Dreams take flight

Rare disorder won’t hold younger back

By EMILY HAYNES

WHEN asked what she loves more than anything in the world, Bella Gray has a quick and definitive answer: “Cheerleading, cheerleading and... cheerleading,” she laughed. “I want to be in the Olympics in 2020.”

The courageous 11-year-old started her favourite hobby at the end of 2013 and has been hooked ever since. “I’m a flyer because I’m light and I have no fear,” she said. “The Sunshine Coast Cheerleading talent was doing all the stunts and tricks she could do, until last week, there was one thing holding her back from the ‘big moves’. Bella suffers from eosinophilic esophagitis, a rare disorder which causes an allergic response and inflammation.

For the past four years Bella has had a stomach feeding tube to ensure she gets vital nutrients. But the feeding tube restricted her cheerleading moves and meant that her partner, Sarah Armstrong, had to be extremely careful in her throwing and catching techniques. To give her the freedom to do more stunts, Bella bravely had the feeding tube removed last week. The change meant Bella will now rely on her own discipline to drink formula and ensure she gets all the nutrients she needs. It was a risk she was willing to take.

“I don’t have to worry and lead an awkward position,” she said. “Without Sarah I wouldn’t have the courage to do what I’m doing now.”

Pride of Lions united for an afternoon

THE Lake Currumundi-Kawana Lions Club has been having an information afternoon. If you have ever wondered what the Lions Club does for your community, nationally and internationally then come along and meet the members. Lions Australia has a proud history of achievement in disaster and emergency relief, medical and community service.

Membership is open to men and women over the age of 18 years. Come along to the information afternoon at Currumundi Special School Hall on Saturday, March 14 at 2.30pm for a 3pm start. If you would like more information please phone President Lorraine Howdy on 0419 248 548 or Secretary Joyce Peters on 0419 391 029 or visit their website www.lakecurrumundi.kawana.qld.lions.org.au.

We’re part of the team. Why don’t you join us?

We recognise that local clubs, projects and community groups are an important part of the community. That’s why we show our support in many different ways - like sponsoring Caloundra Junior Rugby Union.

Drop in to see Troy and the team at 99 Bulcock Street, Caloundra or phone 5492 5267 to find out more.