



Scouts Australia receives award for 'International Understanding & Peace'

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The ANZAC Peace Prize, announced annually, is awarded by the Returned and Services League (RSL) to recognise any outstanding effort by an Australian citizen who has promoted the concept of international understanding and who, in so doing, has made a contribution to world peace. The RSL ANZAC Awards Committee has awarded the 2008 ANZAC Peace Prize to Scouts Australia. 2008 is the Year of the Scout and marks the centenary of Scouting in Australia. The award of the ANZAC Peace Prize recognises the part that Scouting has played in the development of two million Australians over the past 100 years, both as individuals and as citizens.

Today young men and women, boys and girls, continue to enjoy the benefits of belonging to the largest youth movement in the world, with more than 28 million members in 155 countries. International Scout Jamborees, whether they have been held in Australia or in other countries, have brought young people and their leaders together from all parts of the world, regardless of nationality, creed or religion. The friendships thus established have made a significant contribution to international goodwill and understanding, and to world peace.

Major General Bill Crews AO (Retd), RSL National President has also announced the ANZAC of the Year Awards which are made annually to recognise the efforts and achievements of up to seven Australians who have given service to their fellow Australians and to the community in a positive, selfless and compassionate manner.

The 2008 ANZAC of the Year awards have been made to:

- Mr James Bourke MG of Victoria for his perseverance, dedication and leadership in the work of Operation Aussies Home and his team's endeavours to recover Australian soldiers Missing-in-Action in the Vietnam War.
- Mrs Carolyn McColl of New South Wales for her voluntary work on numerous committees and fund raising projects in the communities of Pambula/Merimbula on the South Coast of NSW.
- Mr Harry Toole of Victoria for his tireless work as a volunteer in the community of Clunes, Victoria.
- Mr Jonathon Welch of Victoria for his untiring, tenacious and inspirational work with disadvantaged and homeless men and women in establishing the Choir of Hard Knocks.