



Danielle Aitchison

BIO

I am 22 years old. I grew up on a farm in the Hauraki District with my 4 siblings. I attended Kaihere School and Hauraki Plains College. I have a Bachelor of Social Sciences majoring in Education and Society from the University of Waikato. My dream career is to educate people about disabilities and create opportunities for kids with disabilities. I want to make a difference in the lives of young New Zealanders by setting them up for successful development. I have mild cerebral palsy and am deaf in both ears and wear cochlear implants. I have never allowed my disabilities to hinder me. I hope to inspire other children that they can do anything they put their mind to.

CONTACT ME



QUALIFICATIONS

First Aid Certificate

St John
2021

Bachelor of Social Science University of Waikato

2019 - 2023

Major in Education and
Society.

NCEA Level 2 with Excellence Hauraki Plains College

2018

- History - 14 credits
- English - 14 credits
- Geography - 11 credits
- Health - 15 credits

INTERESTS

- Reading
- Swimming
- Skiing
- Travelling
- Rock-climbing
- Hiking

WORK EXPERIENCE

Education Intern 2023 - Present

Paralympics NZ | Hamilton, New Zealand

Part time job working with Education Lead on
Education Programme: Seeing is Believing.

Coaching 2018 - 2023

Waikato Parafed | Hamilton New Zealand

Currently coaching kids with disabilities in the athletics
after school programme to help prepare them for the
Halberg Games. Also part of organising and facilitating
sport days.

Kitchen Hand 2019 - 2021

Montana Food and Events | Hamilton, New Zealand

Regularly worked at rugby games as a kitchen hand
helping cook and serve food while studying at
University and training.

Nanny 2021

Local Family | Hamilton, New Zealand

Part time job while I studied at university, looking after
a 17-month-old baby during the week.

Cashier 2017 - 2018

Montana Food and Events | Hamilton, New Zealand

Part time job working events such as the Rugby Sevens
in Hamilton.

SKILLS

Organised

I always make sure I have everything I need and always meet my deadlines for either study, training, work and competitions. I have good time management and ensure that I make a plan to stick to deadlines.

Determined and Motivated

I am determined to achieve my goals and work hard. I am motivated and committed to finish the tasks and goals that I have started with high quality.

Resilient

I don't let my disabilities or other hurdles stop me from pursuing my goals. I am patient and generous.

Positive and Bubbly

Personality

I am always positive and try to find the best in bad situations. I have a bubbly personality, full of energy. I tend to always be happy, smiling, and get along with everyone.

Dependable with good work ethic

I am a responsible, reliable, and dependable person. I am hardworking and make sure I am prepared to work hard.

Interpersonal and Communication skills

I am respectful of other people and can build relationships with them. I am able to communicate with people and listen to what they have to say. I am able to work well with others to have a friendly work environment.

COMMUNITY & VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

2023

IHC Skills based volunteer | Hamilton, New Zealand

I worked with individuals with special needs to achieve their skills based goals.

2018 - Present

Hamilton City Hawks Athletics Club | Hamilton, New Zealand

I compete at Track and Field Events around New Zealand representing Hamilton City Hawks Athletics Club.

2018 - Present

Parafed Waikato | Hamilton, New Zealand

I am a member of this club, participating in sports events and volunteering to coach kids. I have undertaken a placement here doing a range of roles from facilitating sports days, coaching athletics and organising events.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Gold medal in Para Women 200m 2023
World Para Athletics Championships | Paris, France
- Silver medal in Para Women 100m 2023
World Para Athletics Championships | Paris, France
- University of Waikato Gold Employment Plus Award 2023
- University of Waikato Professional athletics Dual-Career recipient 2022
- Gold medal in Para Women 200m 2022
Oceania Athletics Championships | Mackay, Australia
- Bronze medal in Para Women 100m 2022
Oceania Athletics Championships | Mackay, Australia
- Silver medal in T36 200m 2021
Paralympic Games | Tokyo, Japan
- Bronze medal in T36 100m 2021
Paralympic Games | Tokyo, Japan
- Golden Key Society Award 2020
- Silver medal in T36 200m 2019
World Para Athletics Championships | Dubai, UAE
- 4th place in T36 100m 2019
World Para Athletics Championships | Dubai, UAE
- Current New Zealand Para Women Record Holder achieved in 100m, 200m, 400m, and long jump 2018

REFERENCES

Can be requested

Key skills

- Public Speaking
- Resilient
- Social Media
- Leadership
- Motivation of others
- Discipline
- Communication and Interpersonal skills

Education

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (specialist in Media Design)

Wilhelm Buechner
University of Applied
Science
2014-2020

Audio & Visual Media Design

Cologne Chamber of
Commerce and Industry
2010-2013

High School Diploma

Lauenburgische
Gelehrtenschule,
Ratzeburg, Germany
2001-2009

Summary

When I lost both of my legs in a tragic train accident at the age of 15, I got told I would never be able to walk again. I spend 2 weeks in a coma, 6 months in hospital and underwent 9 surgeries, yet the toughest part of my journey was finding believe in myself and my abilities in a world that taught me the opposite. However, my story it not driven by adversity, my story really is about taking action against the odds, a story written by choices and courage.

