

NEWS

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Dance for Daniel 2016

"Oh what a night!", "The best night yet!", "I had a great time!" were just some of the comments from guests who attended the 11th Dance for Daniel at Brisbane City Hall on Saturday, 12th March, 2016.

Four hundred and ninety, elegantly dressed guests, joined the Morcombe Family for pre-dinner drinks in King George Square. Set against a backdrop of a brightly lit City Hall, it was a night for celebration.

With a full program, guests were guaranteed an entertaining evening. Organist, Christopher Wrench kicked-off proceedings as guests were seated and City Hall was filled with excited chatter and beautiful melodies. Have you ever heard "Stairway to Heaven" on a Pipe Organ? It was pretty amazing!

Our Master of Ceremonies, Robyn Moore, warmed the crowd with her impersonations and quick wit. Julia Buzz-ard (Gillard) from 'How Green was my Cactus' and Blinky Bill both made an appearance and who can forget the famous "Spray and Wipe" jingle.... all the work of Robyn Moore. Both funny and charming, Robyn's message was simple: "We as people need to know the power we have when we open the hole in our face". "Words and communication can heal!" Yes Robyn, we couldn't agree more.

Always eagerly anticipated, the Police band "Band of Blue" got everyone in the mood. Denise added to the excitement with the announcement that she and Bruce were soon to be grandparents! Congratulations Brad and Anna such great news!

Actually all our guest speakers got in on the action as each contributed their artistic talents to a fantastic piece of

art, painted live on stage by Donna Gibb. A swipe of the brush as they left the stage contributed to an outstanding picture of the Brisbane River on dusk. Later auctioned, this piece was the highest valued auction item of the night!

Raffle tickets were hot property and bidding on the various auction items was interesting to say the least. Works of art, jewellery, books, holidays, even shares in a racehorse were all highly contested. Justin Veivers was our auctioneer until Steven Bradbury (Olympic Gold Medal Skater) stole the show, selling personally signed, framed skate for \$2000. All for a good cause hey Steven!

I honestly could go on forever about the happenings during the night but maybe you should find out for yourself and book a table for next year's event. Trust me, you won't be disappointed.

The Dance for Daniel would not be possible if it were not for the tireless efforts of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation and our supporters. Our event was honoured to have so many dignitaries attend and we acknowledge: Hon. James McGrath, Hon. Shannon Fentiman MP, Hon. Senator Claire Moore, Hon. Glenn Lazarus, Mayor, Mark Jamieson, QPS Commissioner Ian Stewart, Hon Peter Dutton



Download all photos from our website

MP, Minister for Immigration, Hon Jarrod Bleijie MP, Hon Andrew Powell MP and Bob Atkinson.

The night would not have been so successful without the contributions from our special guests, Robyn Moore, Kay McGrath, Donna Gibb, Jon Rouse and Peter Cousins.

Our entertainers, Christopher Wrench, Band of Blue and the Electric 80's show got people on

their feet. Some band members should have been arrested for crimes against fashion. Who would have thought big hair could look so good.

A special thanks to all our table champions and the generous businesses which donated items for the raffles and auctions and thank you to the bidders who contribute to the financial viability of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. Vital funds raised each year are channelled back into the community via Keeping Kids safe initiatives and programs which support young victims of crime through counselling services and the provision of financial assistance.



Carol Stewart, QPS Police Commissioner Ian Stewart, Hon. Shannon Fentiman MP, Denise Morcombe, Senator Glenn Lazarus, Bruce Morcombe, Detective Inspector Jon Rouse, Senator James McGrath, Tess Sanders Lazarus.

As a volunteer on the night I was personally blown away by people's generosity. I was reminded that most people are inherently good and good will win over evil every time. We just have to keep up the fight. Remember to keep talking to each other, communicate and be aware of the power we have when we open the hole in our face. Looking forward to seeing you all at Dance for Daniel 2017.

Sandra, volunteer on the night.



Appeal to High Court

On Friday morning the 11th of March it took less than 1 hour for Brett Cowan's 'special leave' application for the High Court challenge of the covert strategy known as "Mr Big" to be dismissed.

A packed court room in Brisbane, including lawyer Peter Boyce who had ridden the courtroom drama as it unfolded over a 6 year passage, was consumed with interest. It was now behind us all, for that was Cowan's last opportunity to overturn his guilty verdict.



