

The official magazine of

# CATWALK™

Funding research to cure spinal cord injury



July 2021

## **Professor Emeritus Louise Nicholson CNZM**

Page

16

Queenstown Marathon  
Sophia Malthus YouTube

15

21

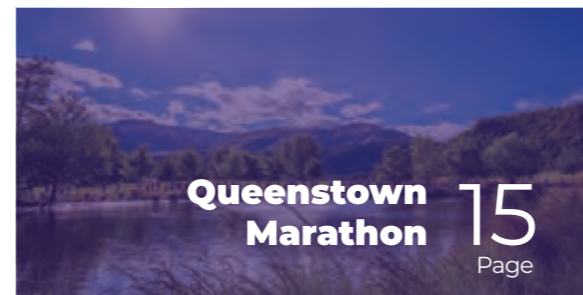
July 2021

# This issue



## Content

- Founder's Footnote..... 1
- International Patron ..... 2
- The CatWalk Open Golf..... 3
- Chairman's Report..... 4
- The Grocery Charity Ball 2021 ..... 5
- Funding Graphic ..... 6
- Research/Scientific Update..... 8
- Profile – Dr Sheryl Tan..... 12
- Queenstown Marathon Call Out..... 15
- Professor Emeritus Louise Nicholson CNZM ..... 16
- CatWalk Patrons..... 19
- Corporate Supporters..... 20
- Sophia Malthus YouTube ..... 21
- Thanks Blake Highet & Emily Clay ..... 22
- Good luck to Lachlan MacDonald for Gold Coast Marathon..... 24
- Cheques ..... 25



*A special thank you to our supporters who help us produce this magazine*

### NATIONAL PATRONS

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), Grant Sharman (Deputy), Emeritus Professor Louise Nicholson, Tom Brady, Paul Wilcox, Fiona Webby, Simon Manners.

# Founder's Footnote

### Dear CatWalkers

Well June has been a month of two chapters, one being lots of fun, the other our next challenge. Sam and I were lucky enough to escape to the Gold Coast so I could support the Perry Cross fundraiser which was a stunning evening and spend time at Making Strides, the gym we have all grown to love so much. We were also lucky enough to go inland 6 hours to visit Ginny and Rob Warby for the very first time. Ginny has been a part of my fun crazy life since I was 15 and was also involved in our recent La Loire et CatWalk adventure. Sam enjoyed his time selecting a couple of broodmares at GC Magic Millions sale for clients and although we had to reschedule our planned visit to NeuRa in Sydney due to Covid we knew how lucky we were to have been and done what we had in the current climate.

A few days later on Queens Birthday Saturday we had a fantastic dinner with great friends...the ending was not what we had planned.

Basically, two strong men unfortunately slipped whilst carrying me down some stairs. I hit my head which made C2 jump over C3, a very simple accident with quite a major outcome. The good news at this stage is that despite initially my right arm not moving, we seem to have gained the neurological level that I had previously of C6/7. This I am incredibly grateful for. There are still some big decisions to be made over the next 6 months, but, so far, despite looking like a scarecrow, we have been incredibly lucky.

To go through a life changing injury is a massive mental and physical challenge as everyone reading this will know but I truly never thought I would be digging deep to recover from another.



Catriona with Perry Cross

I'd like to say a special thank-you to the whole CatWalk community, all my close friends and family too who have sent the most incredible messages, presents and kind thoughts. You are all dealing with your own personal mountains to climb and yet you've found time in your day to think of this blonde in the chair.

This road is not going to be a short one, nor will it be easy but thanks to you all, with a little bit of grit and a lot of patience, I can assure you we will be giving it everything possible to make this outcome a winning one.

There have been requests of how people can support. For me nothing has changed, it is still about getting these legs working again, so please keep backing the CatWalk team, your fellow wheelies and any of the fun initiatives dedicated to backing

the very best cutting-edge spinal cord injury research worldwide. It may be purchasing the incredible book by Hamish Ramsden 'Dogs Getting Fat' (just email Hamish Ramsden hramdsen@xtra.co.nz ) or running the Queenstown Marathon but as I have said "Life is about doing, not having, GO DO".

A special shout out to the team at Life Flight, as well as the nurses, Drs and surgeons at Christchurch ICU and Burwood who have all been outstanding. - It's quite simple - I would not be here without you.

In closing, how proud are we all of EP Louise Nicholson. Her dedication to our goal is immeasurable. Keep working your magic Louise, we all adore you.

Love,  
**Catriona**

# Chairman's Report

As Chairman of The CatWalk Spinal Cord Injury Research Trust, it is my great pleasure to present the annual accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2021.

Despite the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic creating significant fundraising uncertainty, I am extremely proud to report that CatWalk's dedication to funding spinal cord injury research was stronger than ever. Our total revenue for the year amounted to \$1,398,066, a fantastic 3% increase on the \$1,363,349 raised in 2020.

As a result of the critical and immediate need for spinal cord injury research funding, the Trust's 2021 accounts show a loss of \$298,671. At first glance this may seem a somewhat undesirable outcome. However, this financial loss came about as a result of payments of \$1,366,072 being made to fund scientific research projects of an exceptional nature. The trustees are incredibly proud of this fact - we have effectively invested every Dollar raised in 2021 directly into world-leading research.

Our vision is a world free from spinal cord injury paralysis and the role of CatWalk is to fund outstanding research which will help create this reality. In this financial year, we remained true to our mission by providing funding to clinical and biomedical research projects, sponsorship of educational programmes, and the continued funding of the state-of-the-art Spinal Cord Injury Research Facility based at the University of Auckland.

For a full breakdown of where your money was allocated during the 2021 financial year, please refer to page 6.

Acknowledgement must go to the CatWalk Board of Trustees. Under their judicious governance and oversight, CatWalk's precious funds are managed with the utmost integrity and pragmatism.

## Here's how we fundraised during financial year 2021.

### Service Fee – Microphone

Thanks to Darley Australia, Lot number 83 at the 2020 New Zealand Bloodstock Weanling Sale in June 2020 was a service to 2019 Gr.1 Sires' Produce Stakes winner Microphone. The Gavelhouse Plus online auction platform and New Zealand Bloodstock both waived their respective fees to ensure that the full \$40,000 bid was donated directly to spinal cord injury research.

### Auckland Marathon

Taking place in October 2020, TeamCatWalk'20 ran various distances at the Auckland Marathon. All team members ran or walked all manner of distances from 5km through to the full marathon. Once again, everyone funded their own way there in addition to raising funds for spinal cord injury. The team successfully raised over \$40,000 for this campaign.

Other notable happenings during the year included:

- » Ongoing partnerships with Mitavite, an equine nutrition company; 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.
- » A new relationship was formed with Treadlite NZ Ltd, the manufacturer of the Premium

Arena Surface, which is a recycled rubber product made at their purpose-built plant in Cambridge. \$2.50 from each bag of Premium Arena Surface sold is donated to CatWalk.

- » Bell Gully and Findex again provided pro-bono legal and accounting services respectively. Their services in-kind save the CatWalk Trust thousands of Dollars, all of which go straight back into research projects.
- » Significant donations were received from generous donors, of which we give ongoing thanks: The Lindsay Foundation, Thompson Family Foundation, Dorothy Cutts, Scarlet Trust, and the Jones Foundation.

Thank you also to the CatWalk team - Meg, Chris and Donna - for their hard work and sincere passion. Thank you to our Founder, Patrons, and Ambassadors for their dedication.

But most importantly, I would like to thank our donors. We cannot make a difference without you. Thank you for your help in funding and helping to find a cure for spinal cord injury.

### David Pretorius

Chairman | CatWalk Board of Trustees



# The Grocery Charity Ball 2021

## Supports Spinal Cord Injury Research

Held annually since 2004, the NZ Grocery Charity Ball is regarded as the premier event of the social calendar for the grocery industry who come together to support charities in New Zealand.

Since its inception, the NZ Grocery Charity Ball has given out over 3.7million in donations and **CatWalk are thrilled to be named as the 2021 recipient charity.**

This years event is to be held at the Cordis Hotel, Auckland on September 25th. Further details can be found at [www.grocerycharityball.org](http://www.grocerycharityball.org)

# See who you're supporting with your donations.



## Neurostimulation treatments Sydney-based clinical trial

Development of neurostimulation treatments to return feeling and function to those that have been paralysed.

**Total commitment: \$1,750,000** AUD\$

*Connor Clement*

## Gene therapy and cell transplantation in chronic SCI

This project aims to combine the gene therapy approach with enriched cell transplantation to promote stronger connections for recovery.

