

## MELBOURNE LEGACY

### THE HISTORY OF THE FOOTSCRAY/SUNSHINE BRANCH

Sometime prior to 1956 the Board of Management of Melbourne Legacy, with the approval of its club members had determined, due to the projected increase in World War 2 ex-servicemen's widows and children throughout Melbourne suburbs that there needed to be a substantial increase in club members (Legatees) to provide the Legacy Service, by carrying out prompt and effective contact to widows and their children, and to do this branches needed to be established throughout the suburbs; the first branch being Williamstown/Werribee which was founded in September 1956. The Footscray/Sunshine beginning occurred in late 1957, at which time Legatees John Lobb and Phil Dietrich - a Past President of Melbourne Legacy called upon Mr Jack Vance, Finance Director of H.V McKay Massey Harris Ltd to discuss with him the establishment of a branch of Legacy within the Footscray/Sunshine and neighbouring municipalities. It was then that Jack Vance rang me (the author of this history) at my office in Sunshine and asked if I could join them in their current discussions, which I was able to do - being only some 200 metres from Jack's Vance's office. On my being introduced by Jack Vance (whom I had personally known for some years) to the others, Phillip Dietrich repeated the purpose of his and John Lobb's visit and finished his remarks by quoting the Charter and Code of Legacy. The meeting concluded by agreement and that we meet again in the new year at the Footscray RSL, with Mr Harold Shultz of Footscray RSL present.

The second meeting with Mr Shultz present, took place in February 1958; following which a number of later meetings occurred with John Lobb, Rob Allison, Clarrie Owen and other members of Melbourne Legacy at various times being present. Apart from the February meeting which was also held at the Footscray RSL, the subsequent meetings were held at the offices of Crosbie, Doran and Co in Sunshine, with a number of the local ex-servicemen attending one or more of the meetings, such persons being - Jack Vance, Ben Bolt, Ron Crosbie, Bill Dawson, Don Henderson, Ted McKenzie and Keith Stone, in addition to a member of Legacy residing in the branch area - Legatee E. (Frank) Dwyer.

It was stressed by John Lobb and others - that members of Melbourne Legacy carrying out current contact work in the Footscray/Sunshine and surroundings areas would continue to do so after the branch was formed and until such time as ex-serviceman nominated and inducted into Melbourne Legacy had received sufficient Legacy training, before taking over existing Legacy widow's files and carrying out enrolments of new widows into Legacy. It was thought that this may take up to two years before a new Legacy widow's enrolment could be carried out by a branch Legatee, other than a member of Melbourne Legacy who transferred to become a branch member.

Legatees Jack Vance, Ron Crosbie and Keith Stone were inducted into Melbourne Legacy in April 1959, and the Footscray/Sunshine Branch of Melbourne Legacy was formally established at a dinner held at the Medway Golf Club on the evening of the 15th September 1959, with a large number of civic and local identities in attendance; the address incorporating the establishment of the branch, followed by the induction of the remainder of the inaugural branch Legatees - Ben Bolt, Bill Dawson, Ken Hall, Don Henderson, Ted McKenzie, Norm Rooney, Laurie Rowland and Stan Walkerdon was carried out by the President of Melbourne Legacy, Legatee Jack McKeddie. Hence, the Footscray/Sunshine Branch of Melbourne Legacy was established with a membership of fourteen. The first chairman being 'the father of the branch' Legatee John Lobb, with deputy chairman Jack Vance and secretary Ron Crosbie. The branch area covered the Cities of Footscray and Sunshine, and the Shires of Keilor, Melton and parts of Shires of Bulla (being Diggers Rest and Sunbury) and Bacchus Marsh (being that part of the township up to the Pentland Hills).

#### A DECADE The Years 1959 to 1969 -

Whilst the first year in the branch became a training and learning exercise for all newly inducted members, with the monthly meetings held at the offices of Crosbie, Doran & Co in Sunshine until June 1960, at which time membership had grown in numbers that a change of venue to The Sunshine Businessmen's Club in Albion became necessary.



