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14 NATIONS RUNNING FOR WORLD HARMONY

Beginning on April 27 a team of runners from 14 nations will run more than 15,000kms around Australia carrying a blazing torch of peace with Olympian Tatiana Grigorieva and the Premier of Queensland Anna Bligh leading the way.

Since jumping into the spotlight at the 2000 Olympic Games, former Russian Tatiana Grigorieva has since become a symbol for Australia's multiculturalism and will continue this in her new role as Sports Ambassador and an official spokesperson for the World Harmony Run held throughout April to August in Australia.

Tatiana will join Queensland cricketer Michael Kasprovicz and Queensland Premier Anna Bligh at the Opening Ceremony in Brisbane on April 27th. They will join a long list of world and spiritual leaders including Mikhail Gorbachev, Nelson Mandela and Mother Teresa as well as athletes and celebrities such as Cathy Freeman, Carl Lewis, Jon Bon Jovi and Arnold Schwarzenegger who have supported the event over the last twenty years.

The global torch relay, an initiative of eminent spiritual leader and accomplished athlete Sri Chinmoy in 1987, unites thousands of communities and millions of people in over 100 countries from Antarctica and the North Pole to even outer space in a Russian Space Ship. 2008 will be the first time the relay has run a continuous route around Australia and will see a team of runners from 14 nations run more than 15,000kms around our continent all in the name of world harmony. The runners will take in the heights of Mt Kosciusko, the never-ending flatness of the Nullarbor, the sparseness of the Great Sandy Desert and the green beauty of Kakadu.

National Patron Ron Clarke, running legend and Mayor of the Gold Coast says, "The Run will bridge cultural and social barriers and all the boundaries that separate nation from nation."

The Opening Ceremony will be held this Sunday April 27th at 9.00am at Riverstage, City Botanic Gardens. Queenslanders are invited to attend the ceremony and are welcome to join the run for a lap of the Botanic Gardens. The relay will then make its way to the first stop on the Gold Coast arriving on Monday where Ron Clarke will meet the torch at Justins Park, Burleigh Heads (just north of the Burleigh Heads Surf Club). Events will also be held in a number of major cities along the way including Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Hobart, Adelaide, Perth and Darwin.

For more information, a map of towns and cities the torch will go through as well as a "Live From The Road" blog go to <http://www.worldharmonyrun.org.au>

CONTACT INFORMATION

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