



CRASHING INTO
POTENTIAL

YEAR 6 – APPRENTICE PROGRAM

BIOGRAPHIES

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Content Advisory: This material contains images and references to Indigenous people who may have passed away. We acknowledge the cultural significance and protocols associated with Indigenous representation and ask readers to approach this content with respect and understanding

We respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we live, learn, and create, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation.

We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have cared for this land for thousands of years.

We also acknowledge the diverse Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from across Australia whose lands our work reaches.

We honor their rich cultures, histories, and ongoing connection to the land, and commit to listening, learning, and walking together on the journey of reconciliation.



Biographies

The biographies included here are a sample of people who have shown resilience and used the skills of goal setting, mindset, perseverance and making choices to succeed in their lives.

There are many more people who have shown these characteristics, and teachers are encouraged to help students look for people in their own families and communities who have shown resilience as role models too.

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Dylan Alcott



Source: https://www.paralympic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/WebProfile_alcott-440x440.jpg

Introduction:

Dylan Alcott is a celebrated Australian athlete, motivational speaker, and disability advocate known for his remarkable achievements in wheelchair basketball and tennis. As a Paralympic gold medallist and Grand Slam champion, Alcott has not only redefined perceptions of disability in sports but has also become a powerful advocate for accessibility and inclusion.

Early Life and Education:

Dylan Alcott was born on December 4, 1990, in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. Despite being born with a congenital spinal condition called sacral agenesis, which affects the development of the lower spine, Alcott's parents encouraged him to pursue his passions without limitations. He attended Brighton Grammar School before studying Commerce at the University of Melbourne, where he graduated with honours.

Athletic Career:

Dylan Alcott's athletic journey began at a young age when he discovered wheelchair basketball. He quickly excelled in the sport, representing Australia at the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games and winning a gold medal. Alcott later transitioned to wheelchair tennis, where he achieved

even greater success, winning multiple Grand Slam titles, including the Australian Open and Wimbledon.

Advocacy and Philanthropy:

In addition to his sporting achievements, Dylan Alcott is a dedicated advocate for people with disabilities. He founded the Dylan Alcott Foundation, which aims to create inclusive opportunities for individuals with disabilities through sport and education. Alcott's advocacy extends to media representation and accessibility initiatives, advocating for greater inclusion and representation of people with disabilities in all aspects of society.

Media and Public Influence:

Dylan Alcott's infectious personality and positive attitude have made him a sought-after media personality and motivational speaker. He has appeared on various television programs and podcasts, sharing his story of resilience and inspiring audiences to overcome obstacles and pursue their dreams. Alcott's candidness about his experiences with disability has helped break down barriers and challenge stereotypes.

Legacy:

Dylan Alcott's legacy extends far beyond his sporting achievements, inspiring countless individuals worldwide to embrace their differences, pursue their passions, and advocate for accessibility and inclusion. As a role model and advocate, Alcott continues to use his platform to create positive change, leaving an indelible mark on the world of sports and disability advocacy.

References:

Alcott, D. (2020). Able. How I Got There. <https://dylanalcott.com.au/able-how-i-got-there/>

Dylan Alcott Foundation. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.dylanalcottfoundation.com.au/>

Tennis Australia. (n.d.). Dylan Alcott. Retrieved from <https://www.tennis.com.au/player-profiles/dylan-alcott>

Rosie Batty



Source: <https://lens.monash.edu/@politics-society/2021/08/31/1383711/the-batty-effect-how-one-woman-changed-the-conversation-on-domestic-violence>

From Unthinkable Loss to Unrelenting Champion

Introduction:

Rosie Batty isn't just a domestic violence campaigner; she's a force of nature. Propelled by a horrific personal tragedy, she transformed her grief into a galvanising movement, forever changing the conversation about family violence in Australia.

Background:

Born in England in 1962, Rosie's seemingly normal life took a devastating turn in 2014. Her 11-year-old son, Luke, was tragically murdered by his father during a cricket practice, a crime fuelled by domestic violence. This unimaginable loss, instead of breaking her, ignited a fire within Rosie to fight for a future where such tragedies wouldn't happen again.

Unwavering Advocacy:

Facing the spotlight wasn't easy, but Rosie's grief transformed into powerful advocacy. She bravely shared her story, challenging the silence surrounding domestic violence. Her raw honesty and eloquence resonated with a nation, turning her into a symbol of hope and resilience for countless victims.

