

Father's heartfelt plea to drivers

APPEAL TO GIVE RIDERS ROOM

Jasmin Lill

PHILIP POLLETT has one hope after his son Richard was killed by a truck while riding his bike at Kenmore two years ago.

"We need to take care of cyclists and make sure we give them ample room when passing," he said.

Mr Pollett, an academic, spoke out after a truck driver was found not guilty of dangerous driving causing the death of his son, who was also a gifted violinist, in 2011.

Richard, 25, was a keen cyclist who had been visiting Brisbane from Tel Aviv when he was killed on Moggill Rd at Kenmore on September 27.

"He was used to cycling on the roads in Tel Aviv which I think are a lot more dangerous than here," Mr Pollett said.

Richard had returned to Brisbane to perform as a violin soloist with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and was staying with his parents at Fig Tree Pocket.

Richard had cycled throughout the Middle East, Europe, South America and Egypt, and on the day he died, had visited Kenmore Cycles to inflate his tyres.

Mr Pollett and wife Patricia will forever be proud not

IN MEMORY

The Richard Pollett Memorial Award was established by Richard's family, friends and the Australian Youth Orchestra to support and encourage young violinists. For more information on the award visit ayo.com.au.

A TRIBUTE

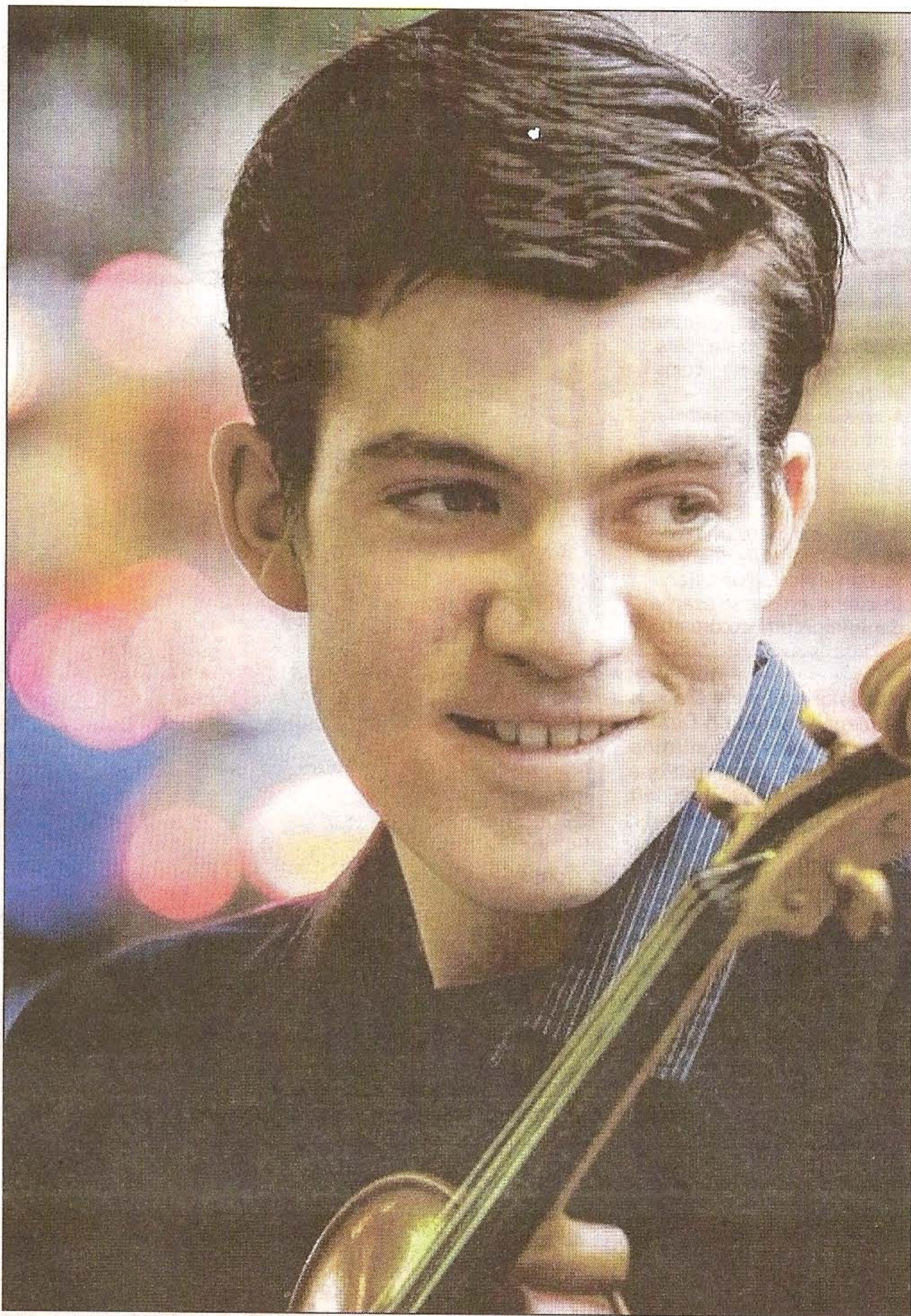
Philip Pollett speaking about his son Richard: "He was a remarkable person. I think most people who came into contact with him would have said that. We and the musical community feel the loss so profoundly."

only of their son's musical achievements but of the person he had become.

"I adored Richard as a boy, I admired him as a man and continued to learn from him," Mr Pollett said.

"He epitomised the qualities that I most admire in others – generosity of spirit, dedication and hard work, a deep understanding of man's creations, love of simple pleasures, balance in life, and the need and the ability to make the lives of others richer."

 Do drivers need to make more space for riders? Visit questnews.com.au



Richard Pollett, 25, was killed while riding his bike. There are calls to have the road rules updated to protect both drivers and riders.

Petition calls for overtaking buffer

CYCLISTS have renewed their calls for changes to road rules requiring motorists to maintain a minimum safe passing distance of one metre when they overtake.

The call follows a court case in Brisbane last week, where a truck driver was found not guilty of dangerous driving causing the death of Richard Pollett.

Bruce Flegg, LNP state MP for Moggill, has sponsored an e-petition calling

on motorists to leave a 1.5 metre buffer between cars and cyclists on overtaking.

"As a keen cyclist myself, I am happy to support this petition," Dr Flegg said.

Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group spokesman Paul French said the law allowed motorists to treat cyclists like a "witch's hat" and leave no margin for error.

"The requirement for a one-metre passing distance would serve as the bare minimum 'duty of care' that should be shown by overtaking motorists, in view of the typically large differences in mass and speed between motor vehicles and cyclists," Mr French said.

He said cyclists were disappointed at what they saw as government disregard for their safety.