

= Tina McKenzie =

Tina McKenzie (born 8 June 1974) is an Australian wheelchair basketball player . She participated in the 2004 Summer Paralympics in Athens , where she won a silver medal ; in the 2008 Summer Paralympics in Beijing , where she won a bronze medal ; and the 2012 Summer Paralympics in London , where she won a second silver medal . After becoming an incomplete paraplegic as a result of a fall from a building in 1994 , she took up wheelchair tennis and later wheelchair basketball . She joined the Australia women 's national wheelchair basketball team , known as the Gliders , in 1999 , and played her first international match at the 2002 World Wheelchair Basketball Championship in Japan . She has over 100 international caps .

= = Personal = =

McKenzie was born in Albury , New South Wales , on 8 June 1974 . She had a brother who died at the age of 19 in 1997 .

She left home in 1990 at the age of 16 , and moved to Melbourne , where she qualified as a hairdresser and beauty therapist . By 1994 she was running a hair dressing store and managing seven employees . Her life was changed that year by a fall from a building in Melbourne in which fractured her third and fourth thoracic vertebrae , rendering her an incomplete paraplegic . She lay there for forty minutes before someone found her . She spent the next four weeks in the Austin Hospital in Heidelberg , and then another two and a half months in the Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre in Kew . She was forced to move back in with her parents , where she lived for the next five years , but within a year of her accident , she was managing five hairdressing stores .

She has a Bachelor of Education degree from Macquarie University , which she attended on an NRMA ParaQuad scholarship . As of 2013 , she works as a primary school teacher , and lives in St Peters , New South Wales .

= = Wheelchair basketball = =

McKenzie is a 3 point player , who plays guard . She took up wheelchair tennis while in rehabilitation at Royal Talbot . Her tennis team entered a basketball competition in 1997 for fun during the off season .

In 2011 / 12 , the Australian Sports Commission gave her A \$ 17 @, @ 000 grants through the Direct Athlete Support (DAS) program , a scheme which provides direct financial support to elite athletes . She received \$ 5 @, @ 200 in 2008 / 9 , \$ 5 @, @ 571 in 2009 / 10 and \$ 8 @, @ 000 in 2010 / 11 . In 2012 , she had a scholarship with the New South Wales Institute of Sport . Macquarie University awarded her the Chancellor 's Award for academic and sporting excellence in 2005 and 2006 , and a university full blue in 2008 .

= = = Club = = =

In 2000 and 2001 , she played for the Whittlesea City Pacers in the Women 's National Wheelchair Basketball League (WNWBL) . In 2008 and 2009 , she played for the Dandenong Rangers . In the second round of the 2008 season , the Dandenong Rangers defeated the Western Stars 53 ? 47 . Despite fouling out late in the game , she scored 21 points in her team 's victory . In 2010 , she played for St Peters and the Wenty Leagues Wheelkings , and for the Stacks Goudkamp Bears in the WNWBL . She was a three @-@ time All Star Five WNWBL player , in 2004 , 2006 and 2007 . After moving to Melbourne , McKenzie began playing for Victoria in 2014 . The team became the Kilsyth Cobras in 2015 , with McKenzie on the roster .

= = = National team = = =

McKenzie has over 100 international caps with the Australia women 's national wheelchair

basketball team , generally known as the Gliders . She joined the team in 1999 , but missed out on selection for the 2000 Summer Paralympics in Sydney . She played in a four @-@ game test series in Canberra against the Japan women 's national wheelchair basketball team held in March 2002 , the first Australian hosted international for the Gliders since the Paralympics . She was then selected to play at the 2002World Wheelchair Basketball Championship in Japan , winning a bronze medal , and later at the 2006 and 2010 World Championships , where the Gliders finished fourth each time .

She was selected to represent Australia at the 2009 Four Nations tournament in Canada , one of six players in the side who played for the Dandenong Rangers in the WNWBL . She was selected to participate in a national team training camp in 2010 , and captained the team at the Osaka Cup and the World Championships that year . In July , she played in a three @-@ game test series against Germany .

= = = Paralympics = = =

McKenzie was part of the silver medal winning team at the 2004 Summer Paralympics in Athens , and the bronze medal winning team at the 2008 Summer Paralympics in Beijing .

At the 2012 Summer Paralympics in London , she took to the court only twice . The first time was in her team 's victory over Great Britain on 31 August , in which she played for 7 minutes 2 seconds . The second was in her team 's quarterfinal 62 ? 37 victory over Mexico women 's national wheelchair basketball team , in which she played for 10 minutes 47 seconds . She was awarded a silver medal after her team was defeated by Germany in the final .

= = = Retirement = = =

In December 2012 , McKenzie officially announced her retirement . After thanking various people , she concluded her remarks by saying : " I will always be proud to call myself a Glider . "