



State Coroner to hold Daniel Inquiry Soon?

There is growing momentum that the Queensland State Coroner Michael Barnes is planning to hold an inquiry into the abduction and suspected murder of missing teen Daniel Morcombe, and it may be just months away.

After a series of meeting between the State Coroner, Daniel's parents, Denise and Bruce Morcombe and Senior Lawyer assisting the Coroner Peter Johns it is clear that all parties are committed to find the answers.

"We have been fully briefed on procedural matters and provided with much of the comprehensive brief handed to the State Coroner by Queensland Police Service's officers in charge of the investigation, codenamed 'Operation Vista'. Our family remains hopeful that a hearing will take place before the end of the year." Bruce explained, going on to say; "No stone will be left unturned by some of the sharpest legal minds in Queensland and our family would welcome this opportunity to crack the case."

More details on the investigation can be viewed on the official website: DanielMorcombe.com.au. A substantial cash Reward of \$250,000 and Indemnity from Prosecution also is still available. Please call Crime Stoppers on **1800 333 000** with any information on Daniel's abduction which occurred on the 7th of December 2003.

"The Coronial Inquest will be an opportunity for the public to appreciate the enormity of investigative work carried out by Queensland Police and the spirited support of the community. It would not be a pleasant process but we think it is time to sit Face to Face and listen first hand to these Persons Of Interest" Said Denise

Library Resource Sponsorship

Funds raised at our Dance for Daniel in March have already been put to good use.

The Queensland Homicide Victim Support Group enjoys a healthy ongoing relationship with the Daniel Morcombe Foundation going back quite a number of years now. After discussions with their CEO Jannette Brown it was identified that they would like to increase their in-house library of books for the families they support. How children deal with 'grief' and the sudden loss of a loved one varies from person to person, but I think we would all agree that it is not a subject that anyone would find easy to discuss with a youngster. How do you tell a child that Daddy, or Aunty Rose is a victim of a violent crime that sees them deceased?

Fortunately there are a number of children's books on the market that specifically deal with human loss and how children begin to comprehend grief. The DMF has sponsored the purchase of a substantial number of these books including titles: *Caring for your Grieving Child, Tear Soup, Children's Grief, The Grieving Child, What's Dead Mean, Sad isn't Bad, Children also Grieve and 8 Keys to Safe Trauma Recovery* plus others.



We thank all the financial supporters of the DMF and please be assured that all monies received are put to good use in the Community supporting young victims of crime or educating children about how to keep safe.

QLD Courthouse Makeovers

We have another good news story.

CHILD witnesses across Queensland will benefit from the Daniel Morcombe Foundation's huge donation of games and toys, which will fit out courthouse witness rooms. Worth about \$10,000, the resources, which include video games, craft items, fridges and televisions, will be distributed by Protect All Children Today (PACT), an advocacy group for child witnesses.



They will go to courthouses in Beenleigh, Ipswich, Cairns, Gympie, Hervey Bay, Kingaroy, Rockhampton, Toowoomba and Townsville. Last year the foundation fitted out the child witness room at the Maroochydore Court House.

PACT spokeswoman Jo Bryant identified that the witness room facilities would help minimise trauma for children in a court environment.

"Having things to play with will give the kids another focus before they give evidence," Ms Bryant said. "Being called as a witness can have a huge impact on a child and can affect the rest of the child's life.

Children need to be empowered and providing them with a friendly environment really helps them take the stand and give good evidence. We are so grateful to the Daniel Morcombe Foundation for their donation."

Child Safety DVD on the Move

'Foundation Red' the highly acclaimed and very first child safety initiative of the DMF is about to be relaunched.

It has been a cornerstone of the Foundation's aim to educate children about personal safety including abduction with over 10,000 copies sent and distributed for free, Australia wide to schools, community groups, businesses and concerned parents.

Time has moved on and we have had a complete review of material included on the original DVD. "Technology constantly evolves and with that come the inevitable issues of misuse." DMF Committee Member John Pearce said.



Agro, Jamie Dunn, Denise & Sandy McCulloch & Sgt Kim Jackson

Social networking sites like Facebook, Myspace and Twitter are often in the headlines for all the wrong reasons. Designed to be fun for the user, sadly they can also become the preferred tool for the relatively new phenomena known as cyber bullying.

Likewise, texting to your friends via a mobile phone all seems very innocent and simple. However, it too has become a weapon to intimidate and threaten people.

Paedophile predators have learned to use these favoured communication tools of our children and teenagers as a means of gaining trust.

In a bold effort to identify these problems and actively do something about it the DMF Committee has pledged to use a substantial proportion of its funds and create a revised edition of Foundation Red. Set for launch in just a couple of months it will be available prior to our Day for Daniel so teachers and care givers can use it on that day.



