The Prime Minister of Australia Tony Abbott joined a host of community, business and media identities at the 10th annual Dance for Daniel, held in Brisbane for the first time.

The Brisbane Town Hall looked dazzling as it was ablaze in red both inside and out making a wonderful backdrop. The building is of such historic note and heritage that it needed little by way of formal decorations. The magnificent ceiling dome inside glowed a vivid red and the clock tower shone a splendid pastel red beneath the night sky.

Mr Abbott and wife Margie were special guests at the event that drew 600 people to Brisbane City Hall for the emotional night of celebrations. The gala, hosted by Daniel Morcombe’s parents Bruce and Denise, is a major fundraiser for the child safety foundation created in their son’s honour.

Andrew Denton was MC, while renowned singer Peter Causens, comedian Elliot Goblet and the QLD Police, Band of Blue provided the entertainment. Other special guests included Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, Police Commissioner Ian Stewart, former Commissioner Bob Atkinson, and Australian of the Year Rosie Batty. The Queensland Premier also acknowledged the contribution the Daniel Morcombe Foundation had made in the demanding and challenging child protection sector. Bruce Morcombe said the dance had shifted to Brisbane from the Sunshine Coast to mark the 10th anniversary milestone. “It has been growing each year and this event was very special for Denise and me,” he said.

Renowned artist Donna Gibb captured the ballroom highlights with an amazing live work titled, “Celebration of the Foundation”, which she completed and many guests contributed too. This sold for a very respectable $8,000 during our ‘live’ auctions. Auctioneer Justin Veivers challenged the bidders on all items to dig deep in support of the DMF.

Andrew Denton had the room in boisterous laughter with his one-liners. A seasoned campaigner and gifted public speaker he would conduct an informal Q and A interview with Denise and Bruce mid evening. The man is a genius! DMF Patron Kay McGrath held the room’s attention as she glowingly spoke of the significant positive outcomes the Daniel Morcombe Foundation has made to child safety over a 10 year period. This was soon followed by a 5 minute highlights film, most of the footage of which was news archive story clips. Emotion filled the room, after all in parts it was difficult to watch, yet it was compelling and one could not help but give themselves an imaginary fist pump as a promise to maintain support for years to come.

‘Hats-off’ to our amazing team of volunteers who contributed in no small way to keeping everything on track and running so smoothly. Our sponsors and donors were again enormously generous, and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts. Event Planner and DMF committee member Tracey McAsey was outstanding in her endeavours to make the 10th Dance for Daniel such a memorable and enjoyable experience for all.

Please visit our website to view photos from the night or to watch numerous evening highlights including the Prime Minister’s and Queensland Premier’s speeches.

Some text from this story is courtesy of the Courier Mail.
School Visits

A new school year has arrived and in the blink of an eye it seems Term 1 is done and dusted. Bang Easter is here!

However, the Daniel Morcombe Foundation has been active once again at the coal face visiting schools, community groups and speaking directly to thousands of students in 2 States.

In February, a week long drive through central NSW in our ‘Big Red’ truck saw Denise and Bruce talk with the students at St Pius X Dubbo with school captains from several other local schools also attending. Charlestown East and Redhead Public Schools in Newcastle would follow, then onto St Joseph’s Gloucester to conduct safety talks, immediately followed by another 350 students at the Gloucester Public School. St Joseph’s in Taree would complete this trip on their agenda before the drive home to the Sunshine Coast. Six schools and driving 2,000 kilometres in a week was now behind them.

We thank the many local community people, school principals, teachers, parents and students for making the trip so memorable. Your support was very special. Continuing the school visits and safety presentations to students, it was now Queensland’s turn. With trips to Gympie Central State School, Westside Christian College Goodna, Brigidine College, Livingstone Christian College, Helensvale State High, Jubilee Primary Pacific Pines, Pacific Pines State School, San Sisto College and Mayfield State School.

Time and again the response to the Morcombes at each school was just amazing. They are always welcomed with open arms making each stop a pleasure.

