



# Girls show degree of determination

If university degrees were earned on determination alone, Tegan Prentice, and Amy Clough would graduate with honours.

Unlike other university students whose biggest hurdles are usually procrastination and a lack of money, the Sunshine Coast women have a far greater challenge to overcome – they are both battling cancer.

But despite the nausea, fatigue and other side-effects caused by their medical treatment, they are determined to complete their tertiary education and get on with life cancer free.

Both have been awarded for their determination with Dare to Dream scholarships through the Redkite organ-

isation.

Tegan, 21, of Kawana Island, won the Redkite State Scholarship Award for Queensland valued at \$2000, while 20-year-old Amy, of Wurtulla, received \$500 through the program.

It has been a rough couple of months for Amy, who found out she had relapsed with Hodgkins Lymphoma three days before commencing her Bachelor of Public Relations at the University of the Sunshine Coast in July this year.

She had been forced to defer her degree twice because of the Lymphoma but wasn't going to put her life on hold again.

"This is what I want to do, I am sick of waiting," she said. Amy began a clinical trial a couple of weeks ago

and has so far been able to attend every tutorial.

Her dream is to graduate and work in the public relations department for the Brisbane Broncos.

"I would love to be able to do public relations work for the Broncos.

"I'm a fan and it's been a dream of mine for a long time."

Tegan, on the other hand, had her education cut short when she was diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukaemia at the age of 14.

"I thought I would finish grade 12 and go onto university but I had to leave school in grade 10 when I became sick again," she recalled

But she did not give up on going to university, completing a TAFE courses and

then a bridging program to qualify for tertiary education.

She is now in the second semester of her first year studying a Bachelor of Education remotely through Murdoch University in Perth.

Tegan said it was a lonely road for young people with cancer.

"I haven't had a good friend since I was sick, it is impossible for anyone to understand.

"Fourteen-year-olds don't understand. Even people my age don't understand.

"The friends I did have are now finished their university courses, they say 'thank goodness it is over', but they have no idea how lucky they are."

– SARAH CRAWFORD



DETERMINED: Cancer sufferers Tegan Prentice and Amy Clough have both received Redkite scholarships to help them pursue their university studies.

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