

NEWS

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Keeping kids safe!



Day for Daniel

Day for Daniel 2015 has been the most successful ever!

Congratulations all around for supporting the event and making it the largest event of its type in Australia. We are all so proud that our national day-of-action promoting child safety has become the success it certainly is. From humble beginnings a decade ago, it is amazing to see such an impact it is making in keeping our kids safe.

We had 2,000 schools registered nationally. That is a very healthy increase of 36% on the previous year. Every State and Territory in Australia recorded significant growth.

Over 1,000 businesses also participated, including all Telstra facilities and Chemist Warehouse stores.

Our Facebook 'Likes' continue to grow. We now have over 331,000 registered. With these numbers, we can influence governments into making significance change.

Social Media absolutely ran white hot with interest. In just 24 hours, can you believe that some 2,200,000 people viewed our 'Posts' on Day for Daniel!

Our challenge for the day was to see if we could get teachers and parents the length and breadth of Australia to start a conversation with 1,000,000 children and young people about their personal safety in a single day. Based on the statistics above, the Daniel Morcombe Foundation did that and more.



Thank you for the collective support we receive in promoting child safety. Your efforts motivate us, excite us, and keep the fires burning to continue our mission and drive home the combination of fun and learning. As our slogan says; "Wear red and Educate"! We have already begun planning for 2016 Day for Daniel. Lock it into your diary now: 28th Oct 2016.



Walk for Daniel - Sunshine Coast

The walk Daniel never got to make.

The last Friday in October is a very important day for the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. Not only is it our National Day of Action, it is the day we get to walk Daniel home. We, his family, friends and supporters undertake an annual pilgrimage of sorts and follow the winding path home to Palmwoods, the walk that Daniel never got to make. As a newly appointed Ambassador to the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, this was to be my first Walk for Daniel. The weather, although overcast, thankfully remained kind. (I had packed my "red" plastic poncho though, just in case it rained) The first thing I noticed on route to the walk, was how well organised everything seemed to be. I guess though after 11 years, event organisers are like a well oiled machine with signage, parking, shuttle bus transport, food and entertainment all being spot on.

Once I arrived at the school, I was welcomed by a sea of red! T-shirts, balloons, banners, signage, hats, Elmo and Morky, even the family dog was dressed head to toe in red. There was no doubting our cause today. The gorgeous Kay McGrath, Channel 7 News Presenter and Daniel Morcombe Foundation Patron made a grand entrance, landing on the school oval in the "red" Channel 7 helicopter. The

friendship between Bruce, Denise and Kay evident with hugs and kisses all round. A very special friendship developed over time and a journey shared. Justin Vievers, MC welcomed our VIPS* to join the Morcombes on stage. The crowd heard messages from Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull and Governor General, Sir Peter Gosgrove. Queensland Premier Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk spoke about the Government's commitment to the "Keeping Kids Safe" programme, whilst QPS Assistant Commissioner, Mike Condon, highlighted the importance of communication between members of the community and local police forces.

A New Year's style count down preceded the bursting of the banner. With drones buzzing overhead and a police escort, the sea of red made its way along the path, over the bridge, towards Palmwoods and home. What struck me the most, was the mix of people participating. From school kids, retirees, the fit and athletic (the not so fit... me) and of course mums and dads. I walked beside a young mum with two little boys on scooters. Although the significance of the walk may have been lost on them, the mum was teaching her children a valuable lesson: Child safety education begins now. *Story continues on next page.*



Cars tooted as they drove past and thanks to our local radio station 92.7 MIXFM and Brady's Fruit, we were supplied with fresh fruit and water. Very much appreciated as some of us had missed breakfast that morning! The company jovial and the views spectacular, the 4km walk, seemed over before it began.

Strolling onto the Palmwoods Rugby League Oval we were greeted with high fives from other volunteers. With a sense of achievement and community, all 1235 people who walked that day, felt a part of something special.

A big thank you to everyone involved. To all those who walked on the Sunshine Coast, across Queensland and around Australia, well done. To those who wore red, donated, bought merchandise or held an event, thank you for your efforts and of course thank you to Bruce and Denise for your tireless efforts in keeping our kids safe. Regards, Sandra Cathcart, Day for Daniel Ambassador. PS: I will be back next year!



