

Speaker 1 ([00:00:12](#)):

You are listening to the Journey on podcast with Warwick Schiller. Warwick is a horseman trainer, international clinician and author who helps empower horse people from all over the world with the skills, knowledge, and mindsets needed to create trusting partnerships with their horses. Warwick offers a free seven day trial to his comprehensive online video library that includes hundreds of full length training videos and several home study courses@videos.warwickschiller.com.

Warwick Schiller ([00:00:47](#)):

Good day everyone. Welcome back to the Journey on podcast. I'm your host, Warwick Schiller. This week's podcast is a story of tragedy, survival, and resilience. In 2014, Jamie Manning was driving home from work and crashed his truck into a tree and was trapped in the truck and it caught on fire. And Jamie or Dodge, as is known, received burns to a lot of his body, ended up losing a leg and a hand from the accident. And on this week's podcast, I'm talking to Jamie and his wife, Karen Dodge and Caz to their friends about their life leading up to the accident, the accident itself, the recovery from the accident, and the changes their life has had since the accident. This was a tough podcast to make and I would suggest probably before you guys listen to it that you get yourself a box of tissues handy because this is quite the moving story. And like I said, it's a story of tragedy and survival and resilience and really gives us a glimpse into the human spirit and the will to survive and gives us a great lesson in always looking on the bright side of life. So I hope you guys enjoy this chat with Dodge and Ka Manny

([00:02:09](#)):

Dodge and Ka Manny, welcome to the Journey on podcast.

Dodge ([00:02:13](#)):

Hey Warwick, how are you?

Warwick Schiller ([00:02:14](#)):

Hi, thanks. I'm good. How you going? Cas good. Well, this is going to be a fun chat. You guys are pretty inspirational and we'll get into exactly why you guys are so inspirational. Later on, maybe we'll talk a bit about what do you do for work these days and what's your life like these days?

Dodge ([00:02:33](#)):

So in the drought a couple of years ago now, I started buying a few cheap cattle, flooding them and then eventually started to buy mob cows and added to them. So the minute I've got a few cows around me, so I guess you'd say raising calves as they say in America. And I worked for trucking company during their driving, so organizing their cattle to go into trucks and where they've got to go to as such and actually still got my foot into the rodeo. I'm doing a bit of judging, which I'm enjoying, enjoy that hell of a lot. So that's been a bit of a getaway I guess. And apart from that, just being a great husband. Yeah.

Kaz ([00:03:12](#)):

Oh, you do a few gigs too? Yeah,

Dodge ([00:03:14](#)):

Yeah, I do a lot. I say a lot. Quite a few speaking gigs, motivational talks.

Warwick Schiller ([00:03:19](#)):

Yeah. And we'll get to the reason for that here in not very long. Karen, what do you spend your time doing these days?

Kaz ([00:03:25](#)):

I'm a drug and alcohol counselor with rural flying doctors. So yeah, I get the honor of going around in the more far reaching rural and remote areas and helping people with their drug and alcohol issues.

Warwick Schiller ([00:03:40](#)):

Wow. Did you have a mental health background?

Kaz ([00:03:45](#)):

Counseling.

Warwick Schiller ([00:03:47](#)):

Okay. And my podcast goes out to people all around the world so most people wouldn't know what the Royal Flying Doctor service is. Do you want to share a bit about what that is?

Kaz ([00:03:59](#)):

Yeah, it's a pretty amazing charity we have here in Australia, probably one of the highest regarded charities in all of Australia. It is, and I guess it's probably better known for a retrieval sort of thing. You think about if anyone's sick or injured in remote rural Australia, they send out a plane and bring that person back to wherever they need to go to get medical care. But we do a whole lot more than that. We do GP and primary healthcare clinics, we do dental clinics and we have a mental health and drug and alcohol team, which I'm lucky enough to be part of and sort of makes those services accessible to more rural remote areas where they don't have anything out there.

Warwick Schiller ([00:04:46](#)):

Yeah, you'd probably fly into some pretty remote places, wouldn't you?

Kaz ([00:04:49](#)):

Yeah, I don't, I'm based out of Dubbo, so the Dubbo team, but we do have spread right across Australia throughout. We have a big team out at Broken Hill, they're going even more remote locations than I do. I go up as far as Lightning Ridge and out to a community grower, which is an open mining community and few other places in between

Warwick Schiller ([00:05:10](#)):

Even that would be something interesting for people from around the world. Think about say Lightning Ridge or some of the Opal mining communities where people live underground

Kaz ([00:05:22](#)):

Out there, they don't live so much underground, they have a lot of camps. So I'm about to, as soon as we finish this, I'll head off and I'm going up to spend a couple of days in island and most of the people up there, they don't have power, they don't have water sort of thing. They're reliant on generators and that

it's quite usual. You go out there and they don't have anything going on at the time the generator's broken down or they don't have money to buy fuel, they don't have s or that running water. It's sort of a very different life out there.

Warwick Schiller ([00:05:57](#)):

Wow. That's almost like post-apocalyptic sort of living and it probably looks a bit like some sort of a Mad Max movie out there, doesn't it?

Kaz ([00:06:06](#)):

Yeah, a lot of people go out there to almost escape. I think there's a lot of people going out there to find their riches, but then a lot of people going out to almost hide from the world and escape.

Warwick Schiller ([00:06:20](#)):

Yeah, I was thinking that it'd be a certain sort of person that could live like that, but there's also a certain kind of person who would want to live like that. And I imagine you run into some pretty interesting characters out there, especially being in the mental health field, going to a place to where almost everybody that lived there possibly has some inner demons about some things.

Kaz ([00:06:45](#)):

And that's the thing most people come to that issues with drug and alcohol because of the traumas and going out there and sitting down with them and listening to their stories. It's amazing and such an honor.

Warwick Schiller ([00:06:58](#)):

I bet. I bet. To be witness to that sort of thing. So how long have you been doing that?

Kaz ([00:07:04](#)):

Not that long. I've been here probably about 18 months. Before then I was with a New South Wales health team, so our government health and I was with the rural drought team. So when the drought, we had a really hard drought in Australia, a lot of farmers were turning to suicide to end the suffering. So we were more of a peer support group going out, someone that they could relate to on that one-on-one basis, going out to their farms and just having a chat with them, sort of encourage them to reach out if need be to more mental health sort of out there, whatever they may need. So that was a great job too.

Warwick Schiller ([00:07:49](#)):

That's something we moved back to Australia. So I came to America in 1990 and then my wife and son and I moved back to Australia in 2006 and came back at the end of 2010. And since the end of 2010 I've been flying back and forth quite a bit doing clinics and stuff. And the thing I've noticed in that last 13 years now is that mental health, especially men's mental health is talked about where it didn't used to be I fly back for a clinic or whatever and you go to the pub for dinner and you go to the lu and you're in there and on the wall above the urinal is a thing like about the big black dog. If you're having trouble, if you're having struggles, call this number. And that used to be not something anybody talked about. And so it's kind of cool that you are in the thick of that. So Dodge, you were a for quite a long time, you were a bull rider. Tell us a bit about your life as a bull rider.

Dodge ([00:08:48](#)):

It's something I was never born into. I was actually at college Ag College and a couple of mates said, oh, how we go to, I think it was Stroud Rodeo, Gresford, how about we go to rodeo and get on a steer and I played football all my life and I sort of why or what or so if I went, didn't know what they used as ropes or anything that knew nothing about that.

Warwick Schiller ([00:09:10](#)):

Did you ride up riding horses?

Dodge ([00:09:13](#)):

No, but when I was 12, some good mates of mine got ahold of me and I grew up in town and they took me, they said, how about you come up home? They bought a place, how about you come up home and do some work for us? So I guess I wouldn't say I was going down the wrong path, but just been hanging in town and half board when there's no football playing. So from 12 year old, that's when I first started experiencing horses. And then from once I left school, which was pretty much horses from then on. But as far as the rodeo went a year, 20 years, I wasn't a champion. Something I loved doing, passionate about it, trained a lot, went to states, rodeoing, went to New Caledonia and Vanuatu teaching some of the natives over there, which is a good experience water.

([00:10:12](#)):

What I really took a lot out of it was the people I met, the places I discovered Karen trouble with me for most of the time. But the last, I guess when our kids started getting a bit older, she stayed at home with them, which that was the hardest bit for me was driving away and knowing they were staying there for the weekend. As we're talking about it gets in your head a little bit, but it was a good part of life. Honestly, I wouldn't change. I don't think I'd ever changed my life as to where I'm now, even with the accident we'll talk about later I suppose. But we lived a good life.

Warwick Schiller ([00:10:49](#)):

So Cass, let's talk a bit about being a bull rider's wife. I mean my wife would not do well with the uncertainty of that sort of lifestyle. How did you handle him riding bulls for 20 years? I had Tamari on the other day and he kept referring it to it as the world's most dangerous sport. And you could argue that it is. So how did you handle with him doing such a dangerous thing?

Kaz ([00:11:20](#)):

I guess because I was there from the start and watched it build. I didn't step into it halfway through, I guess I was there for every step of the way as it went from steers and novice bulls and then open bulls and a few injuries and he's very much, don't worry about it, he doesn't, I don't know whether he doesn't feel pain or doesn't listen to that pain, but he is like, oh no, everything's right. I think the only time he broke things, he's never broken anything that required plaster, which is kind of funny. It was always bits off his spine or ribs or things like that.

Warwick Schiller ([00:12:04](#)):

What you're saying is he hasn't had too many breaks, he's just broken his back. That's basically what you're saying.

Kaz ([00:12:08](#)):

Yeah, A wing off a spine and that's hardly worth mentioning those sort of things. Couple of head injuries, lots of stitches.

Warwick Schiller ([00:12:17](#)):

Lots of stitches. I imagine a lot of facial stitches. There's quite a few horns or skulls to heads in bull riding, isn't there?

Dodge ([00:12:28](#)):

Yes. I had some beautiful scars on my chin from being pulled down on bull's head probably about eight times, nine times, I'm not sure. But they were beautiful scars. I loved them. Now they've been burnt off, short changed,

Kaz ([00:12:41](#)):

Probably not real dramatic about his injuries. He's like, come up, can you fix this? I'm like, no, I can't fix that. Go see a doctor.

Warwick Schiller ([00:12:48](#)):

So Dodge, you broke your back at least once, didn't you?

