

Tyler Cassidy: the 'beautiful' Northcote boy who buckled

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TYLER Cassidy, 15, was a “beautiful” boy with some serious but not insurmountable problems who buckled and is now dead. He was shot by three police officers minutes after calling 000 on Thursday night and making threats.

Armed with two knives and behaving aggressively, the teenager confronted police in the Northcote Plaza car park and was shot after a three-minute confrontation. He leaves a family, friends and the community in shock.

On Sunday, Tyler’s family placed a wooden cross with three white roses among the 30 or so bouquets already at the spot where he died. His mother, Shani, has written “RIP my son” and above a photo of him “*Why! You didn’t have to die this way. We love you forever*”.

[See photos of the All Nations skate park where Tyler was shot.](#)

Mrs Cassidy was too upset to speak, but her fiance, Greg Taylor, said Tyler was a beautiful person.

“He was always happy ... he was a lot more intelligent than some people gave him credit for,” he said.

“He was only 15 and weighed 58kg. I’m not sure the police knew how young he was.”

Tyler’s funeral will be held on Thursday and Mr Taylor said that would be when people would realize the sort of boy he was and how deeply he was loved by his friends and colleagues.

A long-time friend of the Cassidy family’s, Tara McGee, said Tyler’s father died of cancer four years ago. Tyler’s brother, Blake, 19, took on the father-figure role.

“He just wanted to do everything his brother did. He wanted to work where his brother worked and be just like him ... he was a real ladies’ man like Blake,” she said.

Tyler was studying at Collingwood College's Coburg campus, The Island.

He was also working as a kitchen hand at the Leinster Arms hotel in Collingwood.

"His mother used to drop him off for work three or four nights a week, depending on how busy we were and she'd come and pick him up ... just the other day he asked if we could give him a few more hours because he was saving for Christmas,"

said Leinster Arms owner Glen McGee.

A homicide squad investigation is under way and senior police as well as the Police Minister have defended the shooting.

Tyler was said to have been involved with the "white pride" Southern Cross Soldiers, but his mother rejected this.

In a statement his mother said:

"Tyler was a fragile boy, loving and loyal, spirited and adventurous ... he was a great kid ... and I love (him) very much."