

# Police and families pay tribute to 159 fallen officers

IT WAS a solemn scene at Springvale Botanical Cemetery on Wednesday as Victoria Police commemorated the lives of fallen members.

Officers, families and friends were among those present for the annual End of Day reflection service at the Police Memorial, which recognised the 159 police officers who lost their lives in the line of duty since 1853.

Robert Hill said the experience – his first official appearance as Southern Metropolitan Region Assistant Commissioner – had been a sombre one.

“It was an occasion where we reflect and think about the ultimate sacrifices that unfortunately 159 police members have made over our proud history,” Assistant Commissioner Hill said.

“It was certainly important to Victoria Police to remind us of the service that we provide to the community and reflect upon the perils that we do face as members of Victoria Police from time to time.”

There was also a service held in St Kilda Rd, but Assistant Commissioner Hill said it was becoming more common for services to be held across the state.

“Communities are coming together to reflect and share with the policing community,” he said.



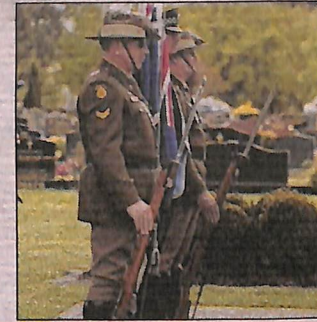
Sergeant Martin Park pays his respects; below, Deputy Commissioner Shane Patton spoke at the service, 13 wreaths were laid at the police memorial, the guard of honour looks on.

Picture: VALERIU CAMPAN

“It is a strong indication to us of the trust people put in us to keep them safe.”

Blue Ribbon Day is held each year on September 29 to coincide with the remembrance day.

It raises money for improved emergency facilities named in memory of fallen officers in Victoria’s public hospitals.



## Police honour the fallen

SPRINGVALE Botanical Cemetery honoured Victoria’s fallen police officers with a moving service.

The End of Day Reflection was part of National Police Remembrance Day on Tuesday 29 September.

Since Victoria Police was established in 1853, 159 officers have been killed in the line of duty.

Chief Commissioner Graham Ashton said their memories would live on forever.

“We are well aware of the dangers our members face,” he said.

“Yet every day, more than 13,000 police and 1100 protective services officers put on their uniforms and come to work to protect those around them.”

Senior Police Chaplain Reverend Dr John Broughton conducted

the service at the cemetery’s Police Memorial, which features a plaque commemorating each officer who died performing their duties.

Guests laid 13 wreaths and speakers included Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (SMCT) CEO Jane Grover and Victoria Police Deputy Commissioner Shane Patton.

Ms Grover described the service as an opportunity to “recognise the enormous debt we as a community owe the men and women of Victoria Police, who risk their well-being each and every day to keep our streets and neighbourhoods safe”.

The lowering of the Police Flag to half-mast while the Last Post played, a minute’s silence and the raising of the flag concluded the service.



A police officer salutes after laying a wreath. 144455

Pictures: ROB CAREW

SPRINGVALE Botanical Cemetery 5<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2015

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