**Total commitment: \$114,777** (payments also made in 2018-2019)

## The NZ Brain Bee Challenge (NZBBC)

This high school competition encourages students in Year 11 to learn about the brain and its functions, the latest advances in neuroscience research and career pathways.

**Total commitment: \$45,000** (committed until 2024)

*Dr Simon O'Carroll*

## Spinal Cord Injury Research Facility (SCIRF)

A goal of SCIRF is to maintain ongoing research programmes to develop novel treatments for SCI and to attract new ideas through local and international biomedical and clinical collaborations.

**Total commitment: \$580,880** (committed until 2025)

*Dr Amy Chapman*

## Generating human oligodendrocyte cells for the treatment of SCI- Postdoctoral funding

This study will investigate whether the precursor cells of human oligodendrocytes (highly specialised neural cells) generated from human skin cells can be used for cell transplantation to promote natural repair and improve electrical pathways.

**Total commitment: \$186,842**

Continue over

	2021 1 April 2020- 31 March 2021	2022 1 April 2021- 31 March 2022	2023 1 April 2022- 31 March 2023
Neurostimulation treatments Sydney-based clinical trial	\$850,000	\$900,000	
Gene therapy and cell transplantation in chronic SCI	\$20,250		
The NZ Brain Bee Challenge (NZBBC)	2020 competition cancelled due to COVID-19	\$15,000	\$15,000
Spinal Cord Injury Research Facility (SCIRF)	\$116,176	\$116,176	\$116,176
Generating human oligodendrocyte cells for the treatment of SCI- Postdoctoral funding	\$92,558	\$94,284	

*Associate Professor Darren Svirskis*

## The Health Research Council of NZ (HRC) and The CatWalk Trust strategic partnership

Co-funded by CatWalk and the HRC, this project investigates an innovative new treatment combining both beneficial electrical fields and nerve growth factors to regenerate damaged nerves.

**Total commitment: \$250,000** (payment also made in 2019 and 2020)

## Dr Sheryl Tan (Extension)

Complete analysis and testing of an existing drug (Tonabersat) to stop chronic inflammation and provide training.

**Total commitment: \$22,464**

*Associate Professor Darren Svirskis*

## Applying sustained electrical fields to achieve functional recovery after SCI

This project aims to determine the efficacy of sustained electrical fields incorporated into a bioelectronic implant to direct axonal regeneration after SCI.

**Total commitment: \$337,942**

*Dr Sheryl Tan*

## Calcium binding buffer proteins and neuroprotection

A series of functional studies will be conducted using human spinal cord tissue and stem cells to see if the distribution of calcium binding buffers are altered in the injured spinal cord and therefore if they create neurodegeneration.

**Total commitment: \$186,818**

*Dr Amy Chapman*

## Generating human oligodendrocyte precursor cells from adult human dermal fibroblasts - Project funding

This project will compare the viability and differentiation of cells encapsulated in 3D bio printed hydrogels verses the traditional flat 2D substrates.

**Total commitment: \$55,833**

**Total :**

\$79,365

\$22,464

\$130,678

\$142,564

\$64,700

\$186,818

\$55,833

2021  
1 April 2020-  
31 March 2021

\$1,311,491

2022  
1 April 2021-  
31 March 2022

\$1,510,675

2023  
1 April 2022-  
31 March 2023

\$195,876

## Thank you for all your support!

Your generosity enables critical research and gives hope to Kiwis with spinal cord injuries that they will walk again.



# Research update

**Associate Professor Darren Svirskis**

Over the last six months we have enjoyed getting the team back in the lab and the research moving forward.

We continue to develop stretchable microelectrode arrays (Figure 1), to assess injuries and potential treatments in nerve cell cultures. Dr Brad Raos leads this work and has overcome several development issues to be able to prepare a conductive and stretchable material that he can pattern into different shapes. The next stage will be to pattern microelectrode arrays and use these to grow and test nerve cells.

Anusha Dravid is a senior PhD candidate in the group who has been using more conventional materials to grow nerve cells so that we can test how they respond to growth factors (Figure 2). In the future we will use growth factors to encourage damaged nerve cells to regenerate and reconnect.

