



## NEWSLETTER // December 2014 // VOLUME 8 - ISSUE 4

### Day for Daniel in Canberra

#### Bruce and Denise write:

October 30 was a day to remember. In a year that has contained many amazing experiences, announcements and launches our visit to Canberra was just a treat.

Our day started as the prelude to our official Day for Daniel to be held nationally the next day. Federal Parliament does not usually sit on a Friday, and as such, it was decided to make that visual statement acknowledging the valuable work of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation Inc the preceding day.

In the morning the AFP had organised a local Walk for Daniel, a route that would see the participants circumnavigate Lake Burley Griffin, a distance of 5 km. A sausage sizzle had been provided by our good friends from the local Lions Club and the Australian Federal Police planned a memorable event. Students were bussed in, Constable Kenny Koala joined us at the start and everyone was in good spirits.



Immediately after the 'Walk' it was off to The House of Representatives for a meet and greet with many Members of Parliament. A photo opportunity had been arranged with The Speaker of the House Bronwyn Bishop. She was very generous with her time and her quiet words of support were most kind. This led to an impromptu gathering with around 20 MPs including Education Minister Christopher Pyne.

Off to Question Time, where we were designated "Distinguished Visitors" for the day. Almost every MP had elected to wear a splash of red, and this is never lost on Daniel's parents and founders of the DMF.

#### Extract from Hansard.

The SPEAKER: I would like to advise the house that we have in the Speaker's Gallery Bruce and Denise Morcombe. They are here to promote Day for Daniel in Parliament

house and spread their message of safety for children. We welcome you very much and salute your courage.

Honourable Members: Hear! Hear!

Mr SHORTEN (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, on indulgence, before I ask my question, on behalf of the opposition I would like to acknowledge Bruce and Denise Morcombe. In the English language we have a word for our husbands and wives who lose their partner: widow or widower. In the English language we have a word for children who lose their parents: orphan. We do not have a single word to describe parents who lose their child, and I do not think any word can. It is great that you are here today.



Mr ABBOTT (Prime Minister): I join the Opposition in acknowledging Bruce and Denise Morcombe, and I thank them for the campaign that they have run right around Australia, since the tragic murder of Daniel. An unimaginable sorrow. An aching void that we can hardly begin to imagine. Nevertheless, they have done something heroic. They have turned the most awful tragedy into an opportunity to do some good. We thank them for the heroism they have shown and for the spirit they have shown. It is inspirational, and it is good that you are here in the parliament today.

Immediately after Question Time a private meeting had been organised by Hon. Mal Brough between Prime Minister Tony Abbot and Bruce and Denise.



The Daniel Morcombe Foundation thanks the Federal Member for Fisher Mal Brough and Rebecca Kotz from the AFP's National

Missing Persons Coordination Centre for their significant contributions to these opportunities.

### Daniel's Law

**On the 28th August 2014 a letter was delivered to Bruce and Denise Morcombe written by the Northern Territory's Chief Minister Adam Giles.**

"On behalf of the Northern Territory Government I would like to extend my gratitude for your time and interest in our proposed legislative reforms."

"My Government is committed to ensuring the safety of Northern Territory families – particularly children. It is for this reason that we are currently exploring a policy of a Northern Territory Sex Offender Public Website."

A series of conversations and correspondence then took place with the N. T. Attorney General John Elferink, his chief advisor Sam Burke, and Bruce and Denise Morcombe which resulted in the very significant announcement on Wednesday, 15th October 2014.

"The Northern Territory will be the first jurisdiction in the country to introduce a publicly accessible website featuring details and locations of convicted serious sex offenders. The legislation will be named Daniel's Law", reported the Member for Port Darwin John Elferink.

On 21st October Member for Drysdale Lia Finocchiaro MP asked during question time in the N. T. Parliament to update the House on the progress of Daniel's Law.

Minister ELFERINK: "Madam Speaker, in the early 1990's in Queensland Brett Peter Cowan coaxed a child into a lavatory and raped that child. Upon his release from gaol he moved to the Northern Territory and, whilst in the area of the Palms Caravan Park, coaxed another child away and raped that child so profoundly and intrusively the child was lucky to escape. Brett Peter Cowan returned upon his release from gaol to Queensland, where he then abducted and murdered Daniel Morcombe.

These monsters, unfortunately, exist in our community. They are the lowest of the low and they strike fear into the hearts of women and parents everywhere.

They will be named, photographed and there will be identifying material so that parents and women in our community know

who these people are." A personal text was received from Hetty Johnson founder of Bravehearts: "Love that NT names their legislation after Daniel. Well done. XXX This version of the public register is exactly what we hoped for....we are thrilled."

