

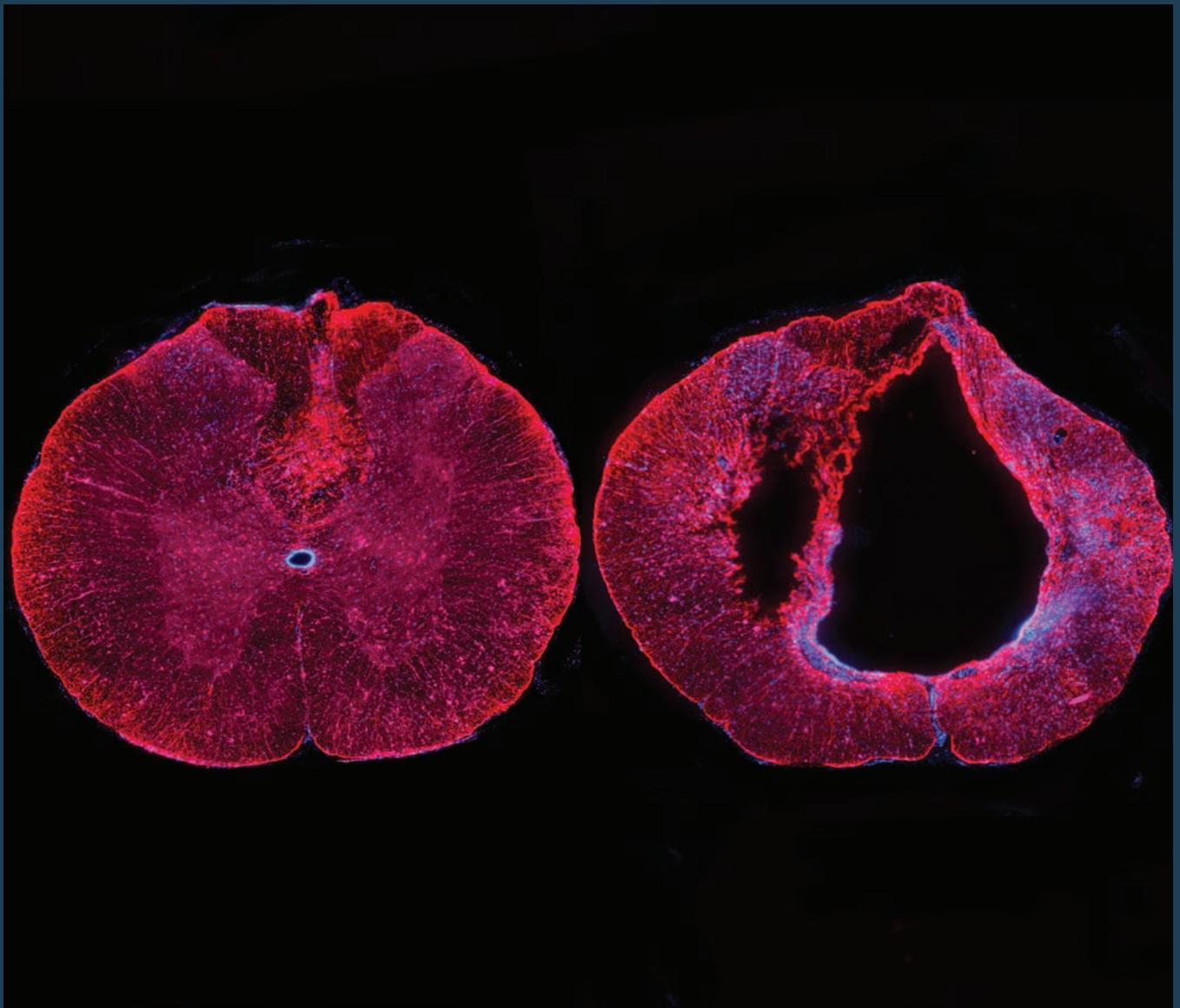
# CATWALK

NEVER SAY NEVER

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SPINAL CORD INJURY RESEARCH TRUST

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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF  
**The CatWalk Spinal Cord Injury Research Trust**



Eion Kemp is taking on the Mongol Derby on pg.16

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## June 2018

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**COVER:** The spinal cord – photo credit: Jarred Griffin, SCIRF PhD Candidate

*FRONT COVER: After spinal cord injury, massive cavities replace the tissue that serve to connect signals from the brain to the body. In the human spinal cord there are an astonishing 1 billion neatly organised neurons. As you can imagine, restoring these lost connections can therefore seem a daunting task. However, the CatWalk Trust are funding several research strategies that aim to protect the spinal cord from ongoing damage, replace lost tissue and also stimulate the regeneration of new neurons to restore function to the individual.*

*- Jarred Griffin, BSc (Hons), PhD Candidate, Spinal Cord Injury Research Facility*

# Founder's FOOTNOTE



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“Teamwork makes dreams work so between all of us supporting, sharing, talking and most of all doing we can make this cure happen.”

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*Perry Cross, Nick Robinson, Dinesh Palipana, Catriona Williams*

## Out of everything bad comes something good...

Six days before I was due to fly to the Gold Coast for a hot date with ‘Gym’ at Making Strides (and to escape some of New Zealand’s cold weather), the care agency got in touch to say the carer I’d booked six weeks prior now decided she didn’t want to as it was too far to drive and they had no one else. OK so now for the good...they did however suggest trying the website [www.hireup.com.au](http://www.hireup.com.au). What you also need to know is over the past twelve months with the help of a friend, Philippa Middleton, I’d been canvassing and researching an app idea that was a cross between Tinder and Uber where a client and a carer can organise their cares, hours, payments without an agency. No need. Hireup have done it and they are brilliant! Please do me one favour and write to them and say bring your service to New Zealand - we need you!

This trip was made so much easier thanks to many but especially Sue Cameron and Kirsty Toby Tullipan. A big high five for ensuring I made it to the gym on time each day!

A special part of this trip was the wonderful opening of the new location for Making Strides. It also doubled up as a fundraiser for the Perry Cross Foundation where the money will go towards the SCI research at Griffith

University. They have a sensational new venue with incredible support from clients, family and friends. They have brought everyone together for one simple reason - To Make Strides!

Griffith University, who have just received \$75,000 from CatWalk, had researchers James St John and Jenny Ekberg there and it was fantastic to hear them speak. The highlight for me though was meeting Dinesh Pradhan. Please take the time to google him. His story, The Man in the Bed, is one of those stories which is truly inspirational ([www.abc.net.au/austory/the-man-in-bed-10/947140](http://www.abc.net.au/austory/the-man-in-bed-10/947140)).

I’ve been dreading the day our brilliant chairman Scott Malcolm would say ‘It’s time for me to step down,’ A board member since 2011 and chair since 2014, he’s run marathons, cycled to Everest and swum 2km ocean swims as well as donated, coaxed all his friends to donate and backed every CatWalk initiative we’ve created. Quite simply, Scott has not only talked the talk but he has backed it up by, always, walking the walk. From us all Scott a very special thank you. Jane will be delighted she gets more time with you now!

But the good news is David Pretorius has stepped up to the position of chair. There is no one more appropriate nor qualified

than David to fill this role. He is officially the CatWalk Marathon Man and CatWalk are incredibly lucky to have such a wonderful replacement at the helm. There are exciting times ahead.

For me, other than my hot dates with ‘Gym, Gym and Gym’ (not Jim!) each week, my other big focus is Le Loire et CatWalk which is developing into the most wonderful French experience ever. Thanks to Anita MacKenzie’s generous gift of her stunning Chateau for a month and Nicky Goupil de Bouillé who is ensuring each week is designed to fit the very best experiences the Loire has to offer. Her brief was quite simply “Show us the Loire the locals love”, and believe me that’s exactly what we are getting. We’d love to have you along for the ride, we’re just over half full, so give us a call if you’d like to find out more. This is a once in a lifetime experience that we promise will be talked about forever, for all the right reasons!

Teamwork makes dreams work so between all of us supporting, sharing, talking and most of all doing we can make this cure happen. So, let’s go do!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Catriona'.