Australia Zoo - Bindi, Bob & Terri Irwin

Our revised edition has been very fortunate to gain the special services of a number of new presenters. Always trying to keep things fresh and interesting for children we acknowledge the contributions of DMF Patron Kay McGrath; Shane Webcke; Channel 7 Brisbane, Terri, Bindi and Robert Irwin; Australia Zoo; Jamie Dunn and Agro; the Queensland Police Service; Snr Sgt Kim Jackson; Child Safety Australia; Jessica Watson; Australian Federal Police, plus the AFP Commissioner Tony Negus.

Produced by Brandmax Media and Marketing we especially give CEO Brett Winkler a big cheer and applaud graphic contributions from Navian Design's Johanna Moberg. Pre-release orders can be made now by following the online prompts at DanielMorcombe.com.au

Official launch date is September 6th.

We gratefully acknowledge the commitment of the Australian Federal Police in supporting Foundation Red.



Maroochy Surf Lifesaving Club Donation

We are again the beneficiaries of a wonderful contribution from the Maroochy Surf Lifesaving Club. The Daniel Morcombe Foundation wishes to acknowledge the generous donation of \$1,250 from its members and management.



Maroochy Surf Club

Recently retired President Mike Dwyer please take a bow. The dedication and hard work you have provided to your own club has been outstanding and to link arms with our not for profit charity and find funds to help us achieve our aims has been marvellous.

Other Donations

The DMF has also received a number of contributions from business and private citizens. We appreciate that some wish to remain anonymous, however we would like to mention the following: Parsons Brinkerhoff donated computer equipment; Lago Cold Storage donated \$5,000 and Heritage Building Society donated \$3,992 from the sale of its 2010 Calendar.



Denise & Sandy McCulloch from Heritage Building Society, Nambour

To make a donation you can visit the DanielMorcombe.com.au and follow the links. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Peter Slipper MP goes red for Daniel

Federal Member for Fisher the Hon. Peter Slipper MP is urging all Members of Parliament to wear an item of red clothing to commemorate Day for Daniel on October 29. The event is organised by the Daniel Morcombe Foundation to promote its work and remind us all of the need to protect our children.

Wearing an item of red is such a simple but effective gesture to show our support and make people around Australia aware of the good work the Foundation does. It's also a chance to show Australians that politicians can put their rivalries aside to unite for an important cause. The Daniel Morcombe Foundation hopes that the involvement of politicians in the event will boost the national profile of Day for Daniel, which is held in tribute of the Sunshine Coast teenager who's been missing since December, 2003.



Denise & Federal Member for Fisher the Hon. Peter Slipper MP

"Like everyone else, Daniel's disappearance is tragic and I also believe the work of the Foundation is incredibly important. Daniel's parents Bruce and Denise are determined to spread their child safety message as widely as possible and I'm thrilled I'm getting a chance to play a part in that in that," said Peter Slipper. "I have written to all Federal and Queensland politicians, asking them to commit to wearing an item of red clothing on October 29. They are especially encouraged to buy a red tie for \$30 from the Foundation, so that they'll also be donating money to the cause."

All merchandise can be bought from the Foundation's Online shop at: DanielMorcombe.com.au

Day for Daniel - Friday 29th Oct

The countdown is on to make our Day for Daniel 2010 the biggest and best ever. Last year we recorded over 800 school and business online registrations. The challenge is to always improve and make our National Day-of-Action on child safety a significant event right around the country. It is an ambitious project for our relatively small charity, but it is such a focus of our years work that we just have to keep pushing.



The DMF encourages schools and businesses to register online and show their support. It is free to participate and by registering we will post you a supporter's starters pack containing Red Balloons and Flags to dress up the entrance to your school or business. An extensive list of Official merchandise is also available by visiting our online shop.

Day for Daniel is not a memorial day or a day we focus on fundraising. It is a day we hope will see children returning home from school equipped with new safety skills and are better prepared to identify predators than when they left home that morning. Please get behind us and do what you can to have your local school participate in the day. More information is available at: DayforDaniel.com.au

Official Facebook page

Our official publicity machine this year will be Facebook. Supporting messages have been filmed by some of the biggest names on the sporting map plus international celebrities. We think it will be a smash with the kids. Please join now as a fan by clicking the 'LIKE' button and you will receive updates in the weeks ahead. Visit our website or log to your facebook account and search for "Daniel Morcombe Foundation (official page)"

Walk for Daniel - Friday 29th Oct

Now in its 6th year and somewhat a local tradition on the Sunshine Coast, we will again hold our Walk for Daniel. With participation growing each year, resulting in over 800 people attending in 2009, we are hopeful of building on that and record 1,000 walkers in this year's event.

It is free to join us and only takes an hour before work or school; please note it in your diary now as a must do! Special guests will be there and coffee is available plus a sausage sizzle.



See you at 6.45am in the car park of Suncoast Christian College, Woombye. The walk commences at 7am. It is a very easy, mostly down-hill walk which takes about 40 min to complete.