Deryn Hinch was full of praise and over joyed that a public accessible website for serious sex offenders was to be created in the N. T. He saw this as the first domino in a gathering momentum that would progressively see all States and Territories adopt such a common sense law.

Bruce said: "We commend the Northern Territory Government's decision to step-up and be the first jurisdiction in the country to introduce a public website of this kind. We hope to see it spread to every State and Territory within 12 months."

Denise said: "Every parent has the right to know if there is a dangerous sex offender living in their neighbourhood. We truly hope that the introduction of Daniel's Law will prevent another family going through the pain and grief we experienced following Daniel's death."



After we posted an announcement on the Daniel Morcombe (Official Facebook Page) that morning it registered the following Statistics. 1,100,000 Views; 40,000 Likes; 10,000 Shares; 3,100 Comments. Overwhelmingly the response has been positive.

The public accessible sex offenders' website will enable single mothers to look at a potential partner on the net and determine for themselves as to whether or not they want a person in their life if they appear there.

## 60 Minutes Fundraiser

**In an extraordinary act of generosity and genuine commitment to support the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, 60 Minutes delivered a stunningly successful fundraiser at the Sydney Hilton on 22nd October.**

With entertainment from Delta Goodrem, Queensland Premier Campbell Newman joined the Morcombe's and the Who's - Who from the Nine Network including Ray Martin, George Negus, Richard Wilkins, Karl Stefanovic, Leila McKinnon,

Jana Wendt plus many of Sydney's entrepreneurs, who all chatted freely with DMF Board Members Dean Morcombe, Tracey McAsey, Robin Sherwell, Denise and Bruce Morcombe throughout the sensational night. MC for the event was the gorgeous Tara Brown and she did a fantastic job.



Five amazing world class auction items were offered and all up an astonishing \$160,000 was raised. The DMF truly thank all connected with the event including those valuable sponsors, but special acknowledgement goes to Tom Malone whose vision became a reality.

## School Visits

**With the school year drawing to an end, so too are our school presentations.**

September to November has been particularly busy with dozens of school visits from Gosford NSW to Charters Towers, Woodstock and Townsville in far north Queensland to Mountain Creek, Logan, Woodridge, Toowoomba, Kingaroy and Allora (near Warwick) in South East Queensland.



The teachers, parents and most importantly students continue to see the benefits and hence request personal safety presentations from Bruce and Denise Morcombe representing the Daniel Morcombe Foundation.

They are always amazed at the warmth and gracious goodwill extended towards them at stop after stop.



The opening line in their safety talk begins: "Daniel did not get a second chance. His legacy is that we can all learn from this tragic event. By linking Daniel's very real story to the importance of these safety tips; no longer will you think, bad stuff only happens on the News or on the other side of the world. It can happen to anyone, anywhere, anytime."

As always the 3 key words of Recognise, React and Report are illustrated to the children and this reinforces the same messages incorporated in the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum.



"Our presentation is relatively short but to the point." Denise explained. Bruce adding; "Reinforcing our tips is important. We encourage that conversations will follow between parents and children plus teachers and students, and from these supportive, caring and trusted relationships, good things will follow.

## Keeping Kids Safe DVD

**In a dazzling blitz, the commitment to honour schools and community groups who had placed orders online for our new educational resource, "Keeping Kids Safe", saw Ken Searles and a small cluster of volunteers at the Daniel Morcombe Foundation office supply free of charge some 4,000 individual post packs and all in just a couple of weeks.**

The response from educators and the public has been dramatic and emphatic; "It is brilliant!"

Keeping Kids Safe is a free educational resource that contains a DVD, CD ROM and booklet. It has been created for children from 5 to 15 years old.

Filed segments identify potentially unsafe situations and allow the viewer to observe how to find a safe outcome. Key role models who have volunteered their time to assist with this project include: The Wiggles, Steven Bradbury OAM, Australian of the Year - Adam Goodes, Agro, Ben Roberts-Smith VC and others.

Filed scenarios include age appropriate topics covering: Why Obeying Rules is Important; Safety Strategies; Creating a Family Password, Safe Internet Use; Safe Mobile Phone Use and others.

**To order your free copy please visit: DanielMorcombe.com.au and follow the prompts under the Educational Resources button.**

# Daniel Morcombe Rose

**"Thank you!" to everyone who has sent us your magnificent photos of the Daniel Morcombe rose in bloom.**

Comments have also been glowing and it is evident that in a beautiful way you are all remembering our Daniel. Remember to keep the fertiliser up over summer especially if yours is in a pot.

## National Curriculum Review

On 13th October 2014, Federal Education Minister Christopher Pyne personally phoned Denise Morcombe with the news that the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum has definitely been recommended for inclusion in the National Curriculum.



