



Wearing a bikini to bring attention to Crohn's disease

THERE are many things a 26-year-old construction worker would do for a few laughs, but donning a bikini and strutting around the beach is probably not one of them.

Unless you're the brave Daniel Searle who is doing it for a good cause.

Grafton-born turned Brisbanite, Daniel will today wear a bikini around Brisbane to reveal his scars from multiple surgeries he has had since being diagnosed with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis 14 years ago.

Daniel was inspired to recreate a photograph posted on social media earlier this month by UK woman Bethany Townsend, who has suffered from Crohn's Disease for two decades, which revealed her scars and colostomy bag.

The photograph prompted a global outpouring of

support for people living with IBD and encouraged thousands of people to participate in a wider Get Your Belly Out campaign.

Daniel is on a mission to raise \$5,000 before the end of the month and is appealing to people to show their support for people living with IBD, which burdens more than 1 in 250 people nationally.

"I posted Bethany's photo to my Facebook page earlier this month, which prompted a number of my mates to challenge me to strip down to a bikini too.

It started off as a bit of a laugh, but so far I've managed to raise more than \$2,500 for a cause very close to my heart, all in return for

baring a bit of skin," said Mr Searle.

CEO of Crohn's & Colitis Australia, Francesca Manglaviti, will fly to Brisbane today to support Daniel's

efforts to raise awareness and much-needed funds to support those living with IBD.

"It takes a very brave young man to don a bikini in front of his home city and colleagues, and we are incredibly proud of Daniel for taking the initiative to start a widespread public conversation about the impact of IBD," Ms Manglaviti said.

For further information or to support Crohn's and Colitis Australia, visit www.crohnsandcolitis.com.au or phone 1800 138 029.



'KINI FOR A CAUSE: Daniel Searle will strut around in a bikini on this beach today to raise awareness for Crohn's and Colitis Australia.