



MANUAL MAGAZINE

Issue No. 25
Mar/Apr/May 2007



Abby Lockhart

I first heard of Abby when I was about 17 and trying to learn how to skate; rumours drifted across town of a girl who was ruling it on her skateboard. Our paths crossed again about three years later when we were both learning to ride in whiteout conditions on the Rock Garden run at Whakapapa. Seven years later now, and we're still in the same industry, just on different routes. Abby is now one of New Zealand's strongest female riders. She has the right attitude with talent to boot, so I suspect we'll be seeing even more of her from here on in. | Haley Ashby

How did you start snowboarding? I first learned on a fourth form skiing trip with Mercury Bay Area School. Then I picked it back up in 2000.

Have you had to do some random jobs to keep the dream alive? Oh yeah. Motel cleaner, a little at Fernie, a natural disaster cleaner in Canada, a labourer [in Canada it was sometimes minus 20 degrees], waitress, landscaping, concreting, horse trekking and snowboard coach.

Do you prefer riding with guys or girls? Both. Girls because it's nice to ride with people that are on a similar level to yourself, and girls can be really supportive and fun. Boys because there are so many more boys and they can really push your riding in a different way, and teach you things. At the end of the day I don't care as long as I'm with my friends and we're having fun.

The best piece of advice for a girl getting into the snowboarding game? Be yourself, confident, respectful, healthy, fit, happy and always follow your dreams.

What's your opinion of the female snowboarding industry at the moment? Female snowboarding is going off right now! The girls are getting heaps more coverage in both mags and videos. The level of riding is so much better. In NZ we only have a small crew of girls who can hold their own, but everyone is getting so much better as we're all pushing each other to step up the progression. It's not like the old days when if you could change edges and olive you were sponsored.

Coollest place snowboarding has taken you so far? There are a lot of amazing places snowboarding has taken me, one cool place is Japan. This year Hayley, Emily, Courtney and myself did a ten-day girls' road trip, thanks to JMac and Russ at Australian NZ Snowboarder. It was such a good trip.

Scariest place? Just dropping in to hit a cliff, rail or at a camp. It's made me realise that when I'm pumped full of adrenaline, I'm often scared too - and the two feelings are so close that you forget about the fear and do it anyway. Getting scared is good!

Hardest obstacle you've overcome to get where you are? Money! But also trial and error, learning where my boundaries are.

Shout outs: Thanks to my sponsors, Ride Snowboards, Electric, Chop, DVS, Quest Wanaka, Supreme Coffee and Snow Park - Sam, Claire and Sat. Will J, thanks for all the inspiration. Mum, Dad, Tess and all the whanau, my brothers, Tossie and Ben for teaching me to skate and giving me my first board. Thanks to all the photographers, JMac, Anna, Phil and Haley, also Anna at TC. Thanks to you all for the love and support!

