

Paul Richard Mitchell

28th November, 1961 - 12th February, 2020



Paul Richard Mitchell, Mitch to his mates, Sleeping Beauty to us, always with a cheeky smile, was born in the St. George area but moved around in his early life due to his father changing jobs. First to Penrith, then later to the south coast but, when able to fend for himself, & in order to be close to his favourite football team he moved back to Kogarah.

Sport was always the most important part of his life not just then but right through his life with the Dragons & later the Swans (both red & whites) playing a major part of his leisure time. Schooling was spelt SPORT to him & he tried them all in varying capacities with enjoyment being the precursor for his involvement.

On leaving school & not knowing where to earn a living, he enlisted in the Navy, with a posting as radio operator, where he spent 10 years, fortunately not seeing action but making many friends, who stuck with him through his later life. Mitch was a happy & friendly trouble maker as related by fellow naval personnel, who somehow was able to avoid severe sanction whilst lobbing others into his self made disasters.

On leaving the Navy he took on a job as a tourist bus driver, which fitted his personality & offered opportunity to further his extracurricular (sex) life, which is where he met & was enamoured by a pretty Japanese tour guide - Naomi. They enjoyed some happy times until she was recalled to Japan, leaving Mitch in a quandary as to what to do. It didn't take him long to realise where his love life would be best served so he followed her back home &, after meeting the outlaws, asked for her hand (& other parts as well).



They were married in 1996 & started a family in 1999, which was around the time that he thought it best to spend more time as a family man, reducing leisure time (Hash), which he attended on fewer occasions.

As regards his time with us, the following is a remembrance from Grewsome:

Sleeping Beauty was a member of B2 H3 for 6-7 years during the 1990's - it was a busy time for the club and Sleeping Beauty did his best to participate in as many of the running & social activities as possible. He was a regular on Relay Weekends, Ski Trips, City To Surf, Turkey Gobbles and the memorable Harriette Ball / Pig's Birthday double header that typically involved a meet up at Kogarah Tavern around 5pm on Saturday and there was no retiring before the final whistle of the Rugby League Grand Final at Pig's Sty the following afternoon.

Sleeping Beauty arrived at B2H3 having spotted a sign for a running group in his local gym (left there by Shampoo), he thought it may be too serious for him but why not give it a go. Well it certainly was his type of group, he had served in the Navy and somehow managed to find Slops & Dame Nellie at the bucket; he paid his annual subs on that very first night.

A few weeks after joining "Mitch" decided to join a group of us at the Richmond 1000 weekend, it was typical hash weekend, plenty of drinking, dancing, debauchery and a run thrown in. Mitch disappeared around 3am on Saturday night and when Dame Nellie offered the traditional sailors greeting of "Did you win on" the next morning, the reply came - Well, I went to the back of the bus with that good sort from Ballarat but before anything could happen I fell asleep!! From that Monday on "Mitch" became "Sleeping Beauty".

Sleeping Beauty is one of the 5 to blame for Scotch Mist & Grewsome getting together, he had a bit of a thing for Valium and encouraged me to tag along on a night out in the city where I was introduced to Moira (Scotchmist) and the rest is history.

Pig recalls the time that Sleeping Beauty had Botany Bay Hash banned from the Duke of Gloucester Hotel, where he stole a giant pot plant from the hallway & hid behind Pig's car, trying to avoid the local bouncer & waiting the return of the driver & entourage. According to Pig it was a bloody big pot & he had trouble fitting it & the other passengers in the vehicle but Sleeping Beauty was adamant that he wasn't leaving without the bloody pot.

The following is a remembrance from God Squad:

During the runs Sleeping Beauty and I often talked about trucks and when I mentioned I worked as a fuel-er at Sydney Airport he asked if I knew of any vacancies as he wanted to work at the airport one day He continued to ask on a regular basis until one day I told him there was a casual, casual position – a day or so here and there – with Air BP (with my initials, who else could I work for) which he applied for.

The casual, casual soon developed into a regular casual and then permanent casual refuelling and doing external deliveries. His work involved going to the Joint User Hydrant Facility (JUHI) site near the International terminal to fill tankers where he developed a friendship with the staff which later brought an offer of permanent work which he accepted, working his way through the ranks to become a highly respected supervisor.

His time with us from that time was reasonably short & it was with real shock when we learnt of his battle with kidney cancer & subsequent demise – he was only 58 but it was a life well lived & loved by all who knew him. The man with a permanent cheeky grin as Spinifex likes to remember, we can only enjoy the times he had with us & the fact that we were a small part of his life.