

Cancer claims young film-maker

by Stuart Dye

One of the country's brightest young film-making talents has died.

Cameron Duncan, who received national acclaim for a series of short films, died on Wednesday afternoon in Texas after a long battle with cancer. He was 17.

His parents, Sharon and Rhys, posted the following message on Cameron's website: "Cameron fought a hard, long, fearsome battle against his cancer, but after last weekend's rapid deterioration, he finally succumbed to this evil disease."

The Auckland teenager's work and the website have drawn fans from all over the world.

Lord of the Rings director Peter Jackson led the



Cameron Duncan

tributes last night, saying he was honoured to have called Cameron a friend.

"There's no doubt in my mind that Cameron would've become one of our country's great film directors," he said.

Cameron made a road safety advertisement at age 13 that was so good it was used by the Land Transport Safety Authority.

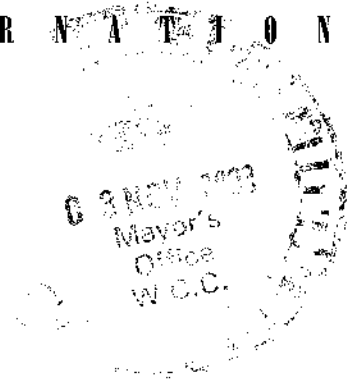
Last year, he was selected for a national age-group softball side to tour Australia. But he was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a bone cancer that attacks the limbs of young people.

During nine months of chemotherapy he made a short film about his cancer. It so heart-wrenching it drew tears and won the popular vote award at the Wanganui Rivercity Film Festival.

T O A S T M A S T E R S  I N T E R N A T I O N A L

October 23, 2003

Mayor Bob Harvey
Waitakere City Council
Private Bag 93109
Waitakere City
New Zealand



Dear Mayor Harvey:

I am pleased to inform you that Annette Fenton has been recognized as a Distinguished Toastmaster for participation in the Toastmasters International educational program.

Distinguished Toastmaster recognition is the greatest honor that can be earned by a member of the Toastmasters organization. To receive the honor, a member must have participated in Toastmasters Communication and Leadership Program and met other rigorous requirements. Members must conduct several seminar-style programs, serve as a leader at several different organizational levels, form or rebuild a Toastmasters club, and complete other challenging tasks. To achieve Distinguished Toastmaster status involves years of study, dedication, self-discipline, and active participation in the Toastmasters organization.

By achieving Distinguished Toastmaster recognition, Toastmaster Fenton has developed and sharpened effective communication and leadership skills, and applied these skills in professional and community activities to the benefit of others.

Only a few of the more than 190,000 members of our organization ever achieve this recognition. I know that the remarkable accomplishment of Toastmaster Fenton will be of special interest to you and your associates.

Sincerely,

Donna H. Groh
Executive Director

Enclosure



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