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR International Patron

## Dear CatWalk friends and family

I'm very happy to be writing this in the days after a joyful family event - it seems Britain, and the world, was excited by Harry and Meghan's wedding. Even the weather behaved!

There's been a lot to celebrate for New Zealanders to celebrate in the UK recently. All her friends here were thrilled for Jonelle Price and the mighty mare Classic Moet as they triumphed at Badminton. As half of Team Price (the better half?!), I can say it was a thoroughly deserved victory. Next up, bring on the World Championships in September where the Kiwis and Brits can go head to head again.

Whether it's at home or abroad, I'm reliably informed by the team that there's no let up for CatWalkers. That's clear from the diversity of events which you can read about inside, from the Auckland and New York marathons, to adventure in the Loire Valley, and what sounds like an epic motorbike ride from Singapore to Amsterdam.

Keep up all your great work.

**Zara Tindall, MBE**

### NATIONAL PATRONS

Sir Brian Lochore, ONZ, KNZM, OBE; Richie McCaw ONZ; Dr Rick Acland, Dion Nash; Lance O'Sullivan, ONZM; Aaron Slight MNZM; Toni Street, Sir Mark Todd, CBE; Sarah Walker, Duane Kale ONZM; Dame Lowell Goddard, DNZM, QC.

### TRUSTEES

David Pretorius (Chair), Vikki Maclean (Deputy Chair), Emeritus Professor Louise Nicholson, Tonia Cawood, Deb Haworth, Kim McWilliams, Grant Sharman, Tom Brady



*International Patron Zara Tindall and NZ Patron Toni Street*

# Chairman's REPORT

I am delighted to present this report regarding the CatWalk Spinal Cord Injury Trust for the year ended 31 March 2018.

This is my first official act in the role having recently taken over as Chairman following the resignation of my esteemed predecessor, Scott Malcolm. After seven years on the Board, four of which were as Chairman, Scott decided it was time to step aside in May 2018. The legacy he leaves behind is outstanding, and the board is deeply appreciative of his personal contribution. The 2018 financial year was one of CatWalk's most remarkable yet. The Trust generated a net profit before research grants of \$742,572 on revenue of \$1,129,116 as a result of so many generous contributions from our donors. Grants were at their highest ever with \$321,894 given out, plus an additional \$75,000 committed to CatWalk's first international funding collaboration.

Scott: On behalf of the Board of Trustees, and all CatWalkers, thank you. Thank you for your passion and leadership towards a world free from spinal cord injury paralysis. Spinal cord injury research is in a better place thanks to your many contributions.

## FUNDING

Once again CatWalk continued our strong support of the **Spinal Cord Injury Research Facility** ("SCIRF") based at the Centre for Brain Research at the University of Auckland. **\$32,000 was contributed to PhD student costs, as well as \$176,234 towards the use of a state of the art high-containment facility, MRI consumables, technical support, and a Summer Studentship programme.** Also based at the University of Auckland, a collaborative project **modulating chronic inflammation for treatment of spinal cord injury was granted \$98,660. Led by Dr Simon O'Carroll**, this project's aim is to reduce the ongoing chronic spread of damage. The transfer of neurotoxins from damage causes harm to otherwise healthy tissue via intercellular channels called gap junctions. By using a drug to block these channels, this approach will reduce the damage spread, reducing the injury and improve outcomes. The Trust once again contributed **\$15,000 towards sponsorship of the Brain Bee Challenge**, a competition for high school students in year 11 to learn about the brain and its functions, discover the latest discoveries in neuroscience research, and to find out about the exciting career opportunities brain research has to offer. Previous Brain Bee alumni are currently working within the SCIRF as part of the Studentship programme, others are completing their PhD and Postdoctoral studies. **A \$75,000 project grant was approved for the work of Dr James St John at Griffith University, Brisbane.** This project aims to optimise the balance of different cell types within nerve bridges, replicating the supporting structure of nerves within the body. By growing a 'nerve-in-a-dish', nerve bridges with pre-formed stable connections can be transplanted into the injury site resulting



*David Pretorius (Chair), Richie McCaw and Scott Malcolm (outgoing Chair)*

in better survival and integration, and leading to improved functional outcomes.

## FUNDRAISING

In April 2017, our Remarkable event at the AJ Hackett Bungy Centre in Queestown raised \$337,000 through donations and the sale of auction prizes. The notable prize of the evening was the Service Fee for **Godolphin's Brazen Beau, selling for \$100,000.**

In November 2017, I proudly led Team CatWalk in the New York City Marathon. Our group raised over \$180,000 and had one heck of a trip


telling whoever would listen about CatWalk and spinal cord injury research. Other notable happenings during the year included:

- Ongoing partnerships with **Mitavite**, an equine nutrition company, under which Mitavite donates \$1.00 to CatWalk for every bag of Munga® feed sold, **Magnum Industries**, which manufactures and supplies walkers, stables and hardware for the equine and agricultural industries, and **New Zealand Agriseeds** selling bags of a specialist horse pasture seed mix exclusively for sale by CatWalk. These three partners contributed over \$25,000 to spinal cord injury research.
- **Bell Gully** and **Crowe Horwath** again provided pro bono legal and accounting services respectively. Their services in-kind save the Trust thousands which then goes straight back into research projects.
- Three significant donations were received from from generous donors; Dorothy Cutts, Scarlet Trust; and Derek and Christine Daniell.
- A substantial Legacy gift was endowed to spinal cord injury research from the Estate of the late Laurie McCool.

Thank you to our Board of Trustees and Founder for their unwavering commitment to CatWalk. Thank you also to the CatWalk team, Meg, Chris and Donna, for their hard work over the past year. Thank you to our Patrons and Ambassadors for their dedication. But most importantly, I would like to thank you, our donors. We cannot make a difference without you. Thank you for helping to find a cure for spinal cord injury.

**David Pretorius**  
*Chairman | CatWalk*  
*Board of Trustees*





I could see progress was being achieved in a relatively short space of time.”

*Jarred Griffin - growing reputation as one of our best-regarded up and coming research scientists.*

# The future of research is bright

Jarred Griffin is a softly spoken, humble young man who seems oblivious to his growing reputation as one of our best-regarded up and coming research scientists.

He's a twin: one of four boys in a family of practical, handy people. His dad is a builder, his three brothers are a plumber, a surveyor and an electrician, and together they build and sell houses that his mum has furnished through her home staging business. Quite where his interest in science developed remains a family mystery, but biology was his favourite subject in school. Faced with the choice of studying Outdoor Education or Sciences at university, Jarred thankfully decided on the latter, and by selecting subjects that interested him most, he graduated with BSc (Pharmacology).

In 2013, under the supervision of Emeritus Professor Louise Nicholson (now a trustee for CatWalk) and co-supervisor Dr Simon O'Carroll, he went on to complete an Honours degree, studying the use of statin drugs as a beneficial treatment of Alzheimer's disease by reducing inflammation in the brain and protecting brain cells from injury. His published research has added to the global understanding of the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

Jarred was then employed for eighteen months at the Spinal Cord Injury Research Facility (SCRIF) at the Centre of Brain Research as part of a research development study working with another PhD student, Yeri Kim. Jarred was hired to help her with her doctoral project, which involved understanding, testing and improving the use of peptide drugs and particularly a drug called Tonabersat which can be used for the reduction of inflammation and scar tissue after spinal cord injury, protecting it from damage at early stages of injury. Put simply, "Yeri and I discovered that the drug, Tonabersat, reduced the gap junctions in spinal cord

injuries, causing them to be internalised so they couldn't send negative signals, or release inflammatory responses into the surrounding injury environment. This stopped the spread of injury and contained it to a smaller size."

Most biological responses like inflammation are beneficial because primitively the information signals an injury and creates the appropriate responses, like swelling, redness, pain and sensitivity. These responses increase blood flow, which in turn increases the immune cells flowing to the injury site and as a result limits the use of the damaged area. However, in spinal cord injury and brain injury, the prolonged inflammation response is counter-productive because it causes swelling and immobility and it also causes scar tissue around the injury site which acts as a physical and molecular barrier to regeneration.

