

NEWS

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12th Annual Dance for Daniel

Oh What a Night! Our annual showcase event the "Dance for Daniel" Gala Ball was very eventful this year.

Unfortunately our 12th annual event did begin with an unforeseen incident with one of the highly talented aerialists taking a fall from the silks to the stage. Luckily she will make a full recovery from the broken ankle she sustained.

The event was put on hold for 30 minutes whilst the acrobat was attended to. As a distraction and to lighten the mood, guests were encouraged to take photos with our MC Sophie Monk.



Sophie Monk was absolutely fantastic as the MC as too was Christo (the other MC). Sophie was very, very funny and very charming. She pulled out all of her party tricks to keep the guests entertained. She even donated \$5,000 of her own money, bought a table at the Dance, sourced numerous auction items, secured Tom Gleeson AND gave a little rendition of Poison from her Bardot days.

Chrislyn Hamilton gave a powerhouse performance leaving the guests chanting from the dance floor wanting more. As always Bruce and Denise gave a very informative uplifting speech with Denise advising, "One year on and it just keeps getting better. We are now Grandparents. Winston is just days away from turning 8 months old. He is such a good boy. Always happy and smiling. Bradley and Anna are very relaxed parents too. They are with us tonight - including Winston for his first Dance for Daniel".

Tom Gleeson was hilarious, having the guests in stitches. Everyone in the room could relate to every comical topic he brought up. And of course the Band of Blue was sensational as always having the dance floor packed and City Hall pumping.

The objectives of the night were fulfilled. We celebrated the achievements of the Foundation in style; we raised much needed funds to carry on "keeping kids safe" and we continued to keep Daniel's legacy alive.

A Big Thank You to all the major contributors of the night – Sophie Monk, Donna Gibb, APT, Nine Wide World of Sports, Brisbane City Council, Epicure, Sunshine Coast Daily, WIN, Seniors Holiday Travel Team, Transdev and Bidfood who had 5 tables at the Dance.

And thank you to the Event Manager of the night Kayla Monckton and all the awesome volunteers. Visit our website DanielMorcombe.com.au to see heaps of great photos.

Andrew Ashby

Andrew Ashby's speech was the stand out of the night. It was sad, it was thought provoking, it was inspirational and most importantly it had a happy ending. He received a standing ovation from every guest in the room. Very Powerful! Andrew wanted to tell his story about how he became the target of sexual abuse. By speaking out he undoubtedly helped others.

Andrew Ashby is one of the Young Victims of Crime the Daniel Morcombe Foundation has helped over the years. In his speech he talks about the KTM motorbike that changed his life: "This motor bike was my lifesaver, I was finally able to forget about my horrible life... The motorbike played a very important part in giving me a distraction from a very stressful and horrible experience of dealing with the criminal justice system. Sitting in that courthouse and being cross examined by lawyers is something that I wouldn't wish for anyone to have to experience. Thankfully the courts ordered the paedophile pastor to 8 years of jail and finally some sort of justice was taking place."

>> Visit DanielMorcombe.com.au and click 'videos' to see Andrew's speech



Daniel's Law

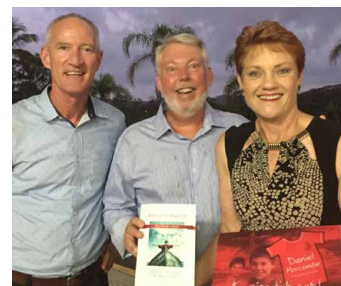
Thirteen years ago, Daniel Morcombe was murdered by a twice convicted paedophile. Brett Peter Cowan is now behind bars and serving a life sentence.

In 2003 he had previously been convicted in Brisbane and Darwin of heinous crimes against young boys; yet he could live, work, attend church, socialise and engage in numerous physical relationships with both men and women and nobody suspected his past. He often formed a partnership with mothers of young children. He was a predator that lived in a world few would understand.

