



# The Burn Support Group Autumn Newsletter

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

March 2020



## Holly Timms & 19 others attending 2020 Womens Burns Retreat

My name is Holly Timms and I was born on 31 July 1994. My dad was a fisherman, so in August 1995 my mum and dad travelled to Picton for him to go fishing - we rented a holiday house. My mum had checked all the cupboards and made sure they were childproof - unfortunately, she missed one - a small cupboard in the kitchen. While my mum was busy making dinner, I crawled into an open a cupboard where I found a glass bottle, with no cap, no labelling and filled with an enchanting pink liquid that was actually a commercial caustic drain cleaner - as a curious one year old, I proceeded to drink it.

My mum said she will never forget the sound that followed, my cries of pain as she looked down to find me screaming holding the bottle, as she held the bottle to her mouth it burnt instantly - she rushed me to the sink and rinsed water down my throat, as she called the paramedics she held me tightly next to her chest. My mum had not realised I had spilt the caustic soda down the front of my chest and when the paramedics arrived, as they pulled me away from her my clothes had completely disintegrated and my chest was completely black - still no one knew exactly what I had drunken. I was then rushed to Blenheim's Wairau Hospital and from there I was flown to Wellington hospital. There, I was assessed by Dr Kevin Pringle and was put in an induced coma and spent 12 weeks unconscious in intensive care.....

Go to the website <https://www.burns.org.nz/stories.html> to read the full story.

## 2020 Attendees....

Delwyn Breslau  
Beverly Cunriffe  
Jillian Senior  
Rachel Ford  
Belinda McKenzie  
Heather Stewart  
Trina Blazely  
Aroha Andrew  
Shari Kauri  
Jayne Swinburn  
Rhianna Asser  
Kim Wainwright  
Serena Rudd  
Donna Gregory - Marshall  
Anita Ayrton  
Ronni Robinson  
Valee More

*It is extremely unfortunate that Trina Blazely, Rhianna Asser and Kim Wainwright, burn survivors that were attending from Australia, will no longer be able to do so.*

## **Camp Awhi 2020 Teapot Valley Camp Nelson**

**A very special thank you to all those that contributed and supported 2020 Camp Awhi, held in Nelson:**



TEAPOT VALLEY CAMP, MAYOR RACHEL REESE, TV CREW ESTA HUTCHINS & TOM WALSH, SHIRLENE SPENCER, PRO KARTS NELSON, BROMWELLS COACHLINE, ABEL TASMAN SEA SHUTTLES, KAITERITERI KAYAKS, NGARUA CAVES, ARMADILLO'S RESTAURANT, NELSON & BRIGHTWATER FIRE SERVICE, QUALITY COLOURED POWDER, SAMANTHA GEE, AIR NEW ZEALAND, PRIYA OLIVER, JULIE CARTER, MARK WATSON, and to the wonderfully supportive families that send their beloved on this exciting, adventurous and fun filled experience.

SPECIAL MENTION TO: Teapot Valley Camp were outstanding, the venue, the support and the incredible staff that ensured the 5 days ran like clockwork. From all of us that attended we wish to thank all the staff that made our time so enjoyable, a truly remarkable and compassionate team. Our appreciation to KEVIN NGAWHAU, JOCELYN SHUTTE, MELODY PHIPPS, PAUL SHUTTE, JARED IRVINE and NICK ANDRUIK. LIONS CLUB NELSON, this year the BURN SUPPORT GROUP were thrilled to be advised through Jenny and Dave Pullman that the LIONS, NELSON donated the transport funds for Camps big day out.. venturing to Kaiteriteri, Anchorage Bay and the Ngarua Caves with the support of bus driver Paul, a huge 14 hour day of sun, fun and activities for the children. Your generosity is appreciated for this wonderful opportunity to visit parts of Nelson. NORTH SHORE RIDING SCHOOL FOR THE DISABLED, a very generous donation to sponsor one of the lovely burn survivor children to camp was gifted to the BURN SUPPORT GROUP. Sponsoring a child to attend camp offers valued opportunities that will enhance and better the lives of these youngsters as they start a new school year.

