**June 2018**

**Jackson Love**

My name is Jackson Love and I am 12 years old. I am in Year 6 at Narrabeen North Public School. I love to compete in sport and my current favourite sports are Athletics, Football (Soccer) and Alpine Skiing. I have also competed in Swimming for school in 2016 and 2017 making it to NSW PSSA State both years and also Cross Country running for school in 2016 and 2017 making it to School Sports Australian National Championships both years as well. Unfortunately, this year I haven’t been able to compete at the various school swimming levels and won’t be competing in Cross Country either.

​

I have been diagnosed with a very rare ear disease that has left me hearing impaired in my left ear. It’s really complicated but it has meant that I’ve had lots of time off training this year because of it!! Normally I’d also be playing in my school AFL team for Winter sports but I haven’t been able to do that either.

​

I first got into sport when I was 8 years old. My mum convinced me to go to a Cerebral Palsy Alliance multi-sport day. There were lots of different sports to try but my main focus was playing soccer with Chris Pyne on the Tennis Court. Chris convinced me to come to his regular Tuesday afternoon soccer sessions. I loved playing soccer from that day forward. I also realised that sport generally was a good thing to do so I started Athletics and compete not only for my school but also with Manly Warringah Little Athletics Club. That same year I went skiing and met Jess Gallagher the dual Summer/Winter Paralympian. Not only was I lucky enough to ski with her for two days but I was also able to see and touch her Socchi Winter Olympic bronze medal! Jess convinced me to aim for the sky and also told me that being a Summer and Winter Paralympian was possible so that’s my ultimate goal.

​

I need to have some surgery for my ear soon so my goals this year are a little different. I plan to compete for my school for Athletics and have set myself the target of making the School Sport Australia National Championships and also the Multiclass Championships at Thredbo for Alpine Skiing. I’m also part of the NSW 7-a- side Paralympic Training Squad and have been to the first camp and plan to attend the rest of those this year well. My long term sporting goal is to go to the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games as a 16 year old for Athletics, hopefully for 100m, 200m & Long Jump.

I’m proud of a lot of my sporting achievements. Being the School Sport Australian record holder for T37 10 year boys 100m, 200m &  long and T37 11 year boys 100m & 200m is great but I think representing NSW in the 100m, 200m and Long Jump at the Australian Junior Nationals this year was my proudest. I was the youngest in the field competing against 15 year olds and ran PB’S in the 100m and 200m.

​

When I finish school I would like to be a Police Officer. I like the idea of enforcing the law! I’d love to be in the SRG. In my spare time I love playing on my Xbox - Fortnite and Rainbow Six Siege are my favourite games.