This was music to her ears! As the primary aim of the Foundation is to educate children about their personal safety, it certainly had been a welcome announcement.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is an independent statutory authority that will improve the learning of all young Australians through world-class school curriculum, assessment and reporting.

The tabling of the lengthy Review, ordered by the Federal Minister earlier in the year, recommended that, when the curriculum is endorsed by education ministers, the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum be included in the Australian Curriculum in 2 areas: one under Health and Physical Education and the other under Technologies.

## Phone APP

**The DMF's 'HELP ME' phone app has been upgraded and now has a number of new features. It also has been simplified making it bigger, better and more useful than ever before.**

Only once activated, does the 'Help Me' program identify a GPS map to 2 nominated people. It can be used by children, adults and the elderly. Ever had car trouble, a flat tyre, lost your medication or been weary of a car or person late at night that may appear to be following you? It now can locate the nearest emergency service support for you by a simple press of the prompt. For schoolies or when on holidays this could prove invaluable in many

different areas; even shift workers who are travelling in the wee hours of the night can now have more confidence going about their business knowing help is just a click away. Go to your APP store and follow the links on our website.

## 10th Day for Daniel

**Friday, 31st Oct. 'Wear Red and Educate' is the catch-cry. 1,000,000 people participate in Day for Daniel.**

Now that is BIG!

Day for Daniel is definitely going places. Now in its 10th year, it continues to be the focus of a year's work at the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. Well over 1,500 schools around the country registered their support and participation in this annual event that is all about incorporating safety education for children into their day.

That my friends, is a very healthy 50% increase on our previous record. Every State and Territory recorded a significant increase, and individually, all now are at their respective record level. Growth was consistent across the board.

In terms of business support, that too was very strong at 1,500 registered participants. From Government Leaders, Federal and State Parliamentarians, Media personalities, School Children and National Corporations and Local Businesses all getting behind our day-of-action promoting children's safety, it certainly makes the powerful statement:

**"Crimes against children have no place in modern Australia."**



There were also many events coordinated around the country, all driven by passionate people dedicated to our cause. We thank you and loudly applaud each participant.

Day for Daniel 2015 is locked in already and plans are in place to make it even bigger and more meaningful going forward.

Some of the amazing support by sponsors and businesses include: – Bidvest, Hayman's Electrical, Farmer Fields, Jally Entertainment, Beaucare, The Good Guys.

## 10th Walk for Daniel

**I am drawn to an old Benny Hill song with lyrics; "Oh; what a beauty, I've never seen one as big as that before."**

Walk for Daniel is a phenomenon in terms of a never ending desire by Australians from all walks of life to put one foot in front of another and say; "Daniel is not forgotten." Our local Sunshine Coast Walk attracted National media coverage and participants included the Queensland Premier Campbell Newman and his wife Lisa, Qld Attorney General Jarrod Bleijie, Federal Member for Longman Wyatt Roy MP, Federal Member for Fisher Hon Mal Brough MP, Hon Andrew Powell, Hon Fiona Simpson, Hon Steve Dickson, Mayor Mark Jamieson, Councillor Jenny McKay, QPS Assistant Commissioner Mike Condon.



A message from the Prime Minister of Australia Hon Tony Abbott was read to the 1,200 strong crowd assembled on the oval at the Suncoast Christian College. "I am pleased to provide this message for the 10th Annual Walk for Daniel.

Today's Walk, taken along the same route that Daniel last walked, is a poignant reminder of the senseless loss of an innocent young life. Daniel's life was cut short, but he has left an enduring legacy. We marvel at the good work that has been done in his memory – educating children about personal safety, raising community awareness and supporting victims of crime and their families.

Bruce and Denise Morcombe have shown bravery, determination and resolve in their quest to keep kids safe. Their selflessness in sharing their private pain to spare other families the heartache they have endured is humbling. I pay tribute to the Daniel Morcombe Foundation for its work and thank everyone in attendance today for your involvement. Together we will all do our bit to ensure Daniel's legacy continues to make our communities safer for all children." Signed Tony Abbott MP. Prime Minister of Australia

People had travelled from Melbourne, Townsville, Mackay as well as Brisbane, Toowoomba and the Gold Coast to make a visual statement of red as far as the eye could see. Patron of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation Kay McGrath provided an



insight into the positive atmosphere and united purpose of the event. "Thank you for your support to the Walk for Daniel and thank you for never forgetting Daniel."

We must thank the many volunteers, organisers, event hosts, VIP's, walkers and sponsors who all contributed to a magnificent spectacle. In particular we thank the Queensland Police Service, SES Volunteers and the Sunshine Coast Council, plus TAFE East Coast and students Kayla Monckton, Jeanette Kidd and Cassidy Harris.