In our rat-based research we are now able to position and maintain our bioelectronic implant directly on the spinal cord. We have taken recordings of the electrical signals passing up and down the cords in freely moving animals, which we believe to be a world first. Very recently we have managed to position and maintain our implant on the spinal cord of a rat that has suffered a cord injury, and taken electrical recordings. Now that

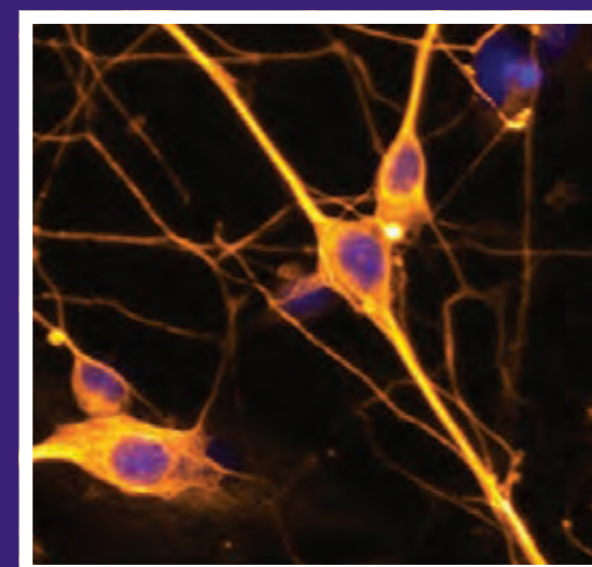
we are able to collect these electrical signals we can interrogate them to learn more about the injury, and recovery. To assist with this we have gained the assistance of Dr Nira Paskaranandavadivel from the Auckland Bioengineering Institute, and two of his Honors level students. Nira has experience in processing electrical signals from the gut and we are looking forward to working more with him.

With support from CatWalk we have recently recruited a new PhD student, Rishi Pattabhiraman. Rishi joins us from the University of Otago. He has previous neuroscience experience from his Masters degree and we are excited to have him join Dr Bruce Harland working with our rat model of spinal cord injury.

**“we have managed to position and maintain our implant on the spinal cord”**

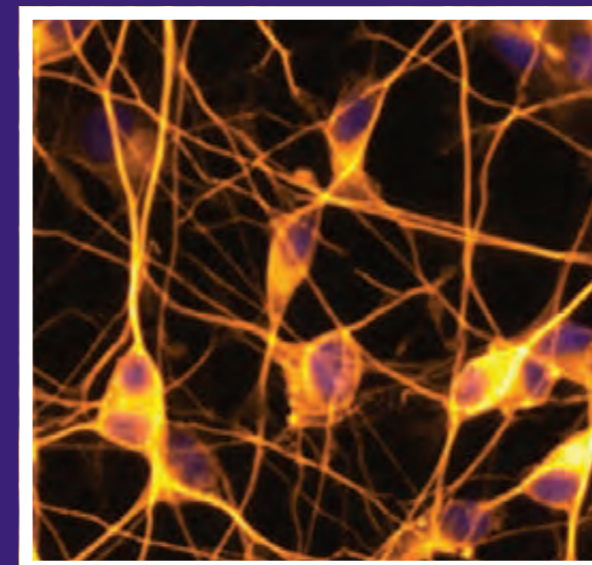


**Figure 1:** Stretchable and conductive material that we can pattern into a microelectrode array. In this image we are demonstrating the ability to pattern shapes by showing the CatWalk logo.



**Fig 2:** Nerve cells can be stimulated by growth factors to send out axons

Cells Without growth factor



Cells after treatment with growth factor for 24 hours

Update June 2021

# Spinal Cord Injury Research Facility Progress

**Dr Simon O'Carroll**

Following on from the disruption of 2020 we are back in the lab, working hard to make up for the disruption of last year. While progress has been affected we are still pushing ahead with our projects to make new discoveries for treatments for spinal cord injury.

## Visualising changes in the spinal cord after injury

The work being carried by PhD student Zahra Laouby, in collaboration with Dr Juliette Cheyne and funded by the Jon and Louise Nicholson Spinal Cord Injury Research Scholarship, is helping us to understand how changes happen in the brain and spinal cord in real time and therefore understand more precisely how treatments work. This will improve our ability to develop more effective techniques to repair the spinal cord. Using a tiny camera attached to the mouse we can look at changes in nerve cell activity in

the brain and spinal cord as they happen. This electrical activity can be used to see if the nerve cell is functioning normally and whether treatments are working effectively. This work is progressing and Zahra is currently optimising the method to better see the activity of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. Later this year we will be able to undertake experiments to see how activity changes in the brain and spinal cord with injury. We then aim to use this approach in conjunction with treatment and be able to accurately measure the effect it is having and how we might improve it.

