



Kids lose their king

Charity's tribute to crash pilot

LUCIE VAN DEN BERG

THE victim of a microlight plane crash Peter Douth was a generous man who spent his spare time helping children with disabilities.

The father of two, who died after a microlight aircraft crashed into a Tyabb home on Sunday night, spent 15 years donating his time and karaoke equipment to entertain children with muscular dystrophy.

Mr Douth was dubbed Mr Karaoke by the MD community for his role as a host.

Muscular Dystrophy Australia's executive director, Boris M Struk, said Mr Douth was inspired to help after he was involved with printing the newsletter for the support group.

"He was always the first to lend a hand or crack a joke to make you smile," Mr Struk said.

He said that Mr Douth had driven hundreds of kilometres to be involved in more than 25



Peter Douth, with daughter Emily, was "Mr Karaoke".

respite camps for children. "He would set up his equipment and sing a few songs to get everyone up, he had a great voice," Mr Struk said.

"His daughter, Emily, is an absolute little honey, she'd get up on the dance floor when he was singing."

Emily, 5, remains in a critical but stable condition in the Royal Children's Hospital.

Mr Struk remembered Mr Douth singing Ronan Keating's love song, *When You Say Nothing at All*, to his wife, Sue.

"Years ago I asked Peter

why he came to CampMDA and he likened the experience to helping just one of a thousand little turtles washed up on the beach — by helping just one find its way back in the water you know you made a huge difference in its life.

"Although you may not be able to save them all, you can make a difference to one at least."

Mr Struk said the entire MD community offered its condolences to Sue and their family.

lucie.vandenbergh@news.com.au