

The 2009 Crescents of Brisbane/Haji Ebrahim Patel Annual Award

by

Mustafa Ally

This year we are proud to present the 2009 Crescents of Brisbane Haji Ebrahim Patel Award to Ms Janeth Deen.

Jenny has made helping others in need her life's passion. She has worked tirelessly and selflessly throughout her life from collecting second-hand clothes and organizing them into containers for shipment to Somalia to starting up the first Muslim welfare store in Australia.

And during all of these years she found time to work as a teacher at schools, help Asian children with their English and their Maths, care for her ailing mother, and look after her daughter's triplets (who are also here with us today).

While most people would consider retirement as a time to slow down, to take life easy and play bowls or golf Jenny Deen saw this as just the time and the opportunity to become involved in a new cause which she did by setting up the welfare shop and establishing the QMWA of which she is the President.

Anyone who has visited the shop will know the effort it takes in setting one up – from finding the right premises to fitting it out and managing it 6 days a week.

Jenny and her good friend Wilma Bothwell take in donations of clothes from people every day which they then have to unpack, wash, iron, sort and display. And they do all of this for no pay with all the profits from the shop going to worthy causes and people in need of financial assistance.

All of these responsibilities would have been a severe and stressful test for anyone half her age but Jenny takes them all in her stride and with a passion and a commitment that serves as a benchmark against which all of us could measure our own life's contribution to our fellow man.

I can't tell you of the hundreds of other good deeds that Jenny has done over the years partly because I don't have the time this morning to list them all and partly because I simply do not know of them because so much of what she has done for others in her life has been done quietly and privately.

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls I would like to call on Ms Janeth Deen to come forward and accept the Crescents of Brisbane Haji Ebrahim Patel Special Achievement Award for 2009 in recognition of her contribution to the community.