



# A NEW YEAR IN STEP WITH EACH OTHER

By Geoff Serpell

What a hot reception 2020 is receiving right round Australia as fires ravage our bush and towns large and small. This is following record high average temperatures and the longest droughts on record.

Though human loss of life has thankfully been low in contrast to previous conflagrations, the loss of stock, homes and other buildings as well as native wildlife and habitat is heartbreaking.

As an outcome it may well be that some dairy farming and other agriculture will be forever lost. Some tourist resorts may not also return as they were once known before the fires. What will be needed to rebuild, quite apart from

the government funding, and very generous donations, is that fighting determination, which was named in another theatre of war, the Anzac spirit.

My 2020 “Friendship Book” of daily readings, on January 7, reminds me of an Arab proverb which declares: “*All people are but the teeth of a comb.*” If the comb is strong enough, the head of tangled hair becomes untangled, the unruly is brought to order and each tooth of the comb has done its bit.

WE could liken the teeth of a comb to mean people standing side by side with their brothers and sisters to do a job that would be impossible for any of us to do on our own.

## Reflection:

*St. Paul in his first letter to the Greek city of Corinth, in Chapter 12, reminds about the different kinds of service and gifts, but the same Lord. Paul reminds us we are the body of Christ and each of us a part of it. All parts of the body are equal, and what ever the task, of equal importance. Throughout our land we are seeing this spirit which is needed now more than ever before.*