

Our Australian Heroes

Peace keeping, many Australians may be unaware of exactly what the term “Peace keeping” entails. Many may assume it means going into an already peaceful environment and simply keep the peace if any trouble arouses. Some may assume that it means a fleet of soldiers running, guns blazing into battle against militants or troublesome gangs that are compromising the lives of civilians. Yes, the two examples could be what Australians do overseas. However I think it is important that every Australian citizen is aware of what other Australian men and women are doing overseas in foreign countries to “keep the peace”.

Medical support, the distribution of humanitarian aid, demining an area, observing a cease fire and of course helping to provide law and order in countries, these are just a few of the roles that Australian peace keepers can play overseas. The Australian men and women that are overseas uphold the strongest Australian qualities possible. Because in the opinion of many Australians there is nothing more “Aussie” giving another bloke a hand whether you know them or not. This is effectively what Australian peace keepers are doing. It is the biggest commitment that Australia could ever ask a person to do. To be asked to leave your country, your wife and kids, and your home behind, to go and serve in another country for the good of others is a massive request. Any Australian that has accepted this request has obviously put others first instead of themselves. This quality alone is one that should be respected and cherished by all Australians.

The ADF should promote these values of leadership, courage, commitment and patriotism in the future in effort to develop the strength of Australian culture and encourage younger people to develop Australian traditions and set a true example of what Australia truly is. If the younger generations of Australians are bought up with these values and traits every present all around them, then Australia’s future is in good stead to be a prosperous nation.

All Australian peace keepers who are serving or who have served should be commemorated by having their name engraved on a statue. The statue could be of an Australian peace keeper who is helping a wounded civilian, or an Australian peace keeper helping rebuilt a house or a school. Having this done will truly show the public of how much Australian peace keepers are appreciated and cherished for their work that they have done to aid Australia’s not only Australia’s reputation but aid other countries, governments, buildings and people.

By Isaac Riella.