---

**“improve our ability to develop more effective techniques to repair the spinal cord”**

## Gene therapy and cell transplantation

The project being carried out by PhD student Connor Clemett, to inject cells, which are involved in protecting nerve cells and allowing them to function properly, alongside our scar removing therapy is progressing well. Connor is currently optimising the growth of these cells and will carry out experiments to understand how scar removal promotes growth of these cells. A recent finding is that these protective cells also express this scar removing gene and that this is important for the growth of these cells. A Masters student Jerram Sheehan is working on a new project to understand how expression of this gene in these cells relates to injury, with the goal that we may be able to target it as a treatment for spinal cord injury.

## Novel targets for spinal cord repair

The project currently underway by Dr Sheryl Tan, a CatWalk Trust Postdoctoral Research Fellow, aims to accurately map where neuroprotective proteins are found in the spinal cord in order to better understand how we may target them for treatment. This work is well underway and following this, in collaboration with Professor Brian Kwon from the University of British Columbia we aim to see how this changes with spinal cord injury. We will then test ways to increase these proteins in injured nerves, with the goal of determining if this may have potential as a treatment.



# Profile

## Dr Sheryl Tan

### Our best and brightest

One of The CatWalk Trust's key objectives is to identify and support medical research into techniques designed for the regeneration of the effects of spinal cord injuries (SCI).

This is a difficult proposition.

CatWalk's mission of identifying and then funding worthy research into a cure for SCI-paralysis is a lengthy process. Foremost, it requires review by an independent scientific panel to ensure that the research is valuable, and that it has the potential to improve outcomes for those living with SCI-paralysis.

But even more challenging is the fact that world-class research needs world-class minds to drive it. That means that one of the most important considerations driving the progress for a cure for SCI-paralysis is attracting the best and brightest scientific minds into spinal cord injury research.



CatWalk is lucky enough to support many bona fide high achievers who are conducting leading research into a cure for spinal cord injury paralysis. Mirroring the goals of The CatWalk Trust, these researchers are often driven by an overwhelming desire to help others.

One of them is Dr Sheryl Tan, who by her own admission is "driven by service".

A Research Fellow at the University of Auckland's Spinal Cord Injury Research Facility, Dr Tan is currently spearheading a comparative analysis of the "disordered" physiological processes associated with SCI, which she is conducting using real human spinal tissue.

This research aims to create a comparison between calcium levels in damaged spinal cords and undamaged spinal cords, which will feed into the growing body of knowledge being used to develop effective therapies for SCI.

Specifically, Dr Tan is investigating calcium binding buffer proteins in the spinal cord. These are the proteins involved in buffering and maintaining the correct amount of calcium available to participate in cellular processes, including neurotransmission (the process by which cells "talk", or send messages to each other).

The research focuses on three proteins: parvalbumin, calbindin, and calretinin. These proteins bind to calcium and are found throughout the central nervous system. They play critical roles in neurotransmission and apoptosis (a type of "programmed" cell death the body uses to get rid of unneeded or abnormal cells).

The theory is that, by binding to calcium that occurs within the cells, these proteins have the capacity to reduce the amount of calcium available to enable of apoptosis and inappropriate neurotransmission to occur, which can result in excitotoxicity. In basic terms, this means that the motor neurons in the spinal cord – the ones that enable communication between the brain and the body – are unable to function.

The natural presence of these proteins, how they are distributed in the uninjured and injured human spinal cord, and how they respond to inflammation in SCI, has never been studied before.

"It adds to the wider context of 'how'," explains Dr Tan. "So few studies are being done with human tissue samples, and I think that this will flow into how we build testing and therapy models in the future. We need to



There is a feeling that we're doing something special...

understand exactly what is occurring in the human cells, rather than just looking at animal models or cells in a petri dish."

"If they're reduced in samples taken from damaged spinal cord samples, it may indicate increased vulnerability. But at the moment it's only speculation; we can't make a call until we have actually observed what is happening."

