

Maretta.....I get compliments daily on how beautiful my hair is and all I can say is in my mind 'if only you knew what is under all that hair and how I feel about it'.

My story begins as a little girl at the age of 9 years old. I had some exciting news that I was moving away from my hometown in Melbourne to the big city of Brisbane. I believed I was very excited to be close to my grandparents as they lived there but I was so sad to leave all of my friends, my school and the only surroundings I had ever known.

I packed up all my things, said goodbye to everyone and everything and started this new journey in my life. I knew I didn't want to go as I shut the door of my old place. It had so many memories I would miss forever. When I arrived in Brisbane after our flight that felt like forever. I was picked up by my grandparents, I was so excited to see them, see our new home and see my new school.

We had only a little while over Christmas to get everything set up in our new home and then school was about to begin. Grandma took me to get a nice new haircut for school when it happened. The hairdresser had found a bald spot on my head. I didn't know what was happening and I didn't think it had happened to anyone else. My sister found out and I hoped because she was my twin she would have the same thing but to my disbelief she didn't. I didn't know what was happening or what to do.

The spots were getting bigger and more scattered over my head that it was hard to hide them for school. I didn't want this to happen to myself especially starting a new school. I thought no one would like me if they found out I was going bald and I only thought old people went bald.

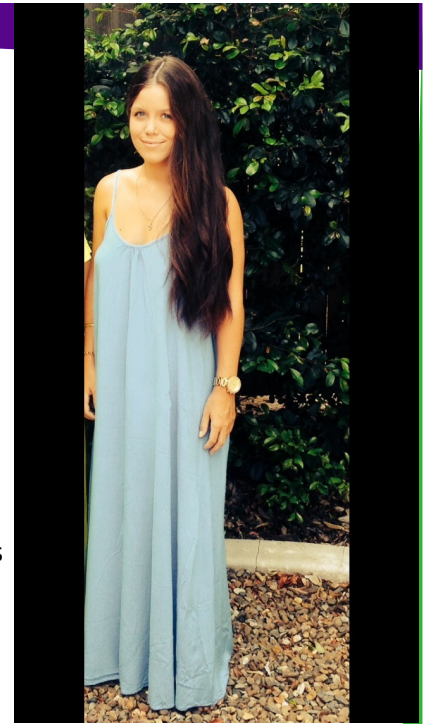
My parents saw my condition getting worse and they didn't know what to do. I went to several specialists and doctors over the years and no one could help my condition. I tried many creams and pills hoping I wouldn't go through this ever again. I just wanted to run back to Melbourne and hope that I go back to normal.

13 years later I am still living with this condition. I have it every month of every year but after every two years it starts to grow back. It doesn't have enough time to fully grow back before the cycle starts again.

I have tried everything there is possible to find a cure and nothing has worked.

I believe I am very lucky because I have a lot of hair to cover a lot of spots and balding from ear to ear at the back. I get compliments daily on how beautiful my hair is and all I can say is in my mind 'if only you knew what is under all that hair and how I feel about it'.

My name is Maretta and I have a condition called Alopecia and that is my story.



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