

Missing people prompt action

Jared Beaman
100 people are reported missing every 24 hours in Australia. These people all have families, friends and commitments and their disappearances have lasting consequences for those closest to them.

coming up to 27 years now since she disappeared and still nobody knows what happened to her.

"This day is about honouring the memory of Ursula as well as providing a platform for other families to get together in a positive way and remember their missing person."

Recently, Kings Cross detectives from Sydney decided to re-look into Ursula's case. Two detectives attended 'Picnic for Ursula', using the occasion to talk to Ursula's family members and former acquaintances for leads that could turn up new information related to her case.

"I wrote a book last year called 'Write About Me'. The book is a fiction novel but it's inspired by Ursula's story," said Melissa. "One of the things I noticed when Ursula went missing in 1987 was that nobody talked about it and there was a very broad gap between the police and the families of the missing persons."

"Missing persons cases were very low priority in the 1980's and therefore Ursula's case was very low priority. As part of releasing my book last year and sharing the



Missing Persons Advocacy Network (MPAN) founder Loren O'Keeffe with author Melissa Jane Pouliot at the 'Picnic for Ursula' event held on the weekend.

story of Ursula, a lot of people have come forward with new information about her case.

"We're very excited to have two detectives from

Kings Cross who are taking a fresh look at Ursula's file and gathering information from friends and family of Ursula to see if they can piece together some more information and find out what might have happened to her."

The day before the

picnic, Melissa spent time at Quirindi High School which she attended with Ursula during the 1980's. While there she made an address to students at a special assembly.

"I spoke about my journey as an author, writing my book 'Write About Me' and some of

the messages around how the community needs to be proactive in helping find missing people and how the community needs to work closely with the police," she explained.

Melissa also held a class for Year 11 Advanced English students, offering advice on fiction and long

form writing.

She then headed off to Tamworth on Saturday afternoon to present at Tamworth City Library as part of their 'Author Talk' series.

You can find out more or purchase Melissa's book 'Write About Me' on Amazon.



Melissa Jane Pouliot, author of the bestselling novel 'Write About Me', drops in at Quirindi High School to give advice to Yr 11 Advanced English students.

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