

NOTICE OF BI-MONTHLY

NEXT MEETING

AGM

To re arranged

Sunday 29th
March, 2020 at
2pm.

ST STEPHENS
CHURCH HALL
2 Mahoe Street
MELVILLE

The dates are as follows

24th May, 2020 No Meeting

26th July, 2020 (Luncheon)

27th Sept, 2020

22nd Nov, 2020

Xmas Party 2020

Hopefully by the time you read this newsletter New Zealand is well on the way to Level 2 in the programme to contain Covid19. I'm sure that most ostomates (along with the rest of NZ) will breathe a sigh of relief when they feel that the risk of contracting the virus has passed, as so many of us would have various degrees of immunity impairment.

Although we must remain vigilant against Covid19 the task of everyday living must go on. There will be massive changes in many areas of our lives in New Zealand but we as an Ostomy Society must endeavour to keep up to date with it all especially regarding how we function, and for what reason.

Our primary reasons such as fellowship, advocacy, practical help re living with an ostomy and the multiplicity of the things that can go wrong. That is why the website Ostomy NZ is so invaluable.

It appears the most critical time in an Ostomates life (post-surgery) is in the first 12 months and this is an area where the society will become more involved when life becomes "more normal". This may be an area where we could invest some of the grant received from the Lyceum Club.

It will take some time to establish a "new normal" but in this period we need to direct our efforts to still being there for Ostomates.

Stay safe, stay well, be kind.

Regards *Brian Gordon, President*

Points to Ponder

- 1) Why isn't there mouse flavoured cat food?
- 2) Why is there a light in the fridge and not in the freezer?

Pubs!



*The Official sunblock
of the IRISH!*



Two Irishmen were driving home one night from the pub when one asked the other to check if the car's indicators are working.

He promptly sticks his head out the window and says:

"Yes, no, yes, no, yes, no, yes, no"



JuicyQuotes.com | THE BEST JOKES TO SHARE

*hello,
Autumn!*

Lancaster bowel cancer survivor designs ball gown from colostomy bags to raise awareness of 'taboo' illness

A bowel cancer survivor is to show off a ball gown she has made from colostomy bags to highlight the illness.

Angela Elders designed the diamante covered dress to help raise awareness of an illness she says is still seen as taboo.



Angela's daughter Natasha Clements modelling the dress. Photo by Robert Dickinson.

“I am always keen to raise awareness of the illness and its symptoms where possible as I feel it is still a cancer that is taboo and not widely campaigned for as some of the other cancers such as breast cancer,” Angela said. “People are embarrassed to talk about it. “The diamante colostomy bag dress should hopefully raise awareness and get people talking about bowel cancer, making something beautiful out of something that is generally considered ugly or embarrassing,” Angela said.

COVID-19



New Zealand Government

With lockdown still in progress, the committee has not yet met to decide on future meeting dates. Do you have an email address we could send to instead of posting? You will get it in colour as a bonus! Please contact me if you need a friendly voice to talk to over this difficult period. Do not struggle on alone or feel isolated. I will find you a buddy to talk to..... Cheers Jano 07-843-7505 or 027 727 2098.

**If you tickle
me, I'm not
responsible for
your injuries.**

EVERY DAY
MAY NOT
BE GOOD
BUT THERE'S
GOOD IN
EVERY DAY

Keep
your
Chin
Up

Influenza.
Don't get it.
Don't give it.

Influenza immunisation is recommended and FREE for people who are most likely to get very sick, be hospitalised or even die if they catch influenza. These are:



- Pregnant women (any time during pregnancy).
- People aged 65 years or older.
- People aged under 65 years with diabetes, most heart or lung conditions and some other illnesses, see the table below for more details.
- Children aged 4 years or under who have had a stay in hospital for measles, asthma or other breathing problems.

For more information, talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist, or call 0800 466 863

PLEASE ENSURE YOU FOLLOW UP

A Must Read

Tomorrow, when the latest death meter of Covid 19 is announced in sonorous tones, whilst all the bodies still mount and curl towards the middle of the curve. Heaped one atop and alongside the other. My sister will be among those numbers, among the throwaway lines. Among the platitudes and lowered eyes, *an older person with underlying health conditions*. A pitiful way to lay to rest the bare bones of life.

MY SISTER IS NOT A STATISTIC

Her underlying conditions were.....

Love, Kindness, Belief in goodness of mankind

Forgiveness, Compassion, a Story Teller, a survivor

A Comforter, a force of nature, uproarious laughter

And so much more.....

MY SISTER IS NOT A STATISTIC She died without the soft touch of a loved one's hand. Without the feathered kiss upon her forehead. Without the muted murmur of family voices gathered around her bed, without the gentle roar of laughter that comes with memories recalled.

Evoked from a time that already seems distant, when we were connected by the simplicity of touch, of voice, of presence.

MY SISTER IS NOT A STATISTIC

She was a woman who spanned the seven ages.

A Mother, A Grandmother, A great grandmother.

A Sister, A Friend, An Aunt, A Carer, A giver.

MY SISTER IS NOT A STATISTIC

And so, she joins the mounting thousands.

THEY ARE NOT STATISTICS ON THE DEATHOMETER

They are the Wives, mother's, children, fathers, sisters, brothers. The Layers of our loved ones. If she could, believe me when I say, she would hold every last one of your loved ones, croon to and comfort them and say – you were loved. Whilst we have been left behind to mourn deep, keening the loss, the injustice, the rage. One day we will smile and laugh again, we will remember with joy that, once, we shared a life, we new joy and survived sadness.

FAMILY
* WHERE *
LIFE BEGINS
* AND *
Love
NEVER ENDS

Big Days Celebrated since our last Newsletter one joyful and one soulful.



“
For the whole world
is **Irish** on the
Seventeenth o' March!



Waikato Ostomy Society Committee

Let's SUPPORT our Association

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