"During this study I was introduced to the work that the CatWalk Trust was doing, and I also saw what was being done in spinal cord injury research. I really liked the field because I could see progress was being achieved in a relatively short space of time."

So for his doctorate studies Jarred chose a project that was different to what he'd previously worked on but still specific to spinal cord injury research. As the recipient of a scholarship funded by the CatWalk Trust, he moved into the field of genetic therapy, which included animal work and the translation of the effects of research. His PhD project, supervised by the director of the SCRIF Dr Simon O'Carroll and gene therapy expert, Associate Professor Deborah Young, details a therapeutic



technique that delivers a human gene into a damaged spinal cord, which then produces an enzyme that breaks down scar tissue. Once the scar tissue molecules had been removed, this allowed neurons to start to sprout and grow and connect with new pathways, which in turn allowed the restorations of other motor functions.

He also showed that below the injury there was a large increase in serotonin pathways, which is important for motor function, and that the gene therapy also decreased the lesion size making the environment more conducive to movement and growth. Jarred's research is based on the human version of a bacterial enzyme called chondroitinase that functions to break apart scar tissue molecules.

"No one else had created a gene therapy that degrades these molecules using human genetics before so I'm providing evidence to show that this human enzyme is beneficial or can do the same job as the bacterial enzyme, and it's more clinically relevant because the bacterial enzyme is likely to cause an immune response and anti-body production against that foreign material."

"I used a specific type of virus called adeno-associated virus, which is a very, very tiny virus that can't replicate itself and has never been known to produce any kind of illness. Because it has no immune response or pathology, that makes it a perfect candidate for genetic therapy. Using this virus and its natural ability to infect cells, we can genetically engineer it with the human DNA we want to insert."

It was a few years and several steps backward and forward before the ah-ha moment. It took Jarred a year to even create the virus that could target these specific cells and then produce gene expression.

"And then eventually it all just came together and actually showed better than expected gene expression in cell cultures – showing first that neurons would not grow in the presence of these scar tissue molecules, and then that by using this enzyme that they could then regrow. And then I showed that using the virus, I could infect the cells in culture, and that would reduce the production or expression of the scar tissue."

"I progressed to an animal study using rats but I wasn't sure it was going to work. However, after a yearlong study analyzing the data in a completely blind study, finally after the unblinding I could put all the groups together and the results showed that it was working. The lesion was hugely decreased and there were big increases in the number of these new motor tracks.

"However, the improvement in motor functions was very small, and didn't appear to be reflected in the relatively large increases seen in the tissue. Jarred then hypothesized that even though these animals had new connections, some of them would be beneficial connections and some of them would be non-beneficial connections, so he thought the animals needed

to learn how to use these beneficial connections through rehabilitation."

The rehabilitation program became the final part of the project but there was no ability to conduct that within facility so the SCRIF applied for and won a grant to buy a rat treadmill with five lanes – otherwise Jarred was going have to design and make his own. There was still the issue of a modified frame because the rats needed to be supported only on their hind legs, so Jarred designed a frame to hold his animals up, and then he persuaded his mum to help him sew jackets for his animals.

"We went through five different prototypes and my poor mum spent so long sewing all these tiny little jackets. Finally the fifth one worked perfectly and I could connect the supporting strings

up to the frames so that rats were supported upright in these tiny little harnesses and they could walk on the treadmill using their hind legs only."

None of this had been done before in New Zealand and Jarred spent four hours daily with these animals for about ten weeks working them out every day and encouraging them to continue. Eventually they were spending more than thirty minutes daily on the treadmill and were able to run 400m each

session. It was a big task for the little animals but the results showed that the gene therapy combined with rehabilitation dramatically increased the functional recovery, and also showed dramatic results in the tissue whereby the total number of neural pathways actually decreased as only the pathways ones that were functional were developed, and the rest died away.

Jarred is optimistic for spinal cord injury sufferers having seen so much progress in the last couple of decades in the research. Many teams across the world have shown examples of recovery after injury through a variety of treatments and his is just one of them. He believes the cure will be a combination of research outputs in the future and it's just a matter of time and getting the steps in place to put the research into clinical trials and get some action. Having completed his study in the acute stage of injury, in other words immediately after injury, Jarred now wants to repeat his study in the chronic model (for the benefit of long term injury sufferers).

"Chronic spinal cord injury research is limited and very under-represented. Most researchers avoid it because it is quite challenging to see positive results in chronic studies."

But Jarred believes this needs to happen and, as the next step in his research career, he has applied for funding to do the work here in Auckland. Thereafter, he hopes to accept one of several offers to participate in overseas projects where he will develop new ideas and techniques in spinal cord injury research.

"The goal is to come back to New Zealand after that and start my own lab here in the Centre for Brain Research – and I'd like it to be fun. If science is not fun, we're not doing it right."

*Deb Haworth*

"Chronic spinal cord injury research is limited and very under-represented. Most researchers avoid it because it is quite challenging to see positive results in chronic studies."

# Spinal Cord Injury Research Facility Progress Update *June 2018*

It has been a busy year so far in the Spinal Cord Injury Research Facility (SCIRF) and we continue to make advances towards developing cures for spinal cord injury. This is due to the support from the CatWalk Trust in establishing the Facility, which has allowed us to develop a team of researchers and attract funding from other sources to develop and grow our research.

## Blocking chronic inflammation

With funding from the CatWalk Trust, a project is underway to test an existing drug (Tonabersat) that we believe will block ongoing inflammation and reduce neuropathic pain and create an environment that allows repair to occur by blocking the same channels as our peptide.

This drug has the advantage that it has been used in several phase two clinical trials, including long term prophylactic use for migraine prevention and is proposed as a treatment for epilepsy and so if our work is successful we plan to start a clinical trial soon. This project is well underway and being carried out by Sheryl Tan and Barbara Fackelmeier and an MSc student Miran Mrkela. We are currently analyzing data from the first part of the study and will have results before the end of the year.

## Gene therapy

Jarred Griffin has just completed his PhD work that used gene therapy to deliver a protein that breaks down scar tissue after injury. His work showed that this treatment allows regrowth and reconnection of nerve cells, reduces the size of the injury, reduces the amount of scarring. When Jarred used the gene therapy in conjunction with exercise rehabilitation, we got stronger nerve connections to the limbs and even greater improvement in walking and coordination. These experiments show that combining different approaches will be the way to finding a cure and our future plans are to combine a number of the approaches we have been developing to provide the greatest benefit possible.

Jarred plans to continue his work in chronic spinal cord injury to see if we get the same results. A new PhD student, Connor Clemett, is starting a project to combine this approach with cell therapy. Connor will inject cells into the injured cord that wrap around the nerve cells and improve their connection with other cells. This approach aims to make the new connections that occur stronger, leading to even better outcomes. We also have two new projects in the lab using gene therapy to target the scar in a different way and these are being carried out by Chloe Rayner (MSc student) and Maize Cao (Honours student).

## Use of multielectrode arrays for guidance of nerve cells

A collaboration has been established with the School of Pharmacy, University of Auckland and the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies, Germany to test the use of multielectrode arrays to measure electrical changes that occur with injury and use electric currents to guide the growth of nerve cells across an injured cord. This technology has real potential as nerve cells could be guided to reconnect across the damaged cord, reforming connections and allowing for functional recovery. This work is being carried out by Dr Sam Paritt and Dr Zaid Aqarwe (a holder of the prestigious Neurological Foundation O'Brien Clinical Fellowship) and a PhD student Anusha David.

## Targeted drug delivery

A project is underway in collaboration with researchers from the School of Pharmacy and Department of Physiology at the University of Auckland using small packages (called liposomes) to targeting drugs directly to the site of a spinal cord injury. This approach means a drug will not be broken down in the blood stream and a smaller dose can be used, which will mean that unwanted side-effects are less likely. An MSc student, Julia Newland, has tested delivery of these liposomes at different times after injury and is currently analysing the data. The next step will be to test drugs known to protect the spinal cord after injury to see if targeted delivery gives better results or means we can use lower doses.