Outside court, around 30 journalists and crew covered the story that went National. Denise responded; "As a family we can now move on". Bruce voiced his disapproval of the appeal process and the seemingly endless opportunities that are provided to a man that nobody has ever questioned did in fact murder Daniel.

"The appeal process is available to correct mistakes; an innocent man behind bars for example, not to explore an obscure legal loophole which could have set a monster free." - Bruce Morcombe OAM

With any luck, that will be the last time we ever have to hear his name again.

'Enough is Enough' Rally

The rallying cry of "enough is enough" could be heard shouted from the streets of Wangaratta on Sunday (6th March) by hundreds of emotional marchers.

In a tragic six months, 11-year-old Zoe Buttigieg and 49-year-old Karen Chetcuti were violently killed in separate events and



men arrested for their murders. The people of Wangaratta were determined to stop it happening again.

March organisers Tania Maxwell and Carol Roadknight have called for reforms to the justice system including harsher jail sentences, parole reforms with mandatory supervision and a public sex offender register.

"You are now the voice for people in the community who no longer have a voice," Ms Maxwell said. "A system meant to protect you, me, your families, your wife, your children is not working. She has been left numb by the feeling of "not again" and let down by the people elected to protect the community.

"This just shouldn't happen – how many more deaths must it take?"

Ms Maxwell said.

"Politicians, we will continue this fight. You will be so sick of hearing 'enough is enough'." Marchers also signed a petition for tougher sentencing and parole, which will be presented to state politicians.

An emotional Ms Roadknight, who was a friend of Ms Chetcuti's, said it was sad the rally had to happen at all. "The destruction of the people; their family and friends that this leaves behind," she said.

Indi Liberal candidate Sophie Mirabella addressed the crowd and revealed she had a family member who was a victim of sexual assault. She said the justice system failed victims. "You would think that when these perpetrators do get convicted in court, we could actually get some protection, you think they'd stay in prison long enough, you think when they get out, we could actually know where the hell they live," Mrs Mirabella said. *Some content is courtesy of The Border Mail*

"There's all this talk about the rights of a sex offender and their right to privacy, well bugger that bloody right."

Bruce and Denise Morcombe joined the rally and spoke briefly to the crowd about their efforts to have the Northern Territory's proposed legislation 'Daniel's Law' passed in parliament. Should it do so the N.T. will be the first jurisdiction in Australia to have a public accessible sex offender's website.

They reported it is easier said than done. The Bill had been withdrawn for amendments to the draft and they look forward to its progress in the coming weeks. Derryn Hinch, a long term justice campaigner also spoke about maintaining the rage and eventually this must bear fruit.

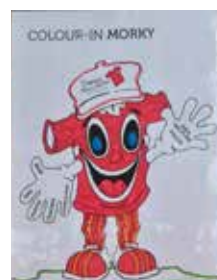
School Visits

How sweet it is to go back to the coal face during Term 1 and teach our kids about their personal safety. Bruce and Denise Morcombe always comment that the most enjoyable aspect of all their work at the DMF is visiting these kids.

School after school, with many students wearing red to coincide with their visit, are so upbeat and excited, it is hard for them to maintain their composure.



School halls and class rooms are often displaying safety messages and always, red is the dominant colour. Teachers and parents warmly thank the Morcombes for their visit and for making it 'real' for the kids.



Their presentation is from the heart and is never about scaring the children. The messages are well rehearsed and refined over the years. They are all centred on the 3 key words of Recognise, React and Report.

In total, in excess of 400 Queensland schools and another 100 schools interstate have been visited personally by Bruce and Denise Morcombe since September 2011 when they were appointed as Queensland Child Safety Ambassadors.

With trips already planned to visit Weipa, Doomadgee, Burketown, Thursday Island, Moranbah, Biloela, Emerald, plus Townsville, Rockhampton and so on, the 2016 diary is pretty much full.

Follow their trips on Facebook and if you are interested in a visit then please contact Robin via email at: robin@danielmorcombe.com.au

Dinner for Daniel

An event held on Saturday 5th March at the Mulwala RSL in honour of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation raised more than \$10,000.

About 240 people attended the dinner, which included live music by the Andrew Wishart Band and presentations by AFL football identity Sam Newman.



