

Special Achievement Award for 2008

Presented to

Imam Yusuf Peer

by

Mustafa Ally

on behalf of the Crescents of Brisbane Team

Assalamuilaikum

Each year at CresWalk we honour an unsung hero in our community – someone who has contributed selflessly of their time, effort or resources to the upliftment of the community or has demonstrated extraordinary courage or fortitude in coping with adversity.

One such hero of the community was Ebrahimbhai Patel who, sadly, passed away this week at the age of 84. Haji Patel was passionate about his health and a loyal supporter of CresWalk. He was the very first recipient of the Crescents of Brisbane Special Achievement Award in 2004 and this year would have marked his fifth appearance at CresWalk. I ask you to remember him in your prayers and your duas

In honour of his memory we have decided to rename the Crescents of Brisbane Special Achievement Award to the Haji Ebrahim Patel Special Achievement Award.

So this year we take great pleasure in recognizing the work and contributions of another individual in our community.

Before I say who he is I want to describe just some of the work he does in the community and I am sure it won't take you long to work out to whom the Haji Ebrahim Patel Special Achievement Award is going out to this year – such is the measure and popularity of the man.

Incidentally he has no idea that he is going to be receiving this award so let's hope that he recognizes himself from this short biography.

I'll start by saying that no wedding reception is ever complete without THE MOUSE JOKE!

This year's Special Achievement Award recipient is instantly recognizable as the public face of the Muslim community of Queensland – not only from his appearance as a Blue Card holder in a government sponsored TV commercial.

His cheerful disposition and disarming personality immediately puts paid to the stereotypical image of the white capped and robed, bearded Muslim.

Over the years he has been at the forefront of projecting the positive image of Islam through his work in the wider community and with interfaith groups.

As teacher, mentor and counsellor he has helped many individuals and families through their trials and tribulations.

What I like to refer to as The Flying Moulana Services takes him to Mackay every second Sunday where he teaches young children about Islam.

Ever willing to support a good cause, he has initiated and co-ordinated a number of projects over the years including the RE programs at our public schools, Imam Councils and fund raisers.

Time does not permit me to do full justice to his long list of achievements and contributions and so without further ado I call on Imam Yusuf Peer to accept the Haji Ebrahim Patel Special Achievement Award for 2008.