With thanks to our special guests in attendance: Premier of Queensland, Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk; QPS Assistant Commissioner, Mike Condon; Senator Claire Moore; Ms Kay McGrath; Mayor Mark Jamieson; Member for Kawana, Hon Jarrod Bleijie; Member for Maroochydore, Hon Fiona Simpson; Member for Glasshouse, Hon Andrew Powell; Member for Buderim, Hon Steve Dickson; Sunshine Coast Councillor Jenny McKay and Council CEO Michael Whittaker; ACT for Kids, Dr Neil Carrington and Mr Tom McIntyre; QLD Dept. of Education, Mrs Melissa Borzellga; Telstra, Mr Kris Carver; Sunny Kids, Mr Chris Turner and Olympic Swimmer Ms Tess Wallace.

School Visits

"I've been everywhere man, I've been everywhere!" Well not quite, but our school visits in 2015 have covered a decent proportion of Australia. From Mt Isa, Townsville, Mackay, Darwin, Dubbo, Wagga Wagga, Cootamundra, Gloucester, Bagdad, New Norfolk, Gold Coast, Warwick, Woorabinda, Toowoomba, and plenty more in between.

Quite exhausting to look back. It has been fun though and the respect the Daniel Morcombe Foundation receives engaging with the students is just amazing. Time after time the teachers and school principals comment that the kids have never been

better behaved. That is appreciated, however the biggest thrill we get is knowing that our visits have equipped these children with some life skills that will help them Recognise potentially unsafe situations, know how to React appropriately, and most importantly, knowing that Reporting is the right thing to do.

We spend time talking about being confident, observant, having a plan, trusting their instincts but most of all, establishing a list of safety helpers that they can turn to and ask for help.

As a reminder, our presentation has been



filmed professionally and can be viewed on our Keeping Kids Safe resource kits or by downloading from our website. Like all our educational resources at the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, it is free!



Schools visits for 2016 are being worked on as this goes to print. We already have received more requests than Denise and Bruce can possibly handle. It is for this reason that discussions are taking place to look at the prospect of having a second team engaged to support them in this area.

Like always, we will be doing our best to cover as many schools as is humanly possible.

Siena Catholic College Awards Night

The Daniel Morcombe Memorial Trophy for Community Service was presented to Sam Buckley.

The annual year 10 award is in recognition for loyalty and service to the Siena Catholic College.



Riverina Schools

What a turn out! You guys "ROCK!"

Under somewhat grey skies and showery weather the Mission Australia team supported by NSW Police were 'legends' by coordinating our recent visit to the NSW Riverina Region with such precision.



A total of 20 schools in the Wagga Wagga and Cootamundra catchment ensured the trip was memorable, and for all the right reasons. Organisers and the Morcombes enjoyed plenty of laughs with the students and visual engagement. They were joined by a significant number of parents and grandparents observing from the rear of the Bolton Park Sports Stadium and the Cootamundra Hall.

Cootamundra businesses would also provide a fabulous show of support by dressing up the town's CBD in red. Shop after shop displayed red balloons, streamers, flags, clothing and signage, with many of the staff and locals also wearing red; it was a sight to behold.



Driving 'Big Red' slowly through the main streets at a snail's pace and with the truck horn sounding a loud 'toot - toot' of approval, we all enjoyed an emotional high.



Rebecca Kotz from the Australian Federal Police, and one of our Day for Daniel Ambassadors, joined us on the road trip and attended our 4 education sessions. It would prove an invaluable experience for her, as in just a week later, she would commence a tour of her own promoting the child safety messages of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation.

Canberra School

Arriving in Canberra at the completion of their Riverina Tour Bruce and Denise were about to hand the baton over to Rebecca for the Capital to Coast Tour, a planned week long trip to visit schools and community groups from Canberra to Merimbula.

But first, one more school presentation in Canberra and then the ceremonial 'handing over of the truck keys' to Assistant Commissioner Leanne Close from the AFP.