A Catalyst for Change:

Rosie didn't stop at raising awareness. She channelled her pain into action, spearheading campaigns for concrete change. From demanding better support services for victims to pushing for legislative reforms, she became a tireless advocate for stronger protections.

Leaving a Legacy:

Rosie's efforts weren't in vain. In Luke's name, she co-founded the Luke Batty Foundation, which continues to support victims and raise awareness. Her collaboration with various organizations and government agencies led to significant policy changes, improving the response to domestic violence across Australia.

More Than Recognition:

Accolades like Australian of the Year honour Rosie's impact, but her true legacy lies in the countless lives touched. She challenged societal norms, sparked national conversations, and empowered victims to seek help.

An Inspiration for All:

Rosie's story isn't just about loss and violence; it's about unyielding resilience and the transformative power of courage. Even amidst unbearable pain, she chose to be a force for good, inspiring individuals worldwide to stand up for what's right.

Beyond Australia:

Rosie's voice transcends borders. Her story shines a light on a global issue, urging the world to confront domestic violence, listen to survivors, and create safer communities for all.

References:

Rosie Batty Official Website: <https://rosiebatty.com.au/>

Layne Beachley



Source: <https://www.inspirespeakers.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Layne-Beachley-1270x1280.jpg>

Introduction:

Layne Beachley is an Australian surfing legend known for her exceptional talent, resilience, and determination. Overcoming numerous challenges throughout her career, she became a seven-time world champion and a trailblazer for women in the sport of surfing.

Early Life:

Born on May 24, 1972, in Sydney, New South Wales, Layne Beachley discovered her passion for surfing at a young age. Growing up facing financial difficulties and the loss of her mother at a tender age, she found solace and purpose in the ocean.

Surfing Career:

Layne Beachley's surfing career began to flourish in the early 1990s when she burst onto the professional scene with her fearless approach and unwavering determination. Despite facing setbacks and fierce competition, she dominated the sport, winning her first world championship in 1998.

Achievements and Contributions:

Layne Beachley's list of achievements is unparalleled in the world of surfing. She holds the record as the only surfer, male or female, to claim six consecutive world titles, solidifying her status as one of the greatest athletes in the history of the sport.

Advocacy and Philanthropy:

Off the waves, Layne Beachley is a passionate advocate for environmental conservation, women's empowerment, and youth education. Through her charity, the Layne Beachley Foundation, she supports aspiring young surfers and provides scholarships and mentorship programs to help them achieve their dreams.

Personal Challenges and Growth:

Throughout her life, Layne Beachley has faced numerous personal challenges, including self-doubt, injuries, and the pressures of competition. However, she has always approached adversity with resilience and a growth mindset, using setbacks as opportunities for learning and growth.

Legacy:

Layne Beachley's legacy extends far beyond her achievements in surfing. She has inspired countless individuals around the world to pursue their passions with determination, resilience, and a positive mindset. Her story serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration for aspiring athletes and anyone facing adversity.

References:

World Surf League. (n.d.). Layne Beachley. Retrieved from <https://www.worldsurfleague.com/athletes/30/layne-beachley>

Layne Beachley Foundation. (n.d.). Our Story. Retrieved from <https://laynebeachley.com/>

Fanny Cochrane Smith



Source: https://www.tmag.tas.gov.au/collection/people/fanny_cochrane_smith

Introduction:

Fanny Cochrane Smith was a Tasmanian Aboriginal woman whose enduring legacy lies in her efforts to preserve and promote Indigenous culture and language. As one of the last fluent speakers of Tasmanian Aboriginal languages, her recordings are invaluable treasures that provide insights into the rich cultural heritage of Tasmania's Indigenous peoples.

Early Life and Heritage:

Fanny Cochrane Smith was born around 1834 at Wybalenna, a settlement on Flinders Island, Tasmania, established for Indigenous people forcibly removed from their traditional lands. Raised in the harsh conditions of colonial Tasmania, she experienced firsthand the devastating impacts of European settlement on Aboriginal communities and culture.

Cultural Preservation Efforts:

Despite the challenges she faced, Fanny Cochrane Smith remained deeply connected to her Aboriginal heritage and language. Recognizing the urgent need to preserve Tasmania's Indigenous languages, she collaborated with linguist Horace Watson to record songs, stories, and spoken word in the traditional languages of her ancestors.

Historical Significance:

In 1899, Fanny Cochrane Smith made history by becoming the first person to be recorded speaking in a Tasmanian Aboriginal language. Her recordings, made on wax cylinders, are among the earliest known examples of Indigenous language preservation in Australia. These recordings provide invaluable insights into Tasmanian Aboriginal culture and language, enriching our understanding of Australia's diverse linguistic heritage.

