

Condolence Motion: Matthew Bowden, Owner of Marburg Hotel

Ordinary Council | Thursday, 9 December 2021

I move that Council express its condolences, on behalf of the city, to the family of Mr Matthew Bowden.

We wish to celebrate Matthew's life and his immense contribution to the Marburg community.

Matthew passed away on the 24th November at the age of 42, after a brave battle with cancer.

Matthew was a sportsman, family man, had a hilarious sense of humour and was loved by more than he knew.

He was always up for a chat and was the sort of bloke everyone wanted to call their friend.

The leading man of the Marburg Hotel, Matthew lived and breathed the community's pub.

He was the third generation to take the reins of the hotel, following in the footsteps of his father Dan and grandfather Yub.

The family's story began in 1936 when a young Yub Bowden came to the small country town of Marburg with a dream.

The family struggled to keep the pub going through the Great Depression, the Second World War, and the closure of the coal mines.

But, eight decades later, the Bowden family still provide a place where the people of Marburg and tourists can gather, celebrate special occasions, make life-long friends and, of course, grab an ice-cold beer at the end of a long day.

To this day, regular patrons of the Marburg Hotel say it's like being in an extended family.

The Marburg Hotel was run for decades by Yub and was known as Yub's Pub for a long time.

Matthew's father, Dan, bought it 40 years ago and Matthew was at the helm of the community hub for most of the last decade.

Matthew shared his father and grandfather's love of the pub and the community. Yub was known for saying that if there was a light on inside, it was okay for people to come in and have a beer. No matter the time.

Matthew was excited to take over the pub from his father Dan, and said his aim was to get the pub back as the town's focal point.

"It was such a big part of the town over the years, and I think its lost that a bit," he said to the Queensland Times in 2015.

Matthew was determined to put his own stamp on the pub and keep the family legacy going into the future.

He was well and truly on his way and was instrumental in slowly but surely bringing the old pub back to life.

Up until his final days, Matthew continued to keep an eye on operations at his beloved pub.

Family and friends celebrated Matthew's life on 2 December at St Mary's Church followed by an interment at Tallegalla Cemetery.

The Marburg community, as are we, are heartbroken by the passing of Matthew. On behalf of the city, I offer our thoughts and prayers for his partner Lauren and five-year-old daughter Milla.

We are grateful for the time and passion Matthew put into the Marburg community. He is, and will continue to be, well and truly missed.