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MEDIA RELEASE

BAYSWATER FIRE FIGHTERS WALKING TO FIND A CURE FOR CANCER

Bayswater Fire Brigade has had its fair share of first hand experiences with cancer, prompting a group of 15 volunteers to form a team to walk to find a cure for the disease.

Along with their essential role in protecting the community in an increasingly busy fire-risk area, Team Firewalkers will walk 25km on October 29 in the OneDay to Conquer Cancer event while two team members complete a 60Km ride on the same day.

The team was formed by 2nd Lieutenant Martin McFadyen who has been battling cancer for 18 months.

“It was an idea he floated on our Facebook page and within minutes there were many members putting their hands up to join the team and walk in support of Marty,” Brigade captain Diana Ferguson said.

“So we formed Team Firewalkers and made a commitment to raise \$7,000.”

Bayswater Fire Brigade is a 100 per cent volunteer brigade with 87 members who respond to between 400 and 500 calls each year and support other brigades across the region.

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria CEO Andrew Ford said volunteers like those at Bayswater are essential to public safety and provide a professional service that is effective and affordable.

“Bayswater is a fully volunteer brigade servicing a very busy urban risk environment, working alongside, supporting and being supported by surrounding brigades with paid firefighters and volunteers working together to keep the community safe,” Mr Ford said.

“Their commitment to the walk is just another example of how volunteers are part of the fabric of society and contribute to community resilience,” he added.

The volunteers are getting ready physically for the big challenge at Albert Park on October 29. “We’ve had numerous training days so we can put a few kilometres on our legs and get used to the pace we need on the day,” Ms Ferguson said. “These have been great to get the team together and with members bringing their dogs along it has been beneficial for our four-legged friends as well.”

“We’re a very enthusiastic brigade; last year we had a team in the Crown Towers stair walk.”

The brigade has had several members and their families battle cancer, including recently diagnosed founding Captain Alan Hodgkin.

“We will do everything we can to raise as much as we can so the Peter Mac Foundation can continue its ground-breaking research to hopefully OneDay find a cure for Cancer,” Ms Ferguson said.

“Please follow the link below and donate to Team Firewalkers as every little bit helps.”

http://participate.theoneday.org.au/site/TR/Walk/Melbourne2017/865690546;jsessionid=245EBB82BE1F532904ECC527BDEFDECB.app20102c?pg=team&fr_id=1110&team_id=3953

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