

doing more
with less!



Amputee Society
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Affiliated with the Amputees Federation of New Zealand

Feb 2020 Contents

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Quote of the Month:

Politicians and diapers have one thing in common. They should both be changed regularly and for the same reason. *Unknown*

Fun Fact:

In 2006 someone tried to sell New Zealand on eBay. The price got up to \$3,000 before eBay shut it down.

A man from Britain once changed his name by deed poll to Tim **Ppppppppprice** to make it harder for telemarketers to pronounce.

Editor's Message

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

2020 marks an election year for New Zealand and it promises to be a very interesting time ahead. In 2017, two months out from the general election, not too many people could have named the deputy leader of the Labour Party but once Andrew Little decided to relinquish the leadership role to allow Jacinda Ardern to step up, the news media jumped on the bandwagon to promote her and the Labour Party that ultimately proved the catalyst for Labour to be in a controlling position to form a coalition government. As history reveals, Labour was able to sway NZ First their way and along with the Greens, formed a coalition government. Not that I thought Winston would ever side with National given his "history" with the "Nats". Personally, I feel that Jacinda swept to power on the back of media influence, the irrelevant fact that she is of the female gender, Winston Peter's personal agenda and the lack of any credible opposition provided by the National Party who have never recovered their mana following the departure of John Key & Bill English. In my view, the coalition government's performance has been underwhelming in almost every area of governance. They made boisterous claims, pre-election, about what they would deliver if elected to power but little has been achieved to correlate their performance with proven results. 2019 was earmarked by them as the "year of delivery" What we saw was a continuation of the abject failure of Kiwi build and the sacking of Phil Twyford as the Minister of Housing, a \$12 billion investment in infrastructure, no detail and still waiting, a focus on improving mental health, no detail and still waiting. All the while, Jacinda has had to gnash her teeth at the flamboyant, arrogant, disrespectful and downright ugly behaviour of NZ First and in particular their maverick MP, Shane Jones who seems to delight in portraying himself as the most important person in NZ politics. Jacinda has displayed herself as a great ambassador for NZ but do we want more of the shambolic politics? Given that comment, are we being offered any credible alternatives? National & Simon Bridges??

MEET ROSS MILLICHAMP:

At the time of visiting Ross on a Tuesday late in November, he and wife Jinny (and Black Labrador, Briar) had only just moved the preceding Friday from their home of 12 years in Merivale to a 26-acre property at Charing Cross, some 50 kms North West of Christchurch near Hororata. The new property was made very appealing to Ross as it has its own airstrip and expansive hangar, read on.....

Ross was born in 1964 in Timaru and was the second born child in the family. He has an older and younger sister who both reside in Dunedin and a younger brother who lives in the Far North. He stated that he has a close relationship with all his siblings and his parents, (aged 82 & 79) who still live in Merivale so he is hopeful that the trip out into the country will not be a barrier for regular contact. Ross's father was a Presbyterian Minister and Ross recalls living in Timaru, Ashburton, Auckland & Whakatane before finally coming to Christchurch where he attended Quinn's Rd Primary, Shirley Intermediate before completing his secondary schooling at St Andrews College. Ross said that as a child, he was almost obsessed with salmon fishing and that passion has remained with him throughout his adult life, as you will read later. Upon leaving college, Ross attended Canterbury University where he graduated with a science degree in Zoology (animal biology) and obtained his first "real" job working on a salmon farm at Kaitangata, South Otago for 3 years.



