



Stepping out for lost angel

FAMILY AND FRIENDS HELP FIGHT DISEASE

Ian Paterson

SOPHIE McColl's spirit is alive and well thanks to her family and friends.

For the past three years they have organised a team, Sophie's Spirit, to participate in the Penrith Relay For Life at Howell Oval to help raise money for the Cancer Council.

Kristina McColl said she had mixed emotions each year at the relay but was determined to continue to help try to prevent others from going through the same pain.

"It's a bittersweet feeling on the day but I feel like it is good that we are doing something," Mrs McColl said.

RELAY FOR LIFE

- The Relay For Life will be on again at Howell Oval on May 3 starting at 9.30am
- You can register your own team or donate by visiting the website http://relay.cancercouncil.com.au/2014/penrith_2014

"It still feels like we are doing something for Sophie."

Sophie died when she was 12 years old after being diagnosed with a rare type of childhood brain cancer called ependymoma.

Since her death, Sophie's friends from Emu Heights Public School have organised and participated in the

charitable event to celebrate Sophie's life and help raise awareness of childhood brain cancer, which is the leading cause of cancer death in children.

"It was Isaac (Isaac Husarek, 14,) who came up with the idea to get everyone together for the event so we could all get together and do something for Sophie," Mrs McColl said.

"Sophie was a motivated bundle of energy, a really positive, happy girl who took on life at a 100 million miles an hour.

"We got so much help when she got sick that we are just paying it forward, and this is one way we can give some help back."





Kristina McColl lost her daughter Sophie to cancer three years ago and since then she and her daughter's friends have been participating in the Relay For Life at Penrith. Picture: PETER KELLY