

Taking a bow on world stage

BOWMEN of Melville archer Craig McMurdo is continuing a meteoric rise in the sport he took up only three years ago.

Since his bronze medal win in the Australian 2019 Para and VI Archery Championships in January, he was selected for the Australian para archery team, competed at the Fazza World Ranking Championships in Dubai in April, and most recently the 2019 World Archery Para Championships in the Netherlands in June.

McMurdo said it really hit him that he was competing in high stakes events.

“There is lots of fanfare, lots of spectators,” he said. “And more pressure because of the technology involved; when you’re shooting, you can see your name against the Australian flag and your scores ranked up against everyone else’s.

“After each arrow I could see whether I was



Craig McMurdo. **Picture:**
Carrie-Anne Lachance

moving up or down in the ranking.”

McMurdo said the immediate feedback and the focus on competition ranking affected his shot process at the World Ranking Championships.

“You’re on a stage with world-class archers, so you’re self-conscious and hoping you deserve to be there,” he said.

“I learnt from Dubai. In the Netherlands I think I only looked at the live scores twice, they didn’t worry me.”

McMurdo’s next major event is the Australian 2020 Para and VI Archery Championships next March.