

MEET RALPH McGUIGAN:

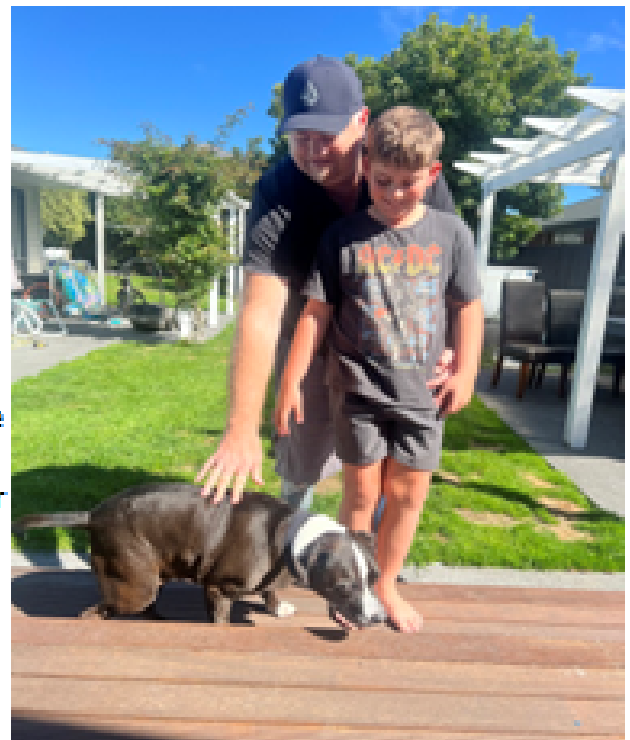
Ralph was born in 1979 at Christchurch and was raised by his single Mum on a family farm at Chertsey. When Ralph was around 1 year old, his mother decided to embark on an overseas trip that ended up with them living in Spain and the UK with family for the next 2-3 years. Unfortunately, because of his young age, he has no memory of this time spent overseas. They returned back to NZ when Ralph was approx. 4 years old as his Mum wanted to finish her Economics degree at Canterbury University and they settled at Sumner. Ralph attended Sumner Primary School before moving on to Linwood High School which Ralph said was both a "life education" as well as providing learning opportunities. He concentrated on science subjects and left school at the end of year 13 whereupon he took a year off. During this time, he gained a salesperson role at McEwings Mountain Sports and in the winter was a ski technician for the firm.



Ralph then commenced a Biochemistry degree at Canterbury University but after year two, he decided that this course was "not for him". He moved to Melbourne and for the next year was a project manager for Telstra before returning to Wellington for a short period of time and then back to Christchurch where he has lived ever since. He did some "temping" before landing a permanent role with Telecom Mobile where his positions included Business Development Officer, Accounts Manager then Store Manager. Ralph stayed in the Telecommunications field and went to work for the opposition, Vodafone. His next career move was to become the Southern Territory Manager for On Gas where he was responsible for the company from Taupo to Invercargill. After about 18 months, Ralph said he was "shoulder tapped" to take up a position selling Shell lubricants where he stayed for the next 9 years. He then moved to Allied Petroleum in a similar Business Development role, before stepping into his current role as National Sales Manager - Lubricants and has been with Allied Petroleum for the last 7 years. He has responsibility for staff all over NZ which requires him to travel regularly, around 6-7 nights away per month, but Ralph said to make things easier, he fly/drives. Ralph, his wife Elyse, 9-year-old son, Xavier and their beloved pooch, Roxy live in Diamond Ave, Spreydon. In mid- January, 2013 when Ralph and Elyse were on holiday at Pohara in Golden Bay, Ralph sustained a small cut to his right big toe when he was coming out of the water one day but thought nothing of it because it was a very minor cut. Two days later, he and Elyse flew out to Brisbane for a holiday. From Brisbane, they then travelled up to Mackay to spend time with his dad and on his first day there, he got badly sunburnt. Unbeknown to him, this episode of sunburn had diminished his immunity and he became quite unwell over the next couple of days which finally necessitated him being taken to hospital by ambulance. From that seemingly innocuous cut, Ralph had contracted Necrotizing Fasciitis whereupon he was placed in an induced coma for the next 9 days. The hospital performed 4 "washouts" of the infected area as well as 2 surgeries but despite their best efforts, amputation of his right leg below knee was the best

RALPH McGUIGAN CONT:

course of action. This took place on Feb 1st, 2013 only a matter of 2 weeks after sustaining the small cut to his toe. He was discharged after 3-4 days and spent the next 6-7 weeks rehabilitating before returning home to NZ in mid-March. Ralph is forever grateful for the wonderful Peer Support that he received while in Mackay and to this end, he has been an engaged Peer Support volunteer for the NZ programme since its inception in 2019. Life as an amputee has challenges and Ralph misses not being able to "run around" after Xavier and to be able to kick a soccer ball properly. Ralph says the he has a go at most things but has learnt the art of plotting & planning things to compensate for his disability. He enjoys giving back as a Peer Support volunteer, supporting Xavier with his football, mountain biking with the family and some hunting pursuits. Ralph laughed when he said that the greatest risk he has ever taken was, "popping the question to Elyse". Ralph has travelled extensively and has visited Thailand, Bali, Australia, Spain, Germany, Italy, The UK and in September this year, he and Elyse are travelling to Las Vegas to renew their wedding vows to celebrate their 15th wedding anniversary.



FAVOURITE FOOD: BBQ steak and Thai food.

FAVOURITE PLACE: HOME but has enjoyed their family holidays to Thailand & Bali.

FAVOURITE MUSIC: Electronic dance music and listening to DJ's.

FAVOURITE MOVIE: Shawshank Redemption/Marvel movies/Standup comedy.

FAVOURITE AUTHOR/BOOKS: Lee Child "Jack Reacher" although Ralph says he finds it hard to find the time to sit down with a good book due to his busy lifestyle.