Term 2 will see the school visits recommence in the southern half of Tasmania before continuing back in Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

National Curriculum Review

On Monday the 23rd of March Bruce and Denise Morcombe representing the DMF travelled to Adelaide to meet with the new South Australian Education Minister Susan Close MP. Their discussions centred on a mutual commitment to do their best to ensure children’s safety in South Australia.

This meeting proved timely as it would take place just 2 days after the Dance for Daniel in Brisbane where the Prime Minister of Australia reiterated his Government’s commitment to include the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum within the Health and Physical Education component of the National Curriculum.

Very powerful words and music to everyone’s ears connected with the DMF.

We are pleased that State Education Minister Close made the firm commitment to support our Day for Daniel initiative and that correspondence going forward will be fuelled with a greater understanding after this introduction.

We understand that the next scheduled meeting of Federal, State and Territory Education Ministers is to be held in Brisbane during May.

We trust that high on its agenda is the National Curriculum roll-out. We look forward to further news on this important subject in the weeks ahead.

Where is Daniel? – The Movie

After a considerable amount of thought and much discussion, Daniel’s story will be on the big screen. The movie announcement was made at the 10th annual Dance for Daniel. Sunshine Coast producer Rod Hopping has been entrusted by Bruce and Denise Morcombe to bring their incredible story to cinemas. The planned major motion picture has a working title, “Where Is Daniel”.

The production of the film will not have a negative impact on the work of the Morcombes and the DMF. Australian acclaimed singer and motion picture director Peter Cousens has been engaged as Director. International Cinematographer Dean Cundy, of Back to the Future, Apollo 13 and Jurassic Park fame is seen as a major coup to ensure the movie has global appeal.

“The movie will be emotional as you would expect, but we are sure the viewing audience will mentally be in a better place because of the uplifting spirit in which it will be told. It will be littered with positives like the rise of Daniel’s ongoing legacy and the community people that stood tall and never gave up their efforts to help bring Daniel home.” Explained Bruce.

Denise went on to add: “Social media comments, have in some quarters questioned our motives in doing this. Please have faith that it will show an ordinary family that triumphed over evil in the most difficult of circumstances. The viewer will find strength and direction to triumph over issues in their life that seem insurmountable. Everyone has a story!” The movie is planned for release in 2016.
Where is Daniel?
– The Book
Sales of the book ‘Where is Daniel’ continue to be very strong. In fact the 1st edition is almost sold out. The Australian ‘Best Seller’ tells the story of the Morcombe family and their search to find Daniel.

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

FREE Phone APP
The ‘HELP ME’ phone app has been updated in both iphone and android applications. Improved graphics and menu selections now make it even easier to use.

Reliability of the program has also been improved. Readers are reminded that it is not designed as a tracking device. Only once activated will your immediate GPS location will be displayed on the 2 nominated phones you install the numbers on.

It is ideal for children and teens but clearly not limited to them. It is suitable for everyone who wishes to improve their personal safety. If you are a shift worker or a person with a medical condition then this will benefit you greatly too. Visit DanielMorcombe.com.au for more details. It is Free to Download.

Mother of Boys Supporting DMF
Attention all you gorgeous Mothers of (only) Boys - gather your MoB girlfriends and get ready to party. But first - you need to ensure you are subscribed on the Mothers of Boys website to receive your invitation to one of the 3 fabulous MoB lunches coming up.

Mothers of Boys raises money at their fun and party ready events for a different charity each year, past recipients of funds raised have been Abused Child Trust; Pathways to Resilience; Child Development Network Mater Hospital; BrainChild Foundation; The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation – Bivacor; Project Now and Aunties and Uncles QLD.

In 2015 the beneficiary of its fundraising endeavors will be the Daniel Morcombe Foundation to support educational child safety programs. Denise (also a MoB) will be a special guest at all 3 lunches. Visit: MothersofBoys.com.au or search for us on Facebook.

