

Memorial Service

*Government House
Friday, January 1, 1999
2.00pm*

In response to the gifts of commitment,
time and energy given by the members of
the New South Wales Rural Fire Service
who spread a "Mantle of Safety"
over us and our community.



"Greater Love has no man than this; That a man lay down his life for his friends" John 15, verse 13"

The Firefighters' Hymn

1. Thank you for your great protection
Thank you God for answered prayer
As we strive to do our duty
Thank you for your constant care
When we go to fight each fire
Give us wisdom all the way
Let us never tire of serving
Be it night or be it day.
2. In the hills and in the valleys
Guide our steps, O Lord, each day
Give each one your strength and courage
Take our burdens all away.
When we sometimes are discouraged
Help us keep our thoughts on you
God will never leave us helpless
He will always see us through.
3. Thank you for the friends we've made here
And for sharing joys and tears
Help us to support each other
As we come to each new year
May you bless each family present
And all members far and near
Thank you for the bond between us
With God there's nothing we should fear.
Kay Cutmore – Terrey Hills Brigade

Benediction

Father God, May the beauty of your world.
And the loving wisdom of your words
Fill our hearts and light our ways today and everyday. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Return of the Flags

At the conclusion of the ceremony, His Excellency The Governor and Mrs Samuels invite you to join them for refreshments in the Eastern Gardens of Government House.

Order of Service

Introduction

When everyone is assembled, the Senior Chaplain introduces the ceremony with the following sentence from Psalm 46 verse 1.

God is our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble

The Greeting of Peace

(The Chaplain invites everyone present to exchange the Greeting of Peace in which we are invited to greet two strangers with a handshake and the greeting)

My name is.....; Peace be with you!

Procession of the Flag Party

National Anthem

“Advance Australia Fair”

Australians all let us rejoice
For we are young and free
We've golden soil and wealth for toil
Our home is girt by sea.
Our land abounds in Nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare,
In history's page let every stage
Advance Australia Fair
In joyful strains then let us sing
Advance Australia Fair.

Presentation of Flags

Service of Remembrance

The chaplain calls for a time of silence and asks everyone to remember the lives and work of volunteer firefighters who have died during fire fighting operations. We especially remember today those firefighters who died during the last ten years. We also remember their families.

The Placement of Memorial Stones

Laying of Floral Tributes

His Excellency Gordon Samuels, Governor of New South Wales
The Hon. Bob Carr MP, Premier of NSW
The Hon. Jeff Shaw MLC, Acting Minister for Emergency Services
Mrs Kerry Chikarovski MP, Leader of the Opposition
Commissioner Phil Koperberg, NSW Rural Fire Service

One Minute Silence

The Chaplain also calls prayer that the Lord will continue to shed His healing spirit on all those who have been injured while protecting their communities.

Declaration and Message

Captain Ron Anderson, Senior Chaplain NSW Rural Fire Service

Prayer of Dedication

May the Fire Fleet of The NSW Rural Fire Service be always under your protection, O Lord; May they and their equipment be maintained to your standards of safety, efficiency and effectiveness; May their crews be always alert, skilled and vigilant; May our lives be examples of your love and caring for the community; As the eagle broods in protection over her young, so may the Lord brood over us.

First Bible Reading: Luke, Chapter 10, verses 29-37 **Commissioner Phil Koperberg**

A teacher of the law wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbour?” Jesus replied and said, “A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho; and he fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went off leaving him half dead. And by chance a certain priest was going down on that road and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, and came to him, and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return, I will repay you.’ Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbour to the man who fell into the robbers’ hands?” And he said, “The one who showed mercy toward him.” And Jesus said to him, “Go and do the same.”

Reflection: “Who Is My Neighbour?”

Comment on the first reading, Senior Chaplain Ron Anderson

The parable of the Good Samaritan describes a man who took pity on a helpless victim and demonstrated Christlike compassion; Jesus tells us to “go and do the same.” As Christians and for those of us who are firefighters we have a responsibility to demonstrate love and compassion to others. There are often many barriers and obstacles that separate us from the people who need our help; but like the Good Samaritan, we should look beyond our own prejudices of selfish desires and focus on the needs of other. Ask the Lord to give you love and compassion for the needy. Then look for opportunities to demonstrate his love to others.

