



ashton's gift

CARPE DIEM

On June 13th 2011 at approx 5:10pm just outside of Atherton, a vehicle struck a sign beside a road and ground to a halt some 20 metres.....

Driving that vehicle was a young man – Ashton Michael Venables, my son.

At approx 5:45pm that evening, Ashton had tragically passed away.....

In the weeks following we have all learnt so much more about Ashton, who he was, what he stood for and things about him that set him apart from the crowd.

Ashton – always the life of the party, always laughing and joking, never standing still – dancing, back flipping – generally just making everyone who encountered him smile and be amazed at the man he is.

We have also come to learn that there is a serious side – one of giving, compassion and generosity.



We all knew this about Ashton already but what we learned in the following months gave us new appreciation to the depth of our remarkable young man.

Ashton would regularly fix up push bikes for young kids that frequented the bike park he went to almost every day – Why? – Because they could not afford one. He would lend his bike to young kids who did not have a bike so they could feel the freedom this pursuit gave him.

Ashton regularly went above and beyond for his Family, friends and his community – but the lengths he went to, to help complete strangers is a legacy worth preserving

My name is Andrew Venables and I am the President of a Charity set up in memory of my son Ashton Venables – it is called Ashtons GIFT. The Charity is dear to my heart obviously, it has been set up by me, my wife Sharon and my daughter Rylee in order to raise funds and assist a number of causes within the local community particularly aimed at young people similar to Ashton's age - 19.

We will not be stopping at that and have already targeted other areas we would like to assist people in his memory. Ashton was also a dancer – to that end we would like to assist youths with a burning desire to follow their dreams, whatever field, via a bursary type contribution – again young people who may possibly be doing it tough but have the drive and passion to pursue their dreams.

Obviously my main aim is to keep my sons fire burning and his name linked to the good he has already achieved, however if we can assist young people as we do this then I think it is a road worth travelling. We have commenced down the road of planning already and just a few of the things we are doing is listed below:-



TEAM RFA – Racing For Ashton – People can now opt to participate in any event or self designed challenge – swimming, running, cycling, walking, triathlon, MTB – absolutely anything – whilst wearing the TEAM RFA attire and in doing so help spread awareness and raise some funds through donations from family, friends and colleagues. **Or just wear the clothing because they look cool, comfortable and are great quality.**

FASHION FOR ASHTON – This will be an annual Fashion and Hair show extravaganza – held September every year in Ashtons hometown in North Queensland– It will show case young designers and hair dressers as well as performers – The 2011 Fashion For Ashton is booked for Friday 30th September and approx 500 tickets have already been sold. This wonderful event is being organised by Ashton's sister Rylee.

For more information or to order a Team RFA clothing item please contact

Andrew Venables or Sharon Leaney

Email : teamrfa@inet.net.au

- Sizing chart can be located at

www.cannibal.com.au/size-chart.php

This is a limited release and all orders are to be placed (via email)

by 30th September 2011

(recommended date by Cannibal - in order to receive the gear by end of Oct.)

Once order received by you payment details will be forwarded via email