Dodge ([00:12:53](#)):

Righting? I actually fractured my spine C five and I knew I was bad as in sitting down Sydney show writing and got thrown off and I went to, they had I probably should't mention the medical practitioner,

Kaz ([00:13:10](#)):

Just an ambulance sort of there. Yeah,

Dodge ([00:13:12](#)):

Bit of a second grade. He wasn't so much a paramedic or anything, but I said mate's done something wrong with the neck. I was all numb down one side. He said, oh you'd be right mate, sit on that chair over there and see how you go. I knew it wasn't right, but he come back about half hour later, he said, how are you going? He said, I'm not real good. He said, well you'll be alright. So off I went. Ended up going home. We live in Cobar at the time. I said to Karen, I think you better go to the doctor's. So we went in there and they checked me out. Oh, you're right. It was actually 12 months to the day Sydney show again. Actually I got another bull and I got thrown off the bull, turned back and actually caught the back of me and whipped neck back and snapped the vertebrae off my spine. And when they'd done the x-rays, that's when they saw the fracture from last year. So I actually fracture the year before. Yeah,

Kaz ([00:14:05](#)):

Maybe mention that time it was a bit more than that. You actually was in unconscious for a couple of days in intensive care until he signed himself out and went back to Sydney Showground dressed in a hospital gown and cowboy and

Dodge ([00:14:21](#)):

The boots and a hospital gown and a hat under arm brought

Kaz ([00:14:26](#)):

Up to the main entrance to the Sydney show asking someone to pay his taxi.

Dodge ([00:14:31](#)):

I've never wanted to stay in hospital. I guess after 20 years of being injured, you sort of get to know your body is the way I perceive it anyway. Well, something's not right, but I think I can get away with it. There's no need for a doctor to check it or so whether that's the right, it's probably not the right thing to do from a doctor's perspective, but to get on with life. Well that was how I done it.

Kaz ([00:14:57](#)):

But even that first time he did it and he said, oh, he just come home and it was all okay, I think it was while you were still down there. He had a show approach him and oh, the Guinness World Records were doing, they used to do a series on TV and they said, oh, we're looking for someone to break the Guinness World record of writing a mechanical book. Are you up for it? And he's like, of course. I think he rang me up and he said, oh, what do you reckon? I'm like, oh, you only live once. He's like, what if I look like a bit of a fool? I don't ride mechanical bulls. I'll just give it a go. And I think I went down and he filmed it and we went to

Dodge ([00:15:38](#)):

Snapped the vertebrae off my spine. Yeah,

Warwick Schiller ([00:15:40](#)):

This is a couple of days after you broke your neck and you got a neck brace on.

Kaz ([00:15:44](#)):

He went to the studio and he is like, before we walked in, he took the neck brace off,

Dodge ([00:15:49](#)):

Hang on, got to take this brace off. I

Kaz ([00:15:51](#)):

Think he

Warwick Schiller ([00:15:51](#)):

Was Oh, so you went to the television studio?

Dodge ([00:15:54](#)):

Yes.

Warwick Schiller ([00:15:55](#)):

Where the neck brace on and pulled it off before you went inside?

Dodge ([00:15:58](#)):

They wouldn't let me go on with it. It's like quick, let's hide this.

Kaz ([00:16:01](#)):

They said, come the day before, we'll do a little bit of a practice, walk you through what it's all going to look like, what we're going to do. And he was walking around, I think he was holding one of his arms because it was numb. The whole side of his body is numb and he sort of went in and had a practice and then they like didn't do too well, hasn't been on too many mechanical balls in his life and sort of come off and you could see the producers looking at each other going, oh, what are we going to do with this?

Dodge ([00:16:31](#)):

I think I had to go for a minute 50 to break it, I think. Something like that. But I was bucking off in 30 seconds and I'm like, oh. And they said, how do you think you're going to go tomorrow when we film it? I said, it'll be right. We'll kill it. It'll be right. But found a bit of courage overnight and got on with it and end up going two minutes and six seconds and smashed it. Yeah.

Kaz ([00:16:56](#)):

Yeah.

Warwick Schiller ([00:16:56](#)):

So you're in the Guinness Book of World Records for the longest mechanical bull ride. Yeah.

Dodge ([00:17:01](#)):

Claim of fame.

Warwick Schiller ([00:17:03](#)):

You actually hold two titles. Did you know that one is you're in the Guinness Book of Records for the world's longest mechanical bull ride and then there's another one that they didn't recognize, which was the world's longest bull ride while having a broken neck.

Dodge ([00:17:19](#)):

Yeah, might be one off that one.

Warwick Schiller ([00:17:24](#)):

Was it? What channel seven, channel nine, one of those, was it channel

Dodge ([00:17:26](#)):

Seven?

Warwick Schiller ([00:17:27](#)):

How did they find you?

Dodge ([00:17:31](#)):

What's the funny part about it? Because the Sydney show was run by A B C R A and a B C A obviously. Obviously when I got injured I hadn't transferred back to the head office. So the head office rang me

when I was Sydney. Oh, we hear you down at Sydney at the show. Would you be interested in going channel seven and doing this? I thought it's strange to ask me, I've just been injured at one of your rodeos. But that's how they got onto ski. Channel seven rang up a B C R A and gone from there.

Warwick Schiller ([00:18:06](#)):

That's awesome. Okay, so let's, you've talked about breaking your neck and having different accidents, but let's talk about the accident that changed your life in a big way. Tell us all about that.

Dodge ([00:18:19](#)):

I was traveling home from work and had a car crash up off the road, collided with a tree trapped in the car and the car caught light. So in the center console of the car, which for Americans on the right side, on the left, which is why all my injuries on the left side started to catch a light. I was sort of in and out of consciousness a bit. I don't remember people being there at the start, let's say 10 minutes into it, one of the neighbors up the road. It's actually a funny story about this is I've met this fellow a couple of times, his big fella, about 120 kilo, half rough, tough fella, and he was at work that day, but he was fixing a tractor and part of the tractor hadn't turned up to install it to get the tractor going again.

([00:19:19](#)):

And the farmer wanted that tractor the next morning to do some plowing. He said, he said to his boss, how about I go home and I'll come back at daylight, the part of coming overnight out of Sydney and I can get this tractor going for the farmer. So he was actually at home, like I said, he should have been at work, but he was at home sitting on the lounge and his wife was in the garden and his wife come in. She said, oh Brock, I think there's been a car crash down the road somewhere. She said, oh no, I've got cattle in the yards, probably one of the cars kicking the gate or something. So she turned to walk out the door and she saw this puff of smoke coming up from the trees. She went, Brock, I think you better come and look at this.

([00:19:59](#)):

So they had three cars and 12 months prior to this she said to him, we should buy some fire extinguishers and put in our cars. They had a work car, she had a work car and then they had a hunting vehicle. So eventually after 12 months he said, oh look right, I'll go and get 'em. So he finally got them and he bought two fire extinguishers and put 'em on the front veranda. A week before this accident she put one in her car and left the other one veranda. As it turns out, she put the fire extinguisher in the hunting vehicle when she's turned to walk out the door and said, oh, you better come down to this smoke here. There is a car crash. They've raced at the car. The first car they got to happened to be the hunting vehicle of all things. Could have been one of all three. They've got the scene of the crash and first thing she's done is grab the fire extinguisher, wasted whole fire extinguisher on me just putting me out. Not the fire itself because my face was all alike, my clothes and actually had lucky enough to have a knife in the car to try and cut the seatbelt off so it wouldn't have turned up. His wife, Brock, the fellow save me, his wife was nine months pregnant actually.

Kaz ([00:21:12](#)):

Yeah, they're about

Dodge ([00:21:13](#)):

Just two,

Kaz ([00:21:14](#)):

Three weeks off their baby being two.

Dodge ([00:21:16](#)):

So she's running around trying to save him.

Kaz ([00:21:19](#)):

It's probably worth noting that when they turned up, there was already other people there and they said, we've tried to get him out, there's nothing we can do. And they was sort of at that point standing back watching the car and I guess giving up

Dodge ([00:21:32](#)):

An old fella. He couldn't do anything. He tried, tried all he could. Another lady's actually on the ground crab walking back was just in the state of shock I guess. But as Brock's turned up and the cab was full of smoke and the cab was full of smoke, so I couldn't see anything.

Warwick Schiller ([00:21:48](#)):

Was it right side up now?

Dodge ([00:21:50](#)):

Yeah, it's right side up, yeah, yeah.

Warwick Schiller ([00:21:54](#)):

What's trapped? Is your leg trapped under the dash or something

Dodge ([00:21:56](#)):

Like that? I was trapped pretty much from the hips down. So my legs, the motor actually come on top of my lap. It

Kaz ([00:22:03](#)):

Hit a big gum tree, big iron bark tree and pushed everything back.

Dodge ([00:22:08](#)):

Yeah. So I remember Brock saying, are you right mate? Who is it? Are you right in there? I said, oh, I actually recognized his voice. Like I said, I only met him two or three times and for some reason I just remembered his voice said, is that you Brock? He said, yeah. He said, Dodge, is that you? I said, yeah, it's me mate. He said, oh well, we'll get you out. And we had to wait until the seat underneath me burnt enough to create enough of a gap to get me out. He had his foot on the door, well just reaving at me to know about it at the time. I said, mate, I said, Brock, you better leave me here because this car's going to blow up. You're going to die with me. And I'll never forget this. He said, Dave, he said, no mate said I'm going to stay here, I'll go down with you. He pretty much gave his life away just to save me and his wife's there pregnant about to have their first child and she's there chucking dirt on the flames, trying to put it out as well.

([00:23:13](#)):

A lot of respect for the man and her to do that. Eventually they got me out of the car. They dragged me maybe 50 meters away from the car and Brock said, within 90 seconds the car burst into flame and just exploded. By this time I on the ground and I guess state of shock and adrenaline going through my body. I said, Brock, I said, put my leg in. I knew it was. I said, can you put my leg in? Said why? I said, I'm going to walk home and will fix me up. There's only three Ks from home. He said, mate, you're not going anywhere. He said, just shut up and lay there. So I said, yeah, I guess in a state of shock and all the adrenaline pumps in my body. And then you want to take on from when your side of it?