Correspondingly, as the majority of branch members were then employed within the branch area and were unable to attend established weekly Tuesday luncheons at Legacy House in Melbourne, it was agreed that the branch would commence holding a monthly Tuesday luncheon at the Medway Golf Club; the first two luncheons were well attended by legatees, civic, business dignities and guests, but as attendances had fallen away by the third luncheon (with barely sufficient persons present to cover catering costs), this venture ceased.

Whilst there had been some opposition from the Melbourne Legacy's weekly luncheon committee to the branch holding monthly luncheons - this was overcome when it was agreed that generous local publicity from the newspapers reporting on the luncheon addresses, would be of great benefit to both Legacy and the branch. Note - two of the addresses were given by Past Presidents of Melbourne Legacy, who had each chosen to speak on the origin and Charter of Melbourne Legacy and the purpose for decentralising and by now having established three branches, with more to be created.

As was previously stated, 'first contact' visits with Legacy widows remained the responsibility and were carried out by Melbourne Central Legatees for the first two to three years and on completion of their widows enrolments, including pension applications and any welfare and schooling (financial/ requisites) assistance for immediate attention, the 'first contactor's role ceased and the widow's file was then forwarded to the branch for a branch Legatee to take over the file in the capacity as 'visiting contactor'. I remember my first file - a Mrs 'P' who lived in Albion. Her first contactor was Legatee (Major General) R.J.H (Bob) Risson, also Chief Commissioner of the Boy's Scout's Association in Victoria and Chairman of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board. I was told by branch chairman John Lobb, that I was to take over the file from Legatee Risson, whom I then rang and it was arranged that we meet at Mrs P's house at 10 am the following Saturday. Shortly after my arrival the following Saturday I noticed a chauffeur driven car pull up outside 17 Derrimut Street, Albion (Mrs P's residence), and a person dressed in a scouts uniform, wearing shorts, stockings and hat alight from the car, non-other than Legatee Risson; after introductions we then went inside 17 Derrimut Street and I was introduced to Mrs P and her son and two daughters. Legatee Risson indicated to Mrs P that he had some papers for her to sign, but as the one table was covered with newspapers, tins of paint and brushes, Legatee Risson then knelt on the floor, inviting Mrs P to do the same and sign the several forms he had passed over to her, after which he then indicated that I would be the families new Legacy contactor from that point on and wished Mrs P and her family good health and future happiness and then excused himself - due to another prior commitment. Then indicating to me that I could ring him at any time, day or night, if I needed to speak to him regarding Mrs P or on any other Legacy matter, for which I was indeed most appreciative. I continued to be Mrs P's visiting contactor for the next 15 years, until son Keith completed two years of a science degree, followed by a six year degree in medicine at Melbourne University, finally becoming a surgeon. This is only one of many similar stories that could told by most, if not all the original members of the branch .

The pre-Legacy and first post Legacy branch minute book which was commenced back in February 1958 and covered the period from that meeting at the Footscray RSL until September 1965, has unfortunately has gone astray and deemed lost or destroyed, so the missing period (February 1958 to September 1965) is that which I have covered and will continue to until minute book 2 commences, is that recalled from memory, being the only Legatee currently able to recall pre and post branch commencement; much of the branch beginnings and happenings occurred over the period when I was branch secretary and latter its chairman.

### **THE FIRST DECADE 1959 to 1969**

John Lobb was chairman in 1959 -1960, being an experienced and a respected legatee, he together with his wife Peg entertained members at their Wheelers Hill residence. Jack Vance followed John as chairman in 1961, but regrettably, shortly thereafter both due to illhealth and increased work commitments as Finance Director of H.V McKay Massey Ferguson Ltd, he had to resign from Legacy.