Determined to reach beyond perceived present limitations, I made the decision to take charge of my life and take a chance achieving the unimaginable, creating a life beyond fears, a life on my new feet. Today's normality, being able to walk and run on a daily basis, is the product of a strong vision, resilience and perseverance, made possible by hard work and a passionate heart.

I went on to become a paralympic gold medallist and world record holder in the long jump. Today I am still the only above knee amputee, single or double, to have jumped over the 5 m mark. Athletics gave my second chance in life a direction and a purpose. For many of us, our proudest achievements come in the face of the greatest adversity.

I passionately share my story with people around the world, mindful about the impact my own story may have on others.

Athletic Career history

Professional Athlete at Athletics Australia

July 2017 – Present

Paralympic Games

Tokyo 2020 – T63 Long Jump Gold

Rio 2016 – T42 Long Jump Gold, T42 100m Silver

London 2012 – T42 Long Jump 6th, T42 100m 4th

World Para Championships

2015 Doha – T42 Long Jump Gold, T42 100m Silver

2013 – Lyon – T42 Long Jump Bronze, T42 100m Bronze

2011 – Christchurch - T42 Long Jump 4th, T42 100m Bronze

International Paralympic Championships - European Championships (competing for Germany)

Grossetto 2016 – T42-44 – Long Jump Gold, T42 100m Silver

Swansea 2014 – T42 Long Jump Gold, T42 100m Silver

International Wheelchair and Amputee Sport World Games

2009 – Bangalore, India - T42 Long Jump Gold, T42 100m Silver

Career history

Professional Athlete at Athletics Australia

July 2017 – Present

Key Responsibilities

- Competing at the highest levels of para-athletics, showing casing resilience, skill and sportsmanship
- Actively engaged in community outreach initiatives to raise awareness about para-sports and disability rights
- Collaborated with coaches, teammates, and support staff to develop inclusive training programs and advocate for accessible facilities.

Achievements

- Paralympic, World and European medallist and World Record Holder

Public Speaker at SISU Collective

Oct 2009– Present

Achievements

- Public speaking opportunities for companies such as E.ON Germany, SwissLife select, Paypal Germany, several Universities including the German Sports University in Cologne.

Apprentice at RTL Group

Aug 2010 – July 2013

Achievements

Apprenticeship as part of education towards an accredited profession of Audiovisual Media Design.

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Advocacy for People with a Disability and Leadership

2009– Present

Achievements

- Championed disability rights and accessibility initiatives through public speaking engagements, media appearances, and advocacy campaigns
- Served as a role model and mentor for individuals with disabilities, offering support and guidance to foster empowerment and self-advocacy
- 2017-Present – Ambassador for FIA International Road Safety Campaign
- 2017-Present – Ambassador for TrackSafe

Skills

- Comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by athletes with disabilities in para-athletics.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to articulate and represent athlete perspectives effectively.
- Strong leadership abilities, demonstrated through advocacy efforts and community engagement initiatives.
- Proven track record of teamwork, adaptability, and resilience in competitive sports environments.

References

Available upon request

Chad Perris

Key skills

- Leadership
- Communication
- Resilience
- Critical thinking
- Creative problem solving
- Hard working

Education

Duncraig Senior High School
Perth
2008

Central TAFE, 2009

Certificate IV in Sport
Development and Athlete
Support Services

Summary

As a five-time representative at the World Para Athletics Championships, I've consistently performed at my best and earned silver and bronze medals throughout my career. I am a valued leader both at major international championships and on a domestic level in Australia.

As an athlete, my dedication and passion for para sport are a big part of who I am, and I'm always striving for excellence both on and off the track. I firmly believe that hard work and commitment are the keys to success, and I take pride in inspiring those around me to do their best and reach their full potential.

I'm committed to making a positive impact on the world and using my platform to promote inclusivity and equality.

Athletics Career history

2023 – Paris World Para Athletics Championships – 100m

2021 – Tokyo Paralympic Games – 100m

2019 – Dubai World Para Athletics Championships – 100m (silver)

2017 – World Para Athletics Championships – 100m, 200m

2016 – Rio Paralympics – 100m

2015 – World Para Athletics Championships – 100m, 200m

2013 – World Para Athletics Championships – 100m, 200m

Career history

Barista at Café in Canberra

Nov 2022 – Dec 2023

Key responsibilities

- Barista role

HP2032+ Sport Strategy Leadership Group at Australian Institute of Sport

Nov 2022 – Present

Australia's High Performance 2032+ Sport Strategy Leadership Group plays a critical role in ensuring our Strategy is implemented successfully for Horizon 1 (December 2022 to Paris 2024).

Achievements

- The strategy has been co-designed by the Australian High Performance Sport System, for the System. It is a strategy that belongs to us all, informing how we work together for united outcomes.

Interests

- Fierce advocate of the importance of showing people with a vision impairment that there is a pathway for them in sport.

Social Media

[AIS Win Well Podcast: Michael Roeger and Chad Perris | Australian Sports Commission \(sportaus.gov.au\)](#)

References

Available upon request