



Missing Persons Week 3rd - 9th August

A good example of the ambiguity and dilemma faced by families and friends of Missing Persons, absent for what ever reason, is the unknown; it is the unresolved loss which can eat away at your daily rational thoughts. One of the difficult things the Morcombe family have to wrestle with is that Daniel is officially a Missing Person yet at the same time we are all very much aware that the Police investigation has always treated his disappearance as an abduction and suspected murder and thus it received the vigour and intensity deserving of such serious circumstances.



AFP Commissioner Mick Keelty chats with Denise and Bruce at the launch

Experiencing the very real human emotions and understanding the position felt by many thousands of people in Australia each year left behind after someone goes missing, Denise and Bruce representing the Daniel Morcombe Foundation are well credentialed to assist. Invited to the Official launch of Missing Persons Week in Canberra on Monday August 4, it was an opportunity to see first hand the important work being done by the NMPCC. It also provided a chance to talk with other families of missing persons, Department Officials, Australian Federal Police, Counsellors and Welfare Representatives.

The launch centred on an alliance between the AFP and MySpace in an exciting new frontier to combat this enormous problem. While 98 per cent are located, there is a significant amount of missing persons that

have been missing for longer than one year. The impact on families and friends is devastating.

The National Missing Persons Coordination Centre is part of the Australian Federal Police and works with State and Territory Police and community organisations to provide a nationally integrated approach to reduce the incidence and impact of missing persons in Australia and around the world.

35,000 Australians are reported missing each year – one person every 15 minutes. 20,000 are under the age of 18.

Visit missingpersons.gov.au

Day for Daniel 31st October

Our National campaign within schools is getting close! Supported by a unique TV advertising campaign, we are about to show Australia we are very serious. October 31st is our targeted day each year, where we push hard to make a statement that "Personal Safety Education is Important for our Young".

Having already gained support from Queensland Premier Anna Bligh and Tasmanian Premier David Bartlett plus a number of State Education Ministers and Department Representatives around the country, we are anticipating a huge participation rate.

'Day for Daniel' is about taking the opportunity to focus on protective behaviours lessons' being taught to students on the day. We must also mention the great support we are receiving from Adopt-a-Cops in many parts of the country.

Check-out further information on our website danielmorcombe.com.au. Please do your bit and see if the local school is supporting this initiative. Motivate them if you can. Encourage them to register online and they will automatically go into the draw for a laptop computer.

Walk for Daniel 31st October

Locally at Palmwoods, we are again having our community walk. Starting 7.00 am at the Suncoast Christian College Woombye (adjacent to the last known spot Daniel was seen) we walk to Kolora Park Palmwoods.

The 40 minute walk symbolises Daniel returning home to Palmwoods, a trip he never made, so we complete that journey for him. It is a visual statement that provided our children are taught basic protective behaviour skills, they are safe on our streets and crimes against any child are not tolerated.

Celebrities including Shane Webcke and Ian Healy are participating in our walk. More surprises and a sense of belonging to the community are promised. We thank Palmwoods Real Estate for their generous sponsorship of this event. Visit walkfordaniel.com.au

For community minded people beyond the Sunshine Coast, why not organise your own local walk which will still carry the same visual images and safety awareness opportunity. Consider a walk around your sports oval and get the local media to come along and cover the story.

After the event please post any stories or photos to P.O. Box 565 Palmwoods Qld 4555 or danielfd@bigpond.net.au

Visit dayfordaniel.com.au



Wear something red on Day for Daniel

Young Victims of Crime Support

Often going unnoticed due to privacy issues and gaining little publicity, is the work done by the DMF in its ongoing commitment to assist young victims of crime. In the last few weeks we have provided assistance to several children largely as a result of our working relationship with the Queensland Homicide Victims Support Group. While not directly identifying the families and children involved we are pleased to highlight that we have contributed in providing singing lessons, speech therapy, a drum kit and drum playing lessons as well as new household furniture including bed-bunks.

