

500,000 students participate!



Day For Daniel 29th October 2010

Congratulations Australia! Our Day for Daniel is now active in more than 1,000 schools and businesses around the country. An event like this is very hard to measure accurately, but we have proof. Online registrations and DVD orders for schools participating in this year's Day of Action on Child Safety has seen us grow and grow to a level that cannot be dismissed as a passing idea.

With a bit of luck and more hard work we will follow our dream of making Day for Daniel a National day of significance as it gets even bigger in 2011 and beyond. It has a very simple message; "Focus a portion of the school student's day teaching personal safety, whereby they return home with life skills and are better prepared than when they left that morning."

"Having a red theme makes it a fun day with a serious message. Business support and local community events add to the festive feel." added John Pearce, DMF Committee

Member and recently retired high school Head of Department. In some remote places like Cloncurry, Collinsville and Leyburn the whole town was painted red and spin-off activities like kid's discos and skate nights were organised at a local level. We had community walks, again with the emphasis on child safety, on the Sunshine Coast and Townsville plus many schools organised similar activities.

We can pat ourselves on the back all day, but the stars of Day for Daniel are the Teachers, school based Police Officers and supporters around the country. I have included a collage of newspaper articles below that are a snapshot of what they had to say on what was a highly successful, Day for Daniel 2010.

Brisbane CBD

Brisbane's Queen Street Mall played host to a forum on child safety with a variety of government and non-government agencies in attendance. Children's Commissioner Elizabeth Fraser addressed the crowd in the Queen Street Mall on 29 October as part of the 2010 Day for Daniel event.

which aimed to proactively raise awareness on issues surrounding child safety using the theme 'Keeping Our Children Safe'.

In addition to the Commissioner for Children and Young People and Child Guardian, other keynote speakers at the event included representatives from agencies sharing a commitment and concern for children's safety, and how to better foster understanding of the issues which can jeopardise their safety and wellbeing.

Speakers supporting the Daniel Marcombe Foundation's special day included: Councillor Geraldine Knapp, Chairman of Families & Community Services, Brisbane City Council; Phil Reeves, Minister for Child Safety; Hetty Johnston from Bravehearts; Theresa Mace from Kummara Inc; the Queensland Police's Argos Taskforce; and Bev Threlfa from PACT (Protect All Children Today).

PM & Opposition Leader go red for Daniel

Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Opposition Leader Tony Abbott are among Parliamentarians who will wear red ties and black scarves during Parliamentary sittings later this week (Oct 28) to help support and recognise "Day for Daniel".

The Speaker Harry Jenkins MP and the Manager of Opposition Business Christopher Pyne MP have also agreed to wear ties and Deputy Leader of the Opposition Julie Bishop MP will also wear a scarf.

The annual event highlights the child safety message, the work of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation in spreading that message. LNP Federal Member for Fisher Peter Slipper is behind the push for Members and Senators to support "Day for Daniel" and the Morcombe Foundation by wearing red on October 28. "This is such an easy but effective gesture to show our support and make people around Australia aware of the need for child safety awareness and also of the good work of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation," Mr Slipper said.

"I am pleased that so many of my parliamentary colleagues – including the Prime Minister and the Opposition Leader – are helping to commemorate and promote this important day."

Hon. Kevin Rudd MP Minister for Foreign Affairs

"Tomorrow, 29 October, is the Day for Daniel, which remembers Daniel Morcombe. Daniel, as anyone familiar with these tragic events would know, was a wonderful teenager full of life who went missing in December 2003. For the Sunshine Coast community, the shock of such a horrific and yet unresolved event is still evident today.

For all of us who are parents, all of us who are members of families, these are the tragedies that we hope will never strike us or any family, because all children deserve protection in every way possible. They deserve to be protected not just by their families but by their communities. They deserve to be educated also on how to protect their personal safety.

The Daniel Morcombe Foundation works to educate children about personal safety and to continue the search for Daniel. The foundation is run by Daniel's parents, Bruce and Denise Morcombe, and a board of very dedicated committee members. In 2009 it is believed that 500,000 schoolchildren participated in education activities around personal safety as a result of the foundation's efforts.