Warwick Schiller ([00:24:00](#)):

Yeah. Can we get to you? Can we get to you in a second Ca? The human body is amazing as far as having the ability to look after itself and we have all the chemicals available to us to do anything we want. You've just got to get the body to release it. And so in this situation, so when you were in the car and you were on fire, could you feel that?

Dodge ([00:24:33](#)):

I couldn't feel it, no. I do remember sitting there because I had actually, we'll go this story too. My wife and I, we were actually married for 25 years, the other day anniversary, but 13 years after we were married, I'd lost three wedding rings just at work over the course of the 13 years.

Kaz ([00:24:54](#)):

I was unsure whether he was just throwing them away.

Dodge ([00:24:58](#)):

So we decided to pack the kids up and go to the Gold Coast for a holiday for a week. And when we're up there I said, Karen, how about I'm going to go and buy a new wedding ring? She shook head, she said, no way you've lost three. Next ring will be mine. I said, no, it'll be right. I promise won't lose it off. I go down the street, got the tattoo shot and get the ring tattooed on my fingers. I said, well, I can't lose this one, can I come back? I said, what do you reckon? She said, oh, she said, if you ever lose that, that's it. I'm going to leave it no more.

Kaz ([00:25:28](#)):

I said, we're done. If you lose that we're over, you

Warwick Schiller ([00:25:31](#)):

Lose the tattooed wedding ring off your finger, you're

Dodge ([00:25:34](#)):

Done Here. I'm sitting in the car burning to death and I actually distinctly remember her saying, if I lose this wedding ring, that's it. So I actually got my thumb and put over my finger and tried to cover that wedding ring and as I'd pass out, my hand had fall down into the flames, wake back up, and I'd put my hand underneath my arm like this armpit, try and protect it. I cut a lot of timber and did a lot of fencing. I was hands on for at work, so my hands when my life had to save my hands as well.

([00:26:11](#)):

But I do remember at the time I got to stage where I went, well you know what, I'm not going to get out this car because I was trying to push myself out and I couldn't get out if I don't put my hand in the flames and try to undo the seatbelt, the flames about a foot high, but this time I thought it's going to hurt, but it's not going to hurt as much as what it's going to later on. So I chucked my hand in the fire and I'm filling around there trying to find the seatbelt, which was melted shut. So no, it was coming off. I'd pull it out and I'd have a bit of a spelling, it'd go back in again. And like you're saying, I couldn't feel a thing. It was you think putting your hand in a flame is going to hurt? Well, I always had that ability with my injuries and stuff over the years to be able to shut off the pain and ignore it, just try and get on with the job. But yeah, couldn't feel a thing at the time. Apparently I was moaning and groaning. But yeah, nothing was going through. It was no pain, just get on with the job. So eventually when I didn't get card to hospital, we'll fill that later. You want to see that later? Yeah, saw that later about the ring. Just remember that one.

Warwick Schiller ([00:27:24](#)):

I remember the ring later. Yeah. I was just thinking, riding, say riding a bull when you first start out, everything, when you first start riding, it's the ears or whatever, everything's just a blur and the longer goes on, it gets to where you're actually aware of what's going on and you're in the moment sort of thing. And so bull riding, you are in a very dangerous situation, but you're not panicking. I'm in a dangerous situation. You get into that flow state and whatever. Do you think doing that for 20 years helped you keep your wits about you in the middle of this wreck?

Dodge ([00:28:06](#)):

I guarantee, yes. I had my motivational speaker. I say a lot of times that I believe 20 years of radioing drain me for this situation now when I was in that car crash to face danger or to face fear and get on with the job. And to me bull riding is a very, what do you say, like a subconscious state where it's all happening in front of you, but your mind's doing it where your conscious mind reacts so slow, whereas your subconscious mind can react in a split second takes over and takes control. So yeah, I do believe that the years of rodeoing actually helped me get through that situation.

Warwick Schiller ([00:28:53](#)):

Yeah, I was thinking what was your mental state like in that I've only ever had one car. Where were you when you didn't have that crash?

Dodge ([00:29:04](#)):

Three Ks from home near Dub Dubbo. Yeah, it's out Dubbo.

Warwick Schiller ([00:29:09](#)):

So mine was down there Gulgong, so not that far away. And I was living in West Yong at the time and I was driving from, I think it was at S Scone, I'd been at a horse show at SCO and I was driving back to West Yong had this old F 100 and it was the first game, it was the preseason game of footy, so it was like February or something or other. And I had to get back to West Wallen that night. We're going to play footy Anyway, I'm driving along and I blew a left front tire, so passenger side front tire and it just pulled me off the road into a stand, a small gum tree. It's not a big gum tree like yours. But in that instant from when the tire blew, when I started kind of going sideways to when I hit the tree, it was like, oh, I'm not going to get home to play footy tonight.

[\(00:29:56\)](#):

So I suppose I could ring up me flatmate and he could go and tell Barney the coach and then who's going to come and get me. And I just had this whole long conversation about what was going to happen in that long. And it's interesting you were saying before about the, you might call it divine intervention, the whole story about the guy that pulled you out of the car wasn't supposed to be home from work that day. He was supposed to be at work, he spent a long time not having a fire extinguisher in the car. And finally he buys two, but they don't put him in the car and then they finally put him in one car and then when they ran out of the house to come and help you, they jump into that one, which is a hunting vehicle. So what's a hunting vehicle got in it, it's got a skin and knife in it, doesn't it? To cut the seatbelt.

[\(00:30:49\)](#):

So it's kind of divine intervention sort of thing. But I've talked about this on the podcast before. I did a whole podcast on the title of the episode was called Manifesting a Car Crash, but it was all about manifesting things. And before I came to America, I'd bought that old F 100 off a friend of mine and the paint was all faded and had a bit of rust in or whatever. So I paid five grand for it, but the N R M A would insure it for 10 grand. So I'd insure it for 10 grand and I said to three different people on one occasion each. I wish I knew how to write this thing off without killing myself because if I did I'd take that money and go to America. It wasn't long after that.

Dodge [\(00:31:32\)](#):

Yeah, it is. Yeah, funny how things fall into place.

Warwick Schiller [\(00:31:37\)](#):

But anyway, I was talking about the whole time slowing down. What was the, and how long do you think you were in the car on fire?

Dodge [\(00:31:45\)](#):

Oh, I have no idea tell you the truth, but I do remember when my vehicle left the road, it was this sort of a drop off of about a meter. And I remember looking at these two trees as the cars going sideways, if I can just get between those two trees and I'll be out in the paddock, I can leave the car in the paddock and then if there's any damage, the police won't come along, I can walk home, it'll be alright in midair. The steering wasn't quite working well it goes the tree, but, and years ago I had a good old mate that actually was riding a horse down at we jasper along the flats flat, had a can chase cattle and a big drain came up and the horse hit there, the other side of the table drain broke both his arms. A good old story, used to always, I remember laying on the ground for six hours me and when they come along I said, oh, just leave me to die. He said, when they pulled me out of the car crash, I actually said that to the fellas as a joke, not thinking, well they don't know this story. But that was a bit of a suppose, trying to make it lighthearted. I'd leave him to die. What are you and no, he just me, a joke just gets to get me through. I guess they say funny how things come into your head,

Warwick Schiller [\(00:33:05\)](#):

Right? So you've got no sense of the time you're in there or how long you were in there, but do you have a sense of what was going through your mind? Was it sheer terror and panic or was it like, okay, I'm going to have to stick my hand in the flames to get the seatbelt undone and then when you couldn't get it undone, was it, oh shit, oh shit, oh shit. Or was it okay, what else can I do? How was your mind working in that?

Dodge (00:33:31):

Pretty much what I've got to do to get out of this. I think in my mind I was very calm, just trying to get out, do the best I could.

Warwick Schiller (00:33:42):

Right. So we've got you to getting out. So Cas, how did you find out about the whole thing?

Kaz (00:33:50):

Well, another funny story, I had a friend, I was at home and I tried to call Dodge on both his phones. He had a work phone, normal phone, and both of them were going to message bank, which is unusual around where we live with mobile service, how it is. And a friend had actually called me up and it's sort of someone I don't speak to that often. And she said, oh, just to have a sense that I needed to call you and ask you if you're okay. A couple of emergency vehicles went past and I just had a feeling and from where she lives to where we live, I think it's probably what, 14, 15 kilometers and there's roads that go off everywhere and that. So it was quite an unusual call and I'm like, oh, I think we're okay. I can't get a hold of Dodge.

(00:34:40):

But anyway, and she said, oh well I just had a feeling. I'm like, okay, well we'll catch up later. And ended the call and I thought I'll just give him another call and still couldn't get hold of him. And I'd sort of had dinner, I'd actually sent him a text message saying, Hey, I'm just putting steak on the Barbie, you better be home soon because microwave steak is not that great reheated. And anyway, so by that time I just finished cooking. I told the kids, oh come on, dinner's ready. And I'd sat down at the table and picked up a knife and fork and this feeling came over me. It was just a knowing and I just can't even explain it any more than that, that he'd been in that accident. It wasn't that thing of if there's an accident, maybe this explains why he's not home and why he's not answering his phones.

(00:35:41):

It was that absolute knowing and that's all I can put it, explain it as and put my knife and fork down. And I said to the kids, just stay here and eat your dinner please. I'm just going for a drive. And I got in the car and at that stage I was just in, I'm not a panic, worst case scenario sort of person. So even the fact that my mind was there is not unusual thing and drove down the road, went over a bit of a rise. And by that time it was just going on dark and went over the rise. And as I went over the rise I could see the flames just running up this gum tree and the cars were pulled over on the side of the road and I could see a couple of highway patrol cars in the middle of the road either side of this accident and a couple of people just standing there, a couple of police standing there with a couple of other people standing there looking at this car on flames.

(00:36:47):

And I sort of pulled over behind this line of traffic and walked up. And as I was walking up, I came across this girl that we'd known from rodeo times and she said, I must've just had that look in my face. She said, what's wrong? And I said, I can't find Dodge and I think he's in this accident. And she said, oh, okay, just stand there. I'll go down and see what I can find out. She started walking a bit further down towards them and I thought, oh no, I'm going down there to talk to them too. And as I sort of, I'd only taken, walked down a couple of extra meters and that's all it took to, I could see Jamie had made the dog box for the back of his ute. So I knew it was a distinct outline of it and I could see the outline amongst the flames and I knew at that moment it was his vehicle.