Three hundred school students filled the stand at their sports oval as formalities got underway. Senator Zed Seselja also attended as did numerous dignitaries. Bruce and Denise incorporated a compressed safety presentation into their allotted time in front of a microphone, because this is the fundamental purpose of their visit, and they never want to miss that opportunity. Later, dozens of students would shake their hands and personally say thanks to them in an unrehearsed show of appreciation.

Capital to Coast Tour

Monday 26th October had arrived and it was time. Time for the very first school tour to commence that did not include Denise and Bruce.

A few butterflies were expected as Rebecca Kotz and Rebecca Brown departed Canberra for Batemans Bay, but no, they were calm. In the days ahead they would visit Narooma, Bega and south to beautiful Merimbula.



A total of 16 presentations plus daily travel and all in just 5 days made for a busy schedule. "No Problems", it was achieved and successfully completed all on time and without a hitch. More so, the communities would comment through media and online that it had proven very beneficial. Well done girls!



Pat Mesiti Support

The Daniel Morcombe Foundation has a very broad support base. On a recent trip to the Gold Coast, Bruce and Denise had the opportunity to speak with delegates attending the "La Dolce Vita" motivation conference.



Pat Mesiti is a highly effective communicator and most notably an income acceleration coach. His passion is to equip and empower individuals and businesses to experience growth and prosperity to their fullest potential.

Calling for donations immediately after their passionate 'highlights reel' of achievements over the last 10 years, the group would donate more than \$50,000 then and there to the Daniel Morcombe Foundation.

It was also a rewarding opportunity to meet and talk with so many interesting people.

A Survivor's New Book

Denise and Robin attended the formal launch of 'SPEAK UP ITS OK TO TELL', a book that was written by a young girl who was abused by family members. Working with her therapist she has documented her story, illustrating the importance of having the courage to speak up and in her own words she encourages other children to seek support.



This is a resource which may assist anyone to understand the dynamics of sexual abuse and for those working with young children it can be used as an adjunct to a therapeutic process.

If you would like any copies of this publication or are aware of others who may be interested in purchasing this book, visit www.pushproductions.com.au Books cost \$15 and royalties from sales go to the young author.

The Daniel Morcombe Foundation have been very pleased to be a part of this project and have provided assistance to this courageous young girl in recent times including some educational resources and therapeutic assistance.

Bidvest Support

The National smallgoods wholesaler Bidvest have 800 trucks on the road and some 50 supply depots at key business centres dotted around the country. Now in their 5th year of support to Day for Daniel they have again delivered the goods with an incredible show of support.

The staff always find innovative ways to raise funds: from sausage sizzles and morning teas to raffles and so on. This total is then matched, dollar for dollar by the Company and together they have achieved an amazing \$70,000 donation.



Attending the Head Office cheque handover and official presentation at their Morningside facility Bruce and Denise thanked them for their generosity and continued support.



In acknowledging this donation, Denise made special mention that these funds go directly to educate children about their personal safety and supporting young victims of crime. This valuable side of our work is often not publicised because of privacy issues. However, by providing counselling or subsidising programs like music lessons or perhaps a department class for the girls; their hard earned efforts do make a big, big difference in fast tracking the recovery of these innocent youngsters who have not had the best of starts to their lives. Improving the quality of life for these kids will set them up in the long term by simply knowing that people care.



Crime Stoppers QLD 25th Anniversary

"Happy Silver Anniversary Crime Stoppers". Twenty-five years of valuable ongoing community work have made an immeasurable difference to the way crimes are solved. Your work is now taken for granted but two and a half decades ago it was all new.



In some quarters it was also not strongly supported. These were some of the brief points of note and often humorous stories told by the pioneers of the organisation attending with guests, a lavish dinner at the Brisbane City Hall to celebrate the occasion.

Push on they did, and thank goodness for that, because they were significant players in solving Daniel Morcombe's mystery disappearance.

In recognition of Crime Stoppers milestone, and as part of that, answering almost 20,000 calls from the public in Daniel's case, CEO Trevor O'Hara was presented with a 'Morky' commemorative trophy.

State Polly's Support

A touch football game between City and Country State Politicians was run and won recently.

With more enthusiasm and good humour than we all witness on the floor of Parliament during question time, it was one in, all in, and all for a good cause.