I am sure that this year the important work of the foundation will be just as successful. The foundation is a proud reflection of the close community that is the Sunshine Coast in Queensland—a community that, having grown up in that part of the world myself, I still call home. Today and tomorrow, as they have been throughout every year since 2003, my thoughts will be with Daniel, his parents, Denise and Bruce, and his brothers, Dean and Brad. This is an event which should not fail on any family in our country and our thoughts and prayers continue to be with them."

Mareeba QLD

Mareeba Police acting Senior Constable Sue Gill said child safety awareness was one of the police's main priorities. Now in its sixth year, Day for Daniel continues to grow on a national scale and is recognised as the country's largest participation event of its type. "Children and young people have the right to be safe and to feel safe," Sen-Constable Gill said. "By promoting Day for Daniel our aim is to create a better awareness within the school communities and within broader communities. Sen-Constable Gill said children's safety was everyone's responsibility. "If you see something that doesn't look right report it to the authorities." (Extract from Tablelands Advertiser).

Townsville QLD

It's unlikely these Townsville students would have known Daniel Morcombe, or even much about the story of the abduction and suspected murder of the innocent 13-year-old. But what the eight Railway Estate students do share with the former Sunshine Coast teenager is a similar age. They joined the rest of the nation in wearing red yesterday to mark Day for Daniel, an annual awareness event focusing on Children's Safety. Upper primary age students were particularly targeted for a cyber program, held during the day, designed to educate students on internet safety. Kirwan High's school-based police officer Senior Constable Bernadette Strow said more than 30 Townsville schools took part in the day.

"It's a magnificent way to promote child protection," she said. For the first time the Townsville community also participated in The Walk for Daniel. The same event is held on the Sunshine Coast each year and the walk starts just 100m from Daniel was abducted. It's a journey he did not make but the community completes for him. Students at a number of Townsville schools wore red, the colour Daniel was last seen in when he disappeared in December 2003. (Extract from Townsville Bulletin).

Snr Constable Bernadette Strow

A large number of Townsville schools and businesses participated in Day For Daniel Activities. This year we had 10 local school register for the ACMA Cyber Safe Detective Program with Railway Estate Primary School being mentioned in the local paper. This was a great way for the students to

participate in an online internet safety program as well as Day for Daniel activities.

There were over 35 schools holding activities which ranged from school assemblies, red icy cups, sausage sizzles, red dress day and as well as local police talking to the student about personal safety. Again Garbutt Primary did a fantastic job and I took part in their school assembly to talk to the students about Day for Daniel as well as personal safety awareness. Kirwan State High School held a red icy cup and sausage sizzle with year 9 students holding the event.

The students raised over \$500 and it was great to see the students involved in promoting this important message throughout our school community. This year Townsville held our first "Walk for Daniel" through the great work of Alicia Thomas.

The walk was well attended with approx 80 community members taking part. It was fantastic to see Mums, Dads, grandparent and kids walking along the Riverway holding red balloons and wearing red. The number of cars beeping showed even more support and we are sure the event will be bigger and better next year. As part of this event we were invited by the Willows Shopping Centre to be part of their 1st Birthday celebrations and had an information stall in the centre court. The "Walk for Daniel" events raised over \$2000. Well Done Alicia.

Bowen QLD

Bowen police Senior Constable Michelle Vico said the theme for Day for Daniel was red, and students would be wearing red shirts and caps, red wristbands as well as sporting special tattoos. "It's a day we ask parents to take the time to speak to their children about child protection," she said. "It's extremely important that parents and children are safety conscious." (Extract from Bowen Independent).

Snr Constable Michelle Vico

The small mining communities of Collinsville and Scottville about 90k's west of Bowen got behind the Day for Daniel and literally 'painted the town red'.

Anne Marie Williamson, the primary school recreational activities officer organised Police to attend the primary schools (Collinsville State school, Scottville State School and Saint John Boscos Primary School) in the area to hold personal safety activities with all students from prep to year 7 participating. The revised Foundation Red DVD was presented with positive feedback received from students and teachers. A Day for Daniel disco was held at the Collinsville Youth Centre (CYC) after school which was a great way for the primary students to finish off the day and let off steam.

