

# The Burn Support Group Winter Newsletter

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

August 2023



## HOMELAND RESTAURANT HOSTS SURVIVOR SUNDAY 25TH JUNE

A magnificent turnout for a truly superb afternoon held at the stunning venue, HOMELAND RESTAURANT. With the outstanding Ambassador JIM KAYES at the helm the Charity was thrilled to see the 60+ that attended this event.

Jim is a fabulous host, sharing his story and overseeing the program for the day. Jim warmly and kindly introduced John, as all were captivated by John's journey shared through his latest project, the book *LIVING WITHOUT FINGERPRINTS*. With raffles to be won, Ben from ONE UP REHAB on hand to discuss the latest products, it was a thoroughly successful couple of hours. It is always a pleasure to see everyone meet up, enjoy chatter and connect again between events.

With so many familiar faces, it was extremely inviting to see the many new people mixing and mingling. The charity would like to express how much we appreciate the delights provided for afternoon tea. As the owner of this renowned establishment, Chef Peter Gordon, we were treated to Peter sharing his own burn journey, discussing the restaurant and the many community projects that they are involved with.

It really was the most fitting environment for the event and we wish to thank Peter, Alastair and Petra for their amazing support, professional services and warm welcome. It must be said, never go pass the Hangi pork, your palate will thank you:)

Thank you to all those that attended, it was a few hours of inspiration, laughter, culinary pleasure and comradeship. We look forward to the next Survivor Sunday which will be the Xmas Party...





### N.Z WELCOMED AUSTRALIAN JOHN WEEKS, BURN SURVIVOR WINEMAKER AND AUTHOR OF NEW BOOK, LIVING WITHOUT FINGERPRINTS..

It was a privilege and honour for the Burn Support Group to welcome John on his visit down under. Spending 3 weeks circulating the country promoting his fabulous new book, involving presentations, interviews and a well received Survivor Sunday.

John shared his incredible journey as a burn survivor, spoke of his challenges, the trauma surrounding the incident and how he now looks at life as part 2 of his story. Through his own amazing photography offered in his book he is able to express the emotional and physical attributes during 12 months stay in hospital.

The B.S.G would like to extend our many thanks to those that supported this project, it is invaluable to raise the awareness of burns, they do not discriminate and can affect not only the individual but all loved ones surrounding and even more importantly the direction that can be changed relating to finances, life styles and impending futures.

Also acknowledging MELISSA PATERSON and her family for hosting John at their Auckland home!

On behalf of the Trustees, Board members and Michele, we hope you enjoyed your stay as much as we were inspired, encouraged and grateful to you for your time and passion. For those that are interested in purchasing John's book, please contact the office where arrangements can be made.

*Kia Ora everyone. I arrived on June 18th for talks around New Zealand. The focus was on my book "Living without Fingerprints" but also to reach out to as many survivors as possible.*

*My gratitude goes to Michele at the Burn Support Group for all the organisation and running me around. During my time in Auckland I gave radio interviews on The Rock and East FM. I made presentations to Rotary groups as well as Howick and Warkworth libraries. The main event of the trip was on Sunday June 25th at Homeland Restaurant. The owner who needs no introduction to Kiwis, Chef Peter Gordon, himself a burn survivor, provided an ideal venue. I was humbled by so many people travelling from as far as Wellington to attend. With over 60 people it was a great afternoon and it was wonderful to meet so many new faces. The food was of an amazing standard (although I didn't get much time to eat).*

*Next stop was Hamilton where I did a radio interview with The Breeze and visited the nurses at Waikato Hospital. I also was able to chat with a very recent burn survivor and his partner from Gisborne. We then had a zoom meeting with the team of about 60 from Emerge Aotearoa.*

*Then it was down to Christchurch to present to the Plastic Reconstruction Ward team and also the Outpatients Department.*

*Thank you to the B.S.G and N.Z for a tremendous adventure.*

John Weeks,

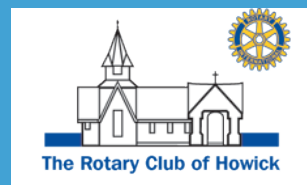
### LIVING WITHOUT FINGERPRINTS

— a point in time —



JOHN WEEKS

### Our sincere appreciated too:





CHILDREN'S CAMP  
20 – 24 JANUARY 2024  
Shakespear Lodge  
Shakespear Regional Park  
1503 Whangaparaoa Rd  
Army Bay  
Auckland

**CAMP APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN FOR 2024. - Please complete and return to the office.**

**Applications are available on the website.**

### **NZERS GETTING INVOLVED INTERNATIONALLY CONGRATULATIONS TO RICHARD YOUNGER, KELSEY WAGHORN & HOLLY TIMMS..**

In the realm of burns care, collaboration and personal journeys play a crucial role in empowering survivors and improving outcomes. The Australia & NZ Burns Association Consumer Advisory Group (ANZBA CAG) embodies this spirit by bringing together individuals with firsthand experiences, research expertise, and clinical practices. Among the esteemed members of ANZBA CAG, Kelsey Waghorn from Whakatane, Holly Timms from Christchurch, and myself from Cambridge, have contributed our unique perspectives and passion to this collaborative effort.

