

Time for Remembering

12PM | SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2026

To remember those who have died, acknowledge those who have been injured and recognise the impact of road trauma on our community.

amber community
ROAD INCIDENT SUPPORT & EDUCATION

From the binds of surety
There's a kind of emptying happening
Like all that knowing keeps slipping away
Out of reach
The rungs that I have tried to grasp
To cling to
To find a way to climb onto
And hold tightly
Have dissolved
And I am in free fall
Well, more like floating, really
And it feels kind of peaceful
This floating
This release from the binds of surety
As if adrift on the shore
Swaying to and fro with the waves
It has taken some 60 years
To remember not to swim.
Lynne Irving, 15.08.2025

In memory of Lynne Irving, a valued counsellor with Amber Community. Her gentle and compassionate support touched many lives. Lynne passed away in January this year.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

In the spirit of reconciliation Amber Community acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community.

We pay our respect to their elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

OPENING LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

Jeanette Suhr OAM

WELCOME

Renee Brauer and Merryn Wallace

RESPONSIVE READING

(Invitation to say together)

In the rising of the sun and in its going down, we remember them.
In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, we remember them.

In the opening of buds and in the re-birth of spring, we remember them.
In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer, we remember them.

In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn, we remember them.
In the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember them.

When we are weary and in need of strength, we remember them.
When we are lost and sick at heart, we remember them.

When we have joys we yearn to share, we remember them.
So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us, as we remember them.

'A LITTLE BIT OF HOPE'

Brunswick Women's Choir

AFFIRMATIONS
(Invitation to say together)

The tide recedes but leaves behind
bright seashells on the sand.
The sun goes down, but gentle
warmth still lingers on the land.
The music stops, and yet it echoes
on in sweet refrains...
For every joy that passes, something beautiful remains.

Something Beautiful Remains, Author Unknown

Sometimes,
it's not the grand gesture,
but the cup of tea,
the silent company,
the held hand,
the knowing glance.

These small things,
they anchor us.
They remind us,
we are not alone.

The Small Things, Anonymous

PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE Catherine Hannah

HARP SOLO Michael Johnson

WORDS OF CONTEMPLATION
I have not heard your voice in years.
But my heart has conversations.
With you everyday.
Jennifer Williamson

I give you this one thought to keep.
I am with you still. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on the snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am the swift, uplifting rush
of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not think of me as gone.
I am with you still in each new dawn.
Native American Poem

Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying "I will try again tomorrow."
Mary Anne Radmacher

HOPES OF THE PEOPLE
Brigit Pattak, Sue Hansford & Chris Harrison

CANDLES OF REMEMBRANCE
You are invited to light a candle of personal remembrance. Some names of people who have been injured or lost their lives on our roads will be read aloud as the candles are lit.

'LITTLE BLUE'
Brunswick Women's Choir

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMUNITY AND SERVICES INVOLVED IN ROAD TRAUMA OFFER THE FOLLOWING HOPES

THE BEREAVED Gerardine Eales
I come representing those who are bereaved – the family members and friends who now have the memory of those they love. (Brief silence)

(ALL) **We remember the many who have died as a result of road crashes. We give thanks for their lives and all that they have meant to ourselves and others. We support and offer comfort to those who grieve. We remember them.**

THOSE INJURED AND THEIR CARERS Bernie Zeven

I come representing those who suffer the effects of road trauma in body, mind and spirit and those who care for them. (Brief silence)

(ALL) **We recognise with compassion those who carry injury and disability following road trauma. We support them, their families and friends. May they be strengthened in hope and perseverance. We acknowledge them.**

THE WITNESSES Samantha Demmon

I come representing people who have witnessed a road incident and who have experienced a range of thoughts and feelings that can be difficult to process. (Brief silence)

(ALL) **We appreciate and support with care everyone who has been affected by road trauma, and who are weighed down by the sadness of what they have seen, heard and experienced. We acknowledge them.**

EMERGENCY SERVICES Mick Hermans

I come representing the emergency services – Ambulance, Fire Services, State Emergency Service and Victoria Police. Members see the impact of road trauma and do all they can to support the community. (Brief silence)

(ALL) **We recognise with gratitude the skills, knowledge and compassion of emergency service workers, past and present, and their deep commitment to the community. We acknowledge them.**

HEALTH AND HEALING SERVICES Stephen Heart

I come representing those who offer physical, emotional and spiritual support for people impacted by road trauma. We acknowledge people's pain and suffering, and help them adapt to the loss and changes they face. (Brief silence)

(ALL) **We gratefully recognise with thankfulness the skill and dedication of all health care professionals who treat and support those injured in body, mind and spirit. We appreciate them as they use their knowledge and skills to optimise health and instil hope for the future. We acknowledge them.**

THE LAW Stuart Le Grand

I come representing those involved in the making and administration of our laws. Through the law we seek to promote justice and responsible behaviour in all who use our roads, and we strive for fair outcomes. (Brief silence)

(ALL) **We recognise and respect those whose responsibility it is to make and administer laws for the sake of us all. We thank them for their wisdom in making decisions that help shape a just, caring and responsible community. We acknowledge them.**

OUR COMMUNITY Samantha Cockfield

I come representing the community. Our community is only as strong as the commitment we each give to its wellbeing. We acknowledge the responsibility we share for keeping our roads safe. (Brief silence)

(ALL) **We recognise everyone in our diverse community and acknowledge the ripple effect of road trauma. We reinforce our collective commitment to making our roads safer. We acknowledge them.**

'LIGHT OF A CLEAR BLUE MORNING'

Brunswick Women's Choir

CONCLUDING MESSAGE

And now our journey continues.
As we have remembered with love,
let us leave with renewed hope
to support and care for each other,
and with the determination to make our roads
safer for all who use them.

PLEASE STAY AND ENJOY REFRESHMENTS WITH US

THANK YOU

Time for Remembering is supported by the Transport Accident Commission

Bernie Zeven, Volunteer, Amber Community

Board directors, staff and volunteers of Amber Community for their tireless work

Brigit Pattak, Counsellor, Amber Community

Brunswick Women's Choir

Catherine Hannah, Volunteer, Amber Community

Chris Harrison, Manager, Education Services, Amber Community

Gerardine Eales, Volunteer, Amber Community

Jeanette Suhr OAM, Honorary Life Member and Co-founder, Amber Community for lighting the candle

Lisa Gelbart, Counsellor, Amber Community, for reading the names

Merryn Wallace, Chair, Amber Community

Michael Johnson, Harpist

Mick Hermans, Assistant Commissioner, Victoria Police

Renee Brauer, Manager, Counselling & Support Services, Amber Community

Samantha Cockfield, Executive General Manager, Road Safety, Transport Accident Commission

Samantha Demmon, Counsellor, Amber Community

Stephen Heart, Counsellor, Amber Community

Stuart LeGrand, former Board Director, Amber Community

Sue Hansford, Board Director, Amber Community

Amber Community's counselling services are free and available to people affected by road trauma contact 1300 367 797

1300 367 797
www.ambercommunity.org.au

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