

CLIFF TRAGEDY

Patrick full of life after horror fall

■ Natalie Brown

When Patrick Majewski lay in his hospital bed, facing the loss of the use in his legs and about to find out about the sudden death of his father, his mother feared the normal life the family shared was lost for ever.

Three years since the tragic Karijini holiday that changed their lives, the physical injuries for 10-year-old Patrick remain but Helen Fraser says she and her son finally have a "new kind of normal".

Patrick was paralysed after he slipped on rocks and plummeted down a cliff face during a horror fall on a family holiday in 2011.

His father Chris was killed instantly when he also slipped down the cliff in an attempt to prevent his son's fall.

Mrs Fraser said the years that followed had been focused on dealing with the grief of losing her husband and father of her three children and helping her now disabled son through months of hospital visits.

As one of two WA Telethon kids, Patrick will be the face of the annual fundraising weekend.

Like most 10-year-olds, Patrick is looking forward to the perks of rubbing shoulders with television stars and hopes to meet his



Intensive care: Patrick Majewski was in a critical condition after the accident.

telethon 7

West Coast Eagles idols Adam Simpson and Darren Glass.

But he also hopes to revisit the hospital staff who helped him adapt to losing the use of his legs.

"It will be a bit weird, I might not remember a couple, but I'd like to give them a thousand dollars back for looking after me," Patrick said.

Mrs Fraser hopes her son's plight and "big smile" would help those struggling with loss or disabilities.

"Obviously the day was very hard when Chris died and I learnt that Pat was not going to walk

again ... he's gone from just a normal little boy like everyone else to having his accident and then having to learn how to be in a wheelchair, and that's huge," Mrs Fraser said. "He's just so happy. That's what blows everybody away around us."

An energetic youngster who enjoyed soccer, football and cricket, Patrick now takes part in wheelchair sports including basketball.

"I really didn't think I was going to have him back at all," Mrs Fraser said. "But then to come back to where he is now, it's just amazing."

The 2014 Telethon weekend is on October 25 and 26.



Telethon kid: Patrick has learnt to live with his wheelchair. Picture: Ian Munro