## Imaging the spinal cord

In order to accurately understand the effect our treatments are having it is helpful to be able to monitor changes in real time. Therefore we are developing a new project using special cameras that can be attached to look at what is happening in the spinal cord.

This work will be a PhD project carried out by Ms Zahra Laoby, who has been recruited as the inaugural recipient of the Jon and Louise Nicholson PhD Scholarship in Spinal Cord Injury and Repair and with generous funding support from the Hugo Charitable Trust.

**Simon O'Carroll**  
*(on behalf of the Spinal Cord Injury  
Research Facility team)*



## THE HUGO CHARITABLE TRUST

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We were delighted to receive news of the Hugo Charitable Trust's decision to donate \$20,000 to the Spinal Cord Injury Research Facility ("SCIRF") at the University of Auckland.

.....

This donation was made possible thanks to Laura Milliken and Charlie Stewart who made a Dragons Den-style pitch on behalf of CatWalk to the trustees of the Hugo Charitable Trust ("Hugo").

"I would just like to take the opportunity to thank Charlie Stewart and Laura Milliken for putting us in touch with CatWalk and SCIRF. Charlie and Laura did a fabulous presentation on CatWalk's behalf and Hugo is thrilled to make a donation towards spinal cord injury research," says Hugo's Donations Manager, Julia Hunter. The donation will go directly to the SCIRF to support ongoing projects into finding a cure for spinal cord injury. We are sincerely grateful to Hugo, Laura Milliken and Charlie Stewart for their generous support.

The Hugo Charitable Trust was launched in May 2017 by Maryanne Green, the eldest daughter of Hugh Green. In the 2017-18 year Hugo supported 72 different charities with \$250,000 given to 40 charities nominated by "Hugo Friends" and \$1.5 million donated to medical research. A total of \$3,007,125.49 was donated to charities to benefit New Zealanders.

**Further information on the trust can be found at [www.hugocharitabletrust.nz](http://www.hugocharitabletrust.nz)**





# Making STRIDES

OPEN NEW PREMISES

Our December 2017 magazine featured an article about Making Strides, a specialist SCI recovery centre on the Gold Coast.

Early June 2018 saw the opening of their new premises at Burleigh Heads. CatWalk founder Catriona Williams was there alongside Perry Cross and researchers from Griffith University.

An auction and raffle on the day raised funds which will go towards the next major phase of the Spinal Injury Project (SIP) at Griffith University.



For more information on the services they offer visit:  
[makingstrides.com.au](http://makingstrides.com.au)

Jenny Ekberg, James St John and Perry Cross opening the new Making Strides facility





Anita Mackenzie



Nicky de Bouille

# CHATEAU D'OYRE

## - A Week in the Loire with CatWalk -

Anita Mackenzie owns the wonderful Chateau d'Oyre in the Loire Valley and for some inexplicable reason her family has 'moved over' for an entire month to make way for you. Yes you! For four weeks the Chateau will host four groups to live, eat, read, drink, walk and cycle your way through the exquisite environs and nearby vineyards. This is without doubt the most beautiful region of France. The cycling is the best in the world bar none and hardly a hill in sight! Making the Chateau your home for a week is authentic French country living on another level altogether and the opportunity for a once in a lifetime adventure is yours to grab.... And NOW is good...

The Chateau itself is steeped in history. Construction began in 1398 and the Chateau has only been in the hands of six families in six centuries. Ancient documents and paintings, one of Baron de Chaubry in the Grande Salon, and ledgers of fascinating household items from times long past have been lovingly preserved. The gardens, which are planted with hundreds of roses and fragrant

French lavender, and the delightful out-buildings are all yours to wander through and explore – the chapel has 13 members of the Chaubry family interred in its crypt! Of course there have been some modern improvements to restored buildings to make it family friendly. Anita has been back and forth many times this year preparing the Chateau for 20 - 28 visitors for each of the four weeks, and we know it must have been a mammoth task; sourcing extra beds, linen, chairs and of course ensuring it's wheelchair friendly. Perfect! Anita MacKenzie is a huge CatWalk supporter and frankly Anita, you are simply a star!

Now, meet the lovely Nicky de Bouillé, a kiwi permanently living in Saumur who sculpts, rides, and deals in antiques! A writer and musician, Nicky has fluent French, superb local knowledge and she will be your guide and event manager. A keen supporter of the CatWalk Trust, Nicky was quick to put her hand up to organise absolutely everything. She has put together flexible programmes with core daily activities to make the

most of your time at Chateau d'Oyre. She notes the entire area is vibrant and busy, despite being in the countryside. It is culturally rich with magnificent architecture and history. Chateaux Chambord, Chenonceau, and Villandry are star attractions, with the fabulous wine regions of Chinon, Saumur, Bourgueil and Vouvray all within easy reach. Did we mention it's one and a half hours from Paris? This is going to be huge fun. It simply doesn't get better than this. Now is the time to make it real. (See details for booking your week) Actually - I think we can say that again:

It simply doesn't get better than this! Time to grab your seat at the table people!

*CatWalk is proudly supported by Select Committee News Ltd., an independent news and information service based on the work of Parliament and across Government. [www.selectcommittee.news.com](http://www.selectcommittee.news.com)*







# JOIN CATWALK FOR A MAGNIFIQUE FRENCH *voyage*



## 2019 DATES:

### WEEK 1:

Monday 27th May 5pm – Monday 3rd June 10am

### WEEK 2:

Monday 3rd June 5pm – Monday 10th June 10am

### WEEK 3:

Monday 10th June 5pm – Monday 17th June 10am

### WEEK 4:

Monday 17th June 5pm – Monday 24th June 10am

**CatWalk will turn on the aristocratic charm providing an exhaustive seven day cycle tour of pure joie de vivre. Chef de mission for the entire trip will be none other than *Madame* Catriona Williams.**

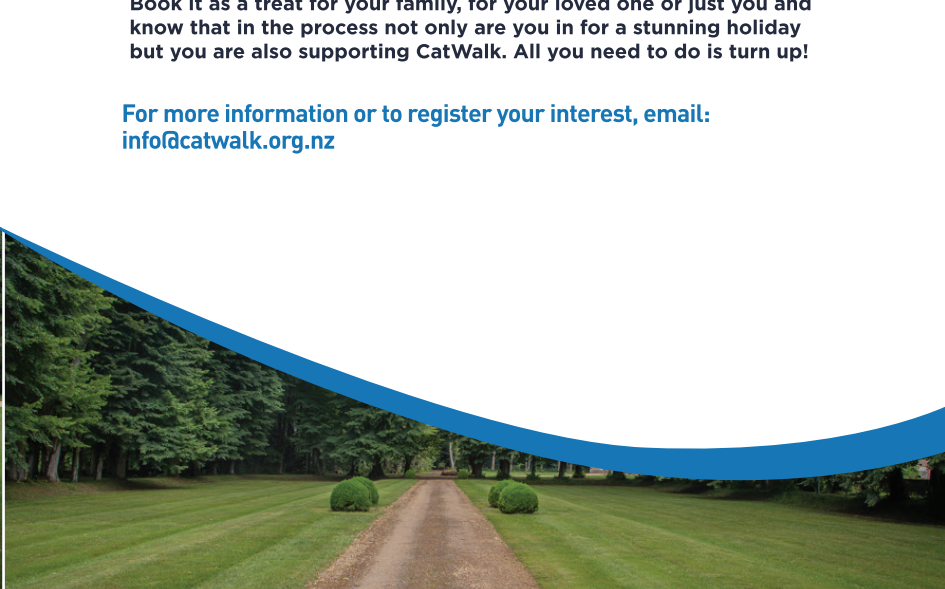
If it's French splendour, style and gastronomy you seek with a little exercise and adventure on a bike, then here is the perfect opportunity to experience a once in a lifetime gift from a magical CatWalk supporter, Anita Mackenzie. Anita has allowed us to offer the ultimate French adventure to you by staying in her privately owned Chateau d'Oyre in the Loire Valley, accommodating up to 27 guests.