Dr Tan extols the collaboration and creativity of research in a university setting, which differs from the economic drivers in commercial research facilities. She describes the work occurring at the Spinal Cord Injury Research Facility and the Centre for Brain Research as "research with heart".

There is, says Dr Tan, a "privilege" and a duty to working with human tissue samples, which adds to the weight of the research.

"There is a feeling that we're doing something special with our research, that it has a real intent and a real purpose," says Dr Tan. "That is why funding support is so immensely important, and the security of ongoing funding support."

The alternative, highlights Dr Tan, is that the progression of vital research such as hers could stagnate, or that it could be disrupted by obstacles to continuity. Neither of these are likely to produce positive outcomes for those living with SCI-paralysis.

"The support of The CatWalk Trust has been immensely important in this respect."

Many of those Dr Tan works alongside have personal experience, such as a loved one who has experienced a degenerative brain disorder or SCI-paralysis. While she doesn't have that same personal experience, her drive comes from an innate desire to help others. It is an opportunity, she says, to use her talent and experience in scientific research to achieve something that is potentially transformational for the community. That sense of service doesn't stop when she leaves the lab.

While she concedes that her research leaves her time poor, Dr Tan still finds myriad ways to involve herself in extracurricular community work.

She regularly gives talks at primary schools on the brain, how it works, what scientific research is being done into it, and to encourage science as a career path. Passing the torch on to others, as she puts it.

She is also highly involved in the alumni network of her alma mater, Diocesan School for Girls. It's Dio that Dr Tan credits with providing her with the network and the resources to pursue her passion for scientific research.

In the rest of her spare downtime, Dr Tan finds even more ways to give back.

As a two-time National weight division champion weightlifter, she contributes to the New Zealand weightlifting community as an Olympic selector, literally enabling others to carry the torch, and to pass it on in turn.

A fitting metaphor: with passionate, high-performing and charitable researchers such as Dr Tan, the search for a cure is surely in safe hands.



JOIN TEAM CATWALK FOR THE

# Queenstown Marathon

SATURDAY  
20<sup>th</sup> NOV 2021



Help CatWalk raise money for spinal cord injury research at this most beautiful of NZ locations.



For further information visit [catwalk.org.nz](https://catwalk.org.nz)



# Professor Emeritus **Louise Nicholson CNZM**

**“Louise is a one in a million human being that I’m very proud to call a close friend”**

Catriona Williams

Professor Emeritus Louise Frances Basford Nicholson – of Snells Beach. For services to neuroscience and education. CNZM

Every now and then, a special person comes along that leaves a lasting impression. Emeritus Professor Louise Nicholson is one such person, and we were

---

**One particular event of interest for Louise is the NZ Brain Bee Challenge which she co-founded.**

delighted when it was announced she had become a Companion of the NZ Order of Merit in the 2021 New Year’s Honours.

Currently a member of the Board of Trustees for CatWalk, Louise has had a long and distinguished career in science and teaching at the University of Auckland. Her interest in science came to her early in her childhood and continues to be as strong today as ever.

At Auckland University while an undergraduate studying for her first degree in Zoology, Louise met Jon Nicholson who was studying Marine Biology at the time, and what was to become an enduring relationship began over the gathering of insects for a science course project! Half a century later they are still passionate about the science of the natural world, though now with a son, Jonathan who is the Environmental manager on the Puhoi to Warkworth motorway construction, and three Grandsons.

On graduating from Auckland University with a PhD in Cell Biology Louise moved overseas to take up a Rhodes Fellowship at Oxford University before returning to New Zealand to continue her career first as a science teacher in Mahurangi College in Warkworth where she lives, and then in 1989 moving back to the Medical School at Auckland University to re write the first year Medical School curriculum.

One particular event of interest for Louise is the NZ Brain Bee Challenge which she co-founded. First held in 2006, The New Zealand Brain Bee Challenge is a competition for high school students in year 11 to learn about the brain and its functions, learn about neuroscience research, find out about careers in neuroscience and to dispel misconceptions about neurological and mental illnesses. It was when approaching CatWalk for support of this event in 2008 that Louise and CatWalk Founder Catriona Williams met.

