

NEWS

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13th Annual Dance for Daniel

Ohh what a night. The Brisbane City Hall was painted red and our guests arrived to a night of spectacular entertainment, food and frivolity.

The 13th Dance for Daniel went without a hitch and raised over \$70 000 towards supporting children and young people to be safe. Emotions ran high several times during the evening as speakers remembered Daniel and thanked Bruce and Denise for their ongoing efforts helping communities across Australia.

Thank you to Kim Skubris our MC Extraordinaire, Swagamama the dance troupe with a difference, Big T and his vocal power, Dave Hughes and his laconic wit, Justin Veivers our auctioneer and the Kimberley Alexis Band who filled the dance floor until everyone had to go home and look forward to next year.



Morky Awards

Dr Neil Carrington, Act for Kids, Julieann Cork, Child Safety and Billy Tindall, Ultra Marathon Runner and Fundraiser, received their Morky Awards for dedication to the safety and welfare of children and young people.

Each of these amazing people have assisted the Daniel Morcombe Foundation in #KeepingKidsSafe

Pictured left, Bruce Morcombe, Dr Neil Carrington and Denise Morcombe

Stacey's story

Raising awareness and funds for real people with real stories

Stacey is a young woman that the Daniel Morcombe Foundation has been proud to support. Sadly, her story is not unfamiliar to us. Stacey is a survivor of abuse. She was able to tell someone about the abuse she had experienced and get support. Stacey moved into a foster home and to this day her and her step mother Toni, still support each other.

Stacey joined us at the Dance for Daniel to tell us a little about her experience with the Foundation including how she became an author and illustrator of a book which she hopes will help other young people.



Drawings from Stacey's book

Stacey's book can be purchased by emailing northcoastadmin@lwb.org.au



Queen's Baton Relay an absolute privilege for Bruce and Denise

Thousands of Australian's were chosen to carry the Queen's baton on the final stages of its journey to the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. Launched on March 17 2017, by Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace, the relay takes 388 days to reach the Gold Coast for the Games.

And have a look at these familiar faces spotted at Caloundra on March 27. "We are so proud to receive this honour to carry the Queen's Baton", said Bruce Morcombe at the event.

Denise stated, "I know I'm really carrying this baton for Daniel and my boys and of course for all the children and young people who have experienced abuse and neglect."

Bruce and I carry the Queen's Baton so that all Australians remember that we must always put Keeping Kids Safe in the spotlight. "One child harmed is a child too many."

Bruce and Denise followed their relay honour with a celebratory morning tea thanking local supporters of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation.

More than 3,500 baton bearers will bring the baton across Australia to the opening ceremony on 4th April 2018.

New Counselling Rooms and Office Facilities

Progress is moving along nicely as architectural plans and building costs are being finalised.

Exciting times for the remainder of 2018, as we put the finishing touches in place after collecting considerable feedback from key stakeholders. Located in Palmwoods the proposed new centre will be a modern facility that will be our home base for decades to come. In particular we are excited to have such a wonderful talent pool of local Sunshine Coast businesses all wanting to contribute.



This includes Tim Ryan Project Manager, Damien Carroll, Dominic Carmine, Leonie Gotts - Murphy Builders, Brad Read - BRD Group Architectural Design, Blake Bell - Murray and Associates Surveyors and Town Planners, Troy Paulsen - Empire Engineering Structural and Civil, Mark Laverick - Plumbing Design and Drafting Hydraulic Engineering, Nick Howard - Element Design Landscaping Architecture and Marls Best - Australian Garage Supermarket. Many are offering their service free of charge.

Top honours at Australia Day Awards

Dedicated and passionate child safety advocates, Bruce and Denise Morcombe were named the 2018 Sunshine Coast Australia Day Awards Citizens of the Year at a special ceremony held on January 23 in Caloundra.

Excitingly the Daniel Morcombe Foundation was also recognised with the Organisation of the Year Australia Day Award at the event. Team DMF were very excited to be recognised with Founders Bruce and Denise Morcombe.



"Bruce and Denise Morcombe were each nominated as individuals for this award, however the judges had a hard time separating them which resulted in a tie and acknowledgment for them both," Mayor Mark Jamieson said. "Their dedication to promoting child

safety is honourable and this award is one way we are able to show our appreciation for their work.

Our nominees in the Australia Day Awards are a very special group of achievers and this is our chance to say thank you.

Their stories and efforts are inspirational and highlight how fortunate we are to have so many everyday heroes walking amongst us. They fully deserve this public recognition for what they do to make our region a better place."

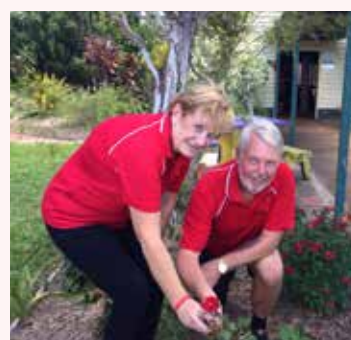
School Visits

With all the enthusiasm a new year brings Bruce and Denise Morcombe immediately got down to business in their endeavours to keep kids safe.

