taken down a couple of years ago when a refurbishment took place and were never put back up due to the impending move to the new and vibrant limb centre. I have spoken to Matthias (Southern Regional Manager) who has given me an assurance that this matter will receive his attention to so hopefully they will be displayed proudly in the very near future.

## ON GETTING OLDER:

I have a very special friend who lives in New Orleans, Louisiana and he often says to me, "Getting old ain't for sissys" which makes me laugh but how true that saying is. As we age, normal day to day activities that we used to take for granted, seem to be more of a challenge. The importance of staying as physically active as we possibly can takes on more significance as we make our way forward with more and more birthdays being racked up. Yes, "our" physical challenges are a factor in just how much activity we can get through but taking short walks, passive exercising and swimming are all beneficial to our ongoing health and mobility. For those wishing to become involved in swimming, there are many City Council pool complexes that are user friendly for disabled people and the Hapai Access Card provides substantial cost savings to holders. [hapaiaccesscard.org.nz](http://hapaiaccesscard.org.nz)

*You know you're getting old if the candles cost more than the cake.*

*Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9:00 pm is the new midnight.*

*It's the start of a brand new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles.*





## FOOTBALL FUNDRAISER:

A society member from Timaru, John Mathias, is a stalwart of the football club, Northern Hearts AFC and has been involved with the club as far back as the 1970's. Currently, John attends to all the fundraising and grant applications to assist the club in providing gear, resources and all associated expenses involved with the successful running of all the club's teams. The Men's Premier team is involved in the Football South competition where they play home & away games against other teams from Dunedin, Waitaki, Central Otago, Clutha & Southland so the expenses are a big stumbling block for all the clubs involved. Thanks to John's diligent and efficient fundraising efforts, his club are able to successfully compete at this level. Each year, Northern Hearts play a series of pre-season friendly games against the Waimak Club from Christchurch and this year the venue was Sir Basil Arthur Park in Timaru on Saturday, March 23rd. Northern Hearts had the right to nominate a charity of their choice to receive any donations collected on the day and because of John's association with the Canterbury/Westland Amputee Society, we were most gratefully chosen as the charity recipient. President, Mark Bruce, travelled down to Timaru and attended the days events and made a speech of appreciation at the end of days prizegiving. Thanks to this most generous gift and the wonderful work from John and the Northern Hearts Club, our Society have received a deposit to our account in the amount of \$565.00 with the possibility that this total may grow with further donations. This humbling but generous gift is hugely appreciated and will be used with diligence to assist our members and help with day to day administration expenses. Our heartfelt thanks are extended to both John and the Northern Hearts AFC for their kindness & generosity.

*The 2024 Northern Hearts Men's Premier Team.*



# AMPUTEES FEDERATION OF NZ UPDATE:



**Amputees  
Federation**  
of New Zealand  
Incorporated

**President**  
Korin Barrett  
Phone 027 4413106  
Email: [president@amputee.co.nz](mailto:president@amputee.co.nz)  
Web: [www.amputee.co.nz](http://www.amputee.co.nz)

1 February 2024

Happy New Year from the AFNZ National Executive.

The National Executive met recently and wanted to send an update and a list of dates to communicate to your members.

## **NEW WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM AND REVAMPED NEWSLETTER/ MAGAZINE:**

We hinted at it last year, but we can now confirm that the launch of the brand new AFNZ website will be mid to late May. A lot of work has gone into this, especially with the National Coordinator and National Treasurer attending 2 semesters at ARA Institute of Technology to get this up and running with our new partners Digital Journey. We will also be updating Facebook and developing other social media platforms to work in line with the website.

Our previous publication "Purpose" has been renamed "Limbless" and we will be publishing bi-monthly digital newsletters through our website, yes that's six newsletters a year. Items and updates from societies will still be collected and advertised as required. An A4 glossy magazine will be printed twice a year, this will be supplied to Limb Centres, medical centres, hospitals and any other organisations deemed suitable and a digital version will be available if Societies wish to print it off for their members.