ANZBA CAG serves as a platform for vital discussions on awareness, prevention, education, treatment, and recovery of burns injuries in Australia and New Zealand. It is within this dedicated space that survivors, caregivers, and healthcare professionals find solace, support, and opportunities for growth. By fostering effective communication and knowledge exchange, ANZBA CAG inspires trust, ignites hope, and serves as an inspiration to all involved.

Kelsey Waghorn, Holly Timms, and I, have dedicated ourselves to the holistic well-being of burns survivors. With unwavering determination, we contribute to research advancements, educational initiatives, and the sharing of lived experiences. Our personal journeys have provided us with unique insights and empathy, allowing us to connect with others who have experienced the traumatic aftermath of burns injuries.

Within ANZBA CAG, a culture of respect and empathy prevails, ensuring that every endeavour is guided by the collective commitment to improving outcomes and empowering survivors. Kelsey, Holly, and I, alongside our fellow members, advocate for the highest standards of burns care. Through our efforts, ANZBA CAG offers hope and inspiration to survivors, their families, and healthcare professionals, setting a benchmark for excellence in the field.

The commitment of ANZBA CAG extends beyond awareness and prevention; it encompasses the entire spectrum of burns care. By supporting recovery and facilitating healing, ANZBA CAG plays a pivotal role in the lives of countless individuals. Kelsey, Holly, myself, and the entire ANZBA CAG community strive for excellence, advocating for research, education, and the sharing of lived experiences. Our united efforts enhance the well-being of burns survivors in Australia and New Zealand, providing them with the tools and support they need to navigate their personal journeys of healing and recovery. In conclusion, the transformative power of collaboration and personal journeys is evident in the work of the Australia & NZ Burns Association Consumer Advisory Group. Together, we empower survivors, raise awareness, and inspire hope, creating a brighter future for all those affected by burns injuries in Australia and New Zealand.

By Richard Younger (Burns Survivor/BSG Trustee)



### **With great respect and admiration we sadly say farewell to Ambassador Mr Jim Kayes..**

It is extremely unfortunate that the Charity sadly is to announce the departure of Mr Jim Kayes. Jim has been so generous with his commitment to the Charity in the all important role of Ambassador. During his time, Jim has been involved with the children during Camps, Women's Retreat, many fundraisers and Survivor Sundays. We will greatly miss his character, truly fun personality, fabulous speaker and all round good guy. On behalf of all involved with the Burn Support Group we wish you well with your future endeavours, it has truly been an honour to have you on board and will always be thought of as family throughout the burn community.



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Burn Support Group Charitable Trust, Inc Auckland

### CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU ESTELLE JOHNSTON

\$150.00 was donated to the Burn Support Group from house sales Estelle has made as a Ray White agent. This generous funding will contribute to the 2024 Women's Burn Retreat 2024. Wonderful to see women supporting women. - Estelle Johnston - 021 474 488

### OUR WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS

On behalf of the burn community and the BURN SUPPORT CHARITABLE TRUST, we are thrilled to extend our warmest Congratulations to Dr. Richard Wong She for being honoured with an Order of Merit 2023. This prestigious recognition is a testament to his exceptional dedication, skills and unwavering passion in providing support to those enduring burn injuries throughout N.Z.



### MANY THANKS TO PSL FIRE AND SAFETY

The Burn Support Charitable Trust would like to sincerely express our appreciation and gratitude for the continued support provided by PSL Fire and Safety. Bernard, Mark and the team have been contributing with extremely generous donations for the past three years, as major sponsors for the terrific Annual Children's Burn Camp and the invaluable Women's Burn Retreat. On behalf of the board members and those that attend these events, we are exceptionally grateful and hugely humbled by your ongoing welcomed assistance supporting the burn community throughout New Zealand

Thank you to Lee Gilson, team member of PSL Fire and Safety who contributes to the quarterly newsletter, his time, cost and effort is provided through PSL.



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



**Survivor Sunday Xmas Party  
10<sup>th</sup> December 2023  
11am to 3pm  
Cockle Bay Beach, Howick**

- Catered lunch
- Raffles
- Auckland Jet Ski Club will be there to provide water sports!

RSVP for catering purposes by 1<sup>st</sup> December to Michele ph 021-863670 or michele@burns.org.nz



### EMMA'S HELPFUL HINTS

The main causes of house fires in New Zealand are from cooking and heating which we have been seeing an increase in over the winter months. It is important to remember to keep any combustible or flammable materials (clothing, furniture, laundry etc.) A METRE FROM THE HEATER.

Unattended cooking fires have always been a leading cause of house fires and as we always remind people please **KEEP LOOKING WHEN YOU ARE COOKING**. Fires are fast and can be fatal within 3 minutes, so it is imperative to have **WORKING SMOKE ALARMS** that you test once a month.