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NEWCASTLE TEDDY BEARS JOIN WORLD HARMONY RUN

The World Harmony Run will make a stop in Newcastle next week to hand over a number of teddy bears to some very special children

Runners from 14 nations taking part in the World Harmony Run around Australia, which started on April 27th in Brisbane, will be stopping in Newcastle to give one hundred teddy bears donated by people from around Australia to Newcastle and the Central Coast's disadvantaged children.

The event to be held at City Hall on Tuesday May 6 at 9am will also be attended by Lord Mayor Clr John Tate along with representatives from Jenny's Place – the refuge where the teddy bears will be given to children.

The organisers of the Run see this as the perfect way to spread the message of the World Harmony Run – to share and give joy to others. A similar event held in Geelong last year was attended by Julia Gillard. At the event one little girl came to the microphone and said to Ms Gillard 'if someone wants to fight, you can take your teddy bear and hug it instead'. Ms Gillard liked the idea so much she said she was going to take the idea back to Parliament.

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."

After Newcastle, the Run will next head to Sydney arriving on May 9th. Other major events will also be held in a number of major cities along the way including Canberra, Melbourne, Hobart, Adelaide, Perth and Darwin. The relay run will finish in Brisbane on August 15th.

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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