

Inspired to win over adversity

LAW CAREER THE NEXT GOAL

Ellen-Maree Elliot

THREE years ago, 15-year-old Hugo Southcott was snowboarding on a family holiday in Switzerland when he fell down the steep slope and broke his neck.

The accident left him a paraplegic but last year he graduated from Alexandra State High School with an Overall Position One, a law scholarship to Queensland University of Technology, and his name on the honour board as 2015 school captain.

"I wanted to triumph over the adversity and show someone can still be school captain even though they're disabled," he said.

He also has a job as a legal clerk after he signed up to Link Personnel Wynnum, and his achievements caught the eye of solicitor

John Rivett. The Carindale resident decided to study law and use his degree to help others.

Despite his success he still has "depressing moments" and fears that some law firms would turn him down after graduation. "I feel like, even if I'm as smart as someone else who is able-bodied, they would get the job in many places," he said.

Link Personnel Wynnum site co-ordinator Graham Henzell, helped put Mr Southcott in contact with Mr Rivett, said some workplaces were resistant to inclusive employment.

But others would work through people's barriers to allow them to work, he said..

For further details, visit orizoninc.org/link-personnel



Hugo Southcott, 18, was injured in a snowboard accident and became paraplegic. This year he started a law degree at QUT and is working as a legal clerk. Picture: RIC FREARSON

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COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

Hugo's dedication is an inspiration to us all

EACH week, our team at the *Herald* tries to inspire the community with stories about people doing great things.

I have been particularly moved by Hugo Southcott (page 7) and I'm sure his journey will inspire you too.

It is Disability Action Week from September 13-19 and this teenager is certainly one to highlight how much can be achieved when you have a disability.

In just three years Hugo has come back from a snowboarding accident that left him a paraplegic.

He finished high school with outstanding results, his name is on the honour board and he now has a scholarship to university to study law.

All this and he was also a leader for his peers as school captain.

What an inspiring young man.

On a lighter note, get out and enjoy the sunshine this Saturday for Wynnnum's first involvement with the Brisbane Retro Cruise Night.

This is another way the bayside is proving itself as a player in tourism circuits so make sure you get out and support it.

If you have a story you want to share let us know via email: editorial@wynnumherald.com.au

— EDITOR, JENI Faulkner



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