

## **New Zealand Diabetes**

Russ Finnerty, a member of our U3A, is conducting research on the origins of Diabetes New Zealand, a lay organisation with the simple objective of assisting people affected by diabetes.<sup>2</sup>

Has been tasked with writing a history of the organisation, and while much material is readily available, there are areas where I have hit a blank wall.

The New Zealand Herald of 6 December 1937 reports:

“Deeply impressed by the work which the Diabetic Association in Great Britain is doing for thousands of sufferers, a Wellington resident, Mr. H. Spear, who has recently returned from England, is examining the possibilities of forming a similar society in New Zealand. Mr. Spear has been a diabetic patient for several years and has returned to the Dominion greatly improved in health after treatment in London.....”

The article goes on to say Mr Spear

“had been promised considerable support .... from persons in Auckland....&....He now intended to ascertain whether support for an association would be forthcoming in the South”

Russ’s problem is that the trail in Wellington has gone cold and he can find nothing to help me find this man, and whether he had any success. A Wellington Diabetes Society was established many years later and incorporated in 1969.

While Electoral roles can identify Hart Spear who was in Wellington at around 1937 he has found nothing to establish a link with diabetes.

Russ would like to hear from anyone who knows of a Mr H Spear of Wellington who around 1937 expressed an interest in establishing a national diabetes support group

Anyone who knows anything about this man please contact Russ by e-mail: [russ.finnerty@xtra.co.nz](mailto:russ.finnerty@xtra.co.nz)