We can guarantee it will exceed your expectations as you are transported into a fairy-tale realm of storybook villages, time burnished towns and exquisite scenery. There's magic at every turn in the enchanting Chateau that sits on acres of Versailles-esk grounds with 200 year old trees edging its postcard-like surrounds.

Live like nobility for a week enjoying the use of the Chateau d'Oyre and its grounds and whilst there explore the famous Loire Valley on bike discovering the produce markets, celebrated wineries and stunning restaurants. Along the way gathering a taste of the many thousands of years of rich architecture, artistry and agriculture. A swimming pool, wifi and an English TV (just in case) ensure all needs are met.

**Book it as a treat for your family, for your loved one or just you and know that in the process not only are you in for a stunning holiday but you are also supporting CatWalk. All you need to do is turn up!**

**For more information or to register your interest, email: [info@catwalk.org.nz](mailto:info@catwalk.org.nz)**







# Team CAT

## Running so others can walk

# Auckland

This year, Team CatWalk has decided to branch out locally in terms of marathon events, after many years of running successful New York marathon campaigns. Why not put a large team of running CatWalkers out there, all dressed in the beautifully designed Catsuits or ‘broken-spined’ running singlets, to spread the message far and wide? And why not do it right here, in the ASB Auckland marathon? Thanks to CatWalk friend Rachel Smalley we submitted our application and were chosen as one of the official ASB Auckland Marathon Charity Hero partners. As part of Team CatWalk, our members receive free entry into the marathon, complementary race day transport, a souvenir charity hero finisher medal, a Charity Hero branded race bib and of course some special CatWalk love leading up to, during and after the race! The team will be led by experienced Captain David Pretorius, who will use the 12km distance as a “warm-up” for the TCS New York City marathon the week later.

The call went out and very quickly our 60 allocated spots are snapped up. Our Auckland team are coming from all walks of life and include the very people who are researching to find a cure for spinal cord injury with a contingent from the Spinal Cord Injury Research Facility signing up. PhD Candidate Jarred Griffin is one of the SCIRF members who has signed up because “CatWalk has given a lot to me over the last few years – I would like to give something back”. We are also honoured to have Emeritus Professor Louise Nicholson and husband Jon who were one of the first to sign up with Louise promising to compete in a CatSuit.



Media personalities Rachel Smalley, Brodie Kane and Dom Harvey have also signed onto Team CatWalk. Dom originally was planning on a “12km sprint” but has since changed up to the full marathon. He is looking forward to “using his love of running to help others”.

The Auckland Marathon is an iconic event. Last year 14,000 took part in the various distances offered, and this year the total will be close to 15,000. Sunday 28th October will see the full and half marathons start at Devonport with the 12km starting at Smales Farm, giving the participants the opportunity to run over the famed Auckland Harbour Bridge.

All team members have committed to fundraising. You can find their profiles and donate through the team Everyday Hero page: [www.aucklandmarathon2018.everydayhero.com/nz/the-catwalk-trust-auckland-marathon-2018-team](http://www.aucklandmarathon2018.everydayhero.com/nz/the-catwalk-trust-auckland-marathon-2018-team)

Dom originally was planning on a “12km sprint” but has since changed up to the full marathon. He is looking forward to “using his love of running to help others”.



Left to right: Jarred Griffin Auckland Marathon, Brodie Kane Auckland Marathon, Jenny Wood Auckland Marathon, Dom Harvey, Liz Blackwell and Ant Carter NY Marathon, Dan Buckingham NYM 2017

# WALK 2018

92 athletes: 60 running Auckland, 20 running the New York marathon, 12 competing in the Taupo Ironman 70.3

## New York .....

CatWalk has become synonymous in recent years with the New York marathon, taking a team of Kiwis every November over to the Big Apple to compete in this world-famous marathon event. This year, CatWalk's new Chairman and New York marathon Team Captain, Dave Pretorius returns for his 4th New York marathon run, taking a team of 20 runners with him. Individuals in this team fund the entire trip themselves, leaving all funds they raise to go directly to CatWalk, where they can continue on their quest to fund innovative and ground-breaking spinal cord research right here in Auckland.

This year's team comes from far and wide across New Zealand, with some runners signing up after hearing wakeboarder and tetraplegic Brad Smeele's voice on the radio urging the public to run so that he might walk again, some being convinced by Dave's ever-persuasive and persistent begging(!) to join him, and others simply from hearing about the cause and wanting to make a difference. The TCS New York City marathon is the most famous marathon in the world, taking runners

through all five boroughs of New York, including all the sights and sounds and smells of Staten Island, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx and Manhattan. It finishes in the vast but lovely Central Park, and it is said that over 2 million spectators line the streets urging every single runner on. Dave is always quick to point out that having your name reflected high up on your chest is a vital part of this marathon. For the entire duration of your run, your head is filled with heavily accented New Yorkers shouting "You got this, Dave! You're looking good, buddy!" The team departs on October 31st 2018, and will spend 6 days in the Big Apple together. They will also be wearing the new "CatSuit", Version 2, highlighting our logo, our mission and our cause, including a highly visible broken spine all the way down their backs. If you would like to donate to any member of the TeamCatWalk New York team, you can find their photos, personal stories and reasons why they're doing the marathon here:

[www.catwalk2018nycmarathon.gofundraise.co.nz](http://www.catwalk2018nycmarathon.gofundraise.co.nz)

## Taupo .....

To complete the trifecta of CatWalk team events for 2018, the Taupo Ironman 70.3 will take place on Saturday 8th December.

Dave Pretorius was "encouraged" to sign up for this as his first Ironman event by his trainer and has convinced another 11 people to join him!

This is not for the faint hearted with the course consisting of a 1.9km swim in the pristine Lake Taupo followed by a 90km cycle through the rural landscape surrounds and finishes with a 21.1km run that takes in the picturesque lake shore.

Dave would love to have more team members and would welcome any contact for further information -

[david.pretorius@fnzc.co.nz](mailto:david.pretorius@fnzc.co.nz)

For more information on any of these CatWalk events please visit:  
[www.catwalk.org.nz/events](http://www.catwalk.org.nz/events)



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[catwalk.org.nz/events](http://catwalk.org.nz/events)





“We can’t encourage people enough to continue to support CatWalk”

*Andrew and Frances Crombie with Alastair Pulford, Godolphin Head of Sales Australia*

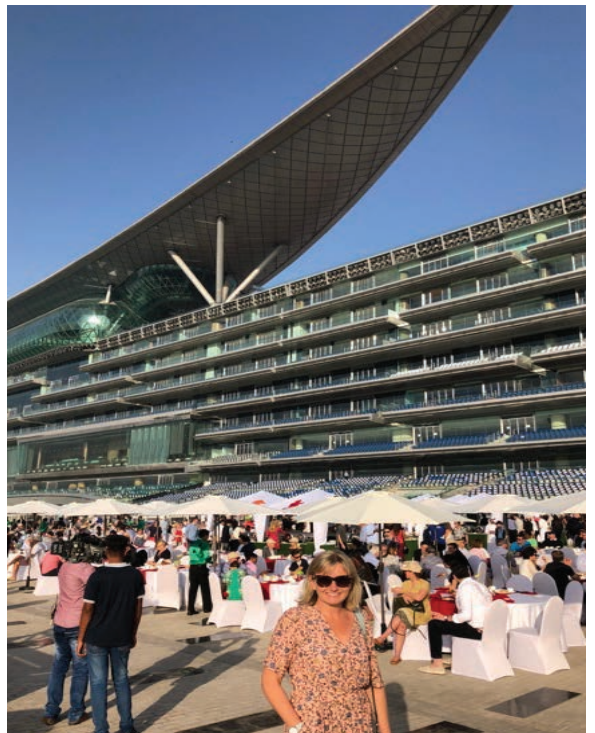
# POT OF GOLD 2017 WINNER

Frances and I have been CatWalk supporters for over a decade. It is the easiest charity to support, not only because of the cause, but also the amazing can-do attitude that springs from all things CatWalk related.

