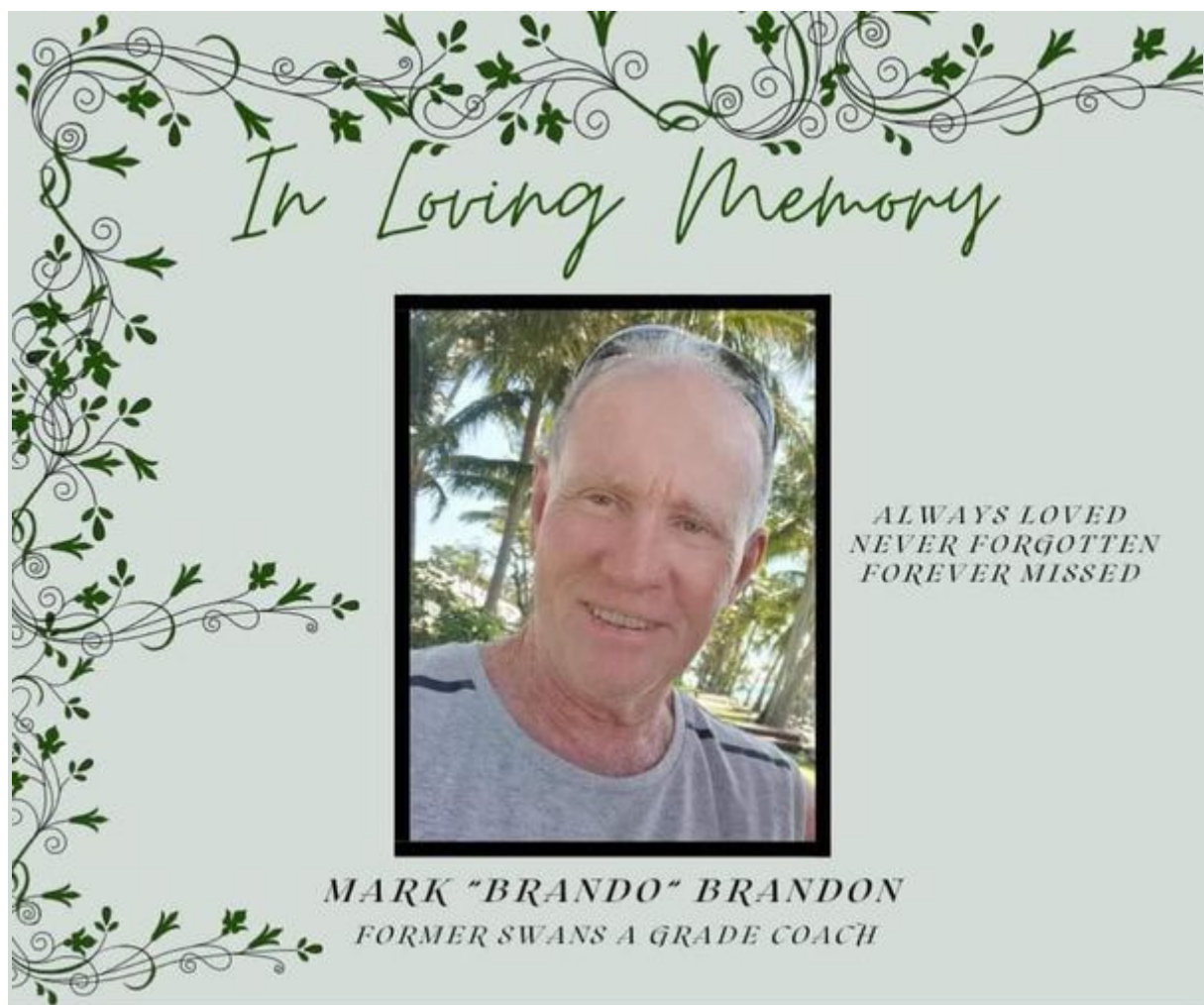


Vale: Mark Brandon

22nd February 1953 – 20th December 2022

Sunshine Coast Fraser and Burnett District Touch Association
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It is with a heavy heart we pass on the news of the passing of Mark Brandon. Mark better known as Brando, represented Sunshine Coast Fraser and Burnett District Touch Association and Queensland as a player for a number of years. Brando was a well respected member of the Touch football family.