The Honourable MP's (Ladies and Gents) managed to raise some \$1,500 and with the support of the NRL and CUB as sponsors, it was a lot of fun.



A couple of 'hammys' were iced after the game which is testament to how keenly a win was sought. For the record, Country won 6 - 2 and we believe this is the third consecutive year they have been successful. Thank you players, thank you officials.

DanceFever for Daniel

St Flannan's School Zillmere has won our inaugural DanceFever for Daniel competition.

Sponsored by DanceFever Multisport, the DanceFever for Daniel Competition was a video production which covered a variety of curriculum content across The Arts and Health and Physical Education within the Australian Curriculum. The aim of this competition was to bring greater awareness to the importance of child safety and movement for children within primary schools.

You can view the winning video on our website. We look forward to this competition growing in future years as it is a lot of fun for the students and is a fascinating way to witness young people gain confidence and skills, all in a healthy safe environment.

Daniel Morcombe Cup

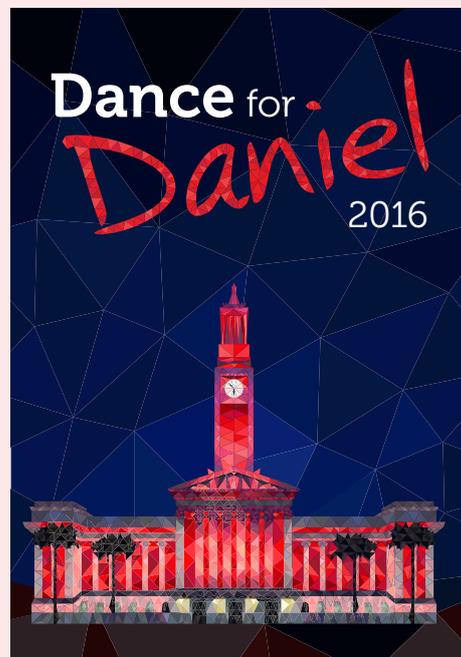
Mountain Creek High School and Siena Catholic College Year 10 Rugby League teams contested the inaugural DANIEL MORCOMBE CUP in one of three charity rugby league games at the Kawana Sports Precinct on October 30.

Hosted by the re-established Kawana Dolphins NRL Masters team with the support of the Kawana Junior Dolphins Rugby League club, the evening aimed to raise funds for the Morcombe Foundation and to maintain the memory of Daniel.



Our thanks to Paul Clough who prepared the boys for this game and to Siena parent, Anthony Farquharson who was one of the driving forces behind this initiative. Anthony arranged special jerseys for the teams through the generous sponsorship of many businesses and they were presented to the boys.

Game scores: first game; Mountain Creek State High School First XIII won 38-4 against Sunshine Coast Combined High Schools 'Barbarians' First XIII. Second game: 'Daniel Morcombe Cup', Mountain Creek State High School won 28-16 against Siena Catholic College (yr 10). Third game: Kawana Dolphins NRL Masters won 24-4 against Beerwah Bulldogs 'Old Boys'.



Dance for Daniel 2016

Tickets have gone on sale for our 11th annual formal event – Dance for Daniel.

Lock it into your diary now. 12th March 2016. Always a premier event of high quality, fine food and entertainment it is more than your everyday fundraiser. It is the Foundation's chance to shine and thank many of our supporters.

Don't put it off, as 'Early Bird' tickets are on sale now but only until the 8th January and these are always very popular. Visit our website for all ticketing arrangements.

Please join us! 2016 will see the event return to the historic Brisbane City Hall and after the success of the previous year, the venue was never in doubt. Close to 600 guests thoroughly enjoyed that evening.

Our VIP list from 2015 included the Prime Minister and his wife, the Queensland Premier and her partner, the Queensland Police Commissioner, plus Ministers and Members of Parliament and business leaders.

Don't you miss out!

Merry Christmas

Please make the most of this wonderful time of the year by spending some quality time with your family.

Enjoy a laugh! Best wishes for 2016.



DMF Executive Board: John Pearce, Dean Morcombe, Bruce Morcombe, Peter Boyce, Holly Brennan, Robin Sherwell, Denise Morcombe, Tracey McAsey