Not for the first time, our lives changed a little thanks to CatWalk. The phone rang about midnight, and it was friend and CatWalk Patron Aaron Slight direct from the Shotover Bungy centre screaming “You’ve \*\*\*\*\* won” (not a direct quote!). Somehow Holly Pretorius had plucked our name out of the hat for the winning ticket in the Remarkable Raffle draw. And that’s how the whole trip continued – Remarkable.

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of Godolphin Australia and Sheikh Mohammed, we were off to Dubai to witness the 2018 World Cup at Meydan, one of the premier sports events on the globe. As with all things related to CatWalk, nothing was left to chance, every detail was covered to ensure we were able to enjoy a magical 5 day whirlwind tour of Dubai, culminating in the World Cup itself. Winning a prize like this simply reminded us of how fate, good luck or bad, can occur at any moment, something all of the CatWalk community are only too well aware. It was humbling to think that for us it was the lucky side of the ledger.

The prize itself was immense – business flights to Dubai with Emirates, 5 star accommodation looking out over the Persian Gulf and the silhouette of the famous Burj al Arab, and 5 days packed to the brim. We were determined to make the most of our visit, as our ill-fated NYC marathon trip for CatWalk in 2012 (thanks to Hurricane Sandy) was the only other time in 12 years we’d had a holiday without our 3



*Meydan Racecourse - Dubai World Cup Venue*



kids. We were great tourists, setting shopping records on day 1, along with summiting the world's tallest building. Day 2 meant breakfast at the stunning Meydan, watching the horses stretch their legs and meeting the Australian Godolphin contingent. Then into the desert on a safari courtesy of Range Rover, camel rides and dinner under the stars at an oasis. Friday was time for the famous Dubai Brunch and a little R&R. Saturday was a trip to the gold & spice souks of Dubai before kitting up for the races in 40 degree heat. The contrast of fashion between West and Middle East was an eye opener to say the least!

We were situated in a stunning corporate suite, 6 stories up, and 100 meters from the finishing post. It was an incredible experience. The Sheikh doesn't do things by halves, the races were spectacular but so too the crowd entertainment with a concert and fire show at half time. The races went well into the night culminating in a thrilling World Cup with a \$10m purse. Our last day added some culture, with a visit to Abu Dhabi to see the Sheikh Zayed Mosque and also the new Louvre Museum – an incredible architectural statement blending the ancient setting with modern construction technology.

As we flew home overflowing with gratitude we could think only of thanks to all those involved – Godolphin as prize sponsors, the CatWalk management team for their organisation, the wider CatWalk community and finally, Holly Pretorius for her ticket selection. We can't encourage people enough to continue to support CatWalk, and with prizes like this as part of the journey, we can all help find a cure for SCI injuries as quickly as possible.

**Andrew & Frances Crombie**

“The prize itself was immense – business flights to Dubai with Emirates, 5 star accommodation looking out over the Persian Gulf and the silhouette of the famous Burj al Arab, and 5 days packed to the brim.”



*Desert safari*

## POT OF GOLD 2018 Raffle



***Two spectacular locations – three amazing prizes – It's no wonder our 2018 Pot of Gold Raffle was a sell-out!***

General Manager, Meg Speirs, conducted the draw at the Masterton Police Station and the winners are:

- **1st - Russ Wilkinson**
- **2nd - Faith Taylor**
- **3rd - Simon Monks**

Our sincerest thanks to Six Senses Fiji and Kauri Cliffs Lodge for their generous support in donating the three prizes.

*Six Senses Fiji - [www.sixsenses.com/resorts/fiji/destination](http://www.sixsenses.com/resorts/fiji/destination)*

*Kauri Cliffs - [www.robertsonlodges.com/the-lodges/kauri-cliffs](http://www.robertsonlodges.com/the-lodges/kauri-cliffs)*

Thanks to this generosity the 2018 Pot of Gold raffle raised \$50,000 for spinal cord injury research. Be sure to watch out early 2019 for the next Pot of Gold raffle!





*Mongolian Cowboys*

# Eion Kemp TAKING ON THE MONGOL DERBY FOR CATWALK

Eion Kemp is taking on the Mongol Derby – the longest and toughest horse race in the world. 40 riders are selected to tackle the 1000km course which follows the Chinggis Khaan’s legendary empire-busting postal system route.

Riders change horses every 40km and stay with the local herders or camp under the stars. Eion chose to support CatWalk in his adventure and recently held a fundraising auction at the NZ Bloodstock Karaka venue which raised \$36,000. Eion gives us an insight into his preparations for the big race:

“In two short months I will be heading off for the Mongol Derby. This adventure is something that I have wanted to do for a number of years, so I took the plunge at the end of last year and applied. As with all things there is much more to them than at first glance and there have been times that I have felt that I may have bitten off more than I can chew.

As well as fitting in the rigors of normal work and family life, I have had to fit in long rides, a lot of gym work and one of the conditions of doing the Mongol Derby is each competitor has to fundraise for a charity of their choosing, mine was CatWalk. Thanks to the great support of New Zealand Bloodstock and the Thoroughbred Industry the auction was a great success raising \$36k.

Over the next few weeks I have a couple 40km rides planned with the Waikato Endurance Club. These will go some way into getting my butt conditioned for the amount of time that I will need to be in the saddle. Weirdly I think the biggest challenge of all has been sorting the gear out. We are only allowed to carry 5kg of gear apart from what we wear, this has to last us

up to 10 days and includes, sleeping bag, shelter of some form and any rations or equipment that we may need /use during the course of the race. While also taking into consideration the huge weather variation, we can expect anything from -5 to 38 degrees. Fortunately food and water is supplied at the stations so while I may be wet/hot/cold and any combination of I will not starve”.

We will be following Eion and sharing any updates on our social media sites. Go well Eion!



*Eion Kemp and Grant Sharman*





Day 35: Kents best picture



*Uplifting the bikes*

# From Singapore to Amsterdam

Flying high above the world on a flight from New Zealand to Holland, Mark Hoksbergen was struck by the sheer size of the world and how we hop from city to city bypassing such vast spaces in between.

“It came to me suddenly, how many experiences I was missing between destinations! How about I ride my motorbike from Singapore to Amsterdam? Ahh, but the idea turned out to be the easy part. What followed was a frantic year of preparation. Firstly I had to convince my wife (surprisingly enthusiastic for me to be somewhere else for 4 months!). Then things started to fall into place when a good friend Kent Gilmore decided to join me on the adventure.

We were now two middle-aged men, with no previous experience in mechanics, medicine or travelling long distances on motorbikes. The only thing going for us was a “can do” attitude (brought on by lack of knowledge) and enthusiasm for trying something new. You could call this the ultimate mid life crisis!”

The route is taking them through Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Laos, China, Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran, Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia, Austria, Germany with the

“We were now two middle-aged men, with no previous experience in mechanics, medicine or travelling long distances on motorbikes. You could call this the ultimate mid life crisis!”

final destination in The Netherlands. Nineteen countries and approximately 20,000 kilometres!

The daily blog which is uploaded on their Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/Singapore-to-Amsterdam-Through-the-Desert-for-Catwalk-160369131447862](http://www.facebook.com/Singapore-to-Amsterdam-Through-the-Desert-for-Catwalk-160369131447862)) makes for fascinating reading. The people they have met, the landscapes, the roads and the situations they have found themselves in are leaving lasting memories of a unique adventure.

“Motivation to involve CatWalk in our adventure came when I met David Pretorius and heard about his daughter Holly who is wheelchair bound after a spinal injury. When I was a teenager I had a severe spinal injury which required surgery. I have been fortunate enough to

have made a complete recovery, but so easily I could have ended up in the wheelchair too. My friend who I am riding with is a police officer so has seen enough traffic injuries to be moved by the life-changing severity of accidents. If we can make our dream more meaningful, it will add to the personal satisfaction of just challenging ourselves.”

