

Paul Gaskill: A Life of Adventure, Friendship and a Legacy of Giving

From a joyful ginger-haired boy in Nottinghamshire to a much-loved young man who found a second home in Australia, Paul Gaskill lived a life full of adventure, friendship and kindness. Now, following his tragic death, his family are determined that the things Paul loved most about life will live on through a charitable trust created in his name.

Paul Gaskill was born in Nottingham in 1994, the eldest son of a close family. His younger brother, Simon, was born in 1998.

He grew up in Nottinghamshire, living in Mapperley and later in Burton Joyce — a beautiful Nottinghamshire village in the heart of Robin Hood country.

Paul was a lovely little boy, remembered especially for his wonderful ginger hair and his infectious sense of joy. He was naturally sociable, funny and warm-hearted, with an ability to make friends wherever he went.

His mum and dad were both nurses, qualified in both physical and mental health, and Paul grew up understanding the importance of caring for other people.

At 16, Paul left school and embarked on a career in carpentry, completing his qualifications and working locally in the trade.

Then, at the age of 24, Paul's life took a completely different direction.

When his maternal grandmother died, Paul received an inheritance. Rather than settling down, he decided to use the opportunity to see the world.

He set off travelling through Asia, embracing everything that came his way. It was a time of enormous freedom and adventure, and Paul thrived on it.

He made friends easily, as he always had, and his family remember how much he enjoyed the experience. Paul had a wonderful sense of humour and an ability to connect with people from all walks of life.

Eventually, his travels brought him to Australia.

Then Covid struck.

While many travellers were desperate to return home, Paul decided to stay. He did farm work around Cairns and continued to build a life on the other side of the world.

Eventually he made his way to Brisbane.

And Brisbane became home.

Paul fell in love with the city and with Australia. He secured work with PARX, a Brisbane company that makes and maintains playgrounds and water parks.

It was a job that suited Paul perfectly. He was practical, hardworking and enjoyed being part of a team. His employers thought highly of him and, just four weeks before his accident, Paul had secured sponsorship through the company — a sign that his life in Australia was becoming something permanent.

On 17 October 2026 Paul's life changed in an instant

He came off an e-scooter and suffered a traumatic brain injury. He underwent emergency brain surgery and was admitted to intensive care at Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane.

His family flew from the UK to be with him.

Despite the extraordinary efforts of the medical teams, it became clear that Paul's injuries were critical. His family were eventually faced with the devastating reality that he would not recover.

Paul was transferred to end-of-life care.

On 7 November, surrounded by the love of his family, Paul died.

He was just 31 years old.

His family remain profoundly grateful to every member of staff who cared for Paul during those final weeks, and particularly to the end-of-life service at Princess Alexandra Hospital.

In the midst of unimaginable grief, something happened that would become the beginning of Paul's legacy.

Paul's mum created the Paul Gaskill Charitable Trust, with a simple but powerful purpose: to take the love, generosity and spirit that defined Paul and use it to help other people.

The Trust will use Paul's inheritance to support good causes in both Nottinghamshire and Brisbane — the two places that became so important in his life.

For Paul's family, this is not simply about remembering him.

It is about keeping something of Paul alive.

Paul's mum and Simon are passionate about ensuring that his love of people, his sense of fun and his generosity continue to make a difference.

And the causes being supported are deliberately connected to the things Paul cared about.

One of the Trust's projects is supporting end-of-life care at Princess Alexandra Hospital, where Paul spent his final weeks. The family want to give something back to the service that cared for him and supported them during the most difficult period of their lives.

In Nottinghamshire, the Trust is also supporting Nottinghamshire Hospice.

Paul's Trust funded its first initiative in 2026, the Never Alone Collective, grown from an intensely personal experience following Paul's accident. A handmade macramé infinity bracelet became a symbol of love, connection and comfort during Paul's end-of-life care. The idea has now developed into a project to provide handmade bracelets free of charge to patients and their families at Princess Alexandra Hospital and Nottinghamshire Hospice.

Each bracelet represents the message that no one should have to face the final journey alone.

In August 2026 his Trust donated \$2000 to end of life services in Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane. Paul would love giving back to those who gave him such wonderful care.

The Trust is also supporting Paul's love of fishing.

Paul was a keen angler and regularly fished on the River Trent around Burton Joyce and elsewhere in Nottinghamshire.

The Trust has provided funding to the Canal & River Trust's Let's Fish! programme, helping young people experience angling and encouraging them to develop a lifelong love of the sport. The programme includes regional celebrations in Nottinghamshire and support for young people taking part in fishing events.

Paul kept fit at Eastside Boxing In Brisbane. The Trust has funded the Paul Gaskill Community Boxing Fund. This will provide opportunities to young people to experience the positive impact of boxing, develop confidence, build self esteem and become part of a supportive community.

It is exactly the kind of legacy Paul's family believe he would have loved and that he would be proud of.

Paul travelled thousands of miles from Nottinghamshire to Australia, but wherever he went he made connections with people.

He built a life in Brisbane. He found work, friendships and a community. He was loved by his family in Britain and by the people whose lives he touched in Australia.

His life was tragically short, but it was not insignificant. He would want us to remember him with joy and to love life fully, being kind to everyone.

Paul lived with adventure. He worked hard. He laughed. He made friends. He travelled. He embraced new experiences. He fell in love with Australia.

And now, through the Trust established in his name, his family are making sure that his story does not end with his death.

Every bracelet made, every young person encouraged to fish, every patient and family supported through end-of-life care, and every future good cause helped by the Trust will carry a small part of Paul forward.

His family cannot change what happened to him.

But they can choose what happens next.

They can take the love they have for Paul and turn it into something positive.

They can give back to the communities that mattered to him.

And they can ensure that the joyful little boy with the magnificent ginger hair, who grew into a funny, adventurous and much-loved young man, continues to make a difference.

Paul's life was about people. His legacy will be too.

And perhaps that is the greatest tribute his family could give him.

Something Paul would undoubtedly have absolutely loved. He would be stoked for sure!