Bruce and Denise Morcombe attended the event and paid tribute to organiser Prue McGlynn who did an amazing job. Red dresses, ties and shoes contributed to the 'splash of red' theme.

A talking point of the night was the enormous cake created for the occasion. The Morcombes were also keen to express their thanks to the many sponsors and guests who had made the event such a success.

"The Foundation assists teachers, parents and carers to educate children about the importance of their personal safety and assist young victims of crime." Denise explained in her speech.

Celebrity speaker Sam Newman entertained the crowd with his outrageously funny stories. He was very generous with his time, having his photo taken and dancing with some of the guests!

Sam is also a compassionate man and sensed the moment while on stage to voice his support to 'Day for Daniel' by adding Friday 28th October to his diary.

Walk Tall Program

The 'Walk Tall' counselling service, a partnership between the Daniel Morcombe Foundation and ACT for Kids is going from strength to strength.

It is unfortunate that community demand necessitates an expansion of this service but these are the facts.



Soon the service is expected to grow from 1 counsellor to 3. Funded by the DMF with back end support provided by ACT for Kids, it truly is a demonstration of two like-minded not for profit organisations getting the best bang for their collective buck.

Reducing duplication and waste and working for a common aim is proof that both organisations only have the interests of repairing young damaged lives at heart.

Keeping Kids Safe

Plans are underway for our award winning child safety resource kit to be supplemented with new material.

Expected for release during Child Protection Week in September, the already extensive material will be supplemented with topics to cover Respectful Relationships and a new section for parents on Internet Safety.



Epix Entertainment will again produce and co-write our videos, the content of which will be upbeat and interesting with a serious and important message.

Dance for Daniel in Mackay

Tickets will soon be on sale for the 2nd Dance for Daniel in Mackay. Last year was a great success.

Parents, community leaders, teachers, child care workers and police attended the gala event.



Stand by for all the information as we get closer but for now please reserve Saturday September 3rd.

Daniel's Law

We carried out an impromptu social media survey in February. Within 24 hours of its post, some 11,918 (98%) people voted 'yes' and 241 (2%) people voted 'no'.

The Facebook post about Daniel's Law also generated over 8,600 likes, 2,375 comments and sub comments and was shared by 6,500 people and those shares would no doubt have generated additional comments and likes on the sharers' individual Facebook pages.

The National interest is strong. Time will tell if it gets up! Unfortunately, it is seen as controversial in some quarters.

We do not agree, but we will keep doing what we do, because we believe in it to keep our kids safe.



Dance Video Competition DANCE FEVER FOR DANIEL

Dance Fever for Daniel competition is back for 2016.

Meet your curriculum compliance and win \$10,000 for doing so. It's fun, interactive and will bring out the creativity in your students. The competition will open on the 13th of June (Queens Birthday) and close in week 8 Term 4 on 21st of November 2016. Call Dancefever Multisport on 07 3267 7885 or 0402 146 708 to receive your information pack.

2015 finalists



View the full videos on our website

Drive for Daniel

A hot and humid tropical day greeted players for the 5th Annual 'Drive for Daniel' charity golf day held at the Carbrook Golf Club on Friday 18th March.

Close to 200 members from the Qld Travel industry teed off for a full day of fun. There were loads of great raffle prizes from trips to New Zealand, hotel vouchers, Euro train passes and the grand prize donated by Korean Airlines where the lucky winner received return flights to Paris for 2. People travelled from as far as Sydney and Darwin to attend the event, all dressed in Red, it was great to see so many familiar faces again.

Our thanks to Sharon Hando, Danny Roach and committee, Scott from Carbrook Golf Club, Kenny Koala, the photographer and sponsors of the holes who organised fabulous activities on the course. The winning team also received our Perpetual Morky trophy.



Day for Daniel

Friday 28 October 2016



Australia's largest and most successful child safety awareness day is back for 2016.

Last year, more than 1,000,000 children started a conversation with their parents or were actively taught in school about their personal safety on our national day-of-action.

This year we hope to have 3,000 schools officially register via our website. It is open to all schools and businesses. We ask that everyone get behind our efforts and support us on our special day, where we collectively, as a nation say that crimes against children have no place in modern Australia. Check out more information and our free resources online. Day for Daniel 2016 is October 28th.

Register online and get a free starter pack!

DayForDaniel.com.au

