

Scott Reardon



Prior to 2002 I was a fit and healthy young person. I loved sports, in particular athletics and rugby league. On July 10 2002, aged 12 and just before I was about to head to football training for a representative team I was involved in a farm accident. My shoelace became tangled in a PTO on a tractor, and as a result my right leg was amputated below the knee. Unfortunately the damage to my leg was too severe to save the lower limb so I was amputated through the knee. I spent 3.5 weeks in Woden hospital in Canberra.

I had a relatively short recovery and was sent home after 3.5 weeks to wait for a fracture in my femur to heal. At the start of September I started the process of getting a prosthetic leg and after one and half weeks of full time rehabilitation I was able to walk again. Over the next month I went back to rehab for two day sessions. I believe my fast recovery was because of my strong family who helped me stay positive throughout the experience. I was also supported by the community of Temora who helped me get back on my feet (or foot!).

I wear a prosthesis that is made by Appliance and Limb Centre in Sydney. The help and support that I get from them is unreal. I don't know too many people that have a passion for their work like they do, especially George, who has provided me with a good comfortable leg that I have used without pain almost everyday for the past four and a half years.

Since being an amputee I haven't found too many things that I'm not able to do. I have always tried to do things, as I would rather try and fail than wonder if I can do it - you never know until you try.

Before my accident I social skied and six months after my accident I was skiing again. I got involved in the tournament side of water skiing when I met up then current "leg division" world champion who encouraged me to give it a go. Five years on I have become three time Slalom and Trick Champion and two time Jump and Overall Champion of Australia in my division. I have now competed in two World Championships, Belgium in 2005 and Townsville in 2007, where I have placed in the top three in all but one occasion. The highlight was becoming World Champion in the jump event.

I compete in the NSW Malibu series throughout the year and state titles as an able bodied athlete. The highlight of this was definitely when I won the 2007 trick state title for Under 17 boys, I don't think they liked being beaten by a person with one leg!

I have realised through my experience as an amputee that you have to stay positive and you can't let anyone tell you that you can't do something.

I am currently completing the NSW Higher School Certificate, and want to start a career in motivational speaking. I believe that I have been put in the perfect situation to tell my stories and hopefully help other people overcome difficult stages that we all go through.



Published 2008

1300 782 231