



DON'T FORGET TO DONATE ITEMS TO HELP OUT CEILIDH

BUNDABERG'S BIGGEST GARAGE SALE IS ON SATURDAY

Volunteers will be collecting all this week. See page 4

TRIBUTE

Teen inspires best of living, even in death

By **CHERIE CURTIS**

BLACK was banned from the funeral yesterday of a teen whose courage against cancer inspired a camp to be named in his honour.

"Brenton loved colours, and everything that was bling and shiny," dad Geoff Knowles said.

Brenton Knowles, 15, was surrounded by family and friends at the Bundaberg Hospital when his battle with cancer ended on Saturday.

The spirited teen, who had loved hugs, hip hop and Harry Potter, was diagnosed with bone cancer osteosarcoma five years ago and had to have three-quarters of his leg removed.

Brenton learnt to walk with a prosthesis and was charging ahead in life, when he relapsed in both 2004 and 2005.

"He went through more than you could imagine — major surgery and about nine rounds of chemo," mum Deb Knowles said.

"His last words he ever said were, 'Mum, I'm sorry', because he saw me crying, but that was so hard because he didn't have anything to be sorry for.

"He used to call me his sprinkler when I cried."

Friend Ryan Campbell said he always expected Brenton to survive the odds, because he had pulled through so many times.

"He was such a huge fighter, I really thought it would be okay," Mr Campbell said.

"I thought him surviving would help other people.

"He inspired others not to hold back on life."

The flamboyant teen will soon be honoured at a family camp in his name at Agnes Water next month.

"Brenton will live on in people because eve-



He called me his sprinkler when I cried

— **DEB KNOWLES**

ryone knew him and loved him," Camp Quality Central Queensland area manager Darryl Schneider said.

"He loved living and the younger ones looked up to him.

"He was a gutsy little fighter."

Mrs Knowles said she was grateful to everyone who had added cheer to Brenton's life.

"We wanted to give Brenton a limo ride for his 15th birthday, but when we rang up Pimp My Ride, they offered the limo for the whole day until midnight, and put their drivers in colourful suits," Mrs Knowles said.

"They wanted to make his birthday special because none of us knew how many more birthdays he'd have, and that was the last."

Mrs Knowles said it was wonderful that Brenton had made such a lasting impression on people's lives.

"Everyone has a special moment that they've shared with Brenton — he touched a person's heart as soon as he met them," she said.

She said her son was always a vibrant, "happening", lively child.

"He went through so much as a little boy, but it never rattled him," she said.



WARM MEMORIES: Geoff and Deb Knowles with their son Justin are mourning the loss of their oldest son Brenton who had a five-year battle with cancer. Photo: NIGEL BRENNAN bren2410a

SUPPORT

Camp Q gives families a break

DEB Knowles is well aware of the trauma a family suffers when a loved one is diagnosed with cancer.

"It consumes your life and your finances — the last thing you think about is going out to have a good time or a holiday," Mrs Knowles said.

"You are constantly aware of your sick child and your family."

Camp Quality, the organisation dedicated to bringing happiness to children living with cancer, will recognise Brenton's courageous life by naming an upcoming family camp in his honour.

Camp Quality Central Queensland area manager Darryl Schneider said Brenton was an inspiration to him.

"Brenton inspired so many — that's why we wanted to name a camp after him," Mr Schneider said.

"He taught others a lot about living."

About 80 people are expected at Brenton's camp at Agnes Water on November 17 and 18.

CHARITY

Bandannas out for cancer funds

KRISSIE Hansen is well aware of the young lives cruelly touched by cancer every year.

"Our senior students have been selling bandannas for National Bandanna Day because they are concerned about people their age getting cancer," the Bundaberg High School teacher said.

CanTeen Queensland division manager Annie Joass said one in 100 Australians were diagnosed with cancer before the age of 30.

"The survival rate for children and adults has improved by 75% in the past 20 years, but the survival rate for young teenagers has not improved at all," Ms Joass said.

"Cancer is the third biggest killer of teenagers, after suicides and car accidents."

Bandannas cost \$3 and can be bought from Officeworks, Hinkler Central's Soul Pattison Chemist and Woolworths before tomorrow's National Bandanna Day.

A Sale to Float Your Boat!

SPECIALS
See feature on Page 13 today

Boats Galore's 1st Birthday!

We're celebrating our first birthday with a party that will have boat-lovers bagging a bargain. There'll be huge range of the biggest brands on display at prices that won't blow the budget! Plus, we'll have a free sausage sizzle to keep hunger at bay!

Don't miss out!
Saturday, 27th & Sunday, 28th October 8am-3pm

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