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**Murray Bartrum**

My sporting journey started at a young age. I was riding a bike before I could walk. I grew up in the inner west of Sydney as a mad cricket nut playing every summer for my local club.  I loved bowling even got figures of 4 for 15 1 game! But when I get to the age of 15, the competition was a lot harder. My parents then started the journey of disabled sport. Initially, we went after a cricket team but at the time nothing like it existed so the next best thing was football (round ball). This started my journey into adaptive sport.

I played soccer for the NSW team for about 4 years, playing at various nationals including scoring in a penalty shootout for the national title one year. This was the first time in my life I spent a lot of time with people with CP. Able-bodied or not during that stage in your life, you are going through a lot of changes. So to look up to people like Chris Pyne, really was the first time seeing what was possible in sport and in life in general. These guys played at a state and national level, they had jobs, they travelled the world and just lived “normal” lives.

I always loved sport but was never the textbook athlete. I went to a hand full of the pararoos football camps. I had a crack at track cycling in between football. At that point, I was riding 5 days a week and playing football on weekends as well as working part-time and doing my HSC. But I’d rather go for a mountain bike or a bodyboard over a 5km run.

At the end of year 12, I went over to Canada to go to a Paralympic ski training camp in Kimberly. Skiing was something I fell in love with when I was about 16. Being in the mountains and skiing was just the best feeling. I saved money from year 10 and set the goal that after school I would spend a season in Canada. I left Australia at 17 on my own having never left Australia before on a trip that little did I know would change my life.

The season went extremely well and I podiumed a few events at Canadian nationals. While there I meet a friend who ran a hotel in Jindabyne so I came back and moved to the mountains to work my first of 2 ski seasons. My ski racing went a little too well as that winter when I went to get classified I was told I was not disabled enough to ski race. At the time I was devastated but looking back it was the best thing that ever happened to me. It opened up so many other doors that are closed when putting all your eggs in 1 basket.

Being an elite athlete was never my forte but the older I get the more I love and appreciate that having fun in sport is the most important thing. Since walking away from competition sport I have been Heli skiing in Alaska, Backcountry touring in Australia, learn to guide a sit-ski and blind skiers over winter, bodyboard whenever I can, mountain biking but most of all just enjoy staying active and looking after myself with sport being the backbone of good physical and mental health regardless what capacity it's being done at.

In the last few years, I have been into snowkiting. Where we go out behind Thredbo set up kites and fly around in the backcountry of Australia. Every skill I have ever learned in sport has come into this preparation, fitness, mental strength, communication, safety all these things are required when flying. I was lucky enough to snow kite in Norway last year so came back with loads of confidence but my first day flying back in Australia last year I was blown over a cliff and watched my life flash before my eyes. This moment last year really shook me up, but regales if you’re an elite athlete going to your 4th paras or picking up your first cricket bat you never stop learning and most of all make sure you're having fun!