

“The nurses all should be treated like angels.”

Clive survives

KATE CRAWFORD

CLIVE Weston had survived unscathed on motorbike trips around Australia but disaster struck only 1km from his Neutral Bay home.

Riding on the inside lane of Falcon St on a Saturday morning, Mr Weston was struck by a car moving across lanes and he suffered terrible injuries.

The list included a crush fracture to his lower back, a cracked vertebra at the top of his spine, 10 broken ribs, a punctured lung and multiple fractures to one leg.

Mr Weston, a corporate lawyer, owes his remarkable survival to an off-duty paramedic who came to his aid and to

emergency staff and medical teams at Royal North Shore Hospital.

Only 10 days after the accident on April 9 after being on life-support in intensive care, Mr Weston amazed everyone by standing up and “wobbling on his good foot”.

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He and his sister, Manly GP Dr Diana Weston, have been so grateful for the medical help he has received, they wanted to publicly thank the hospital and the anonymous paramedic.

“I am incredibly grateful to everyone involved and want to thank them,” Mr Weston said.

“And I really owe that paramedic with no name. I hope to find him to thank him.

“The doctors have been incredible as have the nurses – the nurses all should be treated like angels.”

Dr Weston said she believed someone at the scene – either the paramedic or the ambulance officers – had immediately saved her brother by punching him in the chest to stop his lung from collapsing.

“My brother was critically injured but within two hours, everything was in place in the hospital,” she said.

“The hospital was amazingly pre-emptive in treating his injuries and at one stage there were



Accident victim Clive Weston with son River. 5

four teams of doctors looking after him.”

Mr Weston, 50, barely remembers the accident.

“I do remember I was puttering along – only doing about 25km/h – and then catastrophe,” he said.

“After that and for a few days, my memory is like a cassette tape where someone has pulled out the tape and unravelled it.”

Mr Weston said he had been riding a motorbike for 35 years.

He said it was ironic that he has travelled about 10,000km around Australia including a major trip earlier this year without one accident. “Then I am involved in an accident 1km from home,” he said.

Last week, Mr Weston was transferred from Royal North Shore Hospital for further rehabilitation at the Royal Rehabilitation Centre at Ryde where he is making remarkable progress.

Dr Weston said she was optimistic he would make a full recovery.



Clive Weston with his sister Dr Diana Weston.
Picture: DAVE SWIFT