In 1991, Ross moved back to Christchurch where he started work for Fish & Game NZ as a field officer. After 8 years in this role, he was promoted to manager of Fish & Game North Canterbury but in February, 2008, Ross experienced a life changing event. Ross and some friends were on Stewart Island on a hunting/fishing trip when he started to feel unwell. This affliction worsened over the next 4-5 days to the point where one day before being due to leaving on a boat, he had to use the mountain radio to seek medical assistance. He was admitted to Invercargill Hospital where extensive tests were carried out to reveal he was suffering from the bacterial condition, Necrotising Fasciitis (flesh eating disease) due to an infection from a cut sustained whilst fishing. His body went into what is commonly described as "septic shock" where the organs start shutting down and he was rushed into surgery to have the diseased flesh removed. From this, Ross was medically evacuated to ChCh Hospital where he admitted to ICU and further surgery. When he awoke, it was a real shock to find that both his legs had been amputated below the knee but Ross freely admitted that this had to be done and felt that the medical staff did a great job of removing the dead tissue to keep him alive. He remained in ICU for one month, another 2 months in the ward before being transferred to Burwood Hospital for another 2 months and he was able to return home in August of that year. Up until this point, Ross had been an avid outdoors person and heavily involved in the pursuits of hunting & fishing but a medical professional told him in hospital that because of his disabilities, he should look at doing something different from this point onwards. At first, Ross admitted to some reluctance about the suggestion but he had previously met two WW2 Spitfire pilots and started tinkering with the idea of learning how to fly. So, in 2009, he commenced flying lessons with the Canterbury Aero Club and successfully obtained his pilot's licence in 2010. He admitted that there was some opposition from the medical fraternity to give him a medical clearance but his persistence and flying ability won the day. In 2011, he purchased his own plane, a Cessna 172 which has now been upgraded to a more powerful Cessna 182. Ross said he has flown all over NZ and although Jinny has only ever been on his jet boat a handful of times, she (and pooch) have accompanied him on Cessna flights from the Far North to Stewart Island.

ROSS MILLICHAMP CONT:

Obviously, Ross had to take a lot of time away from his job at Fish & Game but after returning to his old position, he decided to leave the role in 2013 as he was suffering badly from fatigue. In 2015, he took on a new role with DOC managing a field office but once again suffered rather badly from fatigue and left the position. Nowadays, Ross works part-time on a number of working groups with Environment Canterbury. He said this will allow him to come to terms with maintaining a large lifestyle property and of course, to spend more time behind the controls of the Cessna!!!

Ross admits to liking people who have the same passion for the outdoors as he does so is attracted to others who participate in fishing, hunting and an outdoors lifestyle.



FAVOURITE FOOD: Ross likes to cook, especially with the food he has hunted & fished for.

FAVOURITE PLACE: As weird as it might sound, Ross said his favourite place is the Lords River on Stewart Island.

ACTIVITIES/HOBBIES: Flying, jet boating, hunting, fishing...did I mention flying!!!

FAVOURITE MUSIC: Ross said he has a rather eclectic taste in music. He likes alternative genres and is a fan of an Australian artist, Paul Kelly.

FAVOURITE MOVIES: Too busy flying, hunting & fishing to watch movies.

FAVOURITE BOOKS/AUTHOR: Ross has actually written 2 books on salmon fishing but enjoys reading non-fiction, war and biographical books.

Ross feels that he has been very lucky in his life due to his life being saved with such timely medical intervention and skill, having such a loving, supportive wife and family but admitted that life is a challenge given his physical challenges. He does feel privileged to be able to continue his passion for flying and outdoor pursuits and deals with the good day/bad day scenarios as they present themselves. He said he is happy to pull the plane out of the hangar but even more happy when he wheels it safely back in by knowing that he has acted prudently & responsibly. Ross gains immense satisfaction from this new skill learnt and thoroughly enjoys putting this skill into real life practice. Apart from flying his own plane all around NZ, he and Jinny have travelled to the UK, Europe, USA, Japan and Tonga.



(Millichamp Airfield, Charing Cross)

Ross, thank you most sincerely for inviting me to your wonderful property and sharing your inspiring story of courage, determination and your exciting lifestyle. You are living proof that, "ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE"

TASKA PROSTHETICS.

Further to the article about Taska Prosthetics published in the November issue of Purpose, I visited their offices & workshop in Christchurch in late 2019 and caught up with Mathew Jury, founder of Taska Prosthetics.