A local mum and volunteer, Donna Bulloch did a wonderful job encouraging businesses to support the day. She manned a DMF display and sold merchandise. Business owners and staff in the CBD donned red and put up red balloons in the main street to highlight the personal safety message. Over \$700 was raised by the local schools and businesses on the day which is a wonderful result from a small community. The Bowen Community had an early start to

the Day for Daniel activities when the DMF NQ Trailer and marquee were utilised by the Bowen PCYC Activities centre to cook a BBQ for the Bowen Triathlon on Sunday the 17th October. This was the inaugural run for the trailer & BBQ and it came to good use. DMF donated a Jessica Watson signed DMF cap for the children's triathlon which was won in a lucky draw by a participant.

The trailer and marquee sparked a lot of interest with competitors and supporters and was a fantastic way to promote the upcoming Day for Daniel activities as well as the importance of child protection.

The Bowen school community once again participated in various activities for Day for Daniel on October 29th. Police attended the Bowen State Primary, Queens Beach Primary and St Mary's Primary schools throughout the day. Some school assemblies were addressed and students at all schools wore red for the day. Yr 7 classes were visited and participated in activities highlighting bullying and cyber safety, the DMF Foundation Red DVD was also showed to the students. St Mary's school yr 6/7 classes participated in the ACMA Cyber safe Detective Program and Police visited classes to assist with the program.

The DMF trailer took a trip to Mackay where it was displayed at schools in the Mackay area, District Crime Prevention officer, Senior Constables Angela Warcon and Julia Grisan and their trusty volunteers in Policing attended Central & Mackay North Primary State Schools where talks about personal safety and red dress days were held to heighten awareness for Day for Daniel and personal safety. Approx 500kg of Watermelons were donated by Michael and Robyn James of Dondelta Fresh Farm in Bowen for the children to enjoy.

A red dress disco was held on Friday night at North View State Primary school which was well attended by students and families. 250 DMF helium balloons were given to students made possible by a generous donation from Pips Party Supplies in Mackay. Students from all 3 schools gave gold coin donations in exchange for wrist bands and tattoos, approx \$660 was raised which is a tremendous effort. Channel 7 news also covered the school visits on the nightly news report.

Perth WA

COMO Primary School was a sea of saucy red last Friday in a bid to educate students on the importance of child safety awareness. Como Primary School teacher Sue Stals said it was the first time the school participated in the event and it was an important opportunity to educate the students on "stranger danger". "The red colour links Daniel's story in a quiet way to highlight the importance of child safety education," she said. "The students also watched an educational DVD and these activities provided life skills for them in a fun and informative manner." She said the school would be keen to participate in the future. (Extract from Southern Gazette).

Broken Hill NSW

The administrator of Playtime Preschool, Kristy Parker, said the "Day for Daniel" was all about teaching the students how to keep themselves safe. Ms Parker said the students used red paint and dressed in red

clothes. The director of the preschool, Tess Gilmore, said she spoke to the students about keeping safe. "We told them what to do if they got lost... (for example) when at a shopping centre, see a shop assistant," Ms Gilmore said. "We also spoke about who is a safe person to talk to and who is not and when to ring 000." Ms Gilmore said it was also important for parents. (Extract from Barrier Daily Truth).

Darwin NT

THE colour red was flowing around Wanguri Primary School's oval last Friday as students and staff took part in a Day for Daniel safety walk. The walk around the oval was inspired by the Daniel Morcombe Foundation created by Daniel's parents which is aimed at alerting children to safety issues. Wanguri student Claudia Sallas, 11, said Daniel was smart and had much more of his life to live. "We have to remember to be safe," she said. Mother of two Ana Barboza-Arگون said she is concerned about attempts to abduct children in recent months in Darwin. "I think that child safety awareness can never be enforced enough," she said.

Wanguri student Eva Hunt, 8, is learning what the Day for Daniel is all about. "I think it's about child safety and to always be careful. Quite a lot of kids at the moment know of stranger danger, and I've learnt a lot about it today," she said. (Extract from Northern Territory News)

Tasmania

"It was wonderful to witness many schools in Tasmania getting involved in "Day for Daniel" 2010! Through incorporating different activities for their students to participate in – such as school community walks, watching the Foundation Red DVD, or by wearing something red the message was on safety skills and awareness. St.Thomas More's of Launceston and New Town Primary, Hobart were especially pleased to have had a visit from Bruce Morcombe earlier in the month and utilised this time to ask many questions!

