

2nd Nov
2015

DANDENONG

2nd NOVEMBER 2015

BUSINESS

Long arm of the law reaches 110 years

ONE of Dandenong's oldest businesses turns 110 this month.

When M+K Lawyers started in 1905, Jeffrey Macpherson would meet his clients in the bar at the Royal Hotel in Dandenong.

It is only relatively recently that the company has expanded beyond its Dandenong roots, with offices now in the city, Perth, Sydney and Brisbane, and 300 staff – 150 of whom are lawyers.

"The Macpherson family was part of Dandenong before Jeffrey came into law," managing principal James Sturgess said.

"His dad was principal of the high school, Jeffrey was a regular writer in the local paper under a pseudonym and the Macphersons were just part of the Dandenong community.

"Kelley then came along about 10 years later to join him in the practice. He married a niece of Macpherson and the rest is history."

One relationship of which Mr Burgess remains most proud is with the local council.

The company has worked with the City of Greater Dandenong, or the Shire of Dandenong as known then, since 1912 – 103 years ago.



M+K Lawyers Margaret Scullion, managing director James Sturgess and Debbie Kealy celebrating 110 years in Dandenong, and inset, where it all began. Picture: ANDY BROWNBILL

Mr Sturgess said many of the company's clients were iconic Dandenong businesses. "We want to ensure Dandenong businesses stay in Dandenong, grow and develop and continue to support this community," he

said. "Anything we can do to help them grow and develop and the community, we see that as one of our requirements. We genuinely like giving back to this community. We like giving back because it's given us so much."



P39
23rd MAY
2016
JOURNAL

BUSINESS — MACPHERSON KELLEY

LAUNCHING OF M AND K FOUNDATION

PHILANTHROPY AND COMMUNITY

ENGAGEMENT

P39 23rd MAY 2016 JOURNAL



Foundation director and Macpherson Kelley principal Paul Kirton, STREAT chairwoman Dawn O Neil, foundation director Jo Hastings, Pyjama Foundation Victorian co-ordinator Shannon O'Brien, and Macpherson Kelley national managing director Damian Paul.

Fund shows the way to support

By CASEY NEILL

The new Macpherson Kelley Foundation will funnel philanthropic funds into the community.

Dandenong Civic Centre hosted the law firm's launch for the initiative on Wednesday 18 May.

M and K foundation, philanthropy and community engagement special counsel Jo Hastings will head up the national project.

"The foundation has been brewing for quite a while but has finally come to fruition," she said.

"I've been passionate about the whole area of philanthropy.

"Every job I've ever done has been leading to this point."

The foundation is a public ancillary fund through which M and K's clients can support charities.

Individuals, families or companies can also create a sub-fund under the foundation and Ms Hastings will work with them to find their best-fit charities.

"One of the other aspects is a sub-fund which is the workplace-giving program," she said.

"That's what our employees are invited to contribute to.

"The charities that will be selected will be based on the results of a survey that I undertook with all our employees a couple of months ago."

STREAT chairwoman Dawn O'Neil officially launched the fund.

"She spoke about the growing need for people to become aware and involved in their local community in a meaningful and sustainable way," Ms Hastings said.

"STREAT do a lot of work with training unemployed and disadvantaged youth in the hospitality industry.

"We actually used the services of STREAT for the function."

The Pyjama Foundation's Victorian project manager Shannon O'Brien spoke "briefly but right to the point about some of the needs of the most vulnerable in our community, which are foster children".

"Its particular area of focus is having volunteers called pyjama angels read to children in foster care," Ms Hastings said.