

WELCOME

to our October 2020 newsletter

2020/2021 Committee members

At the AGM on the 11th August ATSNZ members voted for the committee of 20/21. We had a good level of interest from members translating to 8 nominations to the committee. All were accepted by the members. Six members from the 19/20 committee, Katie Noble (**Allied Medical**), Tania Bowkett (**C1 South**), David Morton (**Morton & Perry**), Geoff Purtill (**Invacare**), Aaron Morgan (**Medix21**) and Jason Clare (**Cubro**) have been joined by Grant Leach (**Permobil**) and Martin Fryer (**Euromedical**).

We thank Terri Davies (**Permobil**), a 19/20 committee member for her time and commitment in the year that she served on the committee. Besides preparing for and taking part in the decision making at committee meetings, Terri took on a role in communications, preparing items for the Newsletters.

Katie Noble has been voted back in as the chairperson, Tania Bowkett as the secretary and David Morton as the treasurer. Tania also takes responsibility for the website, ably assisted by Chris Fryer. Chris also formats and makes the newsletters presentable, for which we are very grateful.

Inaugural ATSNZ Product Education Day - Bariatrics

We are pleased to be hosting our first ATSNZ Product Education Day. First off the ranks is a day in Christchurch with a Bariatric Product focus. Debbie Wilson, Seating to Go, is presenting an education session at 10.00 AM and again at 2.00 PM. The title of her presentation is "Fit for Purpose - assessment and measurement considerations for people requiring bariatric wheelchair and seating support". This presentation will explore the functional, postural and pressure management considerations for people of larger size and provide references to grow your practice.

A third of our members have taken up the opportunity to display their products at our first Product Education Day. We would like to schedule a further couple of Product Education Days in 2021 and would like your input on where and when these should be and what theme should be chosen.

Strategic Plan update

On 21 September 2020, the committee and the EO under the guidance of an industry expert, spent a solid half day discussing and consolidating the ATSNZ Strategic Plan for 20-23. We first presented our strategic plan last year at the AGM. With some major distractions occurring in the earlier part of the 2020 year, it is fair to say that the relationship development priority has not been as successful as we may have anticipated. This will receive more attention in the implementation of the plan, so we can gain more relevance in the sector.

The updated ATSNZ Strategic Plan will soon be made available in the members only section of our website. Your feedback on this plan is welcome. Comments and questions can be directed to ingrid@atsnz.org.nz, via mobile or when we next meet.

Member Meetings

We would like to have a member meeting once a quarter. The schedule we have in mind is an early December 2020 meeting, followed by a meeting during the ATSNZ Disability Expo (March 2021), a June meeting (possibly in conjunction with a Product Education Day), and a September AGM meeting. We intend to finish 2021 with a member meeting in early December. We welcome your feedback on the frequency of member meetings.

Member meetings are to keep you up to date with significant developments and to seek your input into future endeavours.

Meet our members - Introducing Nigel Dowd from Tas-Tech



Each newsletter we hope to introduce our members to each other through the interview questions posted below.

What is your company's area of specialty?

Manufacturing wooden rehabilitation equipment, providing a safe environment for clients with traumatic brain injuries to have woodwork sessions, and manufacture wooden play centre equipment.

Where do you see our sector in 5 years?

Bigger, along with its people.

Can you please share a recent success you have had with a client and one of your products?

We were privileged to feature on the Good Sorts show on the 15th August 2020.

If you could change one thing about our sector, what would it be?

More funding.

What's the best piece of advice you have ever received?

Don't f**k with the IRD.

What do you enjoy most about working in the industry?

Satisfying job, enjoy working with wood as it is a great medium to work with.

What's the last thing that made you laugh out loud?

Lots of things, lots of times...

Editors' addition:

A Christchurch man who has been helping people with brain injuries find work has been nominated as this week's Good Sort.

Nigel Dowd was nominated after he and his family opened up Tas-Tech, a family business making rehab equipment, to help men and women no longer working due to brain injuries.



Mr Dowd was nominated by the Laura Fergusson Trust, which helps people with brain injuries live life as normally as possible.

To see more, watch the video below:

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/good-sorts-christchurch-man-helping-people-brain-injuries-find-work?auto=6179587834001>