Mark represented Queensland in the mens 35 years division in 1992 and the mens 40 Years division in 1994 and 1996. He representd Australia in the 40 years divisions in 1995 but a little known fact is he represneted New Zealand in Test Matches in 1986 in the Mens 30 Years division.

Brandon buoyed by sporting community in cancer battle

HE'S lead the charge into plenty of battles in sport, but respected rugby league coach Mark Brandon faces his greatest yet off the field.

By Tom Threadingham

April 1, 2018 - 5:00AM



HONOURED: As a mark of respect, and support, Mr Brandon was pulled out onto the field and presented with a signed football during the first clash between his former clubs Beerwah and Maroochydore last week. Picture: Richard Goldsworthy

Nicholas Boyack
15:41, Apr 16 2012

The Petone Panthers Rugby League (Lower Hutt NZ) celebrated their centenary in style over Easter with plenty of big name players and administrators putting in an appearance.

Spokeswoman Wendy Hynes says, " About 300 people attended the various celebrations and it was a huge success. It was stunning people talked about how they had not caught up with [others] for 20 years. People came from all over Australia and New Zealand and said they'd had the time of their lives and they would be 'Panthers for ever....the feedback was fantastic."

The Team of the Century included flying winger **Mark Brandon**, who travelled from Australia for the event. Brandon, who in 1982 scored an incredible 39 tries, was one of many who sent organisers a warm letter of thanks. "The weekend you guys made possible defined perfection. It seemed to run like clockwork so to all of the team, my unconditional gratitude. I'm so proud to have been part of it, a Panther for life."

Sunshine Coast

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He's led the charge into plenty of battles in sport but respected rugby league coach Mark Brandon faces his greatest challenge yet off the field. The former Beerwah Bulldogs and Maroochdyore Swans coach is currently waging a war against stage three melanoma, an aggressive and advanced form of skin cancer.

He's been quietly fighting the cancer on and off for the past four years following a misdiagnosis by a skin care specialist, however he has been forced to ramp up his efforts in the past 12 months.

After being clear for more than two years, a spot returned on Mr Brandon's hip with it spreading to his lymph glands, which he later had removed. "I was then put on some immunotherapy drugs and for about four or five months it was really working," Mr Brandon said.

"I got a real good result at Christmas just gone and I was feeling really good." However, he recently found a lump under his right arm with a PET scan confirming the worst, the cancer was back.

Mr Brandon's story doesn't end there, with the determined rugby league stalwart entering a new immunotherapy clinical trial in April. "This trial starts in two weeks and it's about a seven month program but then it could even take up to two years," he said.

"It's very daunting and to be honest very scary but we've just got to plug on and steer our way through it and kick this imposter into the ball park." Mr Brandon has had to step away from his treasured coaching role and the local game of rugby league this year to focus on his treatment.

Although devastated, he was buoyed by the sporting community which has rallied to his side.

As a mark of respect, and support, Mr Brandon was pulled out onto the field and presented with a signed football during the first division one clash of the season between his former clubs Beerwah and Maroochydore last week. The team captains then hoisted Mr Brandon onto their shoulders in front of crowds.

"It really caught me by surprise and it just blew me away, I was absolutely overwhelmed," he said. "It's not often I'm speechless but I was struggling for words."

With wife Judy by his side, he said the support had been a boost to morale. "I've kept it pretty low key, my condition, and I wasn't going to put it out there but a lot of people found out," he said.

"You don't realise until you get a condition like this that the support around you really helps you and it really lifts your (spirits)." While he was engaged in his own personal battle, for others the message was clear. "If anything crops up don't even hesitate, just go and get it checked," he said.

"Don't think it'll go away, go and jump on things early." Early detection is everything with melanoma and cancer is not selective, it'll take anyone if it can. "You've just got to be vigilant."



In Loving Memory of
Mark Edwin Brandon



22nd February 1953 - 20th December 2022

Mark with the World Cup Trophy 1995 in Hawaii (Mens 40 Years team)
Played Papua New Guinea Won 20-0; New Zealand 10-1 and 14-0. He
scored six tries at the event.