

# Conscious spirituality in search of truth...



## **PATRICK EADINGTON: AN INSPIRATION IN TASMANIA**

*There are many people born with a disability who inspire, encourage others, share life experiences, and significantly contribute to community life. Patrick Eadington, is such person. Born in NSW, Australia in 1975, moving to Hobart in 1987, he wholly exemplifies the above sentiments. Currently he lives at the Glenview Community Services complex in Glenorchy, Tasmania.*

*Patrick, like many other people living with congenital cerebral palsy is now permanently wheel chair bound, thereby severely restricting physical mobility. His mother Jacqui Crouch, my partner of 31 years, has encouraged Patrick to fully live and experience life, whilst overcoming numerous challenges. He is a total inspiration, to us, and others in the community, an insight into his world follows...*

*—Philip Crouch, Tasmania, 2020*

**As an inquisitive young child,** many, many hours were spent with Jacqui responding to a wide range of questions from “why is the sky blue?” and, “what it does mean when we are born again?” Perhaps reincarnation! At the Crippled Children’s School in NSW, education was always interesting, especially after the holidays, and at the start of a new school term when Patrick would share a whole lot of new and interesting information with the class.

**A move from NSW saw Jacqui and Patrick make the bold move** to Tasmania, albeit with *no* friends. Twelve months later, I joined them. Apart from a four year sojourn in South Australia—Tasmania is now our *permanent* home. Patrick attended a special needs school in Hobart, but this was not satisfactory. Fortunately, an opportunity to enrol in Snug Primary School came about and from there it was on to Kingston High School, a *steep* learning curve—eventually achieving the school certificate. A family move to Launceston, and enrolment at Newstead College [flat, easy access!!!], enabled full participation in education, college drama, arts, outdoor white water rafting, rock climbing and more, suitably modified to suit his mobility.

**Later achievements included:** inclusion on the board of Spastic Centre, South Australia, volunteer data base work with Anglicare, Social Welfare, Train the Trainer, Induction talks to TAFE student support workers based on Patrick’s own sensory program; UTAS Medical registrars, [sometimes accompanied by Jacqui,] Chair of Access committee at Glenorchy Council; and the board of Advocacy Tasmania. Since 2019 he has been a director of Li-Ve Tasmania which also delivers daily support hours for him at *Glenview.*’ (where he is known as volunteer, ‘Postman Pat’). Patrick and I also wrote and publicly performed a humorous play as part of the Disability Amalgamation Festival. Patrick is very creative, and definitely a sensitive intuitive!

**Despite the many hours of physiotherapy, limited movement, spinal operations and other illnesses,** Patrick never complains—always commenting there are others worse off than himself. This is reflected in his every day life, as *our* friends, support workers and service staff at Glenview readily testify. Like many other disabled people he manages life without any real close friends, however, we believe that many people see the disability, and not the real person. *Jacqui and I love him dearly, and to us he always remains an inspiration!* **Patrick’s Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/patrickpedro8>

