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Teenager Holly Brown dies at Laura Races and Rodeo

RHIAN DEUTROM • THE COURIER-MAIL • JUNE 29, 2015 5:50AM

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UNEXPECTED DEATH: Holly Winta Brown (right) died at Laura Races

THE sudden death of a teenage girl at a Far North races and rodeo weekend has left her family and friends bewildered and in shock.

Holly Brown, 17, had travelled to the Laura Races and Rodeo with her family and friends for the weekend – less than 24 hours later she was found dead in her campsite.

Family friends said Ms Brown had complained of feeling unwell after waking on Saturday morning. It is understood she slipped into unconsciousness shortly after and died at the rodeo campground after several failed resuscitation attempts.

Close friend Nickia Cerneka said Ms Brown had spent the previous evening with friends around the campfire and had seen them early Saturday morning.

“She seemed fine when we saw her at camp,” Ms Cerneka said. “It was early, no one was ready for the races then somebody came up and said that it was Holly so we ran over and we saw them doing CPR .”

“I was terrified, I couldn’t believe it, nobody could.”

A rescue helicopter was scheduled to fly Ms Brown to further treatment but she was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police say her death is not suspicious but an autopsy will be performed to determine what caused a seemingly fit young girl to die so suddenly.

Cook Shire councillor Alan Wilson was called to assist, delivering CPR to Ms Brown as devastated family looked on.

“Several of us carried out CPR and the trained nurses were there from the

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campus at the rodeo grounds,” Mr Wilson said.

“Her father was there beside her, he was taking it pretty hard of course but he let the medical staff do what they had to do.”

Mr Wilson said “no one really knows what happened”.

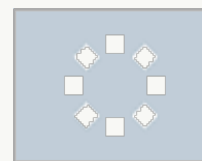
Friends flooded social media yesterday with messages of comfort, remembering a girl who lived and breathed the Outback.

“She had a bright future ahead of her and it’s terrible to know she is gone,” Dane Jenkins said.

“Holly loved animals and if she was going to die anywhere I’m glad it was there when she was with her horses,” Ms Cerneka said. “She had the biggest heart, everybody was equal to her ... nobody could be missed more dearly.”

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Bureau watches potential cyclone



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