

*doing more*  
*with less!*



**Amputee Society**

Canterbury & Westland Inc

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## Quote of the Month:

The richest man is not he who has the most, but he who needs the least. *Unknown*

## Fun Fact:

Lake Taupo was formed by a supervolcanic eruption around 26,000 years ago. Dust from the eruption could be seen from China.

## Editor's Message

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

I picked up the Saturday edition of the ChCh Press on January 14th to be greeted by the headline that Richie McCaw's father was pleading for privacy ahead of his son's wedding in Wanaka. Two paragraphs down, I was astounded to read that McCaw had sold the exclusive rights of the wedding to the Woman's Day magazine (for a purported six figure sum). WHAT !!!!!!!!!!! . On one hand, they want privacy but on the other, the smell and lure of money was just too much to resist. Given that Richie McCaw has basically made his multi million dollar fortune as the result of "piggy backing" on the NZ public who have paid to attend games and for Sky TV coverage which has raised his profile both nationally and internationally, it seems rather rich to me that "they" want their cake and eat it too. I made a point of listening to public opinion about this topic and almost every person who commented about it was disgusted at the way this matter has been handled. Yes, I can fully appreciate their desire for privacy but all this pales into insignificance when the "greed" for more \$\$\$\$ overrode everything else. Strong arm tactics of the hired security personnel who refused to let onlookers on a **PUBLIC** path get a glimpse of the wedding and Civil Aviation closing down the air space around Wanaka was an absolute affront to the NZ public. I do hope that the Australian media group affected by having their legitimate charter flight cancelled, are successful in their legal fight for damages. Do not be surprised if McCaw, with the benefit of hindsight, ends up donating his greed based payment from the Woman's Day to a worthwhile charity !! Too little & too late Richie. I think he will rue the day that he decided to take this course as in my mind, his public profile has taken a huge downward spiral as the result of obscene greed.



**Amputees  
Federation  
of New Zealand  
Incorporated**

Affiliated with the Amputees Federation of New Zealand Inc.

## Meet Bruce Mote:

Bruce was born at Burwood Hospital in 1953 and was part of a large family comprising of eight brothers & sisters. He recalls his younger life as being very tough with a father who was an alcoholic and from an early age he quickly learnt to be self-sufficient. By the age of 11, Bruce was mowing lawns and delivering groceries to earn extra money and he said he loved these jobs. He felt that he was making a better life for himself and this attitude guided where and what he did in his future life.

He has lived the majority of his life in and around Belfast where he is widely known in the community. Prior to moving to Belfast, Bruce attended Bishopdale Primary then Papanui High School before leaving school at 15 to go to sea. A huge challenge for a young "boy". He started off as a deck boy on the Aramoana doing stints on the Aranui & Maori then after 2-3 years, progressing to international work for about 10 years with BP Oil. He completed all his tickets and became an engineer specialising in steam and had jobs with Shaw Saville and P&O along the way. At this point, he came ashore and worked for BP Oil at Lyttelton for approx. 18 months and it was at this point that he and his wife, Dorothy, purchased their Belfast home. A variety of jobs ensued, working for Zealandia in the soap/candle factory, CFM Meat Co as a maintenance man then onto Scott's Engineering doing the same. Scott's offered Bruce an opportunity to become involved in the installation of boilers & LPG tanks. This eventually provided Bruce the opportunity to become self-employed for the next 4 years cleaning/repairing fuel/chemical tanks all over the south island.

It was in Timaru in 1985 when Bruce was instructing the Fire Service how "not" to get burnt while cleaning tanks that his accident happened. Whilst kneeling in acid in the bottom of a tank, a pair of faulty overalls allowed acid to come into contact with his legs and his problems began. He spent 18 months in Burwood Hospital and after numerous skin grafts to save his leg, a decision was made to amputate his right leg. After being fitted with a prosthesis, Bruce successfully carried out maintenance work for local schools for around 2 years before an accident damaged his left leg and he had to have it amputated after another 3 months of trying to save it.

Bruce said that his family has been and still is, very important to him. "Dorothy has been a fantastic support to me. I wouldn't be here today without her love, care & support. My children were only young when my problems started but they have been fantastic to both of us" He thinks the hardest times have been dealing with all the medical issues, being in hospital for years and getting his rightful entitlements from ACC.



Visiting places like Vietnam & Russia during his time at sea as a young man were some of the greatest risks he has taken in his life. Notwithstanding this, Bruce has travelled all over the world in his time in the merchant navy and feels lucky to have experienced this.

In 2004, Bruce & Dorothy travelled overseas together for the first time to attend their daughter's wedding in Ireland. Since then, they have travelled back to Europe, UK, USA, Hong Kong, Singapore and Australia and he says he is an experienced "disabled" traveller. Bruce said he has seen a lot of amputees "begging" on the streets but they always look a bit "sheepish" when they spot him without any legs pushing himself along in his wheelchair !



FAVOURITE FOOD: Seafood.

