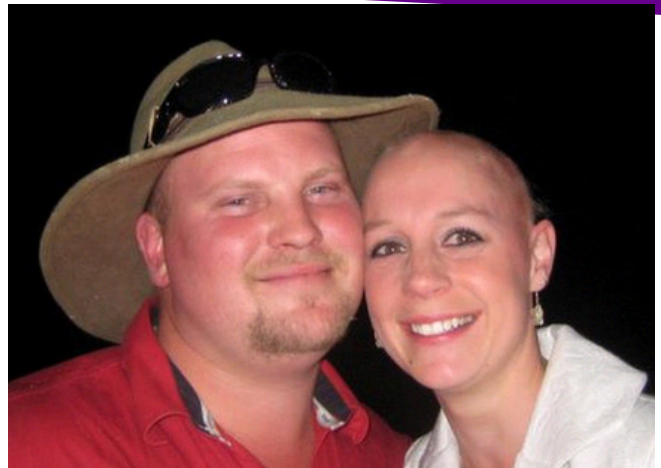


Kylie Clark, 25, it's about what is in the inside... not what I look like.



My name is Kylie. I am 25 years old and I have had alopecia areata since I was 6 years old. My hair first started to fall out when I was in grade 1. Over the past 19 years my hair has grown back a few times, but never to complete coverage. Currently I have no hair and I DON'T wear a wig, I go about my day to day activities with nothing covering my head. I constantly worried about finding someone else to love me. But once I was happy and confident with who I was and how I looked that is when other people started to see me for who I am, not what I look like.

I have played netball forever and played at a very high standard.

I am now a primary school teacher and I currently teach year 3s. When I went for my interview for the job, I was upfront with the interview panel and told them I had alopecia areata and my intentions to send home a letter to each of the students I teach each year explaining what alopecia areata is. This showed them I was not bothered by the alopecia and was open to take questions by parents and people in the school community.

I am now engaged and due to marry my fiancée in March 2012. My lack of hair does not bother him. He is supportive when I have 'moments' about the alopecia, but he constantly reminds me of how beautiful I look and it is not about what I look like it is about what is in the inside!



I have found if I tell people about alopecia areata then other people are happy to ask questions and feel more comfortable around me. I figure, if people can't come up and ask me about 'why I don't have any hair' then they are not worth knowing!

I have my 'moments' about Alopecia, but being constantly reminded of how beautiful I look is very supportive.

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