

Sam Speech. / Dad.

To those that don't know me I am Sam's Father. Times like this are the hardest times for family and friends. There are a million things I could talk about here today about Sam as he was such a big part of our family, our life and business.

Sam was a complex young man who lived and kept different parts of his life separate to others. He had a strong loyalty to his family and mates. Sam was the most loving child and he and I had a special bond from a very young age. When Georgie was born it came as a bit of a shock to Sam that we were having another child even though we had talked at length about the new arrival. Sam bonded stronger to Par and me (and Jules and Georgie were the girls) and Sam went into **super male mateship mode**. Which lasted until he went away to school at Farrer. That bond was somewhat broken then, as his mates played a big part in his life as it does in all young mem's lives.

Those of you who know Sam well, will know he had a slightly addictive personality, to things he set his mind to. In turn that led Sam do things that he liked at 100%. Not holding Back. !!! This started at a young age. Push bikes, Rip- sticks, skate bords, Flat caps, Shooting, Hunting Pigs, Pig Dogs, trapping pigs, anything to do with pigs. Motor bikes, Utes (Landcruiser and Hilux's) Lift kits, big tires, snorkels and radiators, basically Sam loved diesel.

As Sam often said (Toyota have never made a better vehicle than the 2.8 litre Hilux Dad. But I think I can make them better). This, I will admit, did cause some light friction between Father and Son, as I was usually covered in grease and dirt with him fixing something late in the afternoon after a long workday, so that he could go out pigging with his mates that night.

As we all know, Sam was an outdoors man and two of his greatest trips, was his trip to the Cape in his Landcruiser. He and I spent weeks building his roof top tent together. Also, the trip to Frazer Island with a group of friends. These were two memorable holidays that he loved and referred to regularly.

Sam loved machinery, the more wheels he had turning at once the better. He loved working at "Lambrook" at their harvest time as well as at ours. He also had a keen interest in working with the cattle at home. He had a strong work ethic that was commendable for someone so young. He had all the skills that you needed for a farming life and was looking forward to using the latest second hand tractor and air - seeder we had recently purchased for sowing this year's winter crop. Sam had spent many hours looking for the right equipment for us and was so happy that he had me heading in the right direction.

One of Sam's much used lines was Dad we must get bigger and drive in straight lines **old boy**. Think of how much spare time we will have then dad!!!!

I would like to finish on one last thing. That it has been an honour to have been Sam's dad.

Sam and I have spent many years discussing the meaning of life and our part and role in it, where and how we all fit in this complex world, with all its ups and downs. Something my mate struggled with for some time, and now as I reflect on some of his stories about his mates, I realise that in fact these were his own struggles.

I consider myself, to have been very fortunate to have been able to work side by side with our son Sam, every day, for the last five years which is something that not many fathers can say they have been lucky enough to experience.

To all of you here today I can only offer one piece of advice, give your kids and loved ones a good hug, any time you can.

