

MEET ROBERT "GLEN" THREADWELL:

Robert "Glen" was the 3rd born to his parents, Don & Bev Threadwell in Christchurch in 1962 at ChCh Women's Hospital. He had 2 older brothers, Mark James (dec) and Donald "Paul" who currently resides in Mapua. Glen's father was a truck driver but when Glen was 2 years old, his parents took on the job of running the Little River Hotel and they stayed in the hospitality trade as hoteliers for many decades. The new vocation led them all over the South Island in the ensuing years, Timaru, Invercargill, back to ChCh then to Blenheim.

Glen completed his primary schooling at Timaru Main School and his secondary education was split between Timaru Boys High, Kingswell High (Inv) and Hagley High locally. Upon leaving school at 17 in Invercargill, with School Certificate & UE, Glen took a job as a storeman in an electrical warehouse where he worked for around a year and when the family moved back to ChCh. where his parents managed the Lancaster Park Hotel, Glen continued working for the same firm but then moved on to a new job as a storeman for a steel company called "Gilbert Lodge". At this time, it was legal for a person under 20 to be employed in a hotel if their parents were the hoteliers so Glen worked nights and Saturdays at the Lancaster Park premises. He recalls standing on the roof of the hotel watching the riot squad fighting with protesters of the infamous Springbok tour.

At 20 years old, Glen met his first wife, Kathy, whom he married in 1983 and they lived in a rented flat in Chester St East. Glen left the steel firm and ran his own carpet cleaning business for around 2 years before he took the riskiest decision of his life. Their first born, Emma, was only 6 months old in 1986 when his parents, Glen & Kathy and his brother Paul & his partner took over the lease of the Criterion Hotel in Blenheim where they would eventually live for the next 20 years. Daughter Shay arrived in 1989 followed by twins, Matthew & Sarah in 1984. All Glen's children still live locally in the Christchurch area and Glen has 5 grandchildren ranging in age from 18 down to the youngest at 3. In 1996, Glen was working as the bar manager of the Blenheim WMC and was on his motorcycle coming home from work around 6.45pm when his life changed forever. A car in front of him pulled over then proceeded to do a U-turn whereupon a serious collision occurred and he sustained a major injury to his left shoulder when the brachial plexus nerve was severely torn. Glen's left arm was "lifeless" from this point on but he took the medical advice to wait 3 years to see if the nerve repaired itself. Unfortunately, this did not happen so the decision was made in 1999 to amputate his left arm above elbow and fuse his shoulder. After surgery, he returned to work at the Club and tried wearing a prosthesis but this in itself caused problems with his right shoulder necessitating further surgery.



GLEN THREADWELL CONT:

Glen's marriage had ended but he married Peony in 1999 but that relationship was brief. In 2006, after 10 years working at the Blenheim Club, Glen made the move back to ChCh whereupon he met Chris and they married in 2009. They live happily in North Beach and lead what Glen describes as a "happy and contented life". Living with them for the last 9 years is Chris's Mum, Jeanie (93) who manages the stairs and the entire garden for Glen & Chris!!!

Glen is a trained Peer Support volunteer for Peke Waihanga and enjoys supporting fellow arm amputees. He helped set up the Nelson/Marlborough Amputee Society and has also served as a committee member of our local society. Since 2022, Glen has also been a committee member of the Lions Club of New Brighton where he is fully committed to giving back to his community and says his club does "good things" for others. As a result, Glen says he is drawn to people like himself who enjoys giving back to others.

FAVOURITE FOOD: Lamb roast followed by sherry trifle.

FAVOURITE PLACE: San Francisco.

FAVOURITE ACTIVITIES: Helping Chris in her craft studio. Tinkering in my "man cave" and playing pool with my friend, Gus, a fellow arm amputee.

FAVOURITE TV SHOW: The Big Bang Theory.

FAVOURITE BOOKS: J R R Tolken, Lord of the Rings and reading poetry.

Around 2014, Glen lost his balance while out walking, fell on his left shoulder and seriously damaged his left arm. In 2022, after 7 years of complaining to the Dr's about the constant pain he was enduring, a decision was made to amputate the left arm at the shoulder. Despite this, Glen retains a positive attitude and is enjoying his life alongside Chris.



Chris has a son Paul living in Ohio, USA so they have travelled to the States 5 times to visit and Chris has just returned from visiting her daughter Anna in Germany. Glen claims to be most happy when at home with Chris and helping her out with her craft work.

*In November, 2024, our President was invited to address the Lion's Club of New Brighton at their monthly meeting to raise awareness of amputees in the community and also talk about the Peer Support Programme. As a result, Glen's Lions Club made a most generous donation of \$500 to our local society and for that, we are not only humbled but also extremely appreciative of their wonderful gesture. The Lions Clubs of NZ do **great** work in out local communities.*