



ORDER OF SAINT JOHN OF JERUSALEM KNIGHTS HOSPITALLER-AUSTRALASIA

Under the Constitution given by His Late Majesty King Peter II of Yugoslavia
Lieutenant Grand Master O.S.J. Malta H.E. Bailiff Paul Borg OSJ

PRIORY OF VICTORIA

Commanderies of Geelong & Ballarat
Mornington Peninsula Gippsland Group, Melbourne – Metro Group,
Members in Queensland, NSW, New Zealand & Indonesia
Pro Fide Pro Utilitate Hominum – For Faith for Service to Humanity
ABN 16 004 656 964

1 May 2022

An open letter to all members of the Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller

As a Hospitaller Order, we have undertaken to help those in our community who through their professional and personal lives as first responders have had their lives turned upside down by being afflicted with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Many of us, through no fault of our own, have been unaware of the trauma suffered by some of our first responders because of their experiences in having to attend and cope with sometimes unimaginable situations. Consider the attached photograph of two members of the Police force utterly exhausted, physically and mentally, after attending the recent tragic accident in the North of Tasmania where six children's lives were lost in a Jumping Castle tragedy. These are the sort of memories which will haunt those in attendance forever.

Our support through "Operation Hospitaller", the fundraising arm of the Major Events Committee, has been to raise funds to offer brief respite periods of two or three days to those affected by this mental disorder, and we do this through a group called the Code 9 Foundation. The founder of this group, Mark Thomas, himself a sufferer, co-ordinates the distribution of these respite periods and to date we have had great success in helping the lives of many afflicted first responders. I have enclosed a message received from the husband of "Sarah" [real name withheld], one of the recent beneficiaries of this respite for you to appreciate what a huge benefit it is.

Like most things in life, a programme such as this requires considerable funding, and thanks to the incredible personal support and generosity of some of our members we have been able to provide a welcome respite for many, but it will take more funding for us to continue providing this level of relief into the future.

If you believe you are in a position where you can help with a donation toward this worthwhile cause, could you please transfer your donation to: Order of St. John of Jerusalem BSB; 633000 Acc; 144789393

Please do not hesitate to make contact with the Chair of the Victorian Priory Major Events Committee, Chevalier David Rew 0418553691 regarding the programme or Chevalier Bernie Walshe KJSJ (Priory Treasurer Mob: 0419525 145) if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours in Saint John,

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