

Community Service Opportunities

Venue	Community Service
HVGS Junior School	Students assisting in classrooms, Library, ELC, Outdoors
Trees in Newcastle(TIN) (Burwood)	Planting of small trees and plant regeneration
Greening Australia Newcastle	Planting of small trees and plant regeneration
Shortland Wetlands	Planting of small trees and plant regeneration
Newcastle City Council (Wickham)	Removal of graffiti and planting of small trees and plant regeneration
Mai-Wel	Students assisting in workshop
Hunter River School	Students assisting in classrooms with disabled students
Green Hills Lodge	Students assisting in reading newspapers, presenting a musical concert to the elderly residents and some in-house activities
Krishna Organic Farm Cessnock	Students assisting in planting, weeding, gardening at this community garden
HVGS Outdoor Beautification	Students assisting within the Wetlands and other outdoor beautification projects at HVGS
Lifestyle Solutions	Students assisting with preparations for work with disabled persons
Sailability	Students assisting with preparation for disabled persons to sail
First Chance	Students working at Newcastle University with children
Soapbox Café	Students assisting to prepare food for homeless people



Christie Dawes suffered a devastating campaign at the Beijing Paralympic Games but that doesn't stop this primary school teacher and budding property developer from training several hours a day to compete in the sport she loves.

The Beijing Games saw Christie involved in what was described as a smash up derby. Six wheelchair racers were involved in a crash 500m from the finish line in the 5000m. While some were badly injured, Christie escaped unscathed. A re-race was called and Christie finished sixth. All was not lost however as she won a silver medal as part of the 4x100m relay team. Coming away with a silver medal at her fourth Paralympic Games was one of the greatest sporting moments of Christie's life. Finishing third in the New York marathon just months after the Games was also very special for her.

A car accident in 1990 left Christie a paraplegic, but she refused to allow the accident get in the way of her life. Although not naturally talented in the sport of wheelchair track and road, Christie's passion and continued hard work has paid off with several commendable results. Throughout Christie's career she has achieved countless successes and accolades. Being named the Young Paralympian of the Year in 1996 was a particularly significant moment for the sportswoman. She is the current Australian record holder in the 1500m and 5000m, substantially beating the personal best times of past Paralympic great Louise Sauvage. With her coach and husband Andrew Dawes, Christie is currently renovating and planning a family. Until then she will continue to compete and looks forward to the challenges ahead.