Launceston Community Leaders participated in wearing red and it was pleasing to see Senator Kerry O'Brien – Labor Senator for Tasmania decorating the street front of his office in "Day for Daniel" flags and posters. Staff handed out Daniel Morcombe Foundation Newsletters and information flyers throughout the day. Many congrats to all who participated and registered and we look forward to a bigger event in 2011!"
By Lee-Ann Patterson

Hervey Bay QLD

A sea of red shirts was worn at Xavier College last week in a bid to help support the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. Students across the P-12 campus donned a red shirt and donated a gold coin as a contribution to the foundation's work, raising awareness of child safety. Co-ordinator Leonie White said the Day for Daniel is not a memorial day. "It is a day where we can use the very real story as an example to children of the need to be equipped with skills and confidence to recognise dangerous situations or physical abuse and do something about it." (Extract from Hervey Bay Observer)

Ipswich QLD

Joining the nationwide movement to keep children safe, Immaculate Heart students and staff have donned red to show their support for the Day for Daniel. It is the second year the Leichhardt Primary School has participated in the child safety awareness initiative, which supports the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. Year four teacher Mandy Jarvis said the day had included a presentation from Yamanto-based police officer Sergeant Jim Murphy and Constable Jacki Smith on personal safety.

"My vision is that it is something we will continue to support," Mrs Jarvis said. "The Daniel Morcombe Foundation provides free resources schools can use on personal safety. "I think it is a really important idea for the school to promote.

The foundation does so much to help children and it is nice we can give something back to promote the day." "By wearing red, it connects to the kids' memory of why we're doing it." Sgt Murphy said presentations had been tailored to each level. "The emphasis was that all children have a right to be safe," he said. (Extract from Queensland Times)

Myrtleford VIC

KIEWA Valley Primary School will throw its support behind The Daniel Morcombe Foundation at the "Day for Daniel" this Friday. Kiewa Valley teacher Sandii Greaves said this is the second year the school will hold the event. "It all started from a poster that was on display in our student wellbeing room," she said. "Students were asking who Daniel was and what happened to him. "One of our grade three students, Cecilia Robinson decided to do more research on what the foundation was about and that started it all." Ms Greaves said Cecilia, now in grade four, "is the force behind this day" at the school. "She has been spending her lunchtimes and fruit snacks making posters and donation tins with some of her friends that she will ask local businesses to put in their shops," she said.

"This year our students will be treated to a presentation by Cecilia on the Daniel Morcombe Foundation and on the importance of staying safe. "She will be supported by our local policeman, Leading Senior Constable Peter Heaves and we invite the community to support the Day for Daniel by displaying red balloons outside their homes and businesses." "Imagine if Daniel was related to you, how you would feel," she said. "I am 10 and a half years old and it is important to keep children safe." (Extract from Myrtleford Times)

Have you got a story?

If you have a Day for Daniel story or a testimonial or maybe some photos from the day, you would like to share please email Tara Baly at admin@danielmorcombe.com.au.

Walk For Daniel - Oct 2010

It is hard to imagine a more spirited, positive and uplifting event than the traditional Woombye to Palmwoods, Walk for Daniel. With a record crowd of 1,000 people, which for a working day is amazing, we all made a statement with our feet that crimes against children have no place in modern Australia.



Awash with red clothing, balloons, flags and ribbons it was a spectacle that captured the media's attention. DMF Patron Kay McGrath arrived by the Channel 7 chopper, Police Commissioner Bob Atkinson and Hon Mark Ryan MP-State Member for Morayfield representing the Queensland Premier all were visibly moved by the strength and drive of the local community.



Fortunately the weather was perfect and it was a real treat to be involved. Clearly, Daniel is not forgotten and with this united will for a safer environment for our children, only good things will come from it. Adding to the spectacle this year, event planner Tara Batty ably assisted by Belle Fallon had organised a run-through football style banner.



The enthusiasm of 79 year old Kevin Beavis (Daniel's grandfather) to tear-through the banner and set us on our way is definitely a moment to savour. Thank you to all the volunteers and media for all your support. PS: Tara, just 7 days after the Walk delivered a healthy boy, Torren.



