

Fiona: Janne Seletto

When I was in fourth class our Class Captain was Fiona McDonald. She was also the top of the class and the fastest runner in the playground. And a nice kid. Formidable!

One day Fiona hurt her left leg and it never got better. In the end she had to go to hospital, and we heard the diagnosis was cancer.

Then we heard something worse. To treat her leg they had to cut it off! She was nine years old at the time.

So the treatment seemed to go well. Fiona came out of hospital and back to school. She was still in the top class despite missing so much lesson time.

When she came back she had a prosthetic leg that started below her left knee, but she also had her smile and her hair was pulled back in pigtails just like it was before.

By now we were in sixth class and we elected Fiona class captain again. And that's where I would like the story to end. With that school assembly, with Fiona climbing the steps to the stage, to receive her class captain's badge. As she was clumping up the stairs, trying to look as normal as possible, the headmistress said: Well you all know who this is. And everyone started clapping - even the teachers, even the sixth form girls.

It didn't end there though. After a while Fiona needed to go back into hospital. The second time she went in, she didn't come back out. The kid never made it to High School.

That was over 50 years ago but none of us will ever forget her. How could you?

Freckles, red pigtails, battling on, and everyone clapping.

Rest in Peace Fiona McDonald.