Mathew lives with his family in Wellington and commutes to Christchurch regularly where the company is primarily located. Day to day operations are overseen by CEO Jamie Cairns, while Mat works from the satellite office in Petone alongside a small team. Although Mat states that his official title is Chief Technical/Product Director, he readily admits to being a full time "dreamer". Mat broke both his elbows and wrists in a mountain biking accident in 2003. It was during this time of inactivity and frustration of not being able to use his upper limbs effectively that he had this "bright spark idea".

"When I broke both arms, my elbow and my wrist I was fortunate I did not lose a limb. The limitations opened my eyes to how it might be for those who have. My day to day life changed dramatically, I couldn't even pick up my children when they ran to me, just one of the countless examples of how my restrictions impacted me physically and emotionally."

Fuelled by that empathy, Mat's inventor hat came on. Having worked for the old DSIR as an electronics technician which then morphed into IT networking, he admitted to having many skills to aid his vision. In 2010, Mat started "tinkering" around with prototypes in his garage, a project that would carry him for the next two years before a realisation that he needed to take things to a more advanced level. Mat's mission, to engineer and design upper limb prosthetics that were functional, durable, cost-effective and met the needs of the amputee community. Mat admits that working on this project became an obsession, and those first two years yielded 6 hands, only one of which was good enough to be provided to a "test pilot", Bryden Zaloum from Palmerston North in 2012. Bryden's high activity level made him the perfect person to test the hand, helping Mathew to realise that a robust hand was imperative if he was going to take his vision into the future.

In 2013, the first investor came on board while Mathew was still working out of his garage, but progress was such that he registered the patent internationally. The next 4 years were spent on further development and consultation and in 2017 there were 4 employees of the company and they were using a sub-contractor for product assembly.

By 2018 the company had moved to its own premises, and at the time I visited Mathew in November 2019, Taska employed near 40 staff. The projection is that the staff will nearly double from its current level over the next couple of years, meaning obtaining another level of the current building to accommodate the rising number of employees.



Taska has created a brand with a considerable international reputation and has an ongoing partnership with our own NZ Artificial Limb Service. Internationally, Taska is currently exporting product to The United States, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Canada & Sweden.



Mathew was very strong in his belief that "making a difference" was and still is the driving force behind everything Taska is trying to achieve. One of the company's beliefs at the highest level is that Taska should "Proudly support amputees in New Zealand as a gateway to the world". This is within a context of supporting upper limb amputees in a sustainable way, but Mathew was very quick to point out that a relationship with the entire NZ amputee community is a very important aspect for Taska.

Editor note: During my visit to Taska, I was hugely impressed with the professionalism, efficiency, quality of product, staff "vibe" and passion for making an international success out of an idea which had its origins in a backyard garage. No 8 wire at it's very best!!!!

2020 AGM & SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER:

Sunday March 15th, 2020 @ Hornby Club

AGM & Lunch..Meet..11am..AGM11.30am

Election of Officers

On Sunday March 15th, 2020, we will hold our AGM at The Hornby Club in the newly refurbished upstairs restaurant. (Lift is available). It would be great to see a good turnout and the meeting itself should take no longer than 15 minutes. We would especially welcome anyone wishing to put their name forward to serve on the committee for the coming year. Remember, volunteers are the **MOST** important resource any not-for-profit organisations can have.

We will dine informally after the AGM with "finger food" at a cost of \$12 per person, payable on the day. In previous years, numbers attending have been lower than our Christmas function but we urge you to use this opportunity to renew acquaintances as you **WILL** not "get a job" unless you want to.

Our guest speaker will be Lesley Campbell from Lifelinks who will give an overview of the services provided by her organisation and she will be available to answer questions.

It would be appreciated if you could call Margaret by **Friday March 6th** to indicate your attendance, phone 349-7585.

Editor's Note: We enjoyed a most satisfying Christmas function in November but it was extremely disappointing that nearly 20 people who said they were attending failed to turn up. Please follow through with your commitment as a lot of work and effort is attributed by the committee to make the event an enjoyable one.



The business of the Annual General Meeting shall include:

Receiving and considering the Minutes of the last AGM of members.

Receiving and considering the President's Report on the business of the Society.