FAVOURITE PLACE: Being around home with family & achieving things.

FAVOURITE ACTIVITIES: Fishing, travelling in their motorhome, putting up Xmas lights every year, walking the dogs and spending time with the grandchildren.

FAVOURITE MUSIC: The Bee Gees, listening to brass & jazz.

FAVOURITE BOOKS: "Reach for the Sky" about Douglas Bader & history books.

Bruce said that he likes people who "get up and go" by rising to life's challenges. He also said that he is most happy when doing chores around home, getting out & about walking the dogs to meet people and ALWAYS talks to any fellow amputees that he meets on his travels.

*Bruce & Dorothy have created a most wonderful display of Xmas lighting and decorations that many people come to see at this time of year. Bruce personifies the adage that his disabilities do not hinder him achieving great things. Well done Bruce and many thanks to both you & Dorothy for hosting me in your home.*

Note: Bruce and friends have been instrumental in working with ECAN to have an accessible fishing platform built on the Waimakariri river. Anyone wishing to gain access to this wonderful facility can make contact with Bruce on 03 323-7328.

**Disability  
Equipment  
EXPO 2017**

**SHOW  
YOUR  
ABILITY**

FREE ENTRY

AUCKLAND	ASB Showgrounds FEB 14th   9am- 3pm
HAMILTON	Claudelands Event Centre FEB 15th   9am- 3pm
PALMERSTON NORTH	Arena Manawatu FEB 16th   9am- 3pm
CHRISTCHURCH	Pioneer Recreation and Sports Centre FEB 20th   9am- 2pm
DUNEDIN	Edgar Stadium FEB 21st   9am- 1pm

PLUS Be in to win an iPad! ★★

## Team May Have Found Cause of Phantom Limb Pain

According to researchers, a “reorganization” of the wiring of the brain may be the underlying cause of phantom limb pain, which occurs in the vast majority of individuals who have had limbs amputated. They have also found a potential method of treating it using artificial intelligence techniques. The researchers, led by a group from Osaka University in Japan in collaboration with the University of Cambridge, used a brain-machine interface to train a group of ten individuals to control a robotic arm with their brains. They found that if a patient tried to control the prosthesis by associating the movement with their missing arm, it increased their pain, but training them to associate the movement of the prosthesis with the unaffected hand decreased their pain.

Their results, reported in the journal *Nature Communications*, demonstrate that in patients with chronic pain associated with amputation or nerve injury, there are “crossed wires” in the part of the brain associated with sensation and movement. By mending that disruption, the pain can be treated. The findings could also be applied to other forms of chronic pain, including pain due to arthritis. A popular theory of the



cause of phantom limb pain is faulty “wiring” of the sensorimotor cortex, the part of the brain that is responsible for processing sensory inputs and executing movements. In other words, there is a mismatch between a movement and the perception of that movement. In the study, Ben Seymour, PhD and his colleagues, led by Takufumi Yanagisawa, MD, PhD, from Osaka University, used a brain-machine interface to decode the neural activity of the mental action needed for a patient to move their “phantom” hand and then converted the decoded phantom hand movement into that of a robotic neuroprosthesis using artificial intelligence techniques. “We found that the better their affected side of the brain got at using the robotic arm, the worse their pain got,” said Yanagisawa. “The movement part of the brain is working fine, but they are not getting sensory feedback—there's a discrepancy there.” The researchers then altered their technique to train the “wrong” side of the brain. For example, a patient who was missing their left arm was trained to move the prosthetic arm by decoding movements associated with their right arm, or vice versa. When they were trained in this counterintuitive technique, the patients found that their pain significantly decreased. As they learn to control the arm in this way, it takes advantage of the plasticity—the ability of the brain to restructure and learn new things—of the sensorimotor cortex, showing a clear link between plasticity and pain. Although the results are promising, Seymour warns that the effects are temporary and require a large, expensive piece of medical equipment to be effective. However, he believes that a treatment based on their technique could be available within five to ten years. Although the results are promising, Seymour warns that the effects are temporary and require a large, expensive piece of medical equipment to be effective. However, he believes that a treatment based on their technique could be available within five to ten years.

*This article was adapted from information provided by the University of Cambridge.*

## 2017 Annual General Meeting

**Sunday March 12th, 2017**

**Hornby Working Mens' Club**

**AGM & Lunch**

**Meet @ 11am...AGM @ 11.30am**

**Election of officers/Raffles**

**AGM**  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On Sunday, March 12th, 2017, we will hold our Annual General Meeting at The Hornby Club. 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.

As per last year, we will dine informally after the AGM in the Bistro where a good selection of meals at very reasonable prices are available. Historically, numbers attending have been lower than our Christmas function and the club are unable to offer us the same service in the restaurant for the lower number of attendees.



It would be appreciated if you could call Margaret by **Friday March 3rd** and indicate your attendance, phone 03 349 7585.