He was married with a young child and to those he met he was a genuine caring person. He later admitted in evidence to the Court that he frequently watched child exploitation material. He was a heavy user of illegal drugs. In December 2003 he had just started a new job but still no one suspected what this monster was capable of. He was a convincing liar; unfortunately, the public had no ability to check.



For 3 years now, Bruce and Denise Morcombe have been criss-crossing the country from Darwin to Melbourne to Perth, in an effort to progress 'Daniel's Law'; a Public Accessible Sex Offenders Website. It would be based on Megan's Law which has been operating for 20 years in the USA. Many other countries such as Canada and England also have similar laws.



On the 25th of January of this year Bruce and Denise met with Victorian Senator Derryn Hinch. The meeting took place in his Melbourne Office to work on a strategic plan to see Daniel's Law implemented in 2017-18.

On the 18th of March One Nation Leader and Queensland Senator Pauline Hanson stood alongside Steve Dickson MP the Queensland One Nation Leader and Bruce Morcombe to announce via a 'live' Facebook feed that 'Daniel's Law' will form part of their child protection policy for the next State election which is due inside the next 12 months.

A public accessible sex offenders website is about educating mums and dads of the potential dangers that exist in their children's neighbourhood. It is not alarmist, it is using the best technology available to inform the public of potential risk in a calm and practical way.

They expect not all debate will be in favour of such a proposal but the broad majority of people they speak with, suburb by suburb, town by town, State by State see it as a valid common-sense strategy. Bruce and Denise are committed to keeping kids safe and promise to keep chipping away so watch this space for further news.

Our Patron receives OAM

Congratulations to our Patron Kay McGrath on receiving an OAM!



On Australia Day, long time Patron of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation and QLD Seven News presenter, Kay McGrath was awarded a Medal in the Order of Australia for her service to children and to the broadcast media as a journalist.

A close friend of Bruce and Denise Morcombe, she has been front and centre in her Patron duties since the commencement of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation back in 2005.

McGrath's child safety journey commenced in 1984, when as a young journalist she helped set up an organisation called PACT – Protect All Children Today.

Upon receiving her prestigious nomination Kay said, "If I've improved the life of one Queensland child, I'll be very happy about that."

Kay is also an ambassador for Act for Kids and has been the chair of Queensland Child Protection Week.

Thank You ALSA

Thank you Mr Terry Mott and Australian Liquor Stores Association for your generous donation of \$13,971.

We really do appreciate it.

Thank you also Steven Bradbury for once again nominating the Foundation as your preferred charity.



DMF 'Hoodie Bear' visits Antarctica

There are no polar bears in Antarctica but on a recent APT expedition cruise to the 'seventh continent', our own Daniel Morcombe Foundation's Hoodie Bear made an appearance among the ice and seals.

Karen Newbury the Queensland manager for APT took these photos of Hoodie enjoying himself on a zodiac cruise through the icebergs. DMF committee member John Pearce and his wife Judi just happened to be holidaying on this very same cruise, so it was quite a surprise for them to discover that Hoodie had joined them on their marvellous adventure.

Coincidentally fellow committee member Peter Boyce and his wife Melissa were on the identical APT cruise at the previous departure. So unintentionally, DMF have had quite a presence in Antarctica this summer. APT very generously donated a European river cruise as an auction item at the Dance for Daniel this year. Thank you APT.



Orbit Rescue App Launch

The Daniel Morcombe Foundation in partnership with the University of the Sunshine Coast launched the new app version of Orbit, called Orbit Rescue.

Orbit Rescue is designed to protect children aged 8-10 years old from sexual abuse.

Bruce and Denise said they were thrilled to be involved in the interactive and educational game that has been designed to enable children to recognise predatory behaviour in an ever-changing online world.

Professor Christian Jones said feedback from teachers and students had been used to significantly improve the original Orbit game that was launched by Bruce and Denise at USC on the national Day for Daniel in October 2013. Bruce and Denise said the new version of the game was great fun yet retained the proven learning outcomes for children around sexual abuse prevention.