## **NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2024:**

After a huge amount of work with meetings, getting quotes, funding requests, talking to hotels and investigating activities for a proposed conference in September this year, it was deemed fiscally irresponsible to go ahead with a conference. The decision has been made to hold the conference in April of 2025 where we are looking at a completely different structure, opening up participation in activities and including interactive workshops etc. More info to come once dates have been confirmed.

## **78TH NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING: SUNDAY 21st APRIL VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS/ZOOM**

As we are not having a National Conference this year, the National Council Meeting will be held online. A link will be sent closer to the time, along with rules of etiquette to be followed by all attendees. Delegates will need to come to the meeting with any questions/queries from their society and each delegate will be given time to speak. Members wishing to join the meeting are welcome but all microphones will be muted to ensure there is no speaking over each other and clear and concise communication is maintained.

Yours sincerely, Korin Barrett. President.



## SEVENTHWAVE WETSUITS LEAD THE WAY:

*I recently had the pleasure of meeting with Sarah Armstrong, Managing Director of Seventhwave Wetsuits Ltd to learn what her company are doing with and to assist the amputee community. Over a cup of coffee with Sarah and her friendly staff, I spent an enjoyable time learning more about Seventhwave and this article has been compiled by Sarah.*

Seventhwave Wetsuits NZ is Empowering Adaptability within water sports and rehabilitation with custom solutions for the Amputee/Disabled community. In the vast expanse of the ocean and lakes within our beautiful country, lies a realm of freedom, adventure and rehabilitation. For many, the prospect of participation is exhilarating, but for some, it can seem like an insurmountable challenge. However, thanks to the innovation and dedication of companies like Seventhwave Wetsuits NZ, barriers are being broken and the joys of water sports are becoming more accessible than ever before.

Based and made here in New Zealand for 37 years, Seventhwave stands out not only for its commitment to producing high-quality, locally owned and made wetsuits but also for its passion for inclusivity. The company recognizes that traditional wetsuits may not always cater to the unique needs of individuals with limb differences or disabilities. That is where their custom-made solutions come into play. A key partnership for over 20 years with Peke Waihanga, New Zealand's Limb Service, has opened the channels for innovation. Through this collaboration, Seventhwave has been able to provide tailored wetsuits, buoyancy aids and neoprene products that cater to the specific requirements of amputees. This partnership isn't just about business; it's about fostering a community where everyone feels supported and empowered to pursue their passions.

Seventhwave offers a range of products designed to meet the diverse needs of all water sports and for all abilities. From full-body wetsuits to rash vests, buoyancy aids, kidney wraps and accessories, their range encompasses everything that may be needed to hit the water, whether that's an inside pool or the outside playground, comfortably and confidently.

What sets Seventhwave apart, however, is their willingness to go the extra mile to create custom solutions. For individuals with amputations or disabilities, a standard wetsuit may not provide the necessary fit or functionality.

*RIGHT: The super friendly crew at Seventhwave.*



## SEVENTHWAVE WETSUITS LEAD THE WAY:

Seventhwave understands this challenge and embraces it as an opportunity to innovate. They have crafted bespoke wetsuits tailored to accommodate prosthetic limbs, ensuring a snug yet comfortable fit that allows for freedom of movement in the water.



*A custom made wetsuit made for Ilonka Buwalda*

Additionally, they have designed wetsuits and neoprene products with features such as easy-access zippers and adjustable closures to make the process of putting on and taking off as seamless as possible. Their commitment to inclusivity doesn't stop at product customization. They also actively engage with the community, seeking feedback and input to continually improve their offerings. By listening to the experiences and challenges faced by individuals with limb differences or disabilities, they can refine their designs and develop new solutions that better address the needs of their customers.

Seventhwave's dedication to sustainability is worth highlighting. As a locally owned and made company, they prioritize environmentally friendly practices throughout their manufacturing process. From sourcing eco-friendly materials to minimizing waste, striving to minimize its environmental footprint while still delivering top-notch products.