Donations to their challenge can be made via [www.givealittle.co.nz/fundraiser/hanoi-to-holland-raising-money-for-spinal-cord](http://www.givealittle.co.nz/fundraiser/hanoi-to-holland-raising-money-for-spinal-cord)



## 2 HALVES, A WHOLE AND A HILL

**R**yan Virtue is a Gisborne boy originally, now a software developer based in Wellington for almost 9 years - “I’m now very much a coffee and craft beer snob so very Wellingtonian at heart”! In December 2017 Ryan decided to set himself a challenge – quite a big challenge!

- Complete 2 half marathons
- Complete 1 full marathon
- Climb Mt Kilimanjaro
- All before 1st November 2018.

Generously, Ryan decided to use his challenge as a platform to raise money to support spinal cord injury research.

“People have asked me where the drive for this all started and I can’t actually pin it down to a point in time. But it probably had something to do with the fact I was feeling like I’d got too comfy sitting behind a desk all day and after being nearly 3 years smoke free it was time to prove to myself that I could do something I could never have dreamed of before; run two half marathons, run a full marathon and climb Mount Kilimanjaro. When I set these challenges for myself I knew it was gonna be tough, and not just because for the average human these are pretty epic goals to set, but because at the time I was unfit, slightly overweight and opted for beersies at the pub over lacing my shoes and running the trails around Wellington.

Well I can tell you now with my first half marathon under my belt and the second looming closer each day - it has been tough, but maybe not for the reasons I could have



predicted. From 6am runs in the rain to breaking down mental barriers and pushing through agonising Kms it’s been hard, but nipple chafing has been the unsuspecting killer. No one tells you that lubing your nipples before a run is an essential step to surviving 15+ kms. I also had to discover that downing a coffee before a run is a bad call. Coffee does not equal more stamina. Coffee equals “runners belly” ... and if you don’t know what it is Google it.

There have been many times that I’ve wanted to pack it in. It would be so easy to just stop and throw my runners into some dark corner, along with the tube of 3M cream, but I know that giving up isn’t an option for some people who face trials much much harder than what I have, every day. My decision to raise funds for CatWalk has given me the much needed motivation to keep going when I’ve wanted to give up. I believe in everything they aim to achieve and if I can push through runners belly and chaffed nipples to help contribute in some way to their cause, then it’s all been worth it.”

Ryan’s next half will be the Wellington Marathon on the 1st July. “From there I will already be in full marathon and mountain training. My climb will start in early September, tentatively from the 7th and all going well I will summit on the 14th (Tanzania time)”. Ryan will finish his challenge as part of Team CatWalk at the ASB Auckland Marathon on 29th October.

To keep up with Ryans story and to donate to his challenge visit [www.givealittle.co.nz/fundraiser/two-halves-a-whole-and-a-hill](http://www.givealittle.co.nz/fundraiser/two-halves-a-whole-and-a-hill) and <https://aucklandmarathon2018.everydayhero.com/nz/2-halves-a-whole-and-a-hill-1>



## EMPOWER GOLF

**T**o facilitate and promote golf for people with all abilities. Relationship manager Chris Lovelady had the opportunity to meet with the team from Empower Australia and experience how the paragolfer is giving those with a disability the opportunity to swing a golf club. Empower Golf CEO James Gribble and PGA coach Lachy Foulsham completed a tour of NZ holding clinics at various golf courses late in 2017.

At these clinics, individuals were able to try golf, the incredible ParaGolfer (a stand-up all-terrain mobility devised for golf) and other adaptive equipment under the guidance of Lachy who is a specialised disability golf coach. The aim of the trip was to showcase just how powerful golf can be for people with disabilities and to encourage NZ golf clubs to commit to delivering inclusive golf spaces including: physical access, purchasing equipment and ongoing support through disabled golf clinics. Currently Empower Golf has 12 facilities nationally in Australia that are involved. These clubs have:

- 100% user friendly access
- Have a para golfer unit
- Inclusive mentality for all disabilities
- Monthly training courses with their PGA accredited coach for disabled golfers
- Starting to run tournaments which include access to golfers using the para golfer unit

“It was heart-warming to see Ian, a gentleman in his late sixties who had not swung a club for over 20 years since an accident left him unable to walk, use the paragolfer. Under the guidance of Lachy, it didn’t take him long to be hitting the ball off the tee and straight down the fairway with the widest of smiles on his face.”

For more  
information visit:  
[empowergolf.com.au](http://empowergolf.com.au)

## CatWalk funding expedites clinical trials into SCI research at Griffith University

CatWalk Spinal Injury Trust (CatWalk Trust) continues to pursue its mission of a world free of paralysis caused by spinal cord injury



*Catriona with Dr James St John, Griffith University researcher*

CatWalk Spinal Injury Trust (CatWalk Trust) continues to pursue its mission of a world free of paralysis caused by spinal cord injury, announcing a NZD \$75,000 grant towards research being undertaken by the Clem Jones Centre for Neurobiology and Stem Cell Research at Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia. The core project, which is funded by the Queensland State Government and the Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation, is investigating how cellular intervention can promote repair and regeneration within the spinal cord following an injury, in particular the capacity to grow nerve bridges that can create stable connections within the injury site. The researchers achieve this by growing a combined culture of two types of cell – “fibroblasts”, a type of stem cell that provides structural and biochemical support to the surrounding cells, alongside “olfactory ensheathing cells” (OECs), a type of cell found in the nervous system that helps to provide nutrition and physical support – which are then introduced to the area surrounding the damaged spinal cord. The co-culture, called a nerve bridge, is then introduced to the hostile environment around the damaged spinal cord, where it helps to foster interactions to stabilise the environment, and allow the damaged spinal cord to begin a process of repair or regeneration. The research has already shown promising results in the creation of two-dimensional cells grown in within the lab, and the researchers have also successfully constructed three-dimensional cells. The next step is to determine whether the nerve bridges they construct are healthy, and whether they will continue to be healthy once they are introduced to the damaged spinal cord.

“We now know we’re able to produce the cells, and we have conducted successful tests in two-dimensional models,” says Associate Professor James St John, who is leading the research project. “But the real-world application will happen in three dimensions, and that is where our focus is currently. The bigger the cells get, the more complicated the process becomes, and the more variables there are to practical application in a clinical environment.” Chief among those variables, says Dr St John, is the ratio of fibroblasts to OECs, and the density of the three-dimensional culture. But it’s not a simple process, and one

that relies on a lengthy process of trial and error, working closely with clinicians to address the technical requirements of the treatment. It’s a process that Dr St John likens to replacing a car tyre without knowing anything about the tyre being replaced, in that the nerve bridge must meet every possible variable in order to function properly. The funding from the CatWalk Trust will be directed at addressing those variables, to accelerate the clinical trials process utilising three-dimensional nerve bridges. It means the Dr St John and his team will be able to conduct higher risk trials, which could produce better results in clinical therapy.

“We are now trying to get to a stage where we can demonstrate positive outcomes in clinical trials, and the CatWalk Trust grant is critical in helping us to expedite the process of checking the many, many variables that arise in a real-world environment,” says Dr St John. Catriona Williams MNZM, founder of the CatWalk Trust and a C6/C7 tetraplegic, says that directing funding towards speeding up the clinical process is typical of CatWalk Trust’s dedication to supporting pioneering and ground-breaking research projects, and its tireless efforts to get people out of wheelchairs and back on their feet.

“New Zealand has one of highest rates of spinal cord injury per capita in the Western world,” she says. “Every year, between 80 to 130 people per year, suffer an acute spinal cord injury – one that results in paralysis.”

“Spinal cord injury has an overwhelming impact here in New Zealand, as it does in Australia, and the opportunity to speed up new therapeutic interventions like those being investigated by Dr St John and his team was a major driver in CatWalk Trust awarding the funding grant.”

Dr St John agrees, saying that speeding up the clinical process is where the research will have its most demonstrable impact.