Coronial Inquest

The Coronial Inquest into the abduction and suspected murder of Daniel Morcombe commenced in October and had 9 sitting days. Queensland State Coroner Michael Barnes has heard evidence from a number of witnesses who recounted what they saw on the afternoon of Sunday December 7th 2003. This included evidence about possible offenders, vehicles of interest, location of these persons of interest (POIs) and their descriptions.

The Coroner also took evidence from the Sunbus driver who observed Daniel waving but failed to stop as well as another driver on that day. The Court listened to evidence from Bruce Morcombe as he outlined the events of the day, particularly focusing on the reporting of Daniel as missing to Police.

Officers Munn and Campbell also outlined what occurred and the reasons for their actions. Queensland Police Officers assigned to the investigation, codenamed Operation Vista also took the stand and provided detailed summary on a number of relevant matters including an identified 35 POIs.

The Hearing is currently adjourned and is due to recommence on December 6th. A focus of the Coroner is not only to determine what happened to Daniel, but also the Police response and adequacy of that.

Queensland Police Assistant Commissioner Mike Condon is expected to give evidence along with a senior member of Queensland's Missing Person's Unit. The week commencing December 13th will see the Inquest transferred to Brisbane. Up to 6 POIs and a number of associates have been summoned to appear. Several of these people are currently behind bars related to other matters and so for security reasons a more suitable location was required.

The family of Daniel acknowledge and thank the huge wave of support they continue to receive and appreciate that the way forward is to be patient and controlled when perhaps that is not always the easier road.

Dance For Daniel 19th March 2011

Go online and secure your tickets now! Visit: danielmorcombe.com.au A great night full of fun, dancing and fine dining is promised. If you have not attended previously then believe me, it is a night to remember.

It is not by any stretch a sad reflective occasion. It is about enjoying great entertainment, great food, shared in the company of great friends and enjoying a dance.

For more info please visit our website or give Tracey a call on 0420 300 737. All funds raised go directly to educating children about personal safety and supporting young victims of crime.

You can also book your tickets online at danielmorcombe.com.au/dance.html

A Letter of Thanks

On 3 July, 2009, my little boy who had just turned nine walked to the corner store with his older brother, 11, and a friend also 11. The shop was only approximately 300 steps from our home. It was a bright sunny Thursday morning on school holidays and they walked their dog and rode their bikes to buy maple syrup for the pancakes I was making them.

While the two older ones went into the corner store to buy the maple syrup, little Oskar waited patiently outside with the little dog and the bikes. A man pulled up and asked Oskar to go to the car and to help him. When Oskar refused the man started screaming and offering money and bribes to get him to the car. Oskar took a step back away from the car.

After a moment longer the two older children came out of the shop and realised what was happening. My elder son jumped on his bike and rode home to tell me what was happening and their friend told the man to leave them alone that their Mum was expecting them home immediately. They then quickly took the dog and the other bike and walked home quickly along the footpath. The man then followed them past our home.

Upon hearing what happened I raced outside to see Oskar and his friend walking up our driveway with no site of the stranger. I questioned the children separately, then together and called the police immediately. The police came extremely fast and spoke with the children and searched for the vehicle. The children managed to get a letter and two numbers, a description of the vehicle, the man and his accent.

Once the police had left I questioned little Oskar about why he took a step back and his reply was simple and succinct. 'I remembered Daniel' he said. It's quite uncanny that my older boy has a striking resemblance to Daniel and we have always, as a family discussed this and discussed what happened to Daniel as my parents live in Tanawah, quite close to where Daniel was last seen.

The reason I am writing to tell you this is to Thank You all for the work you are doing. My children were terrified from this incident and have had counselling and discussions with the Adopt A Cop at school. We will all be wearing red on Friday. I cannot begin to imagine the hurt, devastation and destruction the family has gone through. I, like, all other Mothers hope and pray you get the answers you are searching for. Again, Thank you for your campaign, Thank you for saving my baby and Thank you for all the other children out there that may also be saved because of your hard work and dedication to your little Daniel.



Have a Merry
Christmas & a
Happy New 2011!