



TED HART, SUE RENDELL, MEREDITH MCKINNEY, WENDY HART, JASON, MICK KELLAWAY, BENTE HART, DAMIEN HART AND SCOTT HART CELEBRATING JASON'S BIRTHDAY AT THE SERRATED TUSSOCK.

# “You get what you get.”

Jason Hart has Multiple Sclerosis. He's been in a wheelchair for ten years and he lives in Braidwood Hospital.

Jason tells his story to Paul Cockram

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR MY fifteen minutes of fame as Andy Warhol said. But I want more.

### Tell us about your earlier life.

I had a blast. My young life was great and I spent a lot of time with animals, Arab horses. It almost cost my parents their sanity and loads of money as well, but it kept me entertained.

But when I fell off the rails, I really fell off. I had a very bad bout with booze and pot. And while I don't see anything wrong with people having a social drink or smoke, you can go too far.

There are medical applications for marijuana but they are not yet approved in this country.

### And your life now ...?

I am in one of the best facilities one could be in. The staff here, for the most part, are excellent. My mum and dad are just down the road, my

brother lives just around the corner and my sister five minutes away on Little River Road. I also have great friends.

It's all coming together now. I'm 43 now ... took me probably since I was 35 to get it all together.

### What don't you like?

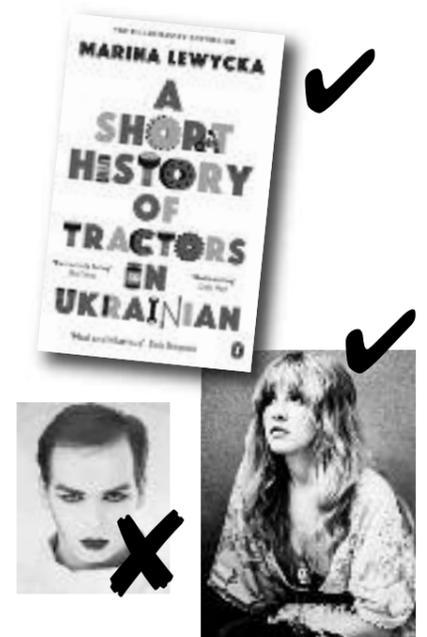
Okay — and mum can back me up on this — the roads are in a shocking state for the most part. We go up the street regularly. Ma takes me out quite a bit and in the wheelchair, man, I feel it and it's awful. I think they need to



## THANKS TO ALL MY FRIENDS

spend less on doing shit like fixing that ... pedestrian crossing. (Don't get me started on that).

Mark my words. The people from Canberra will be looking for a quicker way and they'll be going through here [Monkittee Street] at a great rate of knots. We need speed humps near here, near Little River Road.



### Tell us about some of your other interests?

Stevie Nicks. I thought that when Ma and I went to the Stevie Nicks concert, “It doesn't get any better than this”. I've seen Stevie Nicks before and Fleetwood Mac once. I didn't really get into Fleetwood Mac until the early 80s but then, by the mid-80s, Gary Numan came along. He had amazing hair, it was dyed blue.



Just after I became a patient here, Cecile was good enough to take me to see Gary Numan at the Enmore Theatre where Matt Nielsen was working. Matt took me right up to the stage and I could have touched Gary but I thought, “What a bleeping disappointment”. I used to like him when he had blue hair and wore heaps of make-up but am over Gary Numan now.

### What are you into now?

Harry and Nicola, Meredith and Jo all come and read to me so I'm very privileged ...

The book Jo is reading at the moment is *A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian* by Marina Lewycka. Jo is such a proper lady [they were my first employers] and she's reading a book that's not smutty but is a bit racy at times.

I also watch a lot of DVDs.

### Would you like to do a movie review for BWD?

Don't expect any sugar coating. I tend to be rather direct. You'll have to edit out the swear words.

### Anything else you want to add?

Getting YPRIC funding was great for me. It's money for young people in nursing homes. Money for someone to take me out and for physio twice a week. It was a good thing that the government did at the time and there should be more of it. I'm also grateful for the support given to me by this great community. What a place to be! The thing about it is most young people in nursing homes have some

degree of intellectual impairment, but with me that's about the only thing that works.

### What's the secret to being a horse whisperer?

Don't shoot them. It's the same thing with me — if you're a Jason whisper, don't shoot me.

As Quan the Buddhist priest who came to visit me said: “You get what you get.”

**BRAIDWOOD PHARMACY**

**Julie Ballard & Bente Hart**

Mon – Fri 9 am - 5.30 pm  
Saturday 9 am - 12.30 pm