The Hon. Phil Reeves MP, State Member for Marshfield and Minister for Child Safety at Walk for Daniel 2009

The event concludes at 8am at Kolora Park Palmwoods and buses are available to return walkers to the start line to retrieve their car. "The Sea of Red is just amazing. It's a lot of fun, very rewarding and attracts widespread media interest promoting Child Safety," remarked DMF Committee Member Robin Sherwell. For more info please visit: DayforDaniel.com.au

International Missing Children's Day 25th May 2010

"Every day, all around the world, children go missing, and unfortunately, some are taken by those they trust the most: parents. A child who is abducted by a parent or family member may suffer physical, emotional, and psychological harm, and the abduction can have a lasting effect on the child and the family left behind." Nancy Dube, International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC) Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer said.

Australia, Canada, Brazil, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Romania, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom are part of the Global Missing Children's Network (GMCN), a program of the ICMEC, in recognition of the need for collaboration.

Of growing concern is the impact parental child abduction has on the child who is removed from almost everything familiar to them - by someone they trust.



AFP Commissioner Tony Negus, Denise and Bruce enjoy a light-hearted moment at the launch

Abducted children can suffer the turmoil of losing contact with their family and friends, miss their educational stability and in extreme circumstances are lied to by the abducting parent.

At times the child is told that their family left behind doesn't love them anymore or has died." said Fionn Skiotis, Executive Director of International Social Service Australia. Parental child abduction, particularly when children are abducted internationally, is a serious and complex issue, to which no country is immune. "Just because the child is with a parent, it does not necessarily mean that they are safe." Australian Federal Police Commissioner Tony Negus said. In Australia, two to three children are abducted into or out of Australia by a parent every week with more than 650 parental child abductions occurring every year in Australia. Recently, Denise and Bruce Morcombe were invited guests of the Home Affairs Minister Hon. Brendon O'Connor MP to join the official launch in Canberra of International Missing Children's Day.

The Morcombes met and spoke with many officials including the Attorney-General Hon. Robert McClelland MP and a number of fathers who were enduring this often forgotten but none the less significant statistic. Denise and Bruce wish to thank the great work of the AFP including Commissioner Tony Negus and the National Missing Person's Coordination Centre staff for their care and support with emotional events like this.

Footnote: The DMF has also provided sponsorship to one father who is cycling across Europe to raise awareness of Parental Abduction. Ken Thompson is hoping that such a public demonstration will eventually lead him to find Andrew his son, who it is thought may be in Germany after being abducted by the child's mother. Follow Ken and send him a message of encouragement at: www.eye-zon.com/EyezOnBlack20090213/Find_Andrew.php

National Missing Persons Week 1 - 7 August 2010

National Missing Persons Week (NMPW) will take place between 1 and 7 August 2010. The aim of the week is to raise awareness of the issues and impacts associated with missing people. The theme of NMPW 2010, When someone goes missing - A day spent waiting is a day lost reflects the need to dispel the common myth that a person has to wait 24 hours before reporting a loved one missing.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) will be partnering with relevant agencies to highlight this year's focus. For the very first time the AFP launch of NMPW will be held at Federation Square, Melbourne on the 2 August 2010 at 9.00 am. The Honourable Brendan O'Connor MP, will officially open the NMPW. Approximately 150 people are expected to attend the launch including members of Federal Parliament, members of the ACT Legislative Assembly, state and territory police service representatives, government and non-government stakeholders, cultural media identities, community leaders and families and friends of missing persons.

Please Note: Even during the Coronial Inquiry day to day operations of the DMF will continue as normal. Please be patient as this legal process will test our usual high standard but rest assured we will respond to every email, school registration and merchandise order.

National Child Protection Week Sept 5 - 11

This year the Daniel Morcombe Foundation will play a leading role in both the promotion of National Child Protection Week and also resources available. On Monday morning the 6th of September, invited VIP's at Australia Zoo, will participate in a media event launching Child Protection Week. To coincide with this event the DMF will officially launch its revised edition of the child safety DVD Foundation Red. More info on page 2.

Cairns Trip

As part of the DMF's aim to educate children about being safe, Denise and Bruce made the trip to Cairns to speak with year 11 and 12 students as part of a legal studies forum at James Cook University. Other speakers included a Magistrate, Police Officer and Solicitor who all provided legal information from different perspectives. Sadly, the Morcombe's subject matter was to do with them being a victim of crime. Never lost to maximise an opportunity, much of their talk concentrated on life skills and advice to these students. Keep being positive and focus one's energies on making good from a bad situation were just some of the broader messages highlighted. After a morning spent at JCU and with Print, TV and Radio media commitments behind them Denise and Bruce then spoke to students at 3 local schools. Our thanks to QPS Officers Heidi Marek and Sam O'Connor for their assistance with arrangements.

Melbourne Trip

Soon after the Cairns trip Bruce and Denise made their way to Melbourne as part of Law Week and spoke to teachers and students at Salesian College and St. Mary Magdalen's Catholic School. At school after school, no matter where, teachers are always amazed at the attentiveness and good behaviour of students on these visits.



Salesian College students show support for our visit. We are sure that the students themselves understand that Daniel was just like them. They know he did not look for trouble, it found him. It is a situation they may well say: "That could have been me".