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The Courier-Mail

Brisbane North News

Brisbane project manager Daniel Searle reveals all in fight for Crohn's disease and colitis cure

- by: **Alicia Nally**
- From: Quest Newspapers
- July 26, 2014 12:00AM

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Daniel Searle poses in a bikini in the manner of a recent viral internet photo, to raise awareness and funds for Crohn's disease. TV crews and photographers record the event. Photographer: Russell Brown.

Source: News Limited

WHEN Daniel Searle came across a pic of bikini-clad UK 23-year-old Bethany Townsend on Facebook, his first thought was, 'she's banging hot'.

Then he thought how much the photo of a fellow Crohn's disease and colitis sufferer, with colostomy bag on full show, was breaking down the stigma of the illness and wanted to join in.

Spurred on by good friend Lauren Campbell, the 26-year-old project manager from Stafford, who was diagnosed as a 12-year-old, has thrown down a humorous and equally head-turning challenge.

SEE THE PICS OF BETHANY TOWNSEND HERE: Beauty reveals colostomy bag (<http://www.couriermail.com.au/lifestyle/beauty/picture-of-bethany-townsend-with-colostomy-bag-goes-viral/story-fnjcnzgw-1226975053562>)

Picture of Bethany Townsend with colostomy bag goes viral

This story was published: 23 DAYS AGO | JULY 02, 2014 10:53AM

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Bethany Townsend is an internet sensation after posting a bikini picture of herself with a colostomy bag. Caters News / Source: Picture Media

A STUNNING brunette has become an internet sensation after bravely posting a bikini snap on Facebook that exposes her colostomy bags.



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This story, on news.com.au, showed Bethany Townsend in a bikini with her colostomy bag.
Source: Supplied

He's hoping to raise \$5000 for research into a cure for the debilitating conditions after making the bold move to follow Ms Townsend's lead and pose in a bikini - in front of his construction worker colleagues.

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It is a project Mr Searle hopes reaches to the soul of an image-conscious society.

"For anyone in this age bracket to have a colostomy bag, it's the whole image thing which you shouldn't care about but you do," he said.

"I was teased a bit at high school because the medication I was on stunted my growth ... but I'm the sort of person who doesn't worry about that."

Mr Searle's body is also riddled with scars from numerous failed operations to mend his digestive tract.

He has worn a colostomy bag since 2011 and his body has slowly started healing.



Stafford project manager Daniel Searle poses in a bikini in the manner of a recent viral internet photo, to raise awareness and funds for Crohn's disease. Daniel strips to his bikini. Photographer: Russell Brown.

Source: News Limited

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When she first met him at the Normanby Hotel this year, Ms Campbell said she never would have guessed at Mr Searle's illness.

"He's living a normal life, you wouldn't know," she said.

"(His story) makes me appreciate my life and health a lot more. It makes you want to look after yourself."

Good mate Jamie Want, who has known Mr Searle since they were a school together in Grafton, NSW, is helping to spread the story.

"He's a pretty strong little fellow and he doesn't like taking help from people too often," he said.

"I think it's good that he's finally got the confidence to do something like this. He's not been a very confident person because of all he's been through."

Despite the hard yards, Mr Searle has been determined to live life to the full, studying, travelling overseas, going to the gym and playing footy.

"I've had to sacrifice a bit, but it's been worth it."

To donate to Mr Searle's campaign visit the **Everyday Hero website**. (https://give.everydayhero.com/au/daniel-to-reinvent-bethany-townsend-viral-photo#post_266675)

Click here to email the reporter. (<mailto:alicia.nally@news.com.au>)

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charles

Jul 26, 2014

HANG IN THERE Daniel..lol!

Like Reply

George

Jul 26, 2014

Marijuana would have saved them both from surgery. Even better would have been not to wreck their immune systems with vaccinations.

Like Reply



Axel

Jul 26, 2014

@George Yeah right George , so when you get Measels you'l toke a joint or three and not care that now you will never be able to father children , or catch a dose of Polio you'll just smoke your way through it ... yeah right

Like Reply

Paul

Jul 26, 2014

This proves absolutely nothing except that some people will go to any lengths to get themselves noticed, 15 minutes of fame and all that. Why is this even a news story?

People have their own idea of body image and some clowns showing off their not so beautiful bodies is not really going to change their minds, in fact it will probably reinforce their views.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)



Sam

Jul 26, 2014

@Paul Its a news story Paul because Daniel is raising awareness for people suffering with Crohn's Disease. Obviously you know absolutely nothing about the disease and the suffering that people can go through on a daily basis. Your comment is totally irrelevant!

16 [Like](#) [Reply](#)



Charles

Jul 26, 2014

@Sam @Paul Why do you say that Sam?

[Like](#) [Reply](#)



Anne

Jul 26, 2014

Paul, My son had ulcerative colitis and had his large bowel removed when nothing more could be done with medication and I know how much he struggled with having a bag, even though it was only for 8 weeks till the next stage of the procedure. So I applaud Daniel and wish him all the very best. His story goes way beyond simple body image!!

10 [Like](#) [Reply](#)



Noel

Jul 26, 2014

@Paul Paul, congratulations, you really are a mug!

6 [Like](#) [Reply](#)

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