A reminder that **subscriptions (\$10) for 2017 are now due.** Payment can be made by

cheque, online (details on back page) or if making payment at the AGM, please put your payment in an envelope with your name attached. A receipt will be issued later. Many thanks for your continued support.

## NZ Artificial Limb Service

**NZALS**

New Zealand Artificial Limb Service

Peke Waihangā, Aotearoa

The NZALS has launched their new look, re-designed website. It has been re-designed to make it easy to navigate and quickly find the relevant service or information you

require. The NZALS online has a bright, vibrant look and has a great deal of information for all amputees, their families & carers. Please take the time to visit the new website and enhance your amputee journey.

Link <http://www.nzals.co.nz>

## Federation News

The Governor General Her Excellency The Rt Hon Dame Patsy Reddy has agreed to be our Patron after Sir Jerry Mateparae concluded his time in the role last year.

Congratulations to Kevin Ross who has been appointed as the Federation's nominee to sit on the Board of The NZ Artificial Limb Service. We look forward to catching up with Kevin at the annual conference in New Plymouth, early April.

## Federation News

The Federation Executive in conjunction with our Honorary Solicitor, Lindsay Trotman, have been investigating the opportunities for our organisation as we move forward in an attempt to better serve amputees and to raise public awareness. Many of you will be aware of the existence of CCS Disability Action who are a non-profit group who assist & support **any** persons in the community who experience a disability. They are also the organisation that administers the Mobility Parking Scheme so it is entirely probable that you may have had some contact with them previously. The Executive have had meetings with the CCS CEO, David Matthews over the last few months and are presently assessing the merits of entering into a possible relationship with CCS via a Memorandum of Understanding. The benefits are equally mutual and not only could amputees access many CCS services but CCS could possibly advocate on our behalf with local & central government in respect to issues that affect both of us. As CCS are willing to advise & support any persons with a disability, we see some merit in pursuing this possible relationship. We will keep you abreast of matters as we progress our discussions with CCS. Whatever the outcome, rest assured that we will retain our individuality and autonomy.



## Looking for Help

With our AGM coming up in March, the Society is making a plea to members to consider an opportunity to give back to the society and its' members.

Joanne most kindly stepped up at our last AGM to take on both the Treasurer's role and the Members List duties but did indicate that she could only do this temporarily as she already looks after the website for the Society. A huge thank you to Joanne for the very capable manner in which she has performed these duties over the last 12 months.

So, we are on the look out for someone to step up and take on these roles. Suitably, the person needs to have internet access, possess good computer skills, (notably Excel), be capable with figures and most importantly, be willing to contribute to the running of the Society's affairs. The time required to capably perform these roles would amount to approximately 2-4 hours per week and plenty of assistance is always available from fellow committee members.



**Please** give this request some consideration and should you have any queries about the duties required, feel free to contact Mark, 337-5747 or Joanne 942-5320 to discuss.

Remember, **support provides support** and you could gain much satisfaction from being of service to our "amputee family".

## Smile Awhile



**STUPIDITY  
IS NOT  
A  
HANDICAP!**

**PARK  
ELSEWHERE!**

## Web Sites

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

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

**The Amputees Federation of NZ**

[www.af.org.nz](http://www.af.org.nz)

**NZ Artificial Limb Service**

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

**Amputee Information**

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

**Parafed Canterbury**

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

**Disability Awareness in Action**

[www.daa.org.uk](http://www.daa.org.uk)

**Amputee News**

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

**Disability Rights Commission**

[www.drc-gb.org](http://www.drc-gb.org)

**UN Programme on Disability**

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

**WEKA-NZ Disability Info**

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

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

**Disabilities Information Service**

314 Worcester Street, Christchurch

PO Box 32-074, Christchurch

(03) 366-6189

(03) 379-5939

9.00am - 4.30pm

Email: [admin@aspirecanterbury.org.nz](mailto:admin@aspirecanterbury.org.nz)

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

**Kipp's Patch**

[www.kipps-patch.com](http://www.kipps-patch.com)

**International Diabetes Federation**

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



**CCS  
disability action**  
Including all people

TE HUNGA HAUĀ MAURI MŌ NGĀ TĀNGATA KĀTOA

CCS Disability Action

224 Lichfield St, Christchurch.

03 3655661 or 0800 2272255.

Email: [canterbury@ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz](mailto:canterbury@ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz)

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[lisagrey1@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lisagrey1@xtra.co.nz)

**West Coast Contact**

Will Sturkenboom  
03-732-8312

**Life Members**

Rachel White Rod Boyce  
Liz Rogers Ray Boundy\*  
Heather Plows Ray Newton  
\*Deceased

**Artificial Limb Service**

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

**Office administrator**

Pauline Afitu  
[www.nzalb.govt.nz](http://www.nzalb.govt.nz)

**Association Bank Info**

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.

**Need Computer Help ?**

Contact Joanne for advice  
at very affordable rates.

Mobile 027 2909246

Home 942-5320



Christchurch City Council

**Amputee Golf NZ**

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

**Thanks to Our Sponsors:**

