

Toddler's legacy lives on in group

March 25, 2008



Andrew Plint and his late daughter Hannah.

By Peter Foley

THE parents of a Laidley toddler who drowned at home last October have started a group to help other grieving families and make sure their daughter's name lives on.

Andrew and Katherine Plint have launched Hannah's Foundation, a support group named after their beloved two-year-old daughter.

On October 4 last year Hannah was due to go swimming with her mother in their above-ground backyard pool.

While Mrs Plint was busy changing her son Harry's nappy, Hannah carried a plastic chair to the pool gate, opened the gate and went into the pool area.

Mrs Plint found her daughter in the pool and performed CPR until ambulance paramedics arrived.

They took Hannah to Laidley Hospital but she couldn't be revived.

One look at photos of Hannah Plint and you realise why her parents want to make sure her death was not in vain.

Andrew and Katherine Plint say they were blessed with the arrival of "our little princess" on December 10, 2004.

"Hannah was the apple of her father's eye and a shadow beneath her mother's feet," Mr Plint said.

"With the arrival of Harry she had a younger brother to go with her older brother - Andrew and older sisters Kelsi and Jordan."

In October 2006 the Plints moved to a property at Laidley and Hannah was in her element, he said.

"Hannah was so full of life and energy," Mr Plint said.

"All she wanted to do was to help people and learn what they were doing."

After she died, her parents realised that her life, although so short, impacted on many people and they had to do something to honour her memory, raise awareness of water safety and help prevent drownings.

It is her legacy and their mission.

"I guess in 150 years no one's going to remember who I am but I'm damn certain they're going to remember who Hannah Plint was," Mr Plint said.

"I don't want to see drownings and the only way I can do that is by spreading Hannah's message."

Andrew Plint works in communications at police headquarters in Brisbane and he said he had "absolutely fabulous support from the police service".

"A lot of other people don't and that's what Hannah's Foundation is all about," he said.

Mr Plint said Hannah's Foundation also aimed to raise national water safety and pool standards.

"The ultimate aim is very high Australian standards - like compulsory pool inspections, compulsory CPR for owners," he said.

He also wants October 4 made National Drowning Awareness and Prevention Day.

"We've spoken to Shayne Neumann our local member and he's going into bat for us in Canberra," he said.

For more information see www.hannahsfoundation.org.