## Where Is Daniel? – A Family's Story

As the year draws to an end it is poignant to remember that it was only March 13 of this year that Brett Cowan was found guilty on all counts in relations to Daniel's murder. With the appeal hearing now working its way through the law courts, and with the 11th anniversary of Daniel's abduction (7th Dec) upon us, the legal process just drifts on and on.

The complete journey has been documented and tastefully written into an easy to read book titled, "Where is Daniel?". Learn about the seed that started the Foundation plus the private family behind the very public story.

Available at all good booksellers and online. Published by Pan MacMillan.

## 'Walk Tall' Program

**As an ongoing commitment to supporting victims of crime, particularly where that crime involves children, the Daniel Morcombe Foundation has partnered with ACT for Kids in providing a fulltime counselling service on the Sunshine Coast.**

Walk Tall provides not only counselling but emotional support to children and adolescents who have either experienced or are at risk of physical, emotional and / or sexual harm. The service is staffed by Dianne Booth a registered psychologist. Please phone (07) 5442 1517 for further info. The office is located at The Big Pineapple, Woombye.



## Townsville Dance for Daniel

**Another triumph of the organising committee as Townsville's 3rd annual Dance for Daniel is but a memory. Always a fun night that is well supported by locals, it is one of the DMF's major fundraisers of the year.**

With a showcase of auction items available it was stiff competition as guests were eager to outbid each other. A sea of red washed through the function room at Jupiters Casino as patrons arrived. The room is always so beautifully decorated and the food first class. Another successful evening. Thank you to all involved.



## Rock Out in Red

**Australian rock legends Daryl Braithwaite and Ross Wilson performed at the Riva St Kilda and all in support of the Rock Out in Red event organised by Kim Valance.**

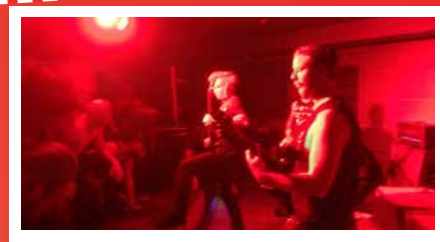


It was a fantastic night where the atmosphere was boisterous and friendly. Everyone wore a splash of red as a mark of respect to Daniel's growing legacy, the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. Empowering kids with education by providing the skills to keep safe underpinned the message of the night. Derryn Hinch spoke glowingly about the work of the Foundation and as special guests Bruce and Denise thanked the organising committee, sponsors and attendees for collectively helping us in our community work and never forgetting Daniel.

## Mosh for Daniel

**The Sands Tavern Maroochydore played host to the first Mosh for Daniel.**

The metal festival had been in the planning for months and a good crowd of 300 enjoyed the night. With bands like, Countdown to Armageddon, Hope in Hand, Undermine the Supremacy, Inhaled, Crowtalk, Frayed and the Fallen, Vitals, Plague the City, Holistic and Darkc3ll all supporting the event it was a rousing



gesture by all involved to contribute to the music feast.

## Dates to Remember

### 10th Dance for Daniel – 21st March 2015

The Brisbane Town Hall will be the venue for our milestone celebrations of the 10th Dance for Daniel. Come join us for a night of fun and fine dining. The red tie event is expected to be a sell-out, so register your interest now. Tickets are on sale with early bird pricing available. Visit: [DanielMorcombe.com.au](http://DanielMorcombe.com.au) and follow the 'Events' link.

### 11th Day for Daniel 30th Oct 2015

After a record number of participating schools and businesses around the country for this year's Day for Daniel an even bigger event is on the cards in 2015. Set aside OCTOBER 30th and follow the information as it is uploaded onto our website in the months ahead. Visit: [DayforDaniel.com.au](http://DayforDaniel.com.au)

## Plans for 2015

Stay tuned for some significant project launches during the second half of 2015. Our team at the Daniel Morcombe Foundation are working hard to deliver life changing safety programs for children. In particular we are exploring new ways to engage children, parents and educators to Recognise, React and Report unsafe situations. Our focus is very much on identifying dangers on line, safety strategies for indigenous children and children with disabilities. Our school visits will continue and as always we want to see growth of our Day for Daniel event on the last Friday of October. Plus let's not forget those recent announcements – Daniel's Law and the National Curriculum's inclusion of the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum; we need to ensure these do not wither on the vine, but are delivered.

## Volunteers & Supporters

With warmth and passion we are always so motivated by your desire to work as one with us, ensuring Australia is a safe place for children. Thank you one and all. Without your dedication and efforts the Daniel Morcombe Foundation would not achieve anywhere near what we do.

## Merry Christmas

May the festive season allow you to reflect on the positives of 2014, to catch your breath, and with a smile, to stride forward with a purpose as the New Year looms ever closer. Stay Strong! Stay Safe! Cheers, the DMF Team