Here are the dates and details:
- BRISBANE Friday 8 May – Sold Out.
- MELBOURNE Friday 22 May. To be held at Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club, Kooyong.
- SYDNEY Friday 5 June. To be held at Royal Motor Yacht Club, Point Piper.

Cruise for Daniel
Bruce and Denise Morcombe invite you to join them on a European River Cruise travelling with the luxurious Evergreen Tours travelling from Prague to Budapest departing Prague in the Czech Republic on October 11, 2016.

Evergreen Tours and Seniors Holiday Travel will be making a donation of $750 per person to the Daniel Morcombe Foundation to help ensure continuation of all of the great work Bruce and Denise continue to do: Supporting young victims of crime, and Educating children about their personal safety. These funds – donated to The Daniel Morcombe Foundation will be on behalf of every passenger who travels on the “Cruise for Daniel!”, travelling with Bruce and Denise Morcombe who book this holiday with the Seniors Holiday Travel Club.

In addition, Evergreen Tours will also organise some EXCLUSIVE additional extra sightseeing at no additional cost for members of the Seniors Holiday Travel Club group. Bruce and Denise will be joining the group travelling on one of Evergreen Tours’ new Europe River Cruise ships, starting with three nights in Prague, then an eight day Europe River Cruise from Nuremberg to Budapest, departing from Prague on 11th October 2016. For early bookings these packages are priced from $5,465 per person, plus there is a “partner flies free to Europe” return airfare deal with your Seniors Holiday Travel Club.

These prices are available until the 2016 Europe River Cruise brochure is released, when prices will increase, so please book now and confirm your place. Evergreen Tours and Bruce and Denise will also host a private “get together” with the Seniors Holiday Travel Club members travelling with them, with drinks and canapes, a photo opportunity and a chat on board during the cruise. There will also be giveaway copies of the book “Where Is Daniel?” to all members of this group, and these can also be signed with a personalized message as well.

If you’d like to stay on in Europe after this package concludes, your Seniors Holiday Travel Club expert can organise that for you as well. For more information and to book, free call 1800-300-999 or email Enquiries@SeniorsHolidayTravel.com.au

International Women’s Day
In recognition of the strong connection between women’s and children’s rights, Children’s Safety Australia Inc. hosted an International Women’s Day Luncheon with a focus on practical strategies to promote children’s safety.

Speakers include internationally renowned children’s rights campaigner Professor Freda Briggs and accomplished author Tess Rowley. Brett Lee from INESS also attended and spoke about internet safety.

It was attended by the ladies in the DMF office: Robin, Johanna, Tracey, Tara, Sienna and Denise with Melanie Grabski from Family Planning Qld.

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.

11th Day for Daniel
Hold on to your hats!
Batten down the hatches! Day for Daniel 2015 will be bigger and better than ever before. It is our day-of-action to protect kids. An awareness day if you like, but really it has greater benefit than that. It is Australia’s premier national event to educate children on how to keep safe.

“Wear red and educate” is our catch cry!
Linking Daniel’s very real story with the importance of safety tips for children is a very powerful combination. No longer will those kids think “That will never happen to me”. Please, Please. Please join with us as we strive to make this beautiful country of ours the safest place in the world to raise a family.

PLAY YOUR PART. Register your support now. It is Free and with no obligation. Visit: DayforDaniel.com.au
Qld Travel Industry Drive for Daniel

The Queensland Travel Industry once again came together in a massive show of support for the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. The golf day extravaganza, known as ‘Drive for Daniel’, now in its 4th consecutive year, was once again a champion event.

Near 150 golfing folk of varying ability were assembled on the 1st fairway for the amazing photo opportunity. Standing in an arch on the fringes of a gigantic DMF logo that was sprayed onto the grass, it is a memento that is in great demand.

Once again raffle prizes were donated by many different businesses, most connected in some way with travel. Accommodation, airline tickets to London, Dubai and Asia plus holiday packages to here there and everywhere were up for grabs. Just outstanding!

