

How do you replace friends like Baz?

By **DAVID BRASCH**

THE fact Queensland Premier Peter Beattie phoned Barry Pascoe's partner Helen to offer his condolences on "Baz's" recent death, certainly says much about what a person he was.

Baz (pictured right) had been a photographer since he was 10, had his first Courier-Mail front page picture when he was 14, and loved his job. But Baz was also well known to greyhound racing in South-east Queensland. It was he who tramped along after yours truly taking photos of greyhound racing, stud dogs, personalities etc. It has been said he was a craftsman at his trade ... he was much more than that. The fact his funeral was attended by more than 300 people, many of them friends he had come to know in the greyhound racing industry, says even more about him.

Baz also got dragged along into a few syndicates to race dogs and was never happier than when Tar Dinn won the Group 1 National Futurity. Syndicate members were never short of a picture or two of that great occasion and the many other times she won.

Baz would have been 60 in October.

He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer 13 months ago, but he didn't let it stop him.

Only a few months ago he battled his way to Albion Park to take some action of the Group 1 Gold Cup won by Toss O'Reilly.

Baz was a punter, small but often. It is said he knew just about every TAB agency in

Queensland. He followed jockeys, hardly knew what the names of the horses they were riding but would back them anyway.

He was fanatical in his support of Harry White, but cheered home every winner ridden by Craig Dinn, Neil Rae, Michael Pelling and plenty others.

He named Tar Dinn after one of his riding idols. Another of the syndicates' dogs was Rae Dinn ... Baz named it too.

His brother Noel spoke at Baz's funeral and defied anyone there to remember one instance when Baz said or did a bad thing.

No one could.

Baz was a great friend. Only a few weeks before he died, while recovering from major surgery, and suffering great pain, he asked if I had any greyhound racing jobs I wanted done.

How do you replace friends like that?