Address:

His Excellency Gordon Samuels, Governor of New South Wales

Hymn: The Lord's My Shepherd

Tune: Crimond

Rev. Philip Meaney, Associate Chaplain, Great Lakes

1. The Lord's my shepherd I'll not want
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green, He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.
2. My soul He doth restore again;
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
Ev'n for His own name's sake
3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet I will fear none ill;
For Thou art with me; and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.
4. My table Thou has furnished
In presence of my foes:
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.
5. Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me:
And in God's house for evermore
My dwelling-place shall be.

Prayer – Rev. Philip Meaney

Address:

The Honourable Bob Carr MP, Premier of New South Wales

Second Bible Reading: Joshua, chapter 4, verses 1-7 Superintendent Basil Smith, Fire Control Officer, Wingecarribee

When the whole nation had crossed the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, "Choose twelve men, one from each tribe, and command them to take twelve stones out of the middle of the Jordan, from the very place where the priests' feet are standing. Tell them to carry these stones with them and to put them down where you camp tonight." Then Joshua called the twelve men he had chosen, and he told them, "Go into the Jordan ahead of the Covenant Box of the Lord your God. Each one of you take a stone on your shoulder, one for each of the tribes of Israel. These stones will remind the people of what the Lord has done. In the future, when your children ask what these stones mean to you, you will tell them that the water of the Jordan stopped flowing when the Lord's Covenant Box crossed the river. These stones will become a memorial to the sons of Israel forever."

Third Bible Reading: Luke, chapter 12, verses 22-31

Deputy Captain, Warren Cree, Warringah Brigade

Then turning to his disciples he said, "Don't worry about whether you have enough food to eat or clothes to wear. For life consists of far more than food and clothes. Look at the ravens—they don't plant or harvest or have barns to store away their food, and yet they get along all right—for God feeds them. And you are far more valuable to Him than any birds! And besides, what's the use of worrying? What good does it do? Will it add a single day to your life? Or course not! And if worry can't even do such little things as that, what's the use of worrying over bigger things? Look at the lilies! They don't toil and spin, and yet Solomon in all his glory was not robed as well as they are. And if God provides clothing for the flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, don't you suppose that He will provide clothing for you, you doubters? And don't worry about food—what to eat and drink; don't worry at all that God will provide it for you. All mankind scratches for its daily bread, but your heavenly Father knows your needs. He will always give you all you need from day to day if you will make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.

Reflection: "One Apple at a Time"

Comment on the third reading, Senior Chaplain Ron Anderson

A child helps his mother put away apples. Putting his arms around ever so many, he tried to carry them all at once. He managed for a step or two, but then one fell out, then another, and two or three more, till all the apples were rolling on the floor. His mother laughed. Putting his tiny hands around one apple, she suggested that he carry the others in the same way. The thought for us is not to try and put our arms around a year or even a week. Rather say, "Here is another day begun. Lord help me to live it and give me just enough help and strength that I need." Rather than anxiously projecting ourselves beyond the present, we are to take one step at a time. If we carry tomorrow's burdens today, we may collapse under the load. How foolish it is to borrow trouble from tomorrow! We can trust God to meet our needs every day. So let's take just one "apple" at a time.

Hymn

1. Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me,
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believed!
3. Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.
4. The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

Welcome and Opening Address: Commissioner Phil Koperberg, NSW Rural Fire Service

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving Rev. Stephen Robinson – Associate Chaplain, Hastings

God, our provider, we thank you for the many ways you meet our needs. We rejoice that when we hunger and thirst after you, you respond and lead us to the springs of living water where our longing for a deeper relationship is met. In the difficult times of life when we are assailed with fears for our safety, thank you that you are a haven for us, where we are safe and protected from the negative forces that swirl about us and within us. When we doubt your love for us, or find it hard to express our love for you, thank you for the security that we are eternally yours, and that nothing can pluck us from your hand. Shepherd God, we rest secure in our relationship with you. Amen.

The Firefighters' Prayer

O God, You have given us the task of helping those in trouble and danger, of saving life and property.
Help us to do our job well, to do it with pride and pleasure, for sometimes we risk our lives.
When we think of the dangers and we remember those who gave their lives in facing them, help us to remember what Jesus said:
'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends'
We thank you for the mateship we enjoy'
And for our loved ones who support us through it all
Lord Jesus, you alone are the Saviour of the World.
Help, strengthen and protect us from danger as we seek to serve you, one another and the community that we may be ready to risk all in order to save others.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
Who gave His own life that we may live forever with You. Amen.

The Blessing to Each Other

The chaplain leads all that are gathered in saying together;

**May my commitment to you my friends, my family,
my community and my colleagues give you life, safety and protection.
May I accept your commitment to me and may we live in peace and love.**

