

“A letter to my teenage self” Daisy Pearce

Article by Liam Ellison



Melbourne Demons AFLW captain Daisy Pearce appeared as the guest speaker at the recent Gateway LLEN AGM where she shared her inspirational story.

Daisy spoke of her own personal connection with the Gateway LLEN mission. Having grown up in the beautiful north-eastern Victorian town of Bright, Daisy explained that as a child she never properly recognised the disadvantages that faced her.

During her address, Daisy shared a letter that she had written to herself as a young girl. Daisy shared a more vulnerable side to herself compared to her ‘perfect’ public persona that doesn’t truly represent the hard work Daisy has had to put in.

When speaking of her love for footy, Daisy explained that she began playing the game at a young age but in the rural town of Bright she thought that she was “the only girl in the world who played footy.” Daisy began to play with the boys in the juniors during her childhood but was told in U13s that it was too dangerous for her to continue.

Daisy did not play football again until she moved to Melbourne as a young adult. It was here that she discovered that a women’s league existed and began to play again.

When comparing the climate for women's football from then and now, the improvement has been astronomical. Daisy spoke of her excitement for the growth of the women's game.

"It warms my heart that every time I go out to a clinic now you see 6 junior boys' teams and 4 junior girls' teams and they can play the game. For a girl that grew up in a town where I was the only girl in the team, it's great to see now that they can aspire to play at the highest level" shared Pearce.

Growing up in Bright, Pearce explained the limitations that came with her education. Although she spends no time feeling sorry for herself, Daisy had to complete her schooling without the use of a laptop, which many of her peers had access to.

Daisy was glowing in her endorsement of Gateway LLEN's mission, explaining that talent can be found everywhere in young people with the help and guidance of others.

Pearce, who is a full-time midwife, has an extremely busy work schedule. Now a professional athlete in the AFL, Daisy has to balance playing and training with AFL ambassadorial duties, her job as a midwife and as a commentator for both Channel Seven and Triple M. Daisy explained the learning process that she has undergone in her new role with the media.

"I've been really lucky to have some great people around me who have supported me in my transition and shown me that there's no science to it, there's no course you can do to get good at it. It simply a matter of getting out there and having a go" shared Daisy.

Thanks to the AFLW and Daisy's media commitments, Pearce has experienced a quick rise in becoming a well-known public figure.

"It's been a funny couple of years with the profile of the sport increasing so much but I still see myself as the same person and Daisy from the bush."

The Gateway LLEN management committee would like to thank Daisy for her time and inspirational comments.