Eatons Hill Hotel Beer Fest


Social Media

The Daniel Morcombe Foundation has one of the largest following of any not for profit organisations in the country. Thanks for your interest in our work. But more so, on a personal level, you have taken Daniel into your hearts almost like a family member. You have an appetite that craves information no matter how insignificant we think that may be. This is never taken for granted at the DMF or by the Morcombe family, and your emotional generosity simply captures everyone’s imagination. “Thank you for that!”

The Daniel Morcombe Foundation website continues to be the lifeblood of the organisation. Soon we will be updating many of the pages and menu tags to keep it up to date and user friendly. We plan to add video clips and blogs plus provide more social comment. “Photos: We love photos.” Please send us your best one or 2 of an event you have attended or organised. We plan to add them into our Photo Gallery for the world to see. Email them to photos@danielmorcombe.com.au

Facebook and Twitter often explode with interest every time we upload a photo or a topic related to our activities. “We love that!”

Many Facebook Posts record in excess of 1,000,000 views and with some 320,000 ‘Likes’ that follow the Daniel Morcombe [Official Page] it is an incredibly useful communication tool. Twitter is a relatively new platform via which we now provide frequent commentary. You can follow us; our Twitter Account is @DanielMorcombe [Case sensitive].

Dance for Daniel

Dance for Daniel - Mackay

It is time to kick up your heels Mackay. Lock in the date now and get a few friends together; join us for a special night of fun and fine dining.

Saturday August 29th at the MECC (Mackay Entertainment Conference Centre) starting 6pm. Full details are on our website: DanielMorcombe.com.au and follow the link to Events. Enquiries 0409 633 184. Funds raised on the night support the Daniel Morcombe Foundation

Score for Daniel

Football Gold Coast with the support of Football Queensland has come up with an initiative which involves the Daniel Morcombe Foundation (DMF) spreading its message through its junior sporting associations and at the same time raise funds for the foundation so it can carry on its important work.

The DMF message will be distributed through out the association and all its members, the Gold Coast association has 28 clubs with over 8000 members. In return on “Score for Daniel Day” all goals by the home and away teams will be counted and all clubs on the Gold Coast will donate either $5 or $10 per goal to the DMF. The donation can be nominated by each club to suit their budget.

It is hoped this initiative will go national and across all Sporting codes. The inaugural Score for Daniel day will be launched on the the 9th May 2015 at Ormeau FC on the Gold Coast. Bruce and Denise will attend to help launch the event.

Dance Fever for Daniel

Dance Fever for Daniel Competition brought to you by Dance Fever Multisport Australia and supported by the Daniel Morcombe Foundation.

This competition is a video production that focuses on Child Safety and Movement. Schools that enter into this competition will design, perform and film a video production within their school premises such as school halls, stages, classrooms and playgrounds. There is no competition entry fee. Dance Fever for Daniel Competition video production covers a variety of curriculum content across The Arts and Health and Physical Education within the Australian Curriculum. The aim of this competition is to bring greater awareness and importance of child safety and movement for children within primary schools.

Prizes include: $10,000 cash, 5 week Dance or Skipping Program, School Discos. Closing Date: Friday September 18th.

For more info visit DanceFever.net or DanielMorcombe.com.au

Dates to Remember

- 2 – 8 August
  International Missing Children’s Day
- 6 – 12 September
  Missing Person’s Week
- 25 May
  International Missing Children’s Day
- 2 – 8 August
  Missing Person’s Week
- 24 Oct – 1 Nov
  Child Protection Week
- 30 Oct
  Day for Daniel

Plenty happening in Townsville

Sunday Funday for Daniel: 31st May at the Northshore Community Open Day
DMF Charity Golf Day: 31st July at Rowes Bay Golf Club
Dance for Daniel: Jupiters Casino will host the 4th Townsville ‘Dance for Daniel’.

Always a rip roaring event with laughs and great entertainment, please come along and help support the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. Saturday 5th September starting at 6pm Standby for more info. Check our website regularly.

Phone enquiries: 0404 228 819 or 0417 070 532