

Jason coming home today

Jason Farrowell has defied the odds. February 29, 2008 was a just another day for Jason. He went to work at Macleay Valley Hardwoods, but after work the unthinkable happened. Jason suffered an aneurysm in the brain. He was rushed to Kempsey District Hospital and placed in a medically induced coma and airlifted to John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle.

He was completely paralysed and the following day was transferred to the Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney, where surgeons repaired the aneurysm.

After five traumatic days and more complications Jason's parents, Greg and Ruth, were told there was no hope and their son would die. However, against the odds Jason pulled through. Jason was transferred to the Brain Injury Unit at Royal Rehabilitation Centre in Ryde on August 11, 2008.

His medical report at that time said: "Currently he is very disabled from the events, requiring full assistance with all aspects of personal care and mobility. "He is in the brain injury rehabilitation unit to receive intensive therapy."

The past 19 months have been a harrowing journey for Jason and his family. But the courageous father of two, with the help of his family and friends, has taken many positive steps through his rehabilitation. Jason started eating normal food in January and started talking in February.

"He talks pretty well, sometimes to the stage that you cannot shut him up," his mum Ruth said. Ruth said Jason was standing up now, but his right side has been affected. "He has defied the odds a bit. The part of his brain which has been affected controls his mobility, emotions and speech," she said. Jason was 31 when it happened and he turned 33 this July.

Among visitors at the rehab centre have been workmates, and his boss Morgan Thompson, from Macleay Valley Hardwoods, plus family members. Morgan and Jason are very close and are like brothers. After a lot of planning Jason will return home this weekend to attend Morgan's wedding.

"We have gone through a lot of turmoil to get Jason home for the wedding, but it is going to be worth it," Ruth said. Jason will travel up to Kempsey today, go to the wedding on Saturday, and return to the rehab centre on Sunday.

Ruth said Jason is ready to come home and live, but their home needs significant modifications to accommodate him. They are hoping Jason will be able to come home on a full-time basis in the coming months.

Brain Injury Awareness Week this week is focused on young people and acquired brain injury.



Jason Farrowell and his parents Ruth and Greg at the Brain Injury Unit, Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney