

## Christopher's story on why HPC run this Memorial Day.

Chris's grandparents (Allan & Betty Wagner) had cattle and horses for many years and he loved going to visit them on the farm. He loved standing on the rail and watching the cattle being worked, collecting eggs, going down the creek with granddad and going to cattle sales in the truck on school holidays.

Many of the local kids would come to Waggy's (Allan's) house and ride the horses and help with the cattle as there was always something fun to do. Some of the kids joined the pony club down the road and Chris & Jess (his older sister) wanted to be included. Chris started around 8yrs and his first ride was on Sandy (Zena's mum) and he loved it. He eventually got Princess then once he got more experience at HPC, and at granddad's mustering cattle, he bought Nike with his own money.

Chris went to the campdraft schools and began going out to campdrafts, as that was his love - chasing cows. Chris became a real good helper for granddad and couldn't wait for every school holiday to come.

While Chris was at HPC he helped his dad (Greg) with a lot of work around the grounds; building the old fence around the canteen, digging holes and putting rails up, making the old wooden yards that used to be at the front gate, helping lay the water pipes around the grounds, building some of the cross country jumps down along the creek and planting trees around the grounds like the gum tree at the end of the show jumping arena. Even though the grounds have changed a lot over the years, I look around and know Chris helped a lot and there is plenty to remind me that he was there.

At one Points Day I ran, Chris wanted to beat the girls and I made up a game like the sock race, where the kids lined up and had to race up to the barrel, grab what was on the barrel and race back and put it in the bucket and finish. Well Chris loved it, as the thing on the barrel they had to grab was a piece of old dry horse poo and as he was the only boy in the group, all the girls squealed and wouldn't touch it, so he won and all the spectators laughed so hard.

The sad saying of "died while doing what they loved" was very much the case for Chris, as he was in a truck accident with his granddad going to the Maleny cattle sales. The family was devastated, as no one plans for these things. It was a moving sight at the funeral when Nike had a wreath put on his saddle, while Greg lead him behind the hearse with about 20 riders behind them as they pulled away from the church.

We decided to run a memorial Open Sports Day to raise funds for the family to help pay for the funeral. People came from far and wide to help judge, donate and run the day to make around \$3000, plus there was a donations tin left at the canteen that people put lots of change in. Being an open sports day, riders who were not members of a pony club could also come and ride to celebrate Chris's love for sporting. Greg lent Nike to Tara Green to ride, and she won on him; would have made Chris proud.

For the next few years, Nike was leant to various riders to ride on the day, until Nike started getting older and was retired to granddads paddock where he passed away at a ripe old age.

To this day the Memorial Day has been kept running close to the events that Chris liked, he didn't like presentation, dressage or jumping but loved sporting and campdrafting.

Over the years we have lost other members through accidents and illness but they are always in our hearts too. Not all members know those that came before them, as lots of kids grow up and start their own lives past pony club but they will always have a story to tell of their own time at HPC.

I would like to mention: Tara Green, Patrick Curry, Marg Ezzy, who now ride their horses over the rainbow bridge with Chris, Nike and Sandy.

Tina Smith (Rosenberg)