Legacy and Recognition:

Fanny Cochrane Smith's contributions to Indigenous language preservation have earned her widespread recognition and respect. Her recordings are held in esteemed collections, including the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, where they continue to serve as important cultural artifacts and educational resources. Cochrane Smith's legacy reminds us of the resilience and resilience of Tasmania's Aboriginal people and the importance of preserving and celebrating Indigenous languages and culture.

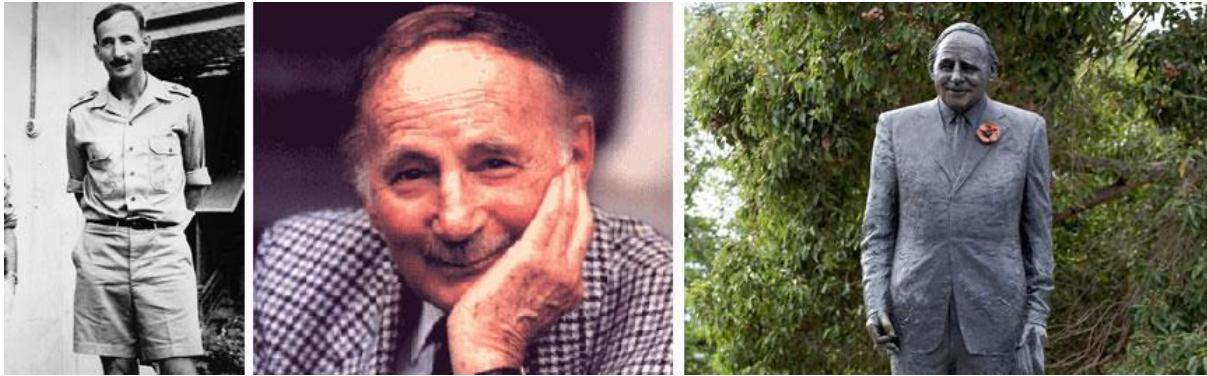
References:

Mulvaney, D. J. (1967). The recordings of Fanny Cochrane Smith. Records of the Queen Victoria Museum, Launceston, 28.

Petrow, S. (2003). White men's dreaming: Fanny Cochrane Smith, Ngugi Writing, and the Stolen Generations. *Journal of Australian Studies*, 27(76), 39-51.

Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. (n.d.). Fanny Cochrane Smith. Retrieved from https://www.tmag.tas.gov.au/collection/people/fanny_cochrane_smith

Edward "Weary" Dunlop



Source: <https://www.onlymelbourne.com.au/ernest-edward-weary-dunlop-sir>

Introduction:

Edward "Weary" Dunlop was an Australian war hero, surgeon, and humanitarian known for his exceptional leadership and compassion during World War II. Revered for his selflessness and dedication to caring for prisoners of war (POWs), Dunlop's legacy continues to inspire generations, symbolising the resilience and spirit of the Australian ANZAC tradition.

Early Life and Education:

Born on July 12, 1907, in Wangaratta, Victoria, Australia, Edward Dunlop displayed an early aptitude for academic and athletic pursuits. He attended Scotch College in Melbourne before studying medicine at the University of Melbourne, where he graduated with honours in 1934. Dunlop's medical training and commitment to service would later define his extraordinary contributions during times of conflict.

Military Service and WWII:

During World War II, Edward Dunlop enlisted in the Australian Army Medical Corps, serving as a surgeon in the Middle East and later in Java, Indonesia. Following the fall of Singapore in 1942, Dunlop was captured by Japanese forces and became a POW, enduring unimaginable hardships in prison camps along the infamous Thai-Burma Railway.

Humanitarian Work and Leadership:

Despite the deplorable conditions and brutality of the POW camps, Edward Dunlop emerged as a beacon of hope and resilience, earning the nickname "Weary" for his tireless efforts to care for his fellow prisoners. Despite limited resources and constant danger, Dunlop worked tirelessly to alleviate suffering, performing surgeries, and providing medical care under the most challenging circumstances.

Legacy and Recognition:

After the war, Edward "Weary" Dunlop continued his medical career, becoming a respected surgeon and advocate for veterans' welfare. His remarkable leadership and compassion were recognized with numerous honours and awards, including the Order of Australia and Knight Bachelor. Dunlop's legacy lives on in the hearts of Australians, commemorated through memorials, books, and documentaries celebrating his extraordinary life and contributions.

