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Family mourns dad

TOWNSVILLE BULLETIN | September 1st, 2012

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FATHER-of-three Michael Cassidy lived for his family.

The 46-year-old died tragically last Sunday when he was hit by a front-end loader at Mt Moss Mine west of Townsville.

His family was yesterday still coming to grips with the loss of a man described as a "great dad" who "devoted his life to his family".

"He was really, really proud of his kids," wife Carlene Hutton, 46, said.

"He was very generous and he would do anything for me and his family.

"It wouldn't matter what I asked of him, he'd never say no."

Ms Hutton and Mr Cassidy met as teenagers in Tasmania 30 years ago when they were on dates with other people.

They got together a few years later and moved to Townsville in April this year when their daughter Danelle, 19, began studying at James Cook University.

The pair also have a son Dylan, 24. Mr Cassidy had a son Jarrod, also 24, from a previous relationship.

Ms Hutton said the dedicated family man had shared his love of the outdoors and sports with his children as they grew up in Tasmania.

"We'd go camping every summer ... by the river and go swimming and fishing," she said.

"He was sporty in his younger days. He used to play basketball and he did all of that with the kids.

"He'd take our son to cricket and coach the local basketball teams and go to the mini league in the snow.

"He loved his Tassie mates. His table tennis night was Thursday night and even if he had just got home from work he wouldn't miss it.

"Last year he took us all on a holiday to Hamilton Island and Airlie Beach.

"We stayed in beautiful places and went to the Great Barrier Reef and went diving and snorkelling. He was just always doing things for me and his kids."

The couple had planned to spend the next few years travelling and renovating their Tasmanian home.

"We had a house by the sea," she said. "He wanted to walk along the beach with his grandchildren."

The death of Mr Cassidy is being investigated by the Forensic Crash Unit and the Department of Mining and Safety.

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