"Protecting children from sexual abuse and the dangers that exist online must be our highest priority," they said.

"Orbit Rescue will teach children in a non-threatening way to recognise predatory behaviour – like secrets, special gifts and other



grooming techniques. This could be from an adult they know in the real world or a 'friend' that they have never met but frequently chat to online. The game then illustrates safety strategies like reporting."

The free game contains no in-app purchases and does not collect personal information. It can be found online by searching for Orbit Rescue at app stores. For details about Orbit Rescue and other child safety educational resources, go to www.danielmorcombe.com.au

School Visits

School presentations scheduled for the first school term of 2017 were off to a flying start. Bruce and Denise made 4 separate trips to the Gold Coast plus more to Brisbane.

Some of the most memorable were Helensvale State School, Coomera Springs State School, Elanora State School, Hillcrest Christian College, Acacia Ridge State School, All Saints Anglican College, Coolangatta State School, Mudgeeraba Creek State School.

Some of the schools decided to have an early 'Day for Daniel' with everyone wearing red. At Coolangatta State School many of the teachers had already conducted safety activities in earlier classes. Bruce and Denise could see the result of many of the students' work as this was clearly on display attached to the walls of their hall. Giant hands with safety networks listed had been completed. Activity sheets were printed out from the educational materials on our website, now completed with colourful safety messages.

Often balloons and streamers swish in the breeze as the Morcombes approach the school gates. Assembly Halls are



decorated and signs proudly announcing: "Welcome Bruce and Denise Morcombe" greet them upon arrival.

Not all schools celebrate our visit with an early red themed 'Free Dress Day'. Many hold off on that opportunity until the official 'Day for Daniel' scheduled for the 27th October 2017. Wear red, Educate and Donate is its motto. 'Day for Daniel' is by far Australia's largest child safety awareness day in the country. Registration and participation is free. Please go online and register your school's support if you have not done so already.

Personally Bruce and Denise always describe these school visits as the most enjoyable aspect of their work at the Foundation. Visiting these kids and by linking Daniel's very real story to the importance of learning about their personal safety a child appreciates the unique perspective their presentation brings to the table. No longer can those impressionable children think, "that will never happen to me". Thankfully 3,000 students now understand to Recognise, React and Report if ever they feel unsafe.

With Easter knocking at the door, we quickly realise that Second Term is upon us.

Next term you may see "Big Red", our educational truck venturing out far and wide with visits up north to Bundaberg, Gladstone, Mackay, and Townsville. Give us a wave if passing!



Springfree Support

Springfree Trampoline is again proud to be supporting the Daniel Morcombe Foundation by donating their national Christmas Eve installations fee of \$7,920.

They also donated another trampoline for our Dance for Daniel. Thank you Springfree Trampoline for all your support! We really do appreciate it.



Out of the Dark Expo

Bruce, Denise and Tracey represented the Daniel Morcombe Foundation and reported they were very busy manning the marquee at the "Out of the Dark" Expo at the QLD State Library on Saturday 11th March.

The Expo was presented by the Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) in partnership with SLQ and included stalls from Taskforce Argos, QLD Police Services, Carly Ryan Foundation, Bravehearts, QFCC, Alannah and Madeline Foundation, Life Education, eSafety Commission, Youtown, YFS Ltd, Department of Education etc. The Expo promoted ways to keep kids safe online. The Foundation showcased the newly launched Orbit Rescue App and the Keeping Kids Safe resource kit which includes tips on how to keep kids safe online and the Cyber safety video for parents and carers.



It was also a good opportunity for Bruce and Denise to connect with Principal Commissioner of QFCC Cheryl Vardon and to look at how the Foundation can continue to work together with the Commission and all child safety agencies to ensure key online safety messages get out to the community.