References:

Australian War Memorial. (n.d.). Edward Dunlop. Retrieved from <https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/dunlop>

Dunlop, E. E. (2011). *The War Diaries of Weary Dunlop: Java and the Burma-Thailand Railway 1942–1945*. Cambridge University Press.

National Archives of Australia. (n.d.). Edward Ernest Dunlop - A4926, 23883. Retrieved from <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8158813>

Julia Gillard



Source: <https://www.nma.gov.au/explore/features/prime-ministers/julia-gillard>

Introduction:

Julia Gillard, Australia's first female Prime Minister, made history with her groundbreaking leadership and unwavering commitment to public service. Throughout her career, Gillard championed education, social justice, and gender equality, leaving an indelible mark on Australian politics and society.

Early Life and Education:

Julia Eileen Gillard was born on September 29, 1961, in Barry, Wales, before migrating with her family to Adelaide, South Australia. Gillard excelled academically, earning degrees in Arts and Law from the University of Adelaide. Her passion for social justice and advocacy began to take shape during her student years, laying the foundation for her future political career.

Political Career:

Julia Gillard entered politics in the 1990s, serving in various roles within the Australian Labor Party (ALP), including as Chief of Staff to Victorian Premier John Brumby. In 1998, she was elected to the House of Representatives as the Member for Lalor, representing Victoria. Gillard

quickly rose through the ranks, becoming Deputy Leader of the ALP in 2006 and Australia's first female Deputy Prime Minister in 2007.

Prime Ministership:

On June 24, 2010, Julia Gillard made history by becoming Australia's first female Prime Minister, succeeding Kevin Rudd as leader of the ALP and the country. During her tenure, Gillard implemented significant policy reforms, including the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and the Better Schools funding program (also known as Gonski reforms).

Legacy and Advocacy:

Beyond her political achievements, Julia Gillard remains a vocal advocate for education, gender equality, and mental health awareness. In 2012, she delivered a now-famous speech in Parliament condemning sexism and misogyny, sparking national and international conversations about gender discrimination in politics and society. Gillard continues to inspire future generations through her leadership and advocacy work.

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Australian Government. (n.d.). Julia Gillard - Former Prime Minister. Retrieved from <https://www.pmc.gov.au/former-prime-ministers/julia-gillard>

Gillard, J. (n.d.). Julia Gillard <https://www.juliagillard.com.au/julia-gillard>

Grattan, M. (2014). *The Stalking of Julia Gillard*. Melbourne University Press.

Wright, S. (2013). *The Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Education*. Retrieved from <https://www.juliagillard.org.au/about/awards/>

Disability Advocacy:

Throughout her career, Stella Young was a fierce advocate for disability rights and accessibility. She tackled issues such as ableism, discrimination, and the lack of representation in media and society. Young's TED Talk, "I'm not your inspiration, thank you very much," went viral, sparking conversations about the portrayal of disability and the importance of authentic representation.

Legacy:

Stella Young's legacy continues to inspire individuals worldwide to challenge societal norms, embrace diversity, and advocate for inclusion. Her fearless advocacy, humour, and unwavering spirit serve as a beacon of empowerment for people with disabilities, encouraging them to embrace their identity, speak out against injustice, and pursue their dreams unapologetically.

References:

Young, S. (2014). I'm not your inspiration, thank you very much [Video file]. TED Conferences. Retrieved from

https://www.ted.com/talks/stella_young_i_m_not_your_inspiration_thank_you_very_much

ABC Ramp Up. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.abc.net.au/rampup/>

Young, S. (2014). Stella Young: How to tell stories about disability. TEDxSydney. Retrieved from <https://www.ted.com/tedx/events/11527>

ABC News. 17 things Stella Young wanted you to know. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-12-08/17-things-stella-young-wanted-you-to-know/5950814>

SUGGESTED BIOGRAPHIES FOR THE FOUR RESILIENCE STRATEGIES

Goal Setting:

1. Turia Pitt: Overcame life-changing burns and achieved remarkable athletic goals. <https://www.turiapitt.com/>
2. Jessica Watson: Became the youngest person to sail solo, non-stop, and unassisted around the world at the age of 16. <https://www.jessicawatson.com.au/about-jessica-watson/>
3. Louise Sauvage: Achieved Paralympic success through goal setting in wheelchair racing. <https://www.paralympic.org.au/athlete/louise-sauvage/>
4. Eddie Mabo: Fought for Indigenous land rights, setting a legal precedent.

Making Choices:

Mindset:

Perseverance: