



## Meet Morgan Jones

Morgan was born in Christchurch in 1987 and has family of an older brother Blair and his mother, who resides locally in Ch-Ch, are an important part of Morgan's life.

In 1994 when he was 6 years old, Morgan was taking the train North to Picton with his father and was involved in a serious accident when the safety rail on a carriage broke causing Morgan to fall from the train. He sustained a serious head injury as well as to his leg which resulted in him losing his sight and having to have his right leg amputated below the knee. Morgan said that he does not remember much about the accident itself and up to that point in his life, he had fond memories of a happy & carefree childhood. Obviously, he experienced a huge amount of trauma but says that he felt that he retained his easy going attitude to life and hopes he didn't complain too much.

Morgan attended Hoon Hay school and after his accident, Elmwood Primary which had a Visual Resource Centre. Cashmere High was his secondary school and he then moved on to Canterbury University to undertake a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. His grandfather, who was a dedicated conservationist, inspired to do his degree. Morgan graduated in 2013 and is currently looking for a role that would suit his skills but has done varied jobs including working for Landcare Research and voluntary work. In March of this year, Morgan also completed a certificate in Medical terminology.

Around 2 years ago, Morgan convinced his family that he could move out of the family home to live independently in a brand new townhouse in Sumner St, Spreydon. His guide dog and very good "friend", Jessie lives with him and a flatmate. He said that he has enjoyed the experience and the challenges that it has provided although he admitted to not being a very good cook due to his inability to measure ingredients. Swimming is also a challenge along with showering when not in his own environment.

Morgan said he likes people who are considerate, empathetic, easy going and especially people who realise that because he is unable to approach them, they make an effort to engage with him. His family is important to him as they assist with some of the challenges he faces in his daily living but he also enjoys his new found independence. Morgan recalls that as a child he was extremely interested in trains along with nature & wildlife and remembers collecting insects. He grew up thinking that he would like to be involved in sustaining the environment as he has very pleasant memories of holidays in the Marlborough Sounds.

Without a doubt, he says that going to University was a huge risk for him as he worried about his ability to cope with the studies but in the end, everything turned out well. Moving out of the family home to start living independently was also a risk for him but he is pleased that he took on the challenge.

Recently, Morgan was part of the GIAG (Give It A Go) programme that ran alongside the Amputee Federation conference and he said that he thoroughly enjoyed the experience of jet-boating, horse riding and the high ropes course which was a huge challenge for him. Participating with other young people was not only a huge bonus but great fun and Morgan has made some new friends whom he is in contact with.

Favourite Food: Asian cuisine and admits to loving Fish & Chips.

Favourite Place: Marlborough Sounds, Fiordland, has walked part of the Kepler, Milford & Routeburn tracks and would like to go to Stewart Island.

Favourite Activities: DANCING, (was first on the dance floor at the conference), going for walks and would like to do more nature walks with assistance.

Favourite Music: Pop, Rock and Latin dance music. Enjoys Queen, Billy Joel, Megan Trainor, Katy Perry & Rhianna.

Favourite Movie: Star Wars. Enjoys DVD's that have an audio description or someone who will talk him through what is happening.

Favourite Books: Inferno. Enjoys authors Dan Brown & Clive Cussler.

Morgan has travelled to the Gold Coast, locally to Stewart Island and Fiordland and has a goal of wanting to climb Mt Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

*Thank you for hosting me in your home Morgan. I so enjoyed your company, sense of humour and the fact that your daily challenges do not deter your passion for wanting to achieve such lofty goals as climbing Mt Kilimanjaro. You are a courageous and inspiring young man.*