*“Louise is a one in a million human being that I’m very proud to call a close friend” says Catriona. “I’m also incredibly humbled by all the work and energy she dedicates to CatWalk. The saying goes “no one cares about what you have to say until they realise that what you have to say you really care about” is right on the mark when you discuss Louise’s favourite subject. Her*



Louise at the Auckland Marathon.

want to make a difference to Spinal Cord Injury research has not wavered in 15 years, as mentioned, this is highly contagious to anyone lucky enough to spend time with her. With thanks to her neurological background she thoroughly understands the science and research that is happening worldwide. Louise is confident that functional gain and a serious SCI breakthrough will happen in her lifetime. Quite simply she believes and so do we."

Following that meeting, a spark was ignited with Louise as to how her work could help improve the outcome of those who suffered a spinal cord injury, and in 2011, under Louise's guidance the Spinal Cord Injury Research Facility (SCIRF) at the Centre for Brain Research, Auckland University, was opened.

Since then, the SCIRF has nurtured and grown researchers and projects aimed at finding a cure for spinal cord injury, and Louise has stated on many occasions that she believes a cure will be found. A variety of projects have investigated such things as reducing inflammation around the injury site, growing new neural pathways and creating methods for regenerating connections.

In 2017, because of a serious health issue Louise reluctantly took retirement from the workplace she loves, but to ensure her personal hands on contribution continues Jon and Louise left behind scholarship in perpetuity that allows future PhD students to continue in their work on SCI at the university.

The SCIRF continues to thrive under the guidance of Dr Simon O'Carroll, with researchers applying for funding of projects through the CatWalk grant programme which is overseen by the NF and Scientific Advisory Board to ensure the very best research is supported.

Ironically, it was a brain issue that was the catalyst for retirement. In 2014 Louise was diagnosed with a brain tumour, the cause of the constant headaches which had plagued her over the years. Removal was not possible, so

the tumour sits in her brain still, and is monitored for its slow growth.

Not one to stand back and let life pass her by though, Louise has taken on many challenges raising funds for CatWalk. A few of the events Louise has taken part in include the CatWalk Auckland Marathon team three times and the Le Loire Cycle week in France 2018 which saw Louise and Jon join other like-minded CatWalkers, including hand cyclists with spinal injuries, for a week of cycling around the Loire Valley.

As well as her CatWalk commitments, Louise spends time in her productive garden, boating around the Hauraki Gulf when the weather is fine, hiking the tracks of New Zealand and watching her mokopuna grow and blossom into what she hopes will be fine New Zealand citizens.

Her wonderful, some would say cheeky, personality, love of life and absolute passion and commitment to finding a cure for spinal cure injury makes Louise a person people gravitate to. Her knowledge and advice in the capacity of board member at CatWalk ensures all members understand the complex science behind the projects that are presented for and are being funded. "Louise managed to speak 'layman' - not an easy feat with a brain like hers" says CatWalk GM Meg Speirs. "The CatWalk Board rely on independent experts to provide us with funding guidance, however sometimes we need the details abridged further still. Louise can simplify complex science down to a level where mere mortals can understand (some of) the intricacies of the human central nervous system. CatWalk is privileged to have her mind working for spinal cord injury research"

Congratulations Louise – you are so deserving of your honour, and we at CatWalk are so very fortunate to have you as one of our own.



Louise and Jon cycling for CatWalk in France.

**"... no one cares about what you have to say until they realise that what you have to say you really care about..."**

# CatWalk Patrons

We are privileged to have the support of our wonderful patrons to help highlight the need to fund spinal cord injury research. They advocate on our behalf, attend functions and help with fundraising activities and events.



Dr Rick Acland



Hon Dame Lowell Goddard QC



Duane Kale ONZM



The Late Sir Brian Lochore



Sarah Walker



Dion Nash



Sir Mark Todd



Aaron Slight MNZM



Zara Tindall MBE



Toni Street



Lance O'Sullivan ONZM



Richie McCaw ONZ

**BARENBRUG**

**CATWALK**  
Funding research to cure spinal cord injury

**SPECIALIST HORSE PASTURE MIX**

**25kg**



# Thank you

The Barenbrug/FarmSource Equine Pasture Mix sales over the past 12 months has resulted in a donation of \$7150 to CatWalk.

Our sincere thanks to Barenbrug, Farm Source and all of the seed purchasers for their generous support.

