

DAY FOR DANIEL

Walk for Daniel

Wow! How big is it getting? Children from a variety of local schools all made it to the walk to participate. From Suncoast Christian College and Woombye Primary to Nudgee College 80km away plus all the others in between, we say thank-you for your school's support.

Hundreds of local families also made a very visual and colourful procession as they walked the 4km from Woombye to Palmwoods.

The route the walkers follow symbolises the journey home to Palmwoods from the bus stop, a trip Daniel did not make himself. It also indicates that our streets

are safe provided basic personal safety messages are observed.

At the Walks conclusion, Maroochy Mayor Joe Natoli spoke of the importance and spirit of the event. It is becoming a significant event on the calendar. Stand-by for next year everyone. We will do our best to see that in every local community in Queensland a Walk is adopted with a broader view to make it Australia wide.

We would like to thank Palmwoods Real Estate for their sponsorship of the event; our hosts Suncoast Christian College, plus Cooroy Mountain Spring Water and Woombye-Palmwoods Lion's Club plus the generous support of many, many local



Daniel's grand parents, Kevin and Monique officially start our Walk

businesses including Sunvalley News. In addition, Main Roads, Maroochy Shire Council and the Queensland Police Service all contributed to make the event incident free.

Schools and Businesses



We are aware of hundreds of Queensland schools who have participated in some way learning about personal safety all based on Daniel's Abduction almost 4 years ago. From Townsville, Bowen, St George and Toowoomba it is such a significant step in protecting our children. We also have considerable support from interstate including Tasmania and WA. Much work is ahead for our team to ensure our messages are constantly reinforced across the length

and breadth of Australia.

Red Rooster (100 Qld stores), Subway (22 Sunshine Coast stores), Zupps Car Sales (16 outlets) plus another 100 local and not so local, independent businesses all contributed to make the Day for Daniel a massive success.

The next newsletter will carry more information of business participation, public involvement and funds raised as many of these details are still being received as we go to print.

Support at the highest level.

State Parliament was sitting on the 31st and we are very proud to acknowledge and thank the politicians whom all wore a DMF Badge in the Chamber that day as a sign of respect. The Queensland Premier the Hon. Anna Bligh MP a mother to 2 boys, also supported the Foundation by wearing our Red Tee Shirt at her running club and she was very open in her encouragement of our Foundation's work in protecting children.



Counselling Framework

Sarah Wayland from the Australian Federal Police has been conducting an interview process with 10 families around Australia who have experienced "Unresolved Loss" of a family member. More commonly referred to as a Missing Person, Sarah was preparing a set of guidelines to be used by Counsellors in order to best understand and offer advice to the family members who are left behind with so many unanswered questions.

Some time ago Sarah approached Denise and Bruce to ask for

comment on her discussion paper. Obliging, via email and a personal visit it all came together and while we all appreciate that no other Australian cases resemble Daniel's, the emotions and journey the family experiences is in a lot of respect very similar to others.

In a show of support and to promote the DMF interstate, Sarah and her team agreed to officially launch the Counselling Framework in Sydney on our Day for Daniel.



Educational Puppet Show Launched on our "Day For Daniel"

Alex Sharp from Laurel House and Denise Morcombe official launched "No Strings Attached". This project marks a significant step forward in the battle to keep our kids safe.

"No Strings Attached" is a joint initiative between Sunshine and Cooloola Services Against Sexual Violence (more commonly referred to as Laurel House) and the Daniel Morcombe Foundation Inc.

The show stars are 2 adorable puppets engaged in a conversation with humour

and poignant messages specifically around the subject of Protective Behaviours education. Targeting children in the 5 – 8 year old age group, it is being resourced, trialed and evaluated at the moment, with a planned school implementation during first term 2008. Laurel House is providing the in-class expertise for the puppet show with the backing of a considerable financial commitment from the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. We look forward to bringing you some feedback from



teachers, parents and young students when it is out and about in Queensland schools; hopefully one near you.



The Bracken Ridge Tavern was the place to be on October 13th for a fundraiser to aid the Daniel Morcombe Foundation.

Live bands, Auction items and great raffle prizes all contributed to make it an overwhelming success. The night raised \$9,000 and built a solid friendship between many, many supporters.



Upcoming Events

Dance for Daniel March 8th 2008.
Mark it in your diary now. Tickets on sale soon. Check the website for all details in the coming weeks.

Ride for Daniel June 8th 2008.
Planning has already commenced to improve on the highly successful 2007 event.

Mike Munro Joins Search



Channel 9 aired the show Missing Persons Unit on October 11. Hosted by Mike Munro the program included an extensive segment on the facts leading up to Daniel's abduction on the 7th December, 2003. Mike also chose to cover the work of the Foundation at length highlighting the child safety education initiatives we are involved with. National exposure for both Daniel's Case and the DMF is why the Morcombe family agreed to participate.

BUACA - Bikers United Against Child Abuse

Bikers United Against Child Abuse looked after a group of children and made them feel special again with one of the bikers famous Buddy Runs. Denise and Bruce joined the group on the 27th of September and experienced a side of life that most people do not see. Respecting the privacy of these children we cannot print a photo, but let us say that what it would capture are images of smiles, fun

and pleasure they experienced in a day that they will always remember. And where did we go? The Amberley Air force Base! Thanks to their hospitality, the children enjoyed simulated target shooting, a close-up look at some very serious military hardware with the highlight being a demonstration by the dog squad and a tour of the dog breeding facility. Those puppies were absolutely gorgeous.

Children's Week

The DMF were invited to support the launch of Queensland Children's Week for 2007 at Australia Zoo on October 19th. We joined the Hon Mal Brough MP, Minister for Families and Leigh Shenfield, President and CEO of Queensland Children's Week Association Inc to officially open the week which is designed to put the spotlight on the younger generation and focus on activities that involve, encourage and reward children in a broad range of activities. At the launch, around 100 lucky children

were guests of Australia Zoo enjoying an actioned packed day with the animals and a wonderful healthy lunch. A touching and thoughtful moment was the parade of children all clutching an enormous length of red ribbon in a silent but significant example that Daniel is not forgotten. A very powerful and important lesson on child safety education can be learned if we look at Daniel's tragedy, learn what we can about it and realise that this is providing a second chance to our decision makers of tomorrow.

See you in 2008 - The next Newsletter is due in January. We wish everyone a happy, family orientated, safe Christmas. December is also a month that we personally reflect on significant dates connected to Daniel, like the 7th (which marks the 4 year anniversary since Daniel was abducted) and the 19th (which is Daniel's 18th birthday).