Receiving and considering the Treasurer's Report on the finances of the Society and the Annual Financial Statements.

Election of Committee Members.

Any motions received and General business.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE.

A reminder that subscriptions (\$10) are now due and it would be appreciated if payment could be made at your earliest convenience. Payment can be made by cheque, online (details on back page) or if making payment at the AGM, please put it in an envelope with your name indicated. A receipt will be issued at a later date. Many thanks for your continued support of the Society.

LIMB CENTRE NEWS:

It had previously been reported in the November issue about the latest update on the rebuild of the Limb Centre at Burwood. To remind you, the CDHB were not prepared to give the NZ Artificial Limb Service an extended lease on the proposed parcel of land contained within the hospital itself which left NZALS with no alternative but to "walk away" from this option. Plans are now well advanced for the Centre to be re-built adjacent to the existing site in Burwood Rd. The positive aspects for this are that the Centre will continue to operate without any disruption to staff/clients while the new building is being constructed. There will be ample parking for visitors to the site and it will be a purpose built facility to match the needs and requirements of clients and staff alike. As far as I can advise, **THIS IS** the plan agreed upon and we should see activity around this matter in the months ahead.

With the departure in December of the prosthetist, Sandeep, to Australia, the staff have been doing their very best, within the confines of their staffing levels, to meet the needs of amputees in the region. NZALS itself has acknowledged the staffing levels need to be raised and have appointed TWO new but experienced prosthetists to commence duty at Burwood in approximately March this year. Balanced against this, Dion has had a one year sabbatical approved and will cease duty approximately one month after the two new members commence duty. After nearly 30 years in the service, Dion wished to take this leave to explore his recreational pursuits and to have an extended period of time away from the Centre. We wish you well Dion and hope you enjoy this time off to the maximum. We look forward to your return in mid 2021 and thank you for your wonderful service to the amputee community.



SOCIETY NEWS:

Your committee had been meeting at Robbie's Bistro in Riccarton for many years but this option ceased a couple of years ago when the City Council purchased the parcel of land the Bistro sat on to build the new Riccarton Library. For the last couple of years, we have been extremely fortunate that Margaret Hunter has made her own home in Hornby available for us to hold our regular meetings...thank you so much Margaret. With our committee members hailing from all over the city (and even Rangiora), we have made a decision to centralise our meeting point and from February onwards, we will be meeting at the Somerfield Community Hall in Studholme St, Somerfield. This should suit all members of the committee, is more equitable for travel times/distance and we are only required to pay a nominal fee for the use of the hall. Any member is most welcome to attend our committee meetings so if you wished to do so, please make contact with anyone on the committee to ascertain our next meeting date.

The Amputees Federation of NZ annual conference is being held in Blenheim from April 17th-19th and Canterbury/Westland will be well represented by, Justine Mangan-Woods, Alesha Kelly, Lisa & Darryn Grey, Janice Frost, Ed Jones & Will Sturkenboom (West Coast) Running alongside the conference is the GIAG (Give It A Go) programme and it is anticipated that up to four young people from our region will be taking part in some exciting and challenging activities before joining the main conference programme. I would like to express our most sincere thanks to Pub Charity for granting us funds that will allow a good representation of our members to attend the weekend's activities in Blenheim. Without their much appreciated support, our attendance would not be possible.

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

Amputee Information

www.mossresourcenet.org

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

Nation Wide H&D Advocacy

Service – 0800 555050

Aspire Canterbury, Disabilities Information Service

314 Worcester Street, Christchurch
(03) 366-6189 9.00am - 4.30pm

Email: admin@aspirecanterbury.org.nz

Website: www.aspirecanterbury.org.nz

Kipp's Patch www.kipps-patch.com

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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Fax 03-383-3566
Hours: 8.00am - 4.30pm

Office administrator

Pauline Afitu
www.nzalb.govt.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

Amputee Golf NZ

For any enquiries about
becoming involved, any-
where in NZ, please contact
Alan Dearden, 03 383-3766.



Need Computer Help ?

Contact Joanne for advice
at very affordable rates.
Mobile 027 2909246
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