

Jamie McDonald



Jamie jumping at the 2015 World Championships at Elk Grove California.

As a junior was very active. 5 years outstanding certificate for local footy club. 10 years Men's Gymnastics, athletics, Saturday region local tennis for club, Sunday's higher Pennant grade for different club.

Approx. 20 years felt spasms in arm while playing Pennant tennis final thought just pinched nerve.

Months Later. Spasms in arm continuing into chest could not breathe & fell unconscious. After tests found out those spasms were result of Aneurism on the brain, which started more regularly to cause epileptic fits, but just had to live with that, as where it was, it was too dangerous to operate on.

Forward to age of 22. Living by myself, moved back home with mum & dad a week or so before that aneurism actual burst. Cerebral Haemorrhage ambulance to Box Hill, first thing next morning, moved to Royal Melbourne, where in & out semi coma for 2 weeks. In & out of ICU 5 times. Parents told not "not good", remember told going into operation only 50 / 50 chance of coming out. (got the better of those 50's I guess). Surgeon best in Southern Hemisphere. (Cari Bickmore ? from channel 10 "The Project" Beanies for cancer, mentioned "The Prof" numerous times who operated on her late husband) That was him, thank goodness Dr/Mr/Professor Andrew Kaye. Recovery much better than expected. Original not likely to survive, then told will never walk, then changed to never walk without braces. Then they just said do what you like lol. Physio OT everything to learn how to hold things do things, walk, (still not got that quite right (LOL). Eventually back to work in Film Industry

after 6 months in hospital then doing nothing at home. Recovery at Essendon Rehab Hospital then day rehab closer to home (Mt. Waverley at that time) Asked to come in to large medical Lecture due to my recovery. Learning how to live differently, no sport for years. Camping often & trying to explore fun on water. But mainly socialising.



Jamie tricking at the 2015 World Championships at Elk Grove California. (Jamie also tricks standing up).

In comes Waterskiing: Saw article about a disabled skier in a boating magazine (Steve Davies). A friend would not let me leave until I called. Got involve with VWSA (at that time) & learnt how to ski ... eventually. Became friends with other disabled skiers, including Kevin Murffit, who would eventually introduce me to GWSC.

Went to a "come n try" clinic at Disabled World championships at Yarrowonga-Mulwala 1995. The competing and social aspect of other skiers sucked me in straight away.



Jamie slaloming at the 2015 World Championships at Elk Grove California.

From there I started. First Nationals that year but not very well lol.

Tried different things to help my disability with lots of skiing & lots of advice. Member of different clubs from Mulwala to Melton, Bridgewater & finally Geelong. State & National Titles &

1997 first World Championships in Florida USA.

Forward in time & 25 years representing Australia, skiing has enabled me to travel to USA different States several times, London UK, Belgium, France, Italy etc. Became a member of IWSF disabled division council Joining Kevin there in 2001 I think it was & stepping down in 2017, I had Scholarship with Victorian Institute of Sport for I think after skiing at my last worlds San Francisco in 2015.

Numerous World Championships & 3 World Records. But the friendships at all club level, national & competing team members around the world are the most valuable.



Jamie with Jacinta Carroll

Jamie was made a Life Member of the Club in 2018.



Home from world championships in 2013 with 4 things hanging from my neck impressive? ..... 1 gold 1 silver 1 bronze.. & 1 arm.



1995 2<sup>nd</sup> Disabled World Championships. Mulwala, Australia. Jamie attended as part of a clinic. Did not compete.

1997 3<sup>rd</sup> Disabled World Championships, Florida, USA.

1999 4<sup>th</sup> Disabled World Championships, Britain.

2001 5<sup>th</sup> Disabled World Championships, Australia.

2003 Disabled World Championships, Florida, USA.

2006 Disabled World Championships, Schoten, Belgium.

2007 Disabled World Championships, Townsville, Australia.

2009 Disabled World Championships, Vichy France

2011 Disabled World Championships, Ohio, USA.

2013 Disabled World Championships, Milan, Italy.

2015 Disabled World Championships, Elk Grove, California, USA.

2017 Disabled World Championships, Myuna Bay, NSW, Australia. Jamie was selected to ski but withdrew and attended as an IWSF disabled council member.