[\(00:37:37\)](#):

And at that stage there was no ambulance there, it was just two patrol cars and people watching this and my legs went out from underneath me and I'm sitting on the road thinking I'm watching basically his cremation. And this fellow came up to me and he said, Hey, you can't sit on the road. And I thought, no moment. I thought, that's a funny thing, just worry about all the issues I have at the moment. My concerns about me sitting in the middle of the road and a zero. And then he's like, no, come on, hop up. He said he's not in there. They actually took him away. The ambulance is just the ambulance left, he's alive, he's not great but he's alive. And that was a horrible moment. Me sitting there sort of believing that he was still in that vehicle. It was totally a light at that stage. But in hindsight back, that gave me the sense of how that showed me how bad things could get. And right throughout the rest of everything that came after that was never as bad as that moment. So it gave me a sense of where to grade things from and it never ever got that bad again. So that was, I dunno, quite a helpful moment I guess.

Warwick Schiller [\(00:38:59\)](#):

Yeah, I was just thinking about that, that if you got a phone call and said he's been in action, he's in the hospital and you rocked up to the hospital, how he was when you got to the hospital would be worst case scenario.

Kaz [\(00:39:13\)](#):

Yes. Yeah, absolutely. And then so when I did go to the hospital, I sort of

Dodge [\(00:39:22\)](#):

Show you sensitivity now.

Kaz [\(00:39:25\)](#):

Oh no. Well actually I went home and saw the kids and said, look, dad's been an accident, stay here. I rang a neighbor, can you come across and stay with the kids? And I actually rang up my friend who had called me to say, I had just this feeling that I needed to call you. Rang her back and I said, that was dodging that accident and her place is between our place and town and she's a nurse so if there's anyone that you want to take into this situation, it's a nurse. I said, can you come into the hospital? She said, yeah. I said, rightio, I'm just leaving home now. I'll pick you up on the way in. And so she came in with me, which was just wonderful to have her there and went in and sort of had to wait around a little while until they were happy for me to actually go on a scene.

[\(00:40:16\)](#):

Him. They were working really hard to actually trying to even keep him alive at that stage. And I guess it got to the point where they said, okay, we can let you in to scene him now and go into the emergency department is in this Resus Bay. And I went in and approached it, standing up at the end of the bed and just taking it in. He now has all these machines breathing for him and he is in being placed in induced coma and everything and at that stage they're waiting on a retrieval team to come from Sydney. So they have this specialist retrieval team with all these amazing doctors that fly up in a fixed wing plane to come up and get him in the hopes of getting him to a major hospital in Sydney and standing there taking it all in and something, I just got this thought, you need to go and look at his tattoo, his wedding ring tattoo and that this is when this story comes back in.

[\(00:41:18\)](#):

And I just said to someone that was there, would it be okay if I walk around that side of the bed? And they said, yes, just don't touch anything. And I walked around and his left hand, it was charred, it was black, and if you've seen anything that's burnt before, it was totally black except for this band where his wedding ring tattoo was perfect. And that moment went, this is okay, he's not going anywhere. It was just that feeling that I think this is going to be fine, he's not leaving me. And that gave me that really sense of reassurance. And then they were sort of trying to inform me about what was going on and everything and they're like, okay you, you'll fly down in this plane with him to Sydney, won't you? Because we need to know because they need to actually put it on how much everything weighs and they're trying to, all the equipment, it's all weighed up, they need to know now whether you're going to fly.

[\(00:42:22\)](#):

And I'm like, no, I'm not going down with him. I dunno. I just had this thoughts and probably everyone's heard one of these stories where someone doesn't die until that significant person is there with them. And in my head was he wouldn't dare die if I'm not there. And I thought he needs to get to Sydney alive to get to best medical team and he wouldn't dare die on that flight because they're pulling my friend aside and going, you've got to make her get on this plane. She's going to regret not being there when she dies. When he dies. And so I've worked it out of my head. He won't die if I'm not there because at that stage they're sort of saying there's only the slightest chance he's going to live through this. Yeah.

Warwick Schiller [\(00:43:14\)](#):

Did they have a full sense of all of his injuries at that point in time or it wasn't until he got the Sydney vape?

Kaz [\(00:43:21\)](#):

Well, they had a little thing and they were a bit off with some of it. At that stage they're, he's probably not going to live because of the damage that's been done to his lungs and his airways from being not only in the smokes but actually being totally involved by flames. That's probably why he's not going to survive the trip and that's what they're thinking. He's going to die probably on that plane. He's not even going to make it to Sydney. And because of his airways, they thought he had a broken pelvis, which is also concerning. Plus he had the burns and when the doctors came up, they were sort of having to try to cut all the skin because the swelling actually, it restricts all the blood flow and actually kills the limb. So the doctors came up and they were doing all that before they actually, even the retrieval team came up and sort of did all those sort of things before they got him even on that plane to Sydney. But that's what he, at the time of leaving Dubbo, it was the airway so concerned about and the broken pelvis.

[\(00:44:31\)](#):

Then I just went home. After the plane left, I went home and packed up the kids and went to Sydney and by that stage his parents when I'd rang them and said, he'll be taken to Sydney. They live in sco. So they'd gotten themselves to Sydney and arrived before I did. And my parents came up from the south coast and met me and took the kids for us. But when we arrived and had a meeting with the doctors there, that was when I found out he'd broken his arm spine, he broken his back. They didn't know whether he had any spinal cord injuries, but they knew they'd have to place a couple of rods in his back. He'd broken one hip, dissipated another, he had major head injuries, basically broken every rib, internal injuries. I think the front part of his skull was burnt so badly they didn't even know whether that was, they were going to even, they thought that was going to die and they were talking less than 5% chance of even being able to save that front part of his skull because the depth, it was actually burnt.

Warwick Schiller (00:45:49):

The bone itself

Kaz (00:45:51):

Was burnt. And yeah, like eyes have said, well we dunno whether he is going to have spinal cord injuries. We don't. Even the team that was, he had so many teams involved in his care, like the team that was looking after his brain injuries, they were coming into these big meetings and they're going, oh, I don't know whether guys, whether it's even worth trying to fix everything else because the quality of life he's going to have because the extent of his brain trauma is not going to be one worth living. He's just not going to have that quality of life left and didn't know whether he'd be blind because all his eyelids were burn actually burned off pretty much. His nose was all sort of burnt off.

(00:46:36):

There was a lot going on and he did end up losing his left leg and his left hand. But that wasn't until about 10, I think about 10 days in. He was becoming really, really unwell because at that stage they couldn't even do any skin grafts or anything. They said the biggest risk with his was getting infections, burns, open wounds, get infections, but they couldn't do any skin grafts because he wasn't well enough. The drugs that they were giving him to maintain his blood pressure, this noradrenaline closes everything else down. So you can't do skin grafts while you've got that on. He had this massive temperature though he had impact with ice to cool his body temperature down. And then that's when they having to have these conversations about, I think it's time that we have to get rid of the leg and the hand sort of thing. Yeah, that was I guess thinking about how's he going to feel about this? And then I was having conversations with them, okay, going forward riding a horse because his left leg especially was burnt so far down, it had damaged, all the muscles were sort of so badly burnt, the bones were burnt, the tendons were all burnt. And I said, okay, going forward, if he's to get back to riding, is that going to be better without that leg or with that leg? And they're looking at me thinking, what the hell is this person thinking?

(00:48:25):

Yeah.

Warwick Schiller (00:48:27):

So Dodge, when they flew you to Sydney, were you conscious during the flight and when you got there?

Dodge (00:48:36):

No. It's one thing that amazed me too is I tell this a lot in my motivational talks is so they flew me down by Fitz Wing to, I guess it's mascot in Sydney.

Kaz (00:48:47):

Oh, Bankstown, I think

Dodge (00:48:48):

Bankstown. And then put me on a helicopter and flew me to the top of the hospital. I went straight to emergency there and there was 27 doctors walked in that room that first day I was there

Kaz (00:49:00):

That first time they took him to operating.

Dodge ([00:49:02](#)):

And doctors just there doing what they can to keep me alive. That blows my mind to have that many people there. Experts,

Kaz ([00:49:09](#)):

I think. Yeah, probably to answer your question, Marick, when he was out at the crash scene, they put him in induced coma then. And so he didn't wake up for I think it was almost seven weeks.

Warwick Schiller ([00:49:22](#)):

Oh wow. I was just thinking about the 27 doctors. You'd need them. You've got internal injuries, you've got head injuries, you've got burns. So you're in an induced coma for seven weeks Dodge. And I know a friend of mine who, she went to Mexico, she used to live partly here, partly in Mexico. One time in Mexico she caught some sort of a virus. Maybe it was like meningitis, I'm not sure. But she ended up in a coma for a month or so and she had these amazing journeys to all sorts of places that she remembers. Do you remember anything in your coma?

Dodge ([00:50:03](#)):

Yeah, I do. Not so much in my coma. I always say that I remember getting the pearl white gates and I'm knocking on the gate and God said, you go away mate. You're not ready to come in here yet. But that's a bit of a fallacy. But

Warwick Schiller ([00:50:20](#)):

I've talked to a lot of people who've had similar experience that basically have, I'll tell you what, I was talking to a lady a number of years ago who her partner tried to choke her to death at some point in time. She said there was this tunnel in the white light and the whole bit. And then she ended up coming back, but she didn't have anybody tell her to come back. But I know of a number of people who've been told, your job is not finished yet, so you need to turn around and go back. So you distinctly remember that.

Dodge ([00:50:52](#)):

I don't so much distinctly remember that, but it's vaguely in my head. The first recollection of anything was once they brought me out of it, you imagine the medication I was on, can't even think what I was on.

Kaz ([00:51:09](#)):

I'm a bit of a fan of your podcast, so I listen to a lot and a lot of things that you've discussed. I'm like, oh, okay. So that may have impacted the outcome of different things. So he was on ketamine for a long time

Warwick Schiller ([00:51:25](#)):

On ketamine?

Kaz ([00:51:26](#)):

Yeah. So every time he was going back into surgery pretty much every second day to do something and every time they changed his dressings, it was ketamine. And I wondered what that changed in the outcome of how he feels.

