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If you had one shot, would you let it slip? Ashton's tribute trek

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Damon Cronshaw

ASHTON Burgess has been listening to Emimen since he was in his mum's belly.

His love for the American hip-hop artist will be evident when he makes the 18-kilometre round trip to the summit of Mount Kosciuszko today.

Ashton, 15, has named his Cerebral Palsy Alliance fundraiser: "Will the Real Slim Shady Please Trek Mount Kosciuszko?"

He's also bleached his hair peroxide blond.

"I chose Slim Shady as the theme because I love Eminem and his music," he said.

"A lot of his songs have a message about building yourself up and being the best you can be."

Ashton, a Newcastle Knights fan, has created a music playlist for the trek up the mountain.

His favourite lyric for the climb is from the track Lose Yourself: "Look, if you had one shot or one opportunity to seize everything you ever wanted in one moment, would you capture it or just let it slip?"

His taste in music comes from his mum, Mel Burgess. "All my kids have been brought up with Eminem," she said.

Ashton was diagnosed with right-side hemiplegia and cerebral palsy at 10 months old, after his parents noticed he wasn't hitting milestones and had limited use of his right arm.

Ms Burgess said the diagnosis was "initially a shock, as we didn't know how it would affect him and us".

She said her family had "never made Ashton feel like he was any different".

"We've always encouraged him to do anything."

Ashton's mum, dad Matt and pop Wayne will be part of his team to attempt to reach the summit. He paid tribute to his parents, saying they "somehow juggle work and family with so much love".

Team Ashton has raised $32,584, the second highest amount for the Krazy Kosci Klimb event.

Ms Burgess said she was proud of her son.

"He's always given it a go. He's more suited to the trek than I am, to be honest," she said.

Ashton will have no trouble with the trek, given his sporting abilities.

He holds Little Athletics NSW records in the boys' 13 to 14 age group for the 400 metres, 800 metres, shot put and javelin in the "Track and Field 37 class".

This is a Paralympic classification for athletes who compete standing, but have a co-ordination impairment on one side of their body.

His treatment has included Botox in his arm and leg to manage muscle stiffness.

He went through surgery on his leg more than a year ago to lengthen the tendons in his leg and reduce the need for Botox.

Ashton, of Wadalba on the Central Coast, plays soccer for Kanwal Rovers with able-bodied kids.

The Krazy Kosci Klimb supports the Cerebral Palsy Alliance's health and wellness program.

Support Team Ashton at krazykosciklimb.com.au.

Ashton Burgess will do the "Real Slim Shady" trek up Mount Kosciuszko today. Picture supplied

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