International Woman's Day

Dr Jim Wattersen, Director - General for Education and Training invited Denise and Bruce to attend their annual International Women's Day 2017 celebrations held at QUT Gardens' Point on 8th March.

It was a very enlightening morning with guest speaker Rachael Hunter, now enjoying retirement, telling her moving story about the obstacles and difficulties she faced by being a woman in the public service during the 70's and 80's and how she progressed to become Director-General of Education and Training. This year's theme is, "Be Bold for Change".



Corporate Prospectus

We have produced our Digital LED Corporate Prospectus which we are currently distributing across Australia.

Raising funds is a vital element of the Foundation as we do not receive ongoing Government Funding so we depend on donations to be able to meet our objectives. In 2017 we will be focused on looking for Corporations, Businesses and Philanthropists to assist us financially in educating children on their personal safety and assisting young victims of crime. If you think you can help us out please contact Tracey email: tracey@danielmorcombe.com.au

WA Ambassadors

On the 4th of February Bruce, Denise & Kayla flew over to Perth to meet with our Western Australian Ambassadors.

They met with 5 of the 6 Ambassadors to discuss how the Daniel Morcombe Foundation can further improve the program. Everyone came up with good ideas to grow school participation numbers and we look forward to a great year ahead.

As a 'Day for Daniel' Ambassador, you will be required to volunteer your time and energy to encourage schools, community groups, businesses and parents to get involved in 'Day for Daniel' 2017. As a starting point we do request Ambassadors contact a minimum of 10 schools in their local area.



If you are interested in becoming a 'Day for Daniel' Ambassador in your State or Territory please email ambassador@danielmorcombe.com.au

MU-X is Dux

We are very fortunate to have an Isuzu MU-X which is kindly on loan to the Daniel Morcombe Foundation by Isuzu.

We use our Isuzu MU-X continuously. Most recently it made an appearance at School child safety presentations with Bruce and Denise. It is tough, spacious and comfortable so is ideal for all of the driving the Foundation does to and from Brisbane and throughout QLD. Thank you Isuzu.

Team DMF

Do you want to reach a personal goal and support the Daniel Morcombe Foundation?

It's easy. Just pick an event that matches your personal goals and in the process of achieving the ultimate goal ask your friends to support/sponsor you by donating funds to a very worthy cause - the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. You will be walking/running/crawling/jumping for a cause!



Once you have confirmed your event and your commitment to fundraise for the Foundation complete the Team DMF registration form, and become part of Team DMF. We will produce a fundraising page for you which will include all of the information you have provided us, photos and a fundraising goal. We will send you the link to your page to help get you started. The first members of Team DMF include one of our "Day for Daniel" Ambassadors Sean Follows and his Police colleagues. They have chosen Southwest Mudfest in Western Australia to participate in and have a fundraising goal of \$5,000. Their event is taking place on July 1st. Good Luck Team. To join Team DMF go to www.danielmorcombe.com.au/team-dmf

Ultra Marathon for Daniel

Billy Tindall a young man from Caboolture is looking to run from Melbourne to the Sunshine Coast on behalf of the Foundation. He aims to raise the awareness of the Foundation, Day for Daniel and to raise \$100,000.

He aims to start his run in Warragul at the Lionel Rose Statue on September 25th and finish the run at Walk for Daniel on Friday October 27th. 33 days, running 2000km. To be able to lock this run in, Billy needs to cover his expenses. If anyone can offer him accommodation, fuel, food water or footwear please contact the Foundation on 07 5442 3678 and we will pass this on to Billy.



Coming up in
2017

Ultra Marathon for Daniel

2000km
Start September 25th

Billy is running 33 days to raise \$100,000 for child safety, support his fundraiser on our website.

Townsville Dance for Daniel

Saturday October 7th

Stay tuned for more details about the 4th Townsville Dance for Daniel.

Day for Daniel

Australia Wide
Friday October 27th

Lock it in. Wear Red, Educate and Donate. To participate register online at:
DanielMorcombe.com.au



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