



● Lloyd Godson emerges triumphantly from the water before waving to the crowd, greeting his girlfriend Carolina Sarasiti and then confronting the waiting media.



● An emotional hug between Lloyd and his father Russell Godson. Pictures: MATTHEW SMITHWICK

Folks proud son fulfilled dream

WELCOME HOME

THE emotional greeting between Lloyd Godson and his dad after his 12 days underwater had a much deeper significance.

As the aquanaut battled his own demons to get the adventure off the ground his father has been fighting cancer.

Yesterday Russell Godson said he couldn't be more proud of his son.

"He wrote in a book that he

wanted to be a marine scientist when he was in year 3," he said.

"He did that and now he has lived his dream.

"Like all parents we were concerned but we also knew that Lloyd was very sensible and had investigated all the safety aspects of the adventure.

"When he sets out to do something he does it."

Marie Godson said her underwater adventurer son had taken the dive with a heavy heart.

"It was very emotional, especially seeing his dad out there today," she said.

"While Lloyd was planning and doing this his dad has got very sick and still is very sick.

"He has had two operations for brain cancer and he is in the middle of chemotherapy so it was a very emotional moment for us.

"That is one of the reasons we are so proud, he did it even with a very heavy heart.

"He is a good kid."

Aquanaut surfaces — twice

SCIENCE
By BRAD WORRALL

IT was the second coming of Lloyd Godson.

At midday yesterday, with the aid of a countdown by about 100 well wishers over his underwater intercom, the aquanaut emerged from his 12-day biosub adventure.

It was the second time in 18 hours he had ventured onto dry land, health concerns forcing him out of his artificial environment the previous night.

But no one was disappointed, least of all Mr Godson.

The marine biologist, 29, had fulfilled his dream.

Living 5m under the surface at the lake known as The Pit in a semi-sustainable environment for almost two weeks, he surpassed the only other known record.

After hugging his father as he stood on top of the biosub, he swam the 20m back to shore.

Mr Godson said he'd love to do it again.

"I've already got some notes about how it could be done better," he said.

"It's a fascinating concept, living underwater, and trying to do it in a sustainable way.

"This all started from the *Australian Geographic Live Your Dream* competition and that is what I've done."

Mr Godson said he never expected the worldwide media attention.

"It has just been insane, emails from everywhere, Denmark, Taiwan, Japan and Russia to name a few," he said.

"I was on the front page of papers in Italy, on *Good Morning America* and the BBC.

"I even had international tourists passing by and drop in because they had heard about this guy in a tin box underwater."

Mr Godson said coming out of the biosub on Tuesday night was the right thing to do.

"I woke up not feeling 100 per cent and by late afternoon my blood pressure soared above the acceptable limits.

"I stayed up overnight and popped back in this morning."

Mr Godson said the data from his adventure would be used in a NASA based experiment in 2009 that he too would be a part of.

The fate of the biosub is less clear. "I might put it up for auction on eBay or just sink it right here," he said.

● Editorial — page 16

Lib 'knew graffiti was officially art'

AN ACT Liberal politician who painted over a mural in an anti-graffiti stunt has denied he was told beforehand that it was a commissioned artwork.

Steve Pratt, the territory's opposition urban services spokesman, spent four hours last Saturday removing what he claimed was graffiti from a cemetery wall in suburban Woden.

But the stunt backfired when Chief Minister Jon Stanhope revealed on Tuesday the mural was not illegal graffiti but an artwork paid for by a local sporting club.

A community art program spokesman yesterday said Mr Pratt had been told last week that the mural was legal.

An angry Mr Pratt — a former aid worker who was accused of spying and

taken hostage for several months in the former Yugoslavia in 1999 — last night described the claim as a lie and accused the Government of a cover-up.

He said he asked the Department of Territory and Municipal Services about the mural.

He said he also warned Territory and Municipal Services Minister John Hargreaves of his intentions in three separate press releases.

But he denied contacting the ACT Community Art program, run by the department.

"We went to the people who maintain roads and bridges, not the arts people," he said.

The ACT Government has called for a police investigation and apology.

New super grain to the rescue

BREAD could one day be used to manage diabetes and help prevent some types of cancer, after Australian scientists developed a potential new super grain.

Researchers have created wheat that contains

high levels of a special type of starch, which in trials of both humans and animals has been shown to reduce intestinal diseases.

They hope the wheat could be used to make everyday foods such as

bread and breakfast cereals.

CSIRO nutrition researcher David Topping said most western countries had a diet low in slow-to-digest starch, which raises the risk of bowel disease.

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