



Inside APC...

Issue No: 9 –August 2010

"ENewsletter from APC Prosthetics"



Welcome to our 9th edition of Inside APC.

As always, things are forever evolving at APC Prosthetics. Jane at reception has just had her 10 year anniversary at APC! Bit like a marriage I suppose, where have the years gone! We are also saddened by Tony Morrow's retirement from our Newcastle branch. Tony had been involved in prosthetic care for over 30 years and his experience and expertise will be greatly missed by both his patients and work colleagues.

On a younger note, we are pleased to announce that a kids fitting room has been specially designed and fitted out to cater to our ever increasing workload from the Children's Hospital. Please read our related article. And lastly we are pleased to announce that we now have over 200 subscribers to our newsletter. On behalf of APC, I hope you enjoy the read.

Richard Curby
APC Prosthetics

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Team Profile: Vala Dis Birgisdottir APC Prosthetics (Hunter)

What is new in your life?

There are lots of new things going on in my life at the moment. I am settling down in a new town, new job, getting to know new people and starting a new exciting lifestyle here in Australia.

What do you get up to outside of work?

I try to stay active. I play several sports and practice yoga. My favorite hobby at the moment would be my unicycle. I also like to use my spare time to explore Australia.

How long have you been involved in Prosthetics and Orthotics?

I graduated from the University of Jonkoping, Sweden in June 2009. I worked for a few months for Ossur in Iceland before I made my way to Newcastle.

What do you enjoy about prosthetics?

I find it a really rewarding job. I enjoy every moment of being a prosthetist, from interacting with the patients to having my hands on in the work shop. I enjoy how no day is the same.

What do you see the future bringing?

I see more focus on evidence based practice to be able to get the best possible results for prosthetic users.



Children's Prosthetics & Options



The child amputee has a completely different set of needs and wants to an adult amputee. Similarly the function a child requires from their prosthesis differs vastly from an adult. The activity level of a child is usually far greater than that of an adult and being an amputee certainly does not change this. This needs to be taken into account regarding prosthetics components, which need to be durable and in many cases provide energy return.

There is a completely different set of components for children that are light weight and obviously much smaller. As a child grows they can progress onto the smallest adult components where there are even more options available.

Recreational prostheses are often very important for children as they allow them to participate in different sports and activities with their friends and family. Examples may include a waterproof leg to go surfing and swimming, a leg specially designed to play soccer, or an arm that can be used to ride a bike.



The growth pattern of children requires more frequent prosthetic adjustments and replacement of both the prosthetic sockets and components. As a child grows the height of their prosthesis needs to be constantly adjusted to accommodate for the lengthening in their sound limb. Similarly as the size of their residual limb grows with the rest of their body, the prosthetic socket no longer fits and needs replacing.

At a recent world congress and trade show in Leipzig, Germany, Otto Bock released a new range of myo-electric prosthetics specially designed for children with upper limb amputations. Technological advances have made these components lighter, more powerful, splash proof and provide quicker reaction times than those previously available. Batteries have been made considerably smaller, lighter yet longer lasting.



APC KIDS

At APC prosthetics we think it's important for kids who wear a prosthesis to be able to take part in any activity they like. Many of our young clients lead very active lives - they surf, skateboard, play cricket, soccer, and basketball and participate in a myriad of other activities.

Because of their often highly active lives, children have different prosthetic requirements compared to most adults. Careful consideration of all the needs of the child and the family is essential to provide a successful outcome. Nowadays, there is a wide variety of prosthetic components for children available.



Making children feel comfortable and at home is an important part of APC Prosthetic's philosophy, which is evident in our recently completed kid's fitting room. This room is specially designed to make any visit to APC prosthetic an enjoyable experience, with lots of entertainment available, including toys, games and a plasma screen with DVD player.

For children who have lost a limb or will be undergoing amputation, talking with other children who have gone through the experience can be very helpful. We can arrange calls or visits with our other young clients to discuss amputation and life with a prosthesis.

We have also had some help from the amputee association who have organised visits to Westmead Children's hospital with an amputee dog who has successfully completed a peer support training program. The dog can provide an uplifting experience for young amputees who are obviously going through a tough time.



An 8 week Clinical Placement with APC Prosthetics

La Trobe University Student – Tamlyn Edwards



I am Tamlyn Edwards, a fourth year student from La Trobe University. I am from Johannesburg, South Africa. I started my Prosthetic and Orthotic studies in 2006 in South Africa before my family relocated to Australia in 2009, and so I am completing my studies at La Trobe University.

As part of our course at La Trobe we have to complete an 8 week prosthetic placement before we qualify as a Prosthetist/Orthotist and I was fortunate enough to do my placement at APC Prosthetics in Sydney.

During my time at APC Prosthetics I have been given the opportunity to attend various clinics, ward rounds & case conferences as well as being involved in the technical aspect of the job. At APC Prosthetics I have been able to learn from some of the most experienced Prosthetist and technicians who each have skills in various aspects of prosthetics.

To the APC Prosthetics "Family", I am eternally grateful to everyone for taking the time to teach and explain the different aspects of prosthetics to me. Thank you also to the patients who were willing to answer all my questions and tell me their stories. I believe working at APC Prosthetics has built a strong foundation on which to build my prosthetic career.

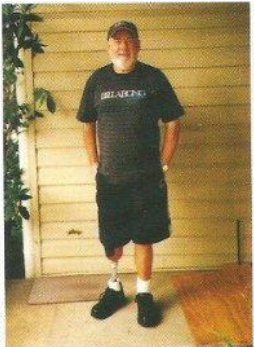
LATEST NEWS



*Congratulations Jane
10 Years at APC Prosthetics
We knew you could do it!*



*Spotted in the Liverpool
FC's Match day
Program was
APC Client
&
Liverpool FC Fan
Jim Burke.*



Liverpool fan **Jim Burke**, now living in Australia with wife Edie, would like to wish those friends approaching the 60-year mark back home a happy birthday and to let them know he is still standing on his Liverpool leg and knows he will Never Walk Alone



Tony's Farewell

Friends & work colleagues from past and present all gathered to wish Tony Morrow from APC Hunter a happy retirement after almost 30 years working in the prosthetic industry.



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