As Queensland Child Safety Ambassadors they had scheduled a diverse group of schools to attend. "We constantly question ourselves when we go through our waiting list of schools to determine if we are visiting the neediest. Our answer is always the same. They are all needy because perpetrators are online now chatting to kids. Thus the challenge is never the hours of travel or picking the 'easiest' ones. Realistically it is about the relevance of the 'messages' in our safety presentation and the 'cut through' of Daniel's story to make it real," explained Bruce.

Fourteen years after Daniel's abduction and children who were not born back then are challenged to think of how quickly in their lives, 'Safe can turn into Unsafe'. How do they Recognise potential danger, both in the physical and online world? Do they have a plan to find help by Reacting quickly? Have they thought about organisations or adults in their life who they can turn to and ask for help?

"Report anything suspicious to someone on your Safety Network. You will be believed and you will be protected," Denise highlighted as a key strategy.



The 500 students at the International Islamic College were an engaging caring group of kids. So too the country students at All Saints in Boonah and Kalbar Primary school. Hercules Road State School on the Redcliffe Peninsula, Serviceton State School in Inala, the tiny alternative education Blackall Range Primary School in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland and Morayfield State School, Balaclava State School in Cairns, South Johnstone State School near Innisfail and nine schools around Gympie, all got the key messages!

A special thank you to the South Johnstone people who had made the Morcombe's visit so meaningful with the opening of a garden dedicated to Daniel's memory.

Big shout out to Gympie Crime Stoppers and Gympie Police for organising over 1000 students from nine local schools to come together over two days of Child Safety Education in Gympie, Queensland.

Grandparents Together!

We are excited to begin work on a brand new project called Grandparents Together.

There are many Grandparents in our community who are caring formally or informally for their grandchildren. A key concern for many involves strategies for promoting safety for their grandchildren.

This project will bring together Grandparent carers to talk about child safety strategies, understanding how children and young people are using technology and how Grandparent carers can play a role in supporting healthy online behaviours as well as understanding strategies to reduce risk for children in the community.

The Daniel Morcombe Foundation is looking forward to listening to stories and understanding what extra information may be useful and then developing a hard copy resource with relevant content specifically for Grandparent carers.

This project is sponsored by UnityWater and will be available in the Moreton Bay, Sunshine Coast and Noosa areas initially. Follow us on Facebook to find out about events near you or contact Georgina Livingstone Georgina@DanielMorcombe.com.au





Denise's trek for kids

In April Denise will be venturing out of her comfort zone to tackle the Arkaba Trek in the Flinders Rangers, South Australia for a fundraiser along with nine other awesome adventuring women.

100% of donated funds will be directed to support child victims of crime including our 'Walk Tall Program'. The 'Walk Tall Program' under the Act for Kids umbrella, offers free counselling service to children who have been abused.

You could also support, Sammy Power, media personality, who is joining the trek to assist our Foundation raise funds for counselling and support. To donate please go to our website DanielMorcombe.com.au and follow the links to Denise's Every Day Hero fundraising page.

Events

1 June 2018

Drive for Daniel

Our annual golf fundraiser

26 October 2018

Biggest Child Safety Lesson

Stay tuned for more information about this years nationwide online broadcast

Day for Daniel

Australia's biggest child safety awareness event. Wear red, educate & donate

Walk for Daniel

Annual walk on the Sunshine Coast

#TeamDMF

Denise's trek in SA
Sunshine Coast Marathon
Dollar for Daniel WA
Walk across England

Support the fundraising events on our website www.DanielMorcombe.com.au



The incredible team at Bidfood donated \$68,000 from their annual company wide Day for Daniel fundraiser. They also bought 6 tables at Dance for Daniel. Thank you Bidfood, your support makes a huge difference and it means the world to us.

Corporate thanks

Thank you to all of our corporate supporters.

Because of you in 2017 over 1 million people started a conversation about child safety. Over 700 000 students received child safety education on Day for Daniel and 100s of young survivors of abuse accessed counselling and assistance.



The Good Guys generously donated \$15,000 presented here at Dance for Daniel



Springfree Trampoline donated \$8,360 and a Trampoline to auction at Dance for Daniel



Liberty IU donated \$5,000, thank you so much for your support

New factsheets for professionals, parents and carers

We have started development of a suite of factsheets that aim to answer common questions that many have about the Daniel Morcombe Foundation and child safety issues.

There is a lot of information out there for parents and carers to sift through when trying to find accurate evidence based information that answers common concerns about child safety and abuse prevention. We have tried to help by pulling together the most up to date research and presenting this in a practical easy to read format. You can read and download the factsheets on our website under *Keeping Kids Safe Resources*.