## Corporate Supporters



# Sophia Malthus

YouTube



“Sophia Malthus and Indy Henman are not just cousins, they are best friends. Indy is also one of Sophia’s carers after Sophia suffered a C4/5 spinal cord injury in 2016, and together, they recently launched their YouTube channel.

We started a YouTube channel (“Soph & Indy”) in the hopes of normalising interabled friendships. Disability can be an uncomfortable and intimidating topic for people who haven’t been exposed to someone living with one, so people avoid asking questions and taking the time to learn about it.

We figured that starting a YouTube channel and showing our hilarious day-to-day life might cut through the negative perceptions and stigma of disability. Instead, we want to show that members of the disabled community are absolutely worth getting to know, and that a SCI (or any other disability) does not get in the way of an awesome friendship. After all, nobody knows better than us that your life doesn’t end when you have a disability, it just changes - and in this case, becomes pretty hilarious.

**“Cut through the negative perceptions and stigma of disability”**

THANK YOU Blake Highet & Emily Clay

# Blake Highet

**Blake Highet** completed the Tarawera Ultra Marathon – 102km - in 14hours and 56 minutes – wow! Blake is a Ph.D student at the Centre for Brain Research at Auckland University and raised \$1074.



# Emily Clay

**Emily Clay** is a physiotherapist and set herself the goal of running 500km within a 2 month period. Not only did she succeed in this but also raised \$2175 for spinal cord injury research.



GOOD LUCK LACHLAN MACDONALD FOR

# Gold Coast Marathon

4<sup>rd</sup> JULY 2021

With a father who is paraplegic, my whole life has been shaped around a spinal cord injury.

I understand the enormity of losing mobility and feel blessed that every single day I am fortunate enough to use my legs. I never take that for granted, and have decided to run a marathon to

help raise money towards finding a cure for those who don't have the same luxury in life.

Every training session, I am driven by CatWalk- knowing every step I take is contributing towards the great work CatWalk does in search for a cure for spinal cord injuries. I am so proud and humble to be running for such an amazing charity. This challenge is like no other, I am pushing myself every day to run for those who can't and I am so excited to cross the finish line.



**“...every  
step I take is  
contributing  
towards the  
great work  
CatWalk  
does...”**



## Donations by cheque

From the 1st July 2021 CatWalk is unable to accept any cheques, this includes international cheques.

BUT don't despair – we have plenty of other easy options to make your donation. Visit our website donation page

**CatWalk.org.nz/help-us/donate**

Donations can be made using either Visa or Mastercard or by internet or telephone banking:

---

Account name: **The CatWalk Spinal Cord Injury Trust**

Account number: **02-0108-0525933-00**

Bank: **Bank of New Zealand**

Branch: **Private Bank**

---

### International donations

The additional details required for an international transfer are:

---

Physical address: **Level 29, 188 Quay Street,  
Auckland 1010, New Zealand**

Our banks details: **Bank of New Zealand,  
Wellington, New Zealand**

SWIFT BIC code: **BKNZ NZ22**

Clearing code **NZ020108** (If required)

---

We are more than happy to help – please email [info@CatWalk.org.nz](mailto:info@CatWalk.org.nz) or call the team on **06 3775430** for further assistance.

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 every week/fortnight/month/year from my credit card until further notice.

I will be paying regular donations every week/fortnight/month/year by Direct Credit.

**(Please circle frequency)**

**\$45<sup>00</sup>**

**\$75<sup>00</sup>**

**\$100<sup>00</sup>**

**Other \$** .....

If paying by Direct Credit, 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]
- In the Internet bank field called "reference" put [DONOR ID]

### Payment Method:

Please debit my credit card:     Amount: \$

Card Number:     Exiry Date:

Name on Card: .....

Signature: .....

OR

Direct Credit to BNZ account number

**02-0108-0525933-000**

Note: New bank account number

OR

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

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]



06 377 5430



PO Box 555  
Masterton 5840



[www.catwalk.org.nz](http://www.catwalk.org.nz)  
[info@catwalk.org.nz](mailto:info@catwalk.org.nz)



[FACEBOOK@thecatwalktrust](https://www.facebook.com/thecatwalktrust)  
[INSTAGRAM @catwalk\\_trust](https://www.instagram.com/catwalk_trust)

Charity  
Certification  
CC27170