

### **Please tell us why you entered Miss Earth Australia 2006?**

I wasn't actually going to enter. I heard it was a beauty pageant and I thought, "Oh god I can't even walk in heels" so I was very sceptical, Then I spoke to the organiser and did some research on it. I loved the fact that this was a pageant with a cause; I felt it was a great way to make people aware on Environmental Issues and get my views heard.

### **How did you feel when you arrived at the Competition?**

I was so nervous and excited at the same time. I had no expectations nor did I know what we were in for. It was quite scary also not knowing anyone, but it doesn't take long to make friends.

### **Did you think it was possible that you could win?**

No, I honestly thought I had no chance. I saw every girl there; they were all gorgeous and had a heart of gold. Some had Modelling experience others were just like me, new to this whole scene. So to actually win feels so surreal, like a dream come true.

### **Were you able to make friends with the other contestants?**

YES!! Absolutely!! I was voted Miss Friendship by the girls! I walked into this thinking "oh there's going to be cat-fights" 17 young beautiful girls competing for the title I was a bit worried. But I was so surprised; all the girls that were there was so helpful, kind and caring. Whenever anyone needed anything, someone would always drop what they were doing to lend a hand. We had a ball, and went through this unforgettable experience together. I still keep in contact with a lot of the girls, and I know I have definitely made friends for life.

### **What tips would you have for other beauty queens on how to win a beauty pageant such as Miss Earth Australia?**

Just one. BE YOURSELF. It doesn't matter where you come from, what your experience is, where you work. None of that matters! You have to be yourself.

People know when you are being fake. It stands out like a sore thumb. The girls you meet and the judges can tell straight away when you are trying to hard. There is no need to. Everyone has their strengths and weaknesses, what you might by average in; someone might shine in, and vice versa. You have to be yourself and be proud to be who you are.

### **Why is Miss Earth Australia such an important beauty competition?**

Because it's more than just beauty. It's about using your brain. This competition is the 3<sup>rd</sup> biggest pageant in the world, and it aims at making a difference to the planet.

## **What will you do after completing your title as Miss Earth Australia?**

I intend to continue promoting environmental issues and help make people aware and active in the resolutions. I also wish to travel and see the world first hand, and learn about other countries cultures and explore what the world has to offer.

I also want to come back in the future and help with the actual event. The people I have met along the way have been wonderful. And I hope that I can one day help future candidates to establish their dream, as well as continue my career in remedial massage because people's health is just as important to me as the health of the planet.