

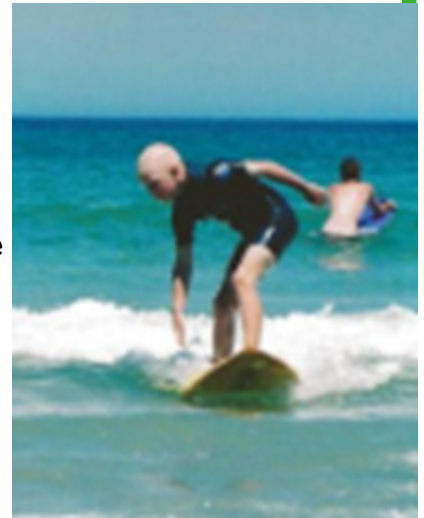


RyanYou think that you are use to it, come to terms with it all....but I don't think you ever really do, you just push it aside and try to move forward.



Nobody likes having Alopecia Areata. Nobody wants to be the bald kid. It sucks big time! I'm almost 18 and have had Alopecia for 17 years, so I have always been that bald kid. I have never known life with a full head of hair.

My hair grows, falls out, grows, falls out, grows and falls out. At times I am completely bald and at others I almost have a full coverage except for the back of my head, around my ears and a section through the middle of my scalp. I have always been in control of my hair style with my dad teaching me by age 5 to use the clippers. I know the comb over went out years ago, but for me it is currently my daily hair style.



At first having Alopecia didn't bother me, I was too little to understand it or care about it. I didn't understand why people would stare at me or why people kept saying I was sick. My early childhood was like anyone else's I believe. I was into everything. I have a room full of trophies having played in just about every sport a kid could play in. I played soccer, basketball ,golf, football, swimming, tennis, skateboards and snow skiing. Now I'm into motorbike racing and snowboarding.

From 12-16 it was tough. You're a teenager just wanting to be the same as every other teenager and your self-image and peer acceptance is important. I have always been popular and well liked and have a great circle of mates that helped limit the taunts, unwanted comments and starring. You think that you are use to it, come to terms with it all....but I don't think you ever really do, you just push it aside and try to move forward. You get tired of being in the spot light or having people look at you, its just easier to wear a hat or

a hoody to avoid the questions and the stares.

Having finished school and started my plumbing apprenticeship my journey with Alopecia into adult hood has just began.

www.aaaf.org.au



Australia Alopecia Areata Foundation Inc.

Alopecia Areata
.....it's life changing