

14 March 2012

LORD MAYOR TO WELCOME WORLD HARMONY RUN TO ADELAIDE

Lord Mayor Stephen Yarwood will welcome the 2012 World Harmony Run to Adelaide on Monday 19th March as it makes its way around the world symbolising humanity's universal aspiration for a more harmonious world.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the run, which is one of the world's largest and most enduring efforts for peace. Since its inception in 1987, the torch relay has visited more than 140 nations and thousands of communities.

The Run does not seek to raise money or highlight any political cause, but simply strives to create goodwill among people of all nations.

"The World Harmony Run provides an opportunity to become more aware and accepting of diversity and develop a better appreciation of other cultures," Stephen said.

"I'm honoured to be participating in the Australian Opening Ceremony and to offer my support toward creating a more peaceful and harmonious world."

This year, Australia is part of an eleven-country Asia-Pacific run starting in Auckland before arriving in Adelaide. American runner Adhiratha Keefe, who served three decades at the United Nations, will be carrying the torch to Australia from New Zealand.

School children will be offering music, dance and recitations on the theme of peace at the ceremony in Rundle Mall. The ceremony will conclude with the release of 25 doves to honour the 25th anniversary of the event.

From there, the runners will start on a 8 day journey from Adelaide to Melbourne, visiting thousands of school children and local communities along the way.

Every year the Run visits countless schools in more than 100 countries around the world. Students get to meet the runners, hold the torch and express their own hopes and dreams for a more harmonious world through various expressions of sports, music and art.

From Melbourne, the run continues through to Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Mongolia, Russia and then all the way to Kazakhstan, covering 14,440 kilometres.

World peace dreamer Sri Chinmoy, founder of this peace run once said, "Now we are all exercising the love of power. But a day will come when this world of ours will be inundated with the power that loves. Only the power that loves can change the world. World peace can be achieved, revealed, offered and manifested on earth when in each person the power of love replaces the love of power."

The opening ceremony will be held at 12.30pm in Rundle Mall on Monday 19th March. For more information about the World Harmony Day Run, please visit www.worldharmonyrun.org or phone event coordinator Anubha Baird 045 009 2708.

Media contact: Paula Stevens, 8203 7760 or 0427 910 554