We have also been very pleased to contribute to a room makeover project that saw the softening of a somewhat stark interview facility (for children) at the Maroochydore Police Station into a more pleasant, child friendly place which we trust will make the young victim more comfortable and confident when talking to police. Toys, books, craft activities, a plazma TV with inbuilt dvd and a Play Station are some of the donations made.

We graciously acknowledge that the DMF is only a vehicle to provide these resources. None of this is possible without your combined will to generously contribute to our work. On behalf of the kids we pass on a very warm and sincere; "Thank you".



Detective Sergeant Sharon Tebbutt, Officer in Charge Sunshine Coast District Child Abuse Investigation Unit congratulates the DMF on the room makeover

Child Protection Week 7th - 13th September

Child Protection Week promotes the belief that it is everyone's responsibility to make their community child friendly.

Child Protection Week is coordinated nationally by the National Association for Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN)

and, in Queensland, by the Child Protection Week Committee, comprising representatives from a range of government and non-government agencies concerned with child protection issues.

Promoting the value of children and focusing attention on the issues of child abuse and neglect, the objectives of Child Protection Week are to:

- raise the profile of all issues connected with child protection, including child abuse prevention, treatment, research, education, service provision and support for children, young people and families.
- create a state-wide umbrella focus for child protection allowing government and non-government agencies to present a cooperative and coordinated community oriented campaign.
- support and value professionals and volunteer child protection workers by providing 'best practice' training and a forum to exchange ideas and information.
- offer a framework to recognise advances in the field, and thereby contribute to better outcomes for all children and young people, especially those who have been harmed or are at risk of harm.

[Visit childsafety.qld.gov.au](http://childsafety.qld.gov.au)

White Balloon Day 9th September

White Balloon Day awareness campaign runs throughout Australia during National Child Protection Week. This year marks the 11th anniversary of the annual White Balloon Day campaign.

In 1999, White Balloon Day prompted an unprecedented 514% increase in the number of child sexual assault disclosures.

This phenomenal figure indicates that White Balloon Day does raise awareness and protects children against sexual assault in Australia.

The humble white balloon has been adopted by Bravehearts as symbolic of the issue of child sexual assault.

By showing your support and breaking the silence, White Balloon Day will help give a voice to those affected by child sexual assault. Someone, somewhere suffering in

silence will see your balloon and know that you have supported them.

This year's campaign is strongly supported by the Nine Network and major retail outlets including The Coffee Club, Blockbuster and Nutrimetics. Purchase your official White Balloon Day merchandise from any of these retail outlets and help us to break the silence on child sexual assault. Visit whiteballoonday.com.au and bravehearts.org.au for more information.

Fundraiser Beach House Fitness Kawana – 14th September

Please contact Naomi at Beach House Fitness Kawana on 5493 5099 if you would like to sponsor a rider or team or indeed be involved yourself. Should be fun!

Children's Week 18th - 26th October

The DMF will again be supporting Children's Week which is held in all Australian states. With a motto of "A Caring World Shares", Queensland's official launch will be held at Australia Zoo on Friday the 17th of October. The DMF is proud to offer support with giveaways of caps and showbags for the children through its onsite Marquee.

Dance for Daniel 7th March 2009

Stand-by for our biggest fundraiser of the year! It's our opportunity to recognise and thank the many supporters of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation.

We have booked the Caloundra RSL Ruby Room as our venue this time around. Luxurious new facilities will impress guests and add to the stylish atmosphere of our annual Gala Dinner Dance. Now in its 4th year we have made a conscious effort to keep it fresh and exciting with some subtle changes planned and great surprises on offer. But definitely, as always, a night of fun is on the cards.

Write it in your diary now. Tickets will go on sale prior to Christmas. Seats will be limited to just less than 500, so a sell-out is almost guaranteed. Register your interest now by emailing your details to admin@danielmorcombe.com.au.