Warwick Schiller ([00:51:45](#)):

Right. What was your experience on ketamine?

Dodge ([00:51:49](#)):

I remember getting pushed into the theater and then obviously they've injected it in me. And I remember going down this a big spiral shape and every layer I'd get to, a doctor would come out, he'd do a little job on me, I'd go to the next level, do another one would come out and do a job on me. Made it for about six or seven times down. And right at then I was shot at the top of this spiral. That's when I come back to, and I said, the doctor said, don't you ever give me that ketamine again. Experienced experience of it was like scared me.

Kaz ([00:52:23](#)):

I guess it was a long period of time when he was getting the ketamine, when he was still in his coma. But then once he was out of it and they would give him that ketamine before they would do the dressings. Once he was able to say, don't give me that over again. I don't care how much pain I'm in, I don't want to experience that.

Warwick Schiller ([00:52:45](#)):

People pay to experience that. But anyway,

Dodge ([00:52:48](#)):

Blow my mind. Special gay on the streets.

Warwick Schiller ([00:52:53](#)):

Yeah, I've had one experience that was administered by a doctor and it was quite interesting. So you've been in a cober for seven weeks when you first come out of it, do you have a sense that seven weeks had passed or it's, it was like you went to sleep, woke up the next morning and Pretty

Dodge ([00:53:16](#)):

Much, yeah.

Kaz ([00:53:17](#)):

Yeah. I think though when you pictured he came out of it. He didn't just wake up one day and he was back conscious. It was like little windows, like tiny little grips of thing. Oh, I think that was him right there awake.

Dodge ([00:53:32](#)):

I remember sitting, laying on the bed and there's a little window on the wall in front of me, which is where I guess the matrons or the nurse could come in and just have a quick look, make sure I was right. I remember watching 'em in this window and every time they duck away, I'd get down the bottom of the

bed and I was going to walk out of there. I was going home, they'd come running and you can't be doing this. And they'd hold me down and must've gone off for days.

Kaz ([00:54:00](#)):

I think that was, yeah, once you're in the Burns unit.

Dodge ([00:54:03](#)):

Burns unit,

Kaz ([00:54:03](#)):

Yeah. He was in a special positive air room where you had to go through all these different air seals to try and protect him from getting infections. Yeah.

Dodge ([00:54:18](#)):

Can't seeing the kids. I said, Karen, where's the kids? Can you bring 'em in? She went, no, not yet for her. She was trying to protect the kids from seeing me at that stage.

Kaz ([00:54:30](#)):

But I think probably to answer your question mark, when he was first waking up and he'd had a tube down his into breeze, so he had that tracking and they got to the point where they said, because he'd just be trying to talk. And I'm like, I can't understand. I can't deliberate what you are trying to say. And they got to the point went, okay, we think we can drop that balloon just for 30 seconds and give him the opportunity to talk and build on that. So the first couple of days they were doing that, it takes a while to actually learn to re-talk with that in your throat. And so the first couple of days there was nothing. And he got to the point where he actually got some words out. I was thinking what he was trying to get across were all questions about the accident or things that are going on. But it all relates to these experiences, which probably now in hindsight was the ketamine talking. He was like, these fellas had me bailed up under the bed and all this. And things that weren't even real work was what he was more concerned about.

Dodge ([00:55:42](#)):

These little pygmys used to run around the room and they were playing with matchbox cars on the ground and I'd say, get out here. Go on, get out. They'd hide under the bed. That kept me going for a few days.

Warwick Schiller ([00:55:56](#)):

Yeah,

Dodge ([00:55:58](#)):

Setting up S on the floor.

Warwick Schiller ([00:56:00](#)):

I was wondering how that went. So during that seven weeks, they still have no idea of the extent of his spinal injuries, whether he he's going to be able to move things. Is that how that was?

Kaz ([00:56:16](#)):

Yeah, it's until he wakes up, we dunno if he's got a spinal cord injury. We dunno the extent of his head injuries. We dunno whether he'll be blind, all those sort of things. And it even took a while until they worked out whether they could save that front part of his skull and all that sort of stuff. And I guess, and then I was thinking all that time when he wakes up, how am I going to explain to him that he's now lost that left leg and left hand? Because he's always been such an active, athletic person, always outside doing stuff. How's he going to take that? So that was something I had a lot of time to think about. How's this conversation going to go and how's he going to react to it

Warwick Schiller ([00:57:11](#)):

And how did that conversation go?

Kaz ([00:57:14](#)):

Well, I think a bit of an

Dodge ([00:57:15](#)):

Argument,

Kaz ([00:57:16](#)):

Well it was okay, I think today he's actually getting alert enough that he's going to start becoming aware that he's missing left leg and hand because he's still all really bandaged up and strapped out in his bed and that. So I thought, okay, I think take a deep breath, have this conversation and then he is like, no, that's not true. I can see it, I can feel it. And then I'm like, well it's not there. And he is arguing about it and then he'd go back and be back in a sort of unconscious for the remainder of the day and the next day I'd have this conversation again because he had no recollection. So take a big breath and then after a few days, I'm just like that conversation, there wasn't much care going into that conversation, Warwick. It was like you don't have a left leg and left hand. Get over it because he'd still feel arguing the point of it. Like you'll work it out eventually

Warwick Schiller ([00:58:25](#)):

Dodge, I've heard of phantom pains in limbs that have been taken off. You ever get those, your foot itches or your toes hurt? Yeah,

Dodge ([00:58:33](#)):

It wasn't too bad for the first maybe year maybe and then eventually it started to come. Even now I do get it, but my hand's pretty good. It's just the leg. It's like to explain, it's like guessing, getting electric jigger or nine bolts of power going your leg, you can feel it coming on. I hear it comes now and then all of a sudden it's like I'll scream, it'll only last 10, 20 seconds and it goes away and then might come back in a minute and sort of consistent,

Warwick Schiller ([00:59:03](#)):

But it's not in the part of your leg. You still have, it's in the part that you don't have.

Dodge ([00:59:07](#)):

Yeah, even now I can feel my foot now it's foot feels real heavy. It's funny talking about losing my leg. They used to let me out for a day. I'd go back to the apartment where Karen was staying, so I'd go out of hospital. I was sitting back in the lounge one day, actually had a vacuum on my forehead, sucking the fluids out, hooked up to a pump and Karen was on the floor and she had a foot up on me and I was aging the foot and I thought that'd be nice to lie in there beside her. So she got up and went to walk, couldn't comprehend that the leg wasn't there. As I took that one step down, I go and hooked up this pump and I put them sideways, but I said, Karen, don't you tell these nurses what happened? They won't let me out again. Got back there.

Kaz ([01:00:00](#)):

I think he really hurt his elbow when he fell down on the floor and he is like, don't you dare tell them I hurt my elbow. I'm like, it's kind of important that they know that. But now he thought he'd better hide. That

Dodge ([01:00:10](#)):

Went on for a week and eventually I said to one of nurse, do you know what happened last week? She went, what? I said, well, I got and went to walk. She went, everyone does that. She said, I was waiting out until you'd be doing that, but yeah, you don't feel it. But funny enough talking about the found pain is I was taking some pretty hard medication like Endone and I sat down there for a bit, but I hate medications. Actually just recently I've gone to this cannabis oil, the CCB D C B

Warwick Schiller ([01:00:43](#)):

D, oil

Dodge ([01:00:44](#)):

D doesn't affect you. And evidently from that I think I've taken two tablets in what's been probably three months. It just seems no fan pain at all.

Warwick Schiller ([01:00:54](#)):

You know that's C B D oil is pretty amazing stuff to where almost like it fixes whatever needs fixing. My wife and I had been a couple of years ago, we started taking it quite a bit and I'd had sinus surgery and I had this chronic sinus infection sort of thing that the sinus surgery didn't fix it. Antibiotics won't fix it, it won't go away. And probably, I dunno, a couple of months after taking the C B D oil every day it went away and a lot of people take it for pain of different things and yeah, it's pretty amazing stuff.

Dodge ([01:01:34](#)):

The doctor actually said to me, she said, I'll give this to try the C B D or, but I guarantee you'll have to come back and get the T H C or it's amazed her that this C B D is just doing the job on its own doing it. I don't take it every day. I can sort of go for a few days or even a week without it, but then I do realize I've got to get it back in my system so I'll get it back and it disappears again. The found pain

Warwick Schiller ([01:02:01](#)):

Is C B D oil legal there or is it prescription only?

Dodge ([01:02:06](#)):

Prescription only at the minute.

Warwick Schiller ([01:02:08](#)):

At the moment. Okay. Yeah, it's funny, Australia, they just legalized therapist psychedelic therapy with M D M A and psilocybin, so mushrooms and they're one of the first countries in the world to actually legalize that in a therapeutic setting and it surprised hell out me because Australia's a bit of a nanny state to where they weren't let to do anything. You can't drive and eat a hamburger and you can't do this and you can't do that. So I was very surprised that that actually happened, but I didn't know if the CCB D oil was legal there or not.

Dodge ([01:02:52](#)):

They're actually going through a process now they're trying to bring, that's like driving. You can go to 0.05 once you're over that you can't drive. So they're trying to get I guess a gauge going where if you've got so much C B D all in the system, you're right to drive. I guess the technicalities are getting it in place, but that's what they're working with.

Warwick Schiller ([01:03:17](#)):

But CCB D or has no psychotropic effects. I mean

Dodge ([01:03:22](#)):

No, that's right.

Warwick Schiller ([01:03:25](#)):

Yeah, I don't get that. Anyway, I digress. So you've spent seven months in a coma, you've come out of the coma. C has finally convinced you that you don't have a left leg anymore and I guess you had to believe her in the end. What was it like the first time you actually looked down and saw that you didn't have a leg? What was that like?

Dodge ([01:03:47](#)):

Yeah, well it's funny enough, I guess it was all bandaged up so it didn't really see it until the end. But even my face, it was burnt that bad. I said there's a specialist nurse used to come and she pretty much looked after me, the Burns nurse or I said to her, I said, how bad is the burns in my face? There's only this little spot here thing. It's like 20 cent piece, honor your whole face is I guess the medication. I couldn't quite comprehend as to how bad I was, but my whole state of mind was just, my whole passion was just to get out and get back home where I knew once I was home I was in my own environment where I could heal so much better rather than being locked up inside.