DAVE BLUNDERLL and JOHN IRWIN, two very generous and kind gentlemen that rode their Harley Davidson's from Auckland to Nelson so they could give each child a ride during the camp. Dave worked with the camp schedule in advance so that no one would miss out, time was generous and this activity was extremely well received.. Paul Ewing from the Nelson Harley chapter joined in, highlight of the camp for 2020. None of this would have been possible without the valued support provided by Southern Stars and PSL Fire and Safety. 2020 Trophy winners this year: Congratulations to SUZANNE LEE (leader) and TAYLA HENRY (support volunteer) with their team: RILEY-MAY, ZARA, HARMONY, JAYDE, JORVANA, BRAYDEN, MANUKURA, TAYLA, JACK and ANNA - well done and well deserved



**PSL are proud Platinum Sponsors of the  
Burns Support Group**



## NBC & Kids First Wards are grateful for equipment funded by B.S.G.



The Burn Support Group Charitable Trust has generously funded three pieces of important equipment to help ease the process that the National Burn Centre and Kidz First Children's Hospital undergo during times of need.

The donated equipment consists of a Medikin Teaching Aid Doll, a Viking Chair with a leg rest and two K Pumps. The donated goods will help speed up surgical procedures, help staff to educate individuals, and ease the rehabilitation process for patients who have just undergone surgery.

### Supporting Burns Worldwide



B.S.G are thrilled to support Burn survivors throughout the world. A precious tool, Meek Meesher, was sent through to Dr. Okoli and his team in Nigeria. The doctor replied with a heartfelt letter of gratitude, expressing how this will benefit the patients and has made their work easier... Alan Breslau was provided with the tool many years ago, National Burns Unit, Middlemore were provided with a far superior Meek Meesher earlier this year from the B.S.G which assists greatly in the improvement of burns surgery.....



Thank you to the continued support from FRESH CHOICE, HALF MOON BAY. \$200.00 has been donated towards the Women's Retreat. This certainly is appreciated and will add to covering the costs of this invaluable event....

The Medikin Teaching Aid Doll will live at Kidz First Children's Hospital and be used as a teaching aid for medical role play to educate both children and adults about medical procedures and burn injuries. The doll provides patients with the opportunity to learn how to manage a burn injury, a great way to reduce fear and eliminate emotional barriers a child may be facing in hospital. It gives individuals the opportunity to touch, practice procedures and visually see what an injury may look like before seeing it in real life.



Shout out to MICHELLE HINTON, from the Fire and Emergency Services,

Hi my name is Michelle Hinton, I'm married with two children aged 6 and 8 I am currently a volunteer senior firefighter in the Morrinsville Brigade but also work part time for the fire risk team based out of Hamilton city station. I have currently done 13 years' service and love the work.

Part of my job is talking to groups about fire safety and it is something I'm passionate about. In early May I spoke to the Friendship Club (formally Probuss), a group of about 85 people.

Alan asked me if I know of any organisations that would like a donation and the Burns support group immediately came to mind. Any other donations that I receive will also go towards your fantastic support group.

Michelle Hinton  
Senior Firefighter, Morrinsville VFB

## Australian Forum... Postponed



2020 representatives heading to the BURNLIFE FORUM, CENTRAL N.S.W...congratulations to AMY POWLES & TROY HALL... B.S.G board wish you well on your adventure for this wonderful opportunity, theNational Forum offers people affected by burns trauma to come together, share experiences, set goals, talk to professionals and connect with one another in an open and friendly environment.



## MOTAT Live Day: Fire and Emergency - 16 Feb 2020



February 16th saw Burn Support Group, along with the many organisations that support the public during emergencies, show and display resources, equipment and skills that support the communities.

Thank you to these wonderful young burn survivors who gave up their time to attend, speak with the public and promote the Charity - Grace Neil, Jessica Marginson, Tayla Insley, Jack Dragicevich, and Matthew Nom.

Thanks also to Donna Gregory-Marshall who made the trip from Hamilton to share her story, Delwyn who supplied wonderful lunch, and Tayla Henry for support and transport.



## Survivor Sunday - 1 March 2020

Thank you to those that attended the first Survivor Sunday for the year.

Everyone was fortunate to hear from Belinda McKenzie, who shared her journey as a burn survivor, an inspiring, positive and encouraging story, on behalf of everyone - Thank you, Belinda.

Thanks to Tracee McKenzie and Yolanda O'Reilly for the Sip n Paint exercise. Loads of fun creating amazing canvases and the creative juices were flowing - what an incredible outcome.



On a beautiful day in a stunning venue, thanks to B.B.Y.C, burn survivors, family members and support persons meet and greet, a wonderful opportunity to share stories and journey's alike.

These events, held four times a year, are provided as a safe haven and environment in which the burn community get the chance to make genuine connections with others, rediscover their own strengths, gain encouragement, inspiration and togetherness.. It is wonderful to see our familiar faces and welcome to the many newbies joining this valued event.