

Blessing of the Walpole (and Districts) Emergency Services Fleet

Recent fires in the South-West including Denmark have highlighted our dependence on emergency services.

The desire for sanctified protection, grace and peace is an ancient tradition across many cultures. The Australian Indigenous people (one of the longest continuing cultures in the world today) have great affinity to land, sacred consecrated areas, campfires (with its age-old fire, smoke and water) and ceremonial blessings.

Elizabeth (Betty) Pike, a Nyoongah woman from the south-west, wrote an Australian Blessing in 1997:

May you always stand tall as a tree
Be as strong as the rock Uluru
As gentle and still as the morning mist
Hold the warmth of the campfire in your heart,
And may the Creator spirit always walk with you.

So it is natural for us, at this time in particular, to want to bless our emergency services — to wish them protection, grace and peace.

With the leadership of the district's Anglican priest, Revd Sue Lodge-Calvert, this will happen at Pioneer Park, Walpole, next Saturday. There will also be a service of thanksgiving for emergency services at St George's Anglican church (Vista Street) at 12:30.

Thank a Volunteer Day

Saturday 3rd December is also being observed as our thank a volunteer day. So, here is an opportunity for all of Walpole to join in the blessing of the fleet and to thank a volunteer and celebrate our emergency services. And let's be clear — all our emergency responders are professionals (some are paid, most are not) and all (paid and unpaid) volunteer to help protect our community. For example, last week our two Walpole Police officers and many DEC staff and others volunteered their time, expertise and energy to help Denmark fight out of control bush fires.

So please support our emergency services by joining in the Blessing of the Fleet at Walpole next Saturday.