Warwick Schiller ([01:04:41](#)):

Just from you being a active outdoors sort of fellow, just being locked up in hospital without any injuries at all. I mean locked up like that without anything else going on would've been half torture for you. So it must've been not good for you just being stuck in there.

Dodge ([01:04:59](#)):

Oh no, I don't think it was a bad place to be as such where I've got a pretty good sense of humor I think can probably doesn't think so. But the doctors used to come in every morning. The main doctor was in

charge of what went on with me. So any other doctor had to go through pretty much he said he actually, when he signed on, he used to come into my room, had five minutes with me, a bit of a yarn. He said, dad put him in the mood, tell me a few jokes and then he'd go on with his day. He said, but the worst days he had in hospital was the days that I was unconscious. I wasn't there. That was the day he found it hard for him to get through the day. So what I'm saying is it was a pretty good relaxed place to be.

Kaz ([01:05:47](#)):

Yeah, I think that was the case for a lot of the nurses. They used to go and see Dodge before they even started their shift and then at the end of their shift and put them back in. A good mood to leave. Yeah, leave again.

Dodge ([01:06:00](#)):

It was a few tricks up sleeve. I used to get given chocolates box of rose or something and when they'd run out I say, Karen, can you go get me some more chocolates? She's thinking you can't eat this many chocolates.

Kaz ([01:06:12](#)):

Refill the chocolate or Bri all the nurses

Dodge ([01:06:14](#)):

Night. The night nurses would come in, it'd be like 11 o'clock, 12 o'clock at night. Hey Dodge, you got any more chocolates top door?

Warwick Schiller ([01:06:23](#)):

Yeah, nurses. My brother broke his leg when he was younger, had a horse flip over on him and broke his femur and was in traction in hospital for quite a long time. And yeah, we learned during that experience that the nurses, they love the chocolate. You can get 'em do anything if you can feed 'em chocolates,

Dodge ([01:06:42](#)):

No good.

Warwick Schiller ([01:06:44](#)):

So we'll get into the motivational speaking here in a minute, but from your experiences, you've got into some motivational speaking, but it sounds like you're a bit of a motivational speaker when you're still in there. The doctors and the nurses would come in and probably think, if this guy can have a good attitude about life, I got nothing to worry about. I can go about my day and get things done. So it sounds like you were spreading the good word even when you were still in there.

Dodge ([01:07:11](#)):

Yeah, I spent a bit of time when I was in America. I lived with Gary, Ew for a while.

Warwick Schiller ([01:07:15](#)):

Oh really? Okay, now we just joined all the dots. Okay, so you guys at home, Gary Leue was the world champion bull rider and then he got into coaching bull riding, but he's really big into the mental side of

things. So much into the mental side of things that you would not think this guy was a bull rider. You'd think he was some sort of a guru somewhere. And I've actually, I want to try to get Gary on the podcast. He has some crazy stories about crazy things. But yeah, tell me about your time with Gary Fu because he's like a legend. So how'd you fall in with Gary?

Dodge ([01:07:55](#)):

I decided when I was borrowing I want to try and progress and get somewhere with it and I said to Karen, I said, the best buller I was in the world in America, Gary Fu F one of the best motivational and his number one ing coach in the world as such. So I packed up and went over there for a month and did a week school with him and then I went tripping around for three weeks. But he said when I left he said, how about you come back and live here? So that's what I did and I went back then lived there for three months with him.

Warwick Schiller ([01:08:31](#)):

No, you lived in Santa Maria.

Dodge ([01:08:33](#)):

Santa Maria, yeah, on Oma up in the valley. Beautiful place. I was right down with his son, Judd Paul. We'd travel around together and when Gary was home, well not even when he was home, I used to travel around with him a bit to a few shows and the old cow palace mechanical bull around and yeah, he's certainly a character, but that was the real time. I actually thought, well it's not just bras and there's more to riding bull. It's the mental side of it. And I sort of took that with my life as well, living my life as be positive and forget the negatives and I learned to have a lot there. Have a lot.

Warwick Schiller ([01:09:19](#)):

Yeah. It's funny that there's a link there. I was thinking about your outlook with what's happened to you and everything and I'm like, oh, well that would be a part of progressing your outlook in life. You're spending time with Gabriel a few.

Dodge ([01:09:36](#)):

Yeah, really good time.

Warwick Schiller ([01:09:39](#)):

That's awesome. Okay, so there's a story about when I guess you were out of the guess, you're out of the Burns unit, but you're still in hospital. Maybe you're in the Burns unit, but it's time for rehab and the story I heard was that they didn't think you were ready for rehab and you were pretty sure that you needed to do some rehab.

Dodge ([01:10:01](#)):

So we actually went over there for a day just to have a look at, I was still in the Burns unit in the hospital on North Shore. They took me over for a day to show me where I was going through the ride rehabilitation center out in the ambulance, and then on the way back I said to Karen, there's no way I'm going to go there. I despise it. Worst thing was I was so active, the rehab center I was going to was like,

Kaz ([01:10:31](#)):

I think was it more

Dodge ([01:10:32](#)):

Mental? Was it?

Kaz ([01:10:33](#)):

Yeah, victims that Jamie would've been on because it had burn unit but also had the more neuro patients. So a lot, most of the other patients were stroke victims. So we're talking a lot of elderly people. Couple of the only other burns people that were there were actually

Dodge ([01:10:53](#)):

Refugee

Kaz ([01:10:54](#)):

Refugees that had self-harmed set themselves on fire. So there was a big gab. It was even no very communication skills. There wasn't much there between where they were, the other burns people were and Jamie and a lot of the,

Dodge ([01:11:13](#)):

It was just not a great fit. So the first day I was there, they set me up in my room and I had a big room to myself, so no one they'd even talk to. Probably the second day I got myself into the wheelchair and I went for a bit of a wheel around and I said to the nurse, I said, what's the go? There's this gym in here, all weight set up. The actually rehab, getting a mobile type thing. Said, when can I go in there? Can I just walk in anytime? She went, no, you've got to, you got to wait until we think you're ready to go in there. I said, well I'm ready now. She went, no, no, the first week. We'll you're spending here getting to work, understand how everything works and we'll assess you and then when you're ready we'll take you the third day.

([01:12:08](#)):

And they're actually got the wheelchair and I wheeled myself down to the door into this weights room. They opened at nine o'clock, I think I was there about 10 to nine and they walked straight past me, Hey, can I come in? No, no, no, you're not ready to come in yet. Fourth day. So the next day, same thing. I wheeled down there and sitting there waiting and I'd half walked past, he's still here again, can I go in? No, no, your time's not ready. So I went there the fifth day and wouldn't let me in. So I went around to the matron's office, I said, when the doctors come, can you tell them to come and see him straight away? So eventually the doctor come around and he said, what's wrong Jamie? I said, mate, I'm in here to get better. I'm not here to lay about, I want to get better.

([01:12:55](#)):

I want to get moving. I need to get into that gym. When can I go in the gym? So look when you're ready, maybe two weeks time we'll take you in for five minutes, do a little bit and then a couple days later come in for another five minutes. I said, no, no, no, I'm here to get better. I said, I'll tell you what, if I'm not in there by next week, I'm checking out. After laughed start the next week. So on the Monday morning I was down at the gym again, ready to go in. You can't come in. So as soon as the doctors came and said, mate, look, I've had enough. I'm getting in that gym. If I'm not there tomorrow, I'm gone next day, wouldn't let me in. So I wheeled around to, there's a big glass room where the docs used to sit

there and have the little meetings in the morning. So here I'm out in front of this little doctor's room and they're sitting there and I can see Mark looking around and half talking, what's this idiot doing out here? I'm sitting there staring at them. Eventually one gets up and he comes out, what's wrong Jamie? I said, mate, I've had it. I'm out. I need to be in that gym. You're not doing it. So there's a bit of paper I can sign so that you are not liable if I walk out of here, what's it called? A

[\(01:14:14\)](#):

Certain,

Kaz [\(01:14:16\)](#):

It's saying that you are acknowledged you're leaving against their

Dodge [\(01:14:19\)](#):

Their will against. Yep. So he said, no, there's no such thing. I said, mate, I know there is because I've already signed one years ago when I broke your neck at Sydney show, I signed one, I walked out of hospital. I know that this certain thing exists. I said, okay, I'll go and find you one. Anyway, so as he's gone off, I rang Karen, said, Karen, you better come pick me up. They're going to let me out of here. Really? I said, yeah, yep. So in the meantime, Karen's had enough brains to,

Kaz [\(01:14:51\)](#):

I knew this was coming,

Dodge [\(01:14:52\)](#):

It was going to happen. She's lined up physios and rehabs outside of the hospital so I could go to, because with my accident I was covered under my insurance block. So in Australia we're at green slips. So when you have an accident that green slip covers your medical bills. So I knew that if I walked out of there, they wouldn't cover me. So Karen had to have all these things in place and that was the only chance that I'd be still covered medically with my medical bills. By the time Karen's come to the hospital to pick me up, I've got my bags packed, I've got the TV off the wall, the post is all in the bed, I'm dressed, where's the doctor? I said, oh, he's going to get some bit of paper. I can sign him. By the time he's come back, he's just shaking. He said, oh, are you for real? I said, yeah mate, I'm gone. Karen's here by then and off I went,

Kaz [\(01:15:49\)](#):

Yeah, I think you've gone into the physio. And they're like, okay, come down here and we'll explain what we actually need to work on before you're even ready to leave. And the physio or the OT said, okay, here's a medicine ball. You need to be able to sit on that without your leg or holding onto anything, be able to balance on it. And he said, see how he got on and gave a demonstration and see how I'm doing. This isn't this sort of clever? And Jamie, he's like, why don't you have a going that'll just scale how much you're going to have to progress before you can leave. So they said, here you go, jump on this medicine ball. Expecting him just to fall off and he's just sat on it, lifted up his leg, not hanging onto anything balance perfectly. I'm like, you dunno who you're messing with here. And Jamie's turned to him and said, is there anything else I need to accomplish before I leave?

Warwick Schiller [\(01:16:45\)](#):

That's awesome. He didn't realize he was dealing with a Guinness Booker record mechanical bull with a broken neck rider.

Dodge ([01:16:57](#)):

I certainly wasn't the normal type of person they deal with down there.

