

Media Coverage

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Competing marks a return to health for Brittani

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BRITTANI Nicholl can proudly wear a bikini.

It should be something any 20-year-old woman can do but there was a time when the Pottsville surfer could not.

Brittani had to wear an ileostomy bag for several years after she haemorrhaged when 30cm of her bowel was removed in major surgery.

In January last year she had reversal surgery and has been able to get on with life since. She has not let Crohn's disease stop her.

Crohn's is an illness of the digestive system and Brittani lives with constant symptoms. Despite this, she is healthier than she has

ever been.

Brittani is taking part in the World Qualifying Series this year and will this month travel to Europe to compete.

She spent last year getting her health in order, also recovering from an ankle broken while surfing in 2009.

Brittani had ankle surgery during her reversal surgery so she would not have to be out of the water for any longer than necessary.

"Last year was a year to get everything right and now I'm ready to hit 2011 and my surfing's going well," she said.

This weekend she will travel to Sydney to take part in the Layne

Beachley Classic.

The former world champion surfer invited Brittani to take part in the event's celebrity challenge, involving stars teaming to raise money for charity.

Brittani's team will support Crohn's & Colitis Australia.

She is also the face of a new national television campaign for the charity to raise awareness of debilitating and incurable bowel diseases.

Crohn's disease and colitis cause diarrhoea, fatigue, weight loss and often require surgery for the 61,000 Australians living with the conditions.



Brittani Nicholl will be the television face of Crohn's disease and will compete in the Layne Beachly surf competition

Photo: SCOTT FLETCHER