



● AIMING HIGH

Climbing back into life

When policewoman Alison Fahey was diagnosed with thyroid cancer as a 27-year-old, she felt like her life was crumbling around her.

Now, at age 32, she is planning to climb Africa's highest peak to raise money for cancer research.

Fahey decided to climb Mt Kilimanjaro in Tanzania at one of the lowest points of her life, while she was having treatment at Westmead Hospital.

She had surgery to remove her thyroid and lymph nodes, as well as radiation therapy.

It took her 12 months to recover, and at the end of this month she celebrates the fifth anniversary since her diagnosis.

She will still have to take medication for the rest of her life and have regular check-ups to ensure the cancer has not returned.

Fahey said cancer had made her more determined and goal-oriented.

Fahey plans to climb Mt Kilimanjaro in February, backed by Cure for Cancer.

The trip is being organised by travel company Inspired Australians.

Details: www.cure.org.au.

— CATHY MORRIS

From cancer to Kilimanjaro: It's been a five-year journey for Alison Fahey. Picture: CHRIS PAVLICH