

## MEET TAYLOR ALDRIDGE

Taylor Aldridge is a prosthetic technician based at the Christchurch Limb Centre.

Here is her profile.

Taylor's parents moved to Wellington from their home town of Westport when her Dad took up a position as a roading engineer and Taylor arrived in 1997.

The family moved back to Avonhead, Christchurch when she was 4 years old and by this time, she had a younger sister & brother. Taylor attended Merrin St Primary, Burnside High School then went on to Canterbury University to complete a sports science degree.

Taylor completed the last year of her degree doing an internship at the

Christchurch Limb Centre and has

worked there ever since as a prosthetic

technician "out the back" in the workshop. She says that she absolutely loves her

job, using her hands & brain and the people she works with...so much so that in

July this year, she is commencing studies through the Sunshine Coast University

in Australia as a start to becoming a trained prosthetist and orthotist. Because NZ

does not offer any training of this sort, she will be required to spend a lot of time

on campus on the Sunshine Coast over the next 2 ½ years but it is her intention,

once trained, to be a fully trained prosthetist working out of the Christchurch

Limb centre.

Taylor is an avid sportswoman and has represented the Canterbury Rugby

Women's rugby team in the Farrah Palmer Cup competition. She has also



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represented Canterbury in “7’s” and touch rugby over the summer months. She stated that she likes people who are easy going, happy, positive and motivated. Taylor dislocated her knee during a rugby game a couple of years ago but the values she lives by helped her to deal with the challenge. Those values are to stay calm and deal with things as they come and she admitted that life is pretty “cruisy” for her. Her parents and siblings have been extremely supportive in helping her achieve her goals. She laughs when talking about her parents using made up names for everyday things and when asked what she thought she wanted to be when growing up, she embarrassingly said, “A fire truck”

**FAVOURITE FOOD:** “I LOVE food especially Japanese style and blueberries”.

**FAVOURITE PLACE:** Tata Beach, Golden Bay.

**FAVOURITE ACTIVITIES/HOBBIES:** Touch, 7s, Rugby, Hockey. Anything related to the outdoors. Most of her time is associated with sport.

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**FAVOURITE MUSIC:** Plays the saxophone. Likes jazz/blues and NZ “roots” music

and artists Sam Cooke, Otis Reading & Fat Freddy’s Drop.

**FAVOURITE MOVIE:** Don’t really watch movies.

**FAVOURITE BOOKS:** Non-fiction-anything based on real events.

Taylor looks back on her life and feels that she has been very lucky to have such

supportive friends and family. She is very driven and persistent in achieving her

goals. She admitted that undertaking the studies in Australia is probably the

greatest challenge she has taken but she is excited to start. Travel is a passion of

## TAYLOR ALDRIDGE CONT:

Taylor's and when she was only 18, spent 3 weeks in Japan through a rugby exchange programme and has also visited Canada, Australia & Rarotonga. She had planned to travel to Argentina in June this year but the Covid pandemic put paid to those plans although she said that this trip is still in her sights once border controls are relaxed. Taylor admitted that she is not a "morning person" but comes right by morning tea time and is happy most of the time. She finds it very hard to sit still and is most happy when challenges are put in front of her.