

Rebecca Boyle's Story

Rebecca Boyle, 45, was diagnosed with MS in 2000. She decided to first 'take the plunge' in 2018 and Step Up For MSWA.

"As a first time participant, I was completely out of my comfort zone. I'd never done anything like Step Up before. I was really pleased with how I challenged myself. I completed the climb in 15 minutes and 27 seconds! The event was excellent, so very well organised. There were lots of friendly and helpful event staff, volunteers and fellow-competitors. I'm really looking forward to stepping up again for MSWA in 2019!" said Rebecca.

Upon receiving her initial diagnosis, after experiencing numbness and lack of mobility in her right leg, Rebecca was shocked. She said "I didn't know much about MS and instantly felt and thought the worst. I thought I'm going to be in a wheelchair. But, when I stopped to think rationally, I decided to fight it and get on with living my life like nothing had changed."

Rebecca had lost her first husband in a motorcycle accident in 1997. People had suggested that PTS could have been a factor, but Rebecca has long since realised that there are other factors that can lead to MS.

After her diagnosis, and with full support from family and friends including her Dad's encouragement to still live life to the full, she moved from the UK to New Zealand, to do a teaching job, which she had never done before. "I didn't really think too much about going to live and work on the other side of the world on my own. I just decided to 'take the plunge'.

Life for Rebecca, pre and post her MS diagnosis, is very active. She has always exercised, and MS hasn't stopped her. Although, living with MS, means that Rebecca can't run on the road now, as she has a tendency to trip up. Her right leg lacks strength and co-ordination. Rebecca has been very fortunate in that MS doesn't really affect her life too much. She is not in pain and has only, four months ago, started monthly infusions.

Rebecca said "I took the changes MS brought into my life, all on board. I suppose I was in a bit of denial. I re-married in 2008. My husband is very supportive and optimistic. We had a beautiful daughter in 2014. She is our miracle, after 6 rounds of IVF."

"Currently, the status of my MS is good, even though my MRI's still show more lesions appearing. I stay strong and positive for my daughter" said Rebecca. "After living with MS for 18 years, my hope for my future health is to remain stable or, hopefully, improve in the future. I heard of MSWA when I moved to Australia 12 years ago. I haven't, as yet, accessed their services, as I've not felt the need to. But, I certainly know of, and value, the great work MSWA does and that they're here to support me, and other Western Australians, living with MS and all neurological conditions."