Warwick Schiller ([01:17:02](#)):

Yeah, I don't think so. So let's jump ahead to, we've talked all sorts about the accident and some of the rehab and stuff and some of your experiences there, but I want to get to the motivational speaking stuff. Since your accident, you've been doing some motivational speaking. What sorts of places have you been doing that at?

Dodge ([01:17:25](#)):

I did one at the police academy in, was it in Goldwin? So the stock squad, the police did that down there. That was a very good one. But probably the most memorable one I've done to date is with the doctors. So it was a worldwide doctor's conference, people from all over the world coming to a conference in Sydney. They asked me to come down to there. Evidently they told me where it was at, where I motel, but you've got to get to this place. This is where it's at. Karen said, you know where you're going? I said, yeah mate. I've typed it in the phone where I go into Google Maps. Turned up at the wrong place, didn't we? I rang this girl that's organized. I said, listen, level four, level three, there's a conference sign on the wall. Is that where we're at? Where is everyone?

([01:18:21](#)):

She went, no, no, you're totally wrong. Suburb. We've had to get the taxi and duck across the other side of the city and finally found this place. Gone in there and the main doctor that looked after him was in hospital. He was one of the keynote speakers there as well. Some of the things that he told me of his experience with me going through hospital, it just, yeah, it was really come to life of what actually went through. But just sit there and talk to people of such high quality and try and inspire them to get on with life and live a better life's all the work with you did with the footy players too. That was pretty, yeah, that was right too. I went down, talked to the state of origin, new South Wales state of origin team, really sharp and I was very shy. They're big N R L players, everyone

Warwick Schiller ([01:19:19](#)):

And you're a footy guy to start with, so that's a big deal to

Dodge ([01:19:21](#)):

You. I always looked up to them. Yeah, remember we were sitting on the water on the beach in the surf club when I did my talk. So the state of origin fellows go into a week's camp before the games. I sitting around having a yarn, I did my talk, I sitting around having a yarn on chairs in a big circle and there's a whi bin in the middle of us. So that was in that after did my talk, they knock spin and it's full of beers. So it was a bit of bonding thing from the United a few beers and loosen up and get a team row going and just the antics that they carried on with something. I'll never forget throwing phones out the window into the surf, but it was just good to be around such positive bonding fellas.

Warwick Schiller ([01:20:18](#)):

Yeah, well it's kind of like, it's interesting when you get to be around people who are very successful in what they do, no matter what they do, you tend to find there's a common mentality about them and a lot of times it's not possibly the mentality you think it might be. It's more of, yeah, it's just a positive outlook. It's like the manifesting a car crash thing. It's like thinking good things are going to happen. And being around Gary a few, I'm sure you've got a lot of that sort of stuff there too, but it doesn't matter what sport or discipline or business or whatever, but you tend to find people that reach the upper limits of whatever they do. They all tend to have a similar mindset.

Dodge ([01:21:17](#)):

I remember I went to New York when I was in the States, I was living in Texas. I actually made a P B R cup in New York and walking there, Ty Murray was there, Ty Murray was there, but he wasn't riding. He retired. I think tough Heman was there. He was injured, wasn't riding. Jim Sharpe was my biggest role model through my whole career. He was actually riding and I was just blown away to be competing against these fellas and my whole mind just went back down here and wasn't successful on the day, but it made me think, got to realize that I earned my way to get there. I deserve to be there, but just overwhelmed by being riding with those fellows in that sta, it really made me think you've really got to work on that mental side of it at that stage even more. You do deserve to be there.

Warwick Schiller ([01:22:16](#)):

Was that in Madison Square Garden?

Dodge ([01:22:19](#)):

Couldn't really tell you where it is now mate. It was Madison Square Garden.

Warwick Schiller ([01:22:22](#)):

I think the only p b they have in New York's in Madison Square Garden. That's where you guys at home. This gives you an idea of the type of guy Dodge is. Okay. The Madison Square Garden is famous around the world as a sporting venue. It's the biggest thing in the biggest thing. And I think Dodge may have rode Bull in Madison Square Garden. Yeah, that could be the name of the place. I'm not too sure. That's amazing.

Dodge ([01:22:52](#)):

Got a brain injury war. That's my excuse to use a bit,

Warwick Schiller ([01:22:57](#)):

But it sounds like how did you end up with the head injury as far as the brain? Basically it came out of that fund.

Dodge ([01:23:09](#)):

Yeah, good. I think I'm pretty good. I do have a little trouble making decisions at times. I find simple things. It's like I'm a bit of a deep thinker. If I'm going to go and do something, I'll think about it and there might be 10 different scenarios I can do to get that job done. So I'll sit there, like I say, manifesting about I could do it like this, but this way might be easier. This name might be quicker. And I get stuck in that moment where you just can't make that decision. I usually look to someone and say, what are we going to do here? As soon as I say we're doing that. Yep, it's all done. That's the only thing I might tell

you something different, but I think that's the only real trouble I have and it doesn't happen all the time. When I get tired I have a bit trouble staying on track.

Warwick Schiller ([01:24:02](#)):

Right. So Karen, back then, were you a counselor back then or did this experience influence you to want to help others?

Kaz ([01:24:17](#)):

I think it did influence me to help others, especially with going into that rural and drought sort of team. But I was doing some sort of stuff. I definitely know I started on this pathway because it was my goal to become an equine assisted psychotherapist.

Warwick Schiller ([01:24:39](#)):

Oh really? Okay.

Kaz ([01:24:41](#)):

Yeah. So to do that I had to have my counseling stuff in place and then do the equine assisted stuff. So I've actually done most of my training now, so I'm just going through the final stages of getting accredited. So that really led me into the whole counseling sort of stuff. But I guess it's surprised me how much I'm loving it, enjoying it, and how much it's opened up my mind to so many things.

Warwick Schiller ([01:25:08](#)):

That's very cool. So Dodge, you ended up getting back on a horse. How long after your accident were you back on a horse?

Dodge ([01:25:20](#)):

I pretty much lived in a horse working during the horse, a daylight. I jump off at the dark eating your morning and your lunch on the back of the horse. Then when the accident happened, it was taken away. And to say that I was pretty much over riding horses become a chore. I didn't compete. I had a lot of horses, did a couple of camp drafts, that's about all. But I made a pact to myself that 12 months after the accident I'd get on a horse. That was just a little goal I had to set in my mind. Part of getting better I guess two days before the 12 anniversary of the accident I to get on the, I'll just wait for those that 12 months. So 12 months the morning I woke up, said, Karen, you go and catch one of those horses. Oh really? I said, yep. So she got the horse settled up and I jumped on it and only rode probably, I don't know, 500 meters around the house and that feeling of as she get from horses, this is what I want to do. I want to get back to riding horses. And then one was the doctor that rang us.

Kaz ([01:26:36](#)):

I think we were at that point, Jamie was like, because it wasn't just once he came home from hospital, it was all said and done. It was like came home. We were still flying back to Sydney every couple of weeks. It was literally years of operations. But in between all that he said, I just want to do something that's not operations and that that was what our whole life evolved around for literally what about three years. We said, I just want to focus on something else for a while. And he wanted to, I don't know, I just read this book and it was about this fellow who had ended up in a wheelchair and then he just done this big challenge and he took his powered wheelchair across the desert in Australia and it was just this epic

thing. I said, I just feel like, do we need to do something epic and do a horse ride? And then Jamie said, yeah, it sounds an idea. And to raise money, which is what he came up with that putting that double challenge on it to raise money

Dodge ([01:27:44](#)):

Again. I think about too, the doctor said, you'll never ride a horse again. Someone telling me that like, okay, I'll prove you're wrong. So that was a bit of a drive for me as well and dragging the kids through what we've been through for the last three years. We had to get away, go on a holiday, but I couldn't see the sense of going to Sydney or to a big town to have a holiday been in and out of that place that frequent. So we ended up coming up with the idea, well let's load some horses up and head out Topa, which is a thousand Ks from home Dubbo. Oh,

Kaz ([01:28:21](#)):

600 I think. Yeah,

Dodge ([01:28:23](#)):

900. So it's in the Outback Australia. So we load up five horses and head out west and decide while we're doing it I'll raise money and hopefully inspire some people in my situation if not worse off to get back to living. We rode the horses back from TU to Dubbo and up being bit, I think it nearly 950 kilometers back into Dubbo and raised

Warwick Schiller ([01:28:52](#)):

950 kilometers.

Dodge ([01:28:56](#)):

That was pretty much when I got back to riding horses. Got thrown off two or three times practicing. I'm the quietest horse you'd ever have.

Warwick Schiller ([01:29:10](#)):

I'm signed up for a 500 kilometer horse racing in Argentina next January or February and I'm thinking, yeah, I'm doing this amazing thing. Going to ride 500 kilometers here,

Dodge ([01:29:20](#)):

Don't your boat.

Warwick Schiller ([01:29:24](#)):

Wow, that's amazing. You mentioned a book a minute ago, CAS and Jamie chose some questions for me to ask him and the first one of them was, what book do you recommend most? So tell us all about this book, Jamie, and it says not necessarily your favorite book, but one you think everybody should read

Dodge ([01:29:44](#)):

Your own book is my answer. So going through a school, I can honestly say I've never read a book in my life. I guess I probably in year one or two when the teachers still jump in front of the class and brought the golden book out, read a couple of pages they might've done that, don't remember. But I've never

actually read a book in my life. I sat down and tried to read Tony Robbins a couple of times. I'd get halfway through and get bored. So my, I guess get out and write your own book. I'm a hands on fellow, get out and live life and that's the book I choose to read my own book I guess Creating my own life.

Warwick Schiller ([01:30:25](#)):

That's awesome because I was thinking he's such an outdoorsy bloke and stuff, but he's chosen a book question. This is going to be fascinating. He reads too, so I wonder what he reads.

Dodge ([01:30:36](#)):

Exactly. Disappointing.

Warwick Schiller ([01:30:38](#)):

Get out and write your own book. Caz, what about you? You get a book suggestion you would like to

Dodge ([01:30:43](#)):

Share.

