**September 2018**

**Rohan Bright**

I am 20 years old and attended St Leo’s Catholic College Wahroonga where I graduated in 2016. I have a genetic condition known as Hypochondroplasia, which is a form of dwarfism. At the age of 8 I also contracted Juvenile Arthritis and I was encouraged to swim as part of the therapy.
​
My introduction to competitive sport was through CPSARA as a track and field athlete. I had attended a Toyota Talent camp and met Kris Riley who suggested CPSARA as a sports club as the SSPA (Short Statured Persons Association) did not have a competitive sports club.

​

Through athletic competitions I have met some great people and visited many places around Australia including Canberra, Darwin, Brisbane, Adelaide and Bendigo. In 2013 I competed at the World Dwarf Games in Michigan, USA as part of the Australian Team winning 5 Gold Medals in both Track & Field and swimming. However, swimming soon took over my focus as there were far better opportunities to compete at international levels for my classification. 2017 saw another World Dwarf Games this time in Canada with great success in the pool and a chance to play soccer with the Australian Team.

​

I am currently a member of Barker Aquatic Swim Club and do 8 training sessions a week including 2 gym sessions. My sporting goal is to make the Paralympics in Tokyo in two years’ time. So far things are on track for me as I was selected for my first senior Australian team this year which was a real honour and being able to represent my country at the Commonwealth Games.

​

It was a surreal experience; the highlight would have to be competing in front of a home crowd as it creates such an amazing atmosphere.

I currently am working at my old primary school on Tuesdays assisting with their sports program and assist at Broken Bay and CCC sports carnivals. I am looking at doing a teacher aid or vet nursing course through TAFE.

​

I have been inspired by the sporting success of my cousin Torah Bright - Gold Medal Winter Olympian who always strives to succeed in her chosen sport of snowboarding.