**October 2017**

**Jess Cronje**

I'm 19 years old and I'm finishing my 2nd year of year 12 in the pathways program at Camden High. My main sport at the moment is wheelchair basketball. I play for the Blues wheelchair basketball club for their women's team in the National League where we have just taken out the gold medal. I'm also part of the mixed team who have just recently come back from the finals with silver in the National League. I'm in the starting 5 for the state team the NSW Juniors. I have been a member of the Australian women's squad the Gliders and the Australian Under 25 women's team the Devils. When I can fit it in, I still keep my hand in athletics with discus and shot put.

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Ideally, I'd love to be a dual Paralympian for basketball and athletics. After winning silver at the World under 25's Championships in 2015 I'd love to be part of the team that brings home the first gold medal for the women's wheelchair basketball at the Paralympics or Worlds.

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My proudest sporting achievement so far was winning the Australian National Championships in Adelaide at the Kevin Coomb's Cup as one of the NSW Juniors. The win was sweet, beating Queensland was sweeter.

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Away from sport, I'm looking at going into Childcare so most likely studying at TAFE rather than at Uni. The opportunity of attending a USA college under a sports scholarship for basketball may also be in my future but for now I'm trying to not look too far into the future so I can concentrate on my HSC exams.

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I've been fortunate enough to travel overseas with the Australian Gliders. I've been over to Japan for the Osaka Cup. We got to do some PR with the local schools where they were fascinated with my long blonde hair. Flying over to China for the World Championships was a pretty big thing. I remember one of the games playing against Germany was a pivotal moment for me realising that I was playing with Paralympian's and World Champions. Matching it with teams from Germany, Canada, Great Britain, China, Japan to name a few and then bringing home the silver medal was my first taste of international success, something I hope to experience again.

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My season for the 2 National Leagues has just finished so after flying all around Australia for 17 weekends I'm looking forward to spending some time at home with my dog Rusty. Finally stayed in one place long enough to get my L's so I'll try and put some hours in on the road too, look out