Kaz ([01:30:45](#)):

I don't know. I recently, I guess recently the Body kicker score was pretty, yeah, that was pretty awesome. That in itself,

Warwick Schiller ([01:30:59](#)):

Yeah, it's one of those books when I did the podcast on books that have influenced me. It's one of those books, you read that and you're like, oh, that explains a lot of stuff that I hadn't thought of before and it changes probably the way you look at things and especially the way you look at yourself. So that's interesting. Dodge, your next question is what do you feel the worst advice given in your profession? And you've got to tell me what your profession is before you tell me your answer. What profession are you referring to?

Dodge ([01:31:30](#)):

Well, I chose that was not so much my profession, but the advice I was given. You can't do this. You can't. I never meant to walk again. Never meant to see again. I'd never ride a horse again. So that was bad advice to me was to be saying, you can't do this to me as well. Nothing is possible. You can do whatever you like if you put your mind to it and have enough dedication. Why I chose that was there's some bad advice given out there, but it's all in your own mind. Nothing's unreachable.

Warwick Schiller ([01:32:09](#)):

You are living proof of that. But I actually think it was good advice. The doctor told you you've never rode a horse again. Why you did

Dodge ([01:32:16](#)):

True that.

Warwick Schiller ([01:32:17](#)):

I guess

Dodge ([01:32:18](#)):

The main reason they're saying that was if we do fall off having all the skin grafts and that it takes so long to heal. I guess that was his whole reason for that.

Warwick Schiller ([01:32:31](#)):

Yeah. Is it like you can injure the skin grafts? Do they tear easily and things like that?

Dodge ([01:32:37](#)):

Yeah, they tear. So like piece of paper they tear so easy. The healing process is probably three or four times longer.

Warwick Schiller ([01:32:46](#)):

Right.

Dodge ([01:32:47](#)):

And I see a little mark on my head ears from my hat all the time. It sort of rubs all the time.

Warwick Schiller ([01:32:52](#)):

Your hat rubs on your head. Yeah. Yeah.

Dodge ([01:32:54](#)):

So hadn't put inside it we're right look like cow.

Warwick Schiller ([01:33:01](#)):

And one last question that you chose. What do you do or where do you go to relieve stress or recharge your batteries or where do you find motivation or inspiration for what you do?

Dodge ([01:33:13](#)):

Motivation, inspiration comes from the journey I've been on. Sit back and look around at where we've come from, what we've achieved to get to where we are now. It's all been hard work. Nothing's been given to us such, and my happy place, believe it or not, is out in the paddock. I've usually got a few cows floating around home and I go out and I feed them and I'll sit there for half hour an hour and Karen sort of wonder where he's at. I'm out in the pad talking with the cows. That's my happy place.

Warwick Schiller ([01:33:49](#)):

So he's starting up bovine assisted therapy. Karen,

Dodge ([01:33:54](#)):

That's a good idea.

Warwick Schiller ([01:33:56](#)):

Hey, no. There's places where you can pay a lot of money to just go and sit with a cow

Dodge ([01:34:02](#)):

Somewhere

Warwick Schiller ([01:34:03](#)):

Here in America. I've seen it.

Dodge ([01:34:04](#)):

Yeah. We've got some nice quite Brahman cows and they pretty much talk. As soon as you hear the bikes start, they come running up. What have you got for them today? So I find the Brahms are really intelligent and they pretty much play with it.

Kaz ([01:34:21](#)):

Yeah, well we've got our old Brahman bull that's been a massive part of our life for a long time. He turns 21 this year, so he's like one of our children

Warwick Schiller ([01:34:31](#)):

And I've seen some pictures of him. What's the deal with him? Did you have some sort of an act with him or take him around places?

Dodge ([01:34:40](#)):

When I was working at the Saley Yards, an agent came up to me. He said, Jamie, you've seen that old bra bull down there. The bull's up the sale. Said no, what is he? He said, we're go and have a look. So I've gone down there and big proper rodeo, gray rum with cock horns. Within five minutes I was in the yard with him patting him, sitting on his back. Just a freak of an animal. He can't have his head cut off. So I went back to the agent and said, Cleve, that bull there. I said, I want him. Can you buy him for me? I don't care what he costs. Yeah. Oh no, I didn't say, can you buy him? I said, I want him. I don't kill any costs. I want him said, I'll tell the buyers to go dead otherwise. In other words, so the meat buyers don't buy him. I end up with him. I was telling one of the meat buyers, look at that brown bull down in yard 200 and whatever said, can you buy him for me? Said Yeah, no worries. So this please up on the stand, auctioning this bull off a thousand dollars and then the meat buys gone \$1,100. Then the auctioneer's gone 1200, it's got about 1500 and the agent's gone. I told these boys, go, dude, what's going on? And he's worked out there

Warwick Schiller ([01:35:58](#)):

You you're in a bid war with yourself,

Dodge ([01:36:02](#)):

Bid war with myself. So I took him home and I actually, I had some radio cows I sold at the same sale. I

Kaz ([01:36:09](#)):

Think it was your birthday even. And was

Dodge ([01:36:12](#)):

Birthday

Kaz ([01:36:13](#)):

Up home.

Dodge ([01:36:14](#)):

Said to Karen, I said, I've just bought a bull at the yards. I'm going to come home and get the horse floating and bring him home. She said, just settle all your cows. What are you going to do with this bull? I said, I don't know, he's just a special animal. He's coming home.

Kaz ([01:36:27](#)):

I think he was about five at the time. He was

Dodge ([01:36:29](#)):

Five or

Kaz ([01:36:30](#)):

Five, so he wasn't old. And Jamie's come home with a double horse float with a big, big bra and bull loaded into a double horse float

Warwick Schiller ([01:36:38](#)):

And what's his name?

Dodge ([01:36:39](#)):

Wildfire. Originally it was honey, but we'd known wildfire a little bit more scarier I guess when you're

Kaz ([01:36:45](#)):

Going out into the public and what's his name, honey.

Dodge ([01:36:49](#)):

So what we used to do with him, we'd take him to birthday parties, took him to a couple of schools so the kids can actually hands on touch him and pat him. Then we got the stage where we set up a bit of an arena round. So we'd gather the rodeos and people would come in and sit on his back and we'd sell the photos. So that was his coming in the

Kaz ([01:37:12](#)):

End. But he was just sort of lived at home and oh God, he's been in the house and everything. Everyone's like, oh, how did you train that? And you're like, you can't train that. He is just so willy, whatever. He just goes with the flow, whatever you want to do. He is like fine.

Dodge ([01:37:27](#)):

Never ever shared a bit of malice in his life.

Warwick Schiller ([01:37:30](#)):

Really? Yeah. He's a gorgeous looking bull. The pictures of him, he's amazing looking. Wow. Well,

Dodge ([01:37:36](#)):

We used to have, where we live, there's a big paddock in front of the house, walk straight out onto the road if he wanted to, he could just could leave anytime. But we used to leave the gates open. There's a main road. He'd just sit around the house and a funny story about how intelligent can be good mate. Actually your second cousin Les, have you got married? And he said, I want to take wildfire. And Vicky wants to ride wildfire down to the, it's an outdoor ceremony, but down to where we're going to get married. So

Warwick Schiller ([01:38:14](#)):

The bride's going to ride the Brahma bull,

Dodge ([01:38:16](#)):

Going to ride the bra bull down this ceremony, and at the end of the night we're all camped as an old cricket ground where we got married and the racetrack. So there's trailers and caravans and tents where camping. There's a big room there. We're going to have our breakfast that morning. Anyway, that night when we went to bed, we had a camper and we just let him go in front of our trailer.

Kaz ([01:38:46](#)):

Well, he was out in

Dodge ([01:38:47](#)):

He there

Kaz ([01:38:48](#)):

In the ring, but then he just walked back and found us. For some reason we borrowed this camper trailer, so it wasn't even ours, but he knew where we were and sat outside the door all night.

Dodge ([01:38:59](#)):

He sat there all night and then when we went to breakfast that morning, it was probably a good a hundred meter walk to where the breakfast was sitting inside in. I looked out the door and he comes walking past the door, Karen, what's wildfire doing? Anyway, he's walked around, he's got to another the door and he's looked in. He spotted us and he went back and sat to the trail until we come back like a dog, like a dog. But a couple of months before that, we'd done another wedding. Another good mate of mine, Dave Mason though Dogs in America. He got married and didn't, his wife didn't ride the bull to where they got married, but just for the pitchers. But when we left that day, we left him behind because he wanted to join some of his cows to it. So I reckon it was, he was thinking last time we went away to one of these functions, he left me behind. I'm not going to let this happen this time. So that's why reckon he was sleeping with, yeah, not going to left time this time.

Warwick Schiller ([01:39:57](#)):

That's awesome. He sounds like a special animal.

Dodge ([01:40:00](#)):

Yeah, been a big part of our life.

Warwick Schiller ([01:40:03](#)):

I bet. Well, we've been chatting for quite a while, so it's been such a pleasure talking to you guys. I think both of you are absolutely inspirational. I'm glad I got you guys on the podcast because your story Dodge is amazing. I think that the resilience that you had learned from your career, riding bulls and everything that you did leading up to the accident, I think helped you through it. And Karen, your exposure to him riding bulls for 20 years I think may have helped with your resilience of dealing with the whole thing. But you guys are absolutely inspirational. It's just been a pleasure having you guys on the podcast.

Dodge ([01:40:43](#)):

That's been great. We great to only meet you catch up

Warwick Schiller ([01:40:48](#)):

If people want to book you for inspirational speaking, things like that. Is there any way they can get ahold of you?

Kaz ([01:40:57](#)):

Yeah, I think there is a website. Jamie manning page com au or

Warwick Schiller ([01:41:01](#)):

Something. Oh, there we go. Don't do much with it. And there's an email attached to that. Yeah,

Kaz ([01:41:08](#)):

There is. Yeah. Oh,

Warwick Schiller ([01:41:08](#)):

Perfect. Yeah, so if any of you guys have some sort of association or foundation or whatever that you need a very motivational speaker, I think these Dodge might be your man. So yeah, thanks so much for joining me. It's been such a pleasure and an honor to have you guys on. And I think you guys are just a great testament to other people as to how to live life to the fullest. And I just really appreciate you guys being on here.

Kaz ([01:41:38](#)):

Yeah, write your own book.

Warwick Schiller ([01:41:40](#)):

Write your own book. I love that. Okay, thanks guys and few guys at home. Thanks so much for joining us on the podcast and that will catch you in the next episode.

Speaker 1 ([01:41:52](#)):

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