In conclusion, Seventhwave Wetsuits NZ stands as a beacon of inclusivity and innovation in the world of water sports. Through their custom-made solutions and unwavering commitment to supporting the amputee and disabled community, they are breaking down barriers and opening up new possibilities.

Water sports and water rehabilitation should be a playground where everyone is welcome. *You can speak to your prosthetic technician about opportunities and options available or alternatively make contact with Seventhwave directly. They are located at 6/1063 Ferry Rd, Ferrymead, Christchurch and can be contacted on (03) 384-7878 or Sarah by emailing [sarah@seventhwave.co.nz](mailto:sarah@seventhwave.co.nz)*

## TABLE TENNIS OPPORTUNITY:

**An introductory, fun and inclusive 8-week Para table tennis programme!**

Serve, Spin, Smash! is for disabled people of all ages and abilities, using adapted equipment and games to maximise confidence and enjoyment.

**Serve, Spin, Smash!**

**JUNIORS (UNDER 19 YRS):** Tuesday's, 7<sup>th</sup> May – 25<sup>th</sup> June, 5–6pm

**ALL AGES:** Saturday's, 11<sup>th</sup> May – 18<sup>th</sup> June, 11am–12pm (excluding 1<sup>st</sup> June)

Table Tennis Canterbury, 294 Blenheim Road, Upper Riccarton, Christchurch

**REGISTER HERE:** <https://bit.ly/48xL02u>

**EMAIL ENQUIRIES:** [ttc@ttcanterbury.org.nz](mailto:ttc@ttcanterbury.org.nz) Or contact Hadleigh Pierson 022 0643001



## Smile Awhile

NEVER BE AFRAID TO  
TRY SOMETHING NEW.  
REMEMBER, AMATEURS  
BUILT THE ARK;  
PROFESSIONALS BUILT  
THE TITANIC.

I feel bad for parents nowadays. You have to be able to explain the birds & the bees... The bees & the bees... 🙄🙄🙄 The birds & the birds... 🙄🙄🙄 The birds that used to be bees... 🙄🙄 🙄🙄 The bees that used to be birds... 🙄 The birds that look like bees... 🙄 Plus bees that look like birds but still got a stinger!!! 🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄

## Web Sites

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

[www.amputeeinfo.co.nz](http://www.amputeeinfo.co.nz)

**The Amputees Federation of NZ**

[www.amputee.co.nz](http://www.amputee.co.nz)

**NZ Artificial Limb Service**

[www.nzals.govt.nz](http://www.nzals.govt.nz)

**Peer Support**

[www.peersupport.nz](http://www.peersupport.nz)

**Parafed Canterbury**

[www.parafedcanterbury.co.nz](http://www.parafedcanterbury.co.nz)

**International Diabetes Federation**

[www.idf.org](http://www.idf.org)

**Amputee News**

[www.amputeenews.com](http://www.amputeenews.com)

**Disability Rights Commissioner**

[www.hrc.co.nz](http://www.hrc.co.nz)

**UN Programme on Disability**

[www.un.org/issues/m-disabl.asp](http://www.un.org/issues/m-disabl.asp)

**Paraloan 03 3795983**

[www.paraloan.org.nz](http://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](http://www.aspirecanterbury.org.nz)

Total Mobility. Contact Julie (03) 3669093

[julie@aspirecanterbury.org.nz](mailto:julie@aspirecanterbury.org.nz)

**LifeLinks.** 0800 866 877

Web: [lifelinks.co.nz](http://lifelinks.co.nz) Email: [office@lifelinks.co.nz](mailto: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](mailto:canterbury@ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz)

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Janice Frost, Lisa Gray,  
Andrea Thompson,

**West Coast Contact**

Will Sturkenboom  
027 732-8312  
[wsturk@xtra.co.nz](mailto:wsturk@xtra.co.nz)

**Total Mobility Scheme**

Agent: Aspire Canterbury  
03 3666189  
[julie@aspirecanterbury.org.nz](mailto: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  
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[Caroline.Leaper@nzals.co.nz](mailto: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](mailto:disabilitygolfnz@gmail.com)



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Home 942-5320

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