

International Safety Awards for City Safety Manager

Community Safety Manager with Latrobe City and Latrobe First Ambassador, Henk Harberts recently attended the 13th International Safe Communities Conference in Prague, capital of the Czech Republic. Whilst there, Henk was presented with the inaugural 'International Distinguished Safe Community Award'.

The award was presented at the Conference Dinner on behalf of the global network by Professor Leif Svanstrom, Director of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Collaborating Centre on 'Community Safety Promotion' based at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. Professor Svanstrom, said, "Mr Henk Harberts is outstanding in the field of Safe Community Practice. He has the best of pre-requisites for working in the field and is leading this area nationally and internationally".

Mr Harberts was also the recipient of a Scholarship awarded by the Organising Committee of the 14th International WHO Safe Community Conference to be held in Norway in June 2005. The award covers all costs associated with travel, registration and accommodation to attend the 2005 Conference and requires the recipient to provide a keynote address at that Conference.

Whilst in Europe Henk also attended the 7th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion in Vienna, Austria. Vienna became the 81st community to become an accredited WHO 'Safe Community'. Latrobe City became the 15th accredited 'Safe Community' in 1996.

Henk presented a paper at the Prague Conference outlining a decade of community safety promotion in Latrobe City and Victoria.

Professor Svanstrom went onto to say, "He approaches the area with great humbleness - understanding that community safety needs a sustained and long-term down-to-earth strategy. He is always willing to share that experience in all contacts. He was instrumental in the early development of the movement, among other initiatives through organising an international safe community conference and also travelling seminars. He has been involved in the core group of international advisers for more than a decade. For us no one was more natural for the first Award than Henk."

During the last decade, Henk has travelled throughout Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Scandinavia, South Africa, North America and Asia (Korea and China) in supporting the development of the WHO Safe Community Network. Much of this has come with the success achieved in reducing injury and promoting safety in Latrobe. The Latrobe City program evaluations were published internationally in the British Medical Journal - 'Injury Prevention' in 2001 by Monash University Accident Research Centre, Clayton.

Copies of Conference papers and additional information are available from Community Safety Promotion at Latrobe City Tel: 03 51 285634.



Pictured at the SafeComm 13 Conference held in Prague, Czech Republic are (L to R) Erik Brekke, Chair, Norwegian Organising Committee for 14th International WHO 'Safe Community' Conference. Yousif Rahim, Safe Norway. Henk Harberts, Latrobe City Safety, Australia and Professor Leif Svanstrom, Director, WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion, Karolinska Institute, Sweden.