“We are essentially trying to do everything at once – the real driver being to get our research out there as fast as possible,” he says. For Catriona Williams, and for others living with paralysis caused by spinal cord injury, it can’t come soon enough.



ACC Minister Iain Lees-Galloway

# Spinal Cord INJURY REGISTRY RELEASES FIRST REPORT

Falls, sports, and vehicle accidents are the leading causes of traumatic injuries among the 161 people covered by the New Zealand Spinal Cord Injury Registry's first report, says ACC Minister Iain Lees-Galloway.

"This report is the result of an unprecedented programme of data collection and analysis, and provides the most accurate picture to date of New Zealanders living with spinal cord injuries," Iain Lees-Galloway says.

"It outlines trends in the traumatic spinal cord injury population such as age distributions; the types of injury and their causes; where people go to receive treatment; how long they are in hospital, and their physical functioning once they are discharged.

"The considerable level of detail in the data will hopefully provide new insights to researchers, health care providers, and policy makers that will support strategies and approaches to improve the care and outcomes for people with spinal cord injuries," Iain Lees-Galloway says.

The Registry was set up in 2016 to improve information sharing and the understanding of spinal cord injuries, and

"The considerable level of detail in the data will hopefully provide new insights to researchers, health care providers, and policy makers."

## Males account for 73% of all spinal cord injuries

the common complications that occur following injury. Two-thirds of participants in the report suffered a trauma, with 36 per cent injured in a fall; 28 per cent during sport, and 23 per cent as the result of a vehicle accident. Non-traumatic injuries are largely due to degeneration, disease, cancer, or infection.

### Snapshots from the report:

- New Zealand Europeans make up 47 per cent of all participants in the report, followed by Māori (21 per cent), and Samoans (six per cent);
- Māori have a much higher incidence of traumatic injuries (28 per cent of all traumatic injuries) than non-traumatic (eight per cent);
- Males account for 73 per cent of all spinal cord injuries, and are more likely to suffer a traumatic (78 per cent) than non-traumatic injury (64 per cent);
- Women are more likely to have non-traumatic (36 per cent) than traumatic injuries (22 per cent);
- The Registry cover people aged 15 years and older. The youngest participant is 15 and the oldest 88. The average age is 51.

NZSCIR is jointly funded by the Accident Compensation Corporation, Canterbury District Health Board and Counties Manukau Health, in partnership with the Rick Hansen Institute (Canada).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE REPORT PLEASE VISIT THE NEW ZEALAND SPINAL TRUST LINK:

[www.nzspinaltrust.org.nz/nzscir](http://www.nzspinaltrust.org.nz/nzscir)





# Equitana AUCKLAND

CatWalk was chosen as the supported charity for the inaugural Equitana Auckland.

Held at the ASB Showgrounds over 4 days 23 – 26 November, Equitana showcased all things equestrian with competitions, entertainment, education and of course shopping opportunities!

The event started with a parade along Queen Street in central Auckland which turned many heads of those who were working or commuting – it is not every day you see a wagon pulled by Clydesdales and other horses being ridden and led up the main street of the busiest city in New Zealand!

Throughout the four days masterclasses were conducted by international clinicians, one of which was esteemed eventer Andrew Nicholson. At the conclusion of his class, our founder Catriona Williams was part of a discussion with Andrew on safety in eventing which was very well received by the large crowd.

Another highlight was the International Hobby-Horse Challenge which raised \$3000 for CatWalk. Sincere thanks to Rhiannon Armistead of Cambridge Equestrian for organising this event and to the “riders” and businesses who sponsored each hobby horse. Auctioneer on the night was Steve Davis who has performed many of CatWalk’s auctions.

Our partners Mitavite, Magnum Industries and Hit-Air Vest were also in attendance in the large trade village and were kept busy by the large amount of attendees who were looking for advice and new products to purchase. Mitavite generously had a prize pack draw each day with all proceeds to CatWalk.

Equitana will be back in Auckland in 2019 and will once again strive to present an international quality event for their audience. We thank them sincerely for the opportunity to be the chosen charity for 2017 and for the donation which was given from ticket sales.



*Oliver Bradshaw (ambassador), Andrew Nicholson, Kate Lambie (ambassador), Chris Lovelady and Catriona Williams*



*Catriona with Kate Lambie (Airvest) Karen Patrick and Janine Simons (Mitavite)*



*Equitana Andrew Nicholson masterclass*



*Equitana Hobby Horse Challenge*



# Thank You



## Save the Date Auction for Action

.....  
**WHEN:** Thursday 11th October 2018

**WHAT:** Black Tie Auction Dinner

**WHERE:** South Island National Equestrian Centre, McLeans Island, Christchurch

Presented by Eventing Canterbury Inc., held in conjunction with South Island Three Day Event 2018. Further information will be available soon via our website ([www.catwalk.org.nz](http://www.catwalk.org.nz)) and Facebook ([www.facebook.com/thecatwalktrust](http://www.facebook.com/thecatwalktrust)).



### CAMBRIDGE EQUESTRIAN ELEGANCE HOBBY HORSE CHALLENGE

Thank you to Rhiannon Armistead of Cambridge Equestrian who organised The International Hobby-Horse Challenge at Equitana Auckland. Such a fun event with professional riders performing a dressage freestyle to music on “sponsored” hobby horses which were then auctioned by Steve Davis. Bidding was strong on all six horses with a final total of \$3000 donated to CatWalk.

[www.facebook.com/equestrian.elegance](http://www.facebook.com/equestrian.elegance)

.....

## #howwillyouwearit

#howwillyouwearit# calendars were a great hit around the country. Sincere thanks to Rachel Martin and Trudi Mitchell for the inspiration, Sue Wilson for the production, and the sponsors and purchasers who all contributed to the final tally donated to CatWalk of \$4189!

.....

## Kylie Banks

Kylie Banks chose to donate \$735 which was raised by an auction of a stallion service.



### HAY, HAY AND MORE HAY!!

What to do when you have hundreds of bales of Lucerne hay to cart and stack? Thanks to Aaron Dixon and Jackson Lovelady who rallied round their friends and workmates to cart and stack approximately 800 bales of Lucerne hay which resulted in a very generous donation of \$2000 to CatWalk from supporter Helen Maskery.



We are always grateful to our supporters who are so generous



**SHOW JUMPING WAITEMATA & MAGNUM INDUSTRIES.**

At the January World Cup final event there was a sponsors charity challenge. This was won by Magnum Industries & they nominated to donate the \$1000 prize money to CatWalk.



**SABATO**

Since 1993 Sabato have been sourcing fine foods primarily from Italy, Spain and France. When we want to say a very special thank you, Sabato have a superb range of gift baskets that can be delivered anywhere in New Zealand.

[www.sabato.co.nz](http://www.sabato.co.nz)



**PUHINUI INTERNATIONAL 3 DAY EVENT**

Held early December 2017, the organisers supported CatWalk through their corporate hospitality packages by donating \$10 from every ticket sold. Major supporter of the event, Honda NZ very generously also donated from their corporate guests with a total of \$730 received from the event. Thanks to CatWalk ambassador Kate Lambie who explained the finer points of eventing to the guests on the cross country day.

## Corporate Supporters



Name: .....

Address: .....

Phone: ..... Email: .....

**Yes, I want to donate to spinal cord injury research.**

Please accept my gift: (all donations of \$5 or more are tax deductible)

One-Off Donation

OR

Regular Donation

I authorise CatWalk to make automatic deductions from my credit card until further notice.

Amount: \$ ..... Frequency:  Weekly  Monthly

Payment Method:

Please debit my credit card:  VISA  MasterCard Amount: \$ .....

Card Number: ..... Expiry Date: .....

Name on Card: .....

Signature: .....

OR  I have enclosed my cheque to The CatWalk Trust

OR  Via our website [www.catwalk.org.nz/help-us/#donate](http://www.catwalk.org.nz/help-us/#donate)

OR  Direct Credit to ANZ account number 06 0689 0243239 00

Please ensure the following details are provided so we can track and acknowledge your details accurately:

- In the Internet bank field called "particulars" put YOUR NAME

