

'Carts' was an example of what passion can achieve

MARK "Carts" Carter was an extraordinarily passionate man. Loving husband, son, brother and committed Canberra community member, his life shone with an incredible brightness and intensity that few match.

Mark grew up in Aranda and attended Aranda Primary School and Daramalan College. His passions in life were cycling, food and fashion. His true love, however, was his life-long companion, Janelle.

The couple were rarely far apart and recently returned from a long-planned six-month adventure in Italy where they fulfilled their dream of living as Italians do.

Mark practically considered Castellina, in Chianti, Italy, a second home, and he particularly enjoyed Italian fashion, wine, markets, gelati and the "laid back" locals.

Mark's vibrant personality lit up any room he entered and his charm and quick wit meant that he engaged all those around him.

It was these characteristics that account for his incredible popularity and he was constantly surrounded by great friends in Canberra, Australia and throughout Europe.

Mark's favourite time of year was November, when the first roses come out. This signified to him that summer was approaching and that the summer cycling season would soon begin.

For "Carts" cycling wasn't "just a sport", it was something he lived and breathed and he became involved at a local, national and international level.

From humble beginnings riding a BMX through Black Mountain Reserve, he became an accomplished performer with an eye for style and a powerful physique, gaining the tag "big-legged driver".

Mark loved the scenery on rides such as the Cotter-Uriarra loop, but hated hills. As a result, his favourite ride was the summer Saturday "bakery gallop".

Mark also revelled in the fast pace and action of the criterium races and excelled in individual time trials



Mark "Carts" Carter, a tireless supporter of cycling and a dedicated public servant.

— "the race of truth". Mark also competed in a long list of races of both local and national fame, including six gruelling Canberra Tours, four of his favourite Canberra-Goulburn races and the 99-year-old 185-km Goulburn-Camden.

Mark was a tireless advocate for the sport. When he wasn't racing he was either organising major cycling events, acting as treasurer or president of the Canberra Cycling

Club, writing articles for national cycling magazines and web sites such as *Ride*, *Cycling Review Magazine* and www.cyclingnews.com, producing his own newsletter or lobbying local authorities on cycling issues.

As a result of his determination, Mark was able to overcome many hurdles. An excellent example of this capacity was that in March 1996 a meeting of the Canberra Cycling Club was held to end the

club's operation. Not wanting to see this happen, Mark joined with close friends Paul Ingwersen and Brett Seaman to resurrect the club from poor financial and membership status.

Today the club enjoys a flourishing membership, and funding, and successfully runs both a popular summer criterium series and a winter road-racing calendar.

Mark's journalistic work was also important to him and he was a

wordsmith of great talent. Mark could have easily carved out a career as a full-time journalist if he had so wished. His weekly e-mails and articles for national cycling publications were second to none in quality, humour and accuracy — to rate a mention was a real highlight.

Mark was also well known in the Australian cycling community and was a close friend of many of the Australian professionals racing in Europe.

As a dedicated public servant in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, he recently had a pivotal role in the introduction of a new finance system for the agency and he was heavily involved in the development of an online "shopping mall".

Mark also played an integral role in developing a boutique system for the collection of levies and his writing skills were constantly put to the challenge in drafting numerous papers on auditing and security issues.

Mark tragically passed away on April 14 when an accidental fall at Easter resulted in fatal head injuries.

He was loved dearly by his wife, Janelle, and was the much-loved son of George and Diane, loved brother and brother-in-law of Wendy and Tony Barilaro, Eloise and John O'Brien, Ben and partner Vanessa. He was the adored uncle of Emily and Sam, loved son-in-law of Ray and Carole Kimlin and cherished brother-in-law of Paul Kimlin and partner Laura.

Mark will be remembered as an outgoing, enthusiastic person who made sure that he was involved in the action rather than sitting on the sidelines.

He was a man with a great depth of character, lightning wit, impeccable style and genuineness.

Mark leaves behind a shining example of what can be achieved in life with focus, determination and passion.

Mark Richard Carter: born February 23, 1971; died April 14, 2004.