



**Life of a childhood
cancer survivor
after treatment**
Rory Gardiner





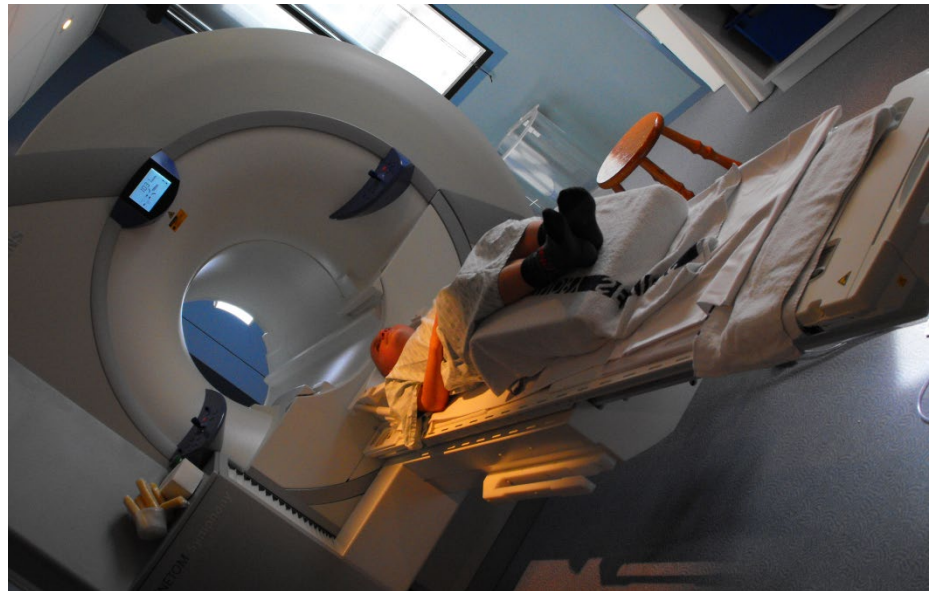
Growing up

- It has been 10 years since I was diagnosed with brain cancer (medulloblastoma).
- I have been in remission for nine years.
- In March 2019 I will be 17.

Out for dinner for my 16th birthday with mates Jeremy, Alex and Bailey

MRI – checking for cancer

- For the first five years after treatment I had regular MRI scans to check for cancer.
- I have been lucky. All scan results have been NED (no evidence of disease)
- Dr Stephen has been my cancer Doctor (Oncologist) for 10 years.

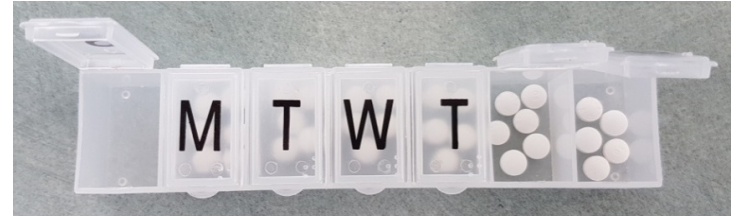


Monitoring my health - hormones

Children who have had cancer develop other problems as they grow up. The problems are caused by the cancer and the treatment we have had. I see the Doctors several times a year and have regular blood tests.

I don't have enough chemicals (hormones) to make some parts of my body work.

I take medicine to grow and for energy. I take a special pill several times a day to keep me ok, especially during times of stress or when I am sick.



Hearing

Treatment for cancer caused me to lose some hearing and I used hearing aids.

My hearing gradually got worse and by 2017 I struggled to hear and understand sound.

In November 2017 I had an operation to place cochlear implants in both my ears. The operation made me deaf.



The cochlear implants allow my brain to hear and understand sound



At School - learning

In 2016 I started Inglewood High School.

In 2019 I am a Senior in Year 12.

The radiotherapy affects the way my brain works.

- I am slow at doing things
- I forget things
- I get confused when things are complex
- I get tired quickly

I take less subjects than my friends and a Teacher Aide helps me during some lessons. I work hard.

In 2018 I achieved Level 1 NCEA.



Being active with physical disabilities

The cancer and its treatment left me with physical disabilities; my left side is weak, I have poor balance, I have poor co-ordination, my reaction time is slow and I get tired more easily

I don't let this stop me.

Being active is one way I can keep healthy.

I walk and tramp, swim, study PE at school and belong to the Parafed Sports Club where I practice yoga, boxing and other sports.

“TRYING NEW THINGS CAN BE A CHALLENGE, BUT IT MAKES YOU FEEL POWERFUL”



**CHOOSE
PARAFED TARANAKI**

In my spare time

In my spare time I enjoy:

- Swimming
- Building lego
- Reading comics and graphic novels
- Gaming



Into the wild

With my family I spend a lot of time exploring the outdoors and volunteering for conservation projects



Family – new addition

We got a little brother in December 2010. His name is Colt. He is now 8 years old. We are best buddies but we also fight like brothers do.



Family – my greatest supporters

“Family means no one gets left behind or forgotten”

David Ogden Stiers



My family support me to be the best I can be and ensure I have a great life.

