

Geraldton Donor Awareness Fountain



On the 15th September 2008 our daughter Alysha was tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident on the Brand Highway, approximately 200 kilometres north of Perth. Within a few short hours we had to make the difficult decision as to whether we would consent to our daughter being a donor. It is impossible to explain all the emotions that we were dealing with at that time. Our decision was fortunately made so much easier as we had the discussion with our daughter on organ donation only two weeks previous to the accident.

In the year of our daughter's accident over 13 000 people died in Western Australia but only 69 donated. It became very evident to us that the importance of organ/tissue donation needed to be highlighted within the community as there were so many recipients on the waiting list for donor organs/tissues.

Currently, we are working with the local council, the City of Geraldton – Greenough to help raise awareness by erecting a Donor Awareness Fountain. This project is aimed to reach the communities north to Carnarvon, east to Wiluna and south to Three Springs.

The Awareness Fountain will:

- Raise awareness of the importance of organ/tissue donation within the community.
- Offer a meeting place for families to come together and celebrate life.
- Serve as a place of reflection for donor families and recipients.
- Give donor families an opportunity to have the name of their loved one inscribed on an honour board paying tribute to their final act of generosity.

We are seeking financial assistance to help with this project. Donations can be made through Transplant Australia nominating the Geraldton Awareness Fountain Trust. Anyone wanting to find out more about the awareness fountain please email mcdowell@bigfoot.com.au.

Bruce and Karen McDowell