Apart from a branch Legatee carrying his principle role of that as a Visiting Contactor to Legacy widow's and their children, there were other Legacy and branch duties to be undertaken -



being committee and branch appointments relating to both Boys and Girls Classes, Residences (Blamey, Stanhope and Harelands residences at Kew), Badge Day, Camps & Holidays, Comradeship, Education, Firewood, Housing, Welfare, Widows, Christmas Party, Operation Float, and Operation Luna Park. Apart from manning and being responsible for the Footscray Boy's Class in 1960, which continued operating out of the Footscray Drill Hall in Barkly Street, every Friday night, as it had been its former custom over many prior years under the leadership of a dedicated Melbourne Legatee - Charlie Buckley (who travelled by train from Mt Evelyn every Friday night), with two or more other Legatee's assisting and one or more physical education instructors from the Victorian Education Department. At least three branch members were required to fill the positions at the Drill Hall, one as the leader and other two as assistants; for apart from the gymnastics, physical exercises performed and games carried out at the Drill Hall, there were one or more basketball teams to be transported to other Legacy venues, in addition to the swimming competitions at Richmond baths and an annual athletic meeting at Scotch College.

The combined boys and girls Legacy on Parade at the Melbourne Town Hall was an annual memorable event looked forward to by both mothers and Legatees. As with Boys Classes, at Footscray, and Girls Classes held at Legacy House on Tuesdays and Friday evenings, transporting both the boys and girls to their respective classes became the responsibility of branch members, this was only accomplished, thankfully, by the added assistance of cars provided by members of both the Sunshine Apex Club and a Sunshine resident, Mr Roy Matherson. Education tutoring classes were also held in Legacy House every Saturday morning during the school year for both boys and girls who needed assistance in their tutoring school subjects.

The branch was responsible for providing one appointment to each of the other committees listed above, the names of these legatees, branch members and office bearers are listed in the appendixes hereto.

Ben Bolt succeeded Jack Vance as branch chairman, who was then followed in succession by Keith Stone, Ron Crosbie and Don Henderson.

Simultaneous with the induction of new branch Legatees Rod Couacaud, Herb Hewitt, Graham Lomas, Bill Neale, Stan Peebles, Frank Ryan, Ray Walker, Ralph Watkins and the transfer of Melbourne Legatee Terry Fogarty, who lived within the branch area; thus making branch membership stand at 21 in September 1965. Two social occasions with spit roasts were held at Terry Fogarty's farm at Toolern Vale. One such memorable occasion occurred when a number of Legatees went to the farm on a Saturday afternoon to prepare for the Sunday spit roast by erecting tents, placing refreshments (a quantity of beer) in one of the tents, erecting trestle tables, cutting and preparing half of a forty four gallon drum - in which to roast a calf on a spit. It appeared that Terry Fogarty and one or more his neighbours stayed at the site overnight, as a matter of security, however, when the first party of the branch members arrived next day, they found Terry and his friends were totally inebriated, with no spit roast alight, nor very little alcohol remaining, a hasty visit was then made to Melton, the nearest town for food and to replenish the beer. Terry remained absent from the function, but his wife and son, who had both slept at their farm house that evening, were present to represent the Fogarty clan.

The spit roast was repeated the following year with no hick-ups, this time Mrs Fogarty being the organiser.

With the departure of branch secretary (Legatee Ray Walker) in his employment with CSR to Brisbane in November 1966, Ron Crosbie resumed the duties of secretary.

At the annual dinner held in November, 83 Legatees and guests were present when Jack Griffiths was inducted as chairman by the President of Melbourne Legacy, Legatee Ron Isherwood.

Following family reports, some of the other items discussed at both the December 1966 and February 1967 meetings were-

- i) Boys Classes - Sports Day was held at Scotch College on November 26, and a bush walking outing from the 8th to the 10th December (sleeping out on the two nights).
- ii) Friday Night Girls Classes - with 24 girls currently attending additional cars were required for their transportation; Sunshine Apex Club were approached and agreed to assist by providing cars to transport the girls to Legacy House. .
- iii) Branch Badge Day Appeal collections to December amounted to \$5,338.



- iv) First Contacts carried out by the branch in the months of December and January numbered 3, whilst families with Visiting Contactors numbered 113, with current branch strength at 23.
  - v) The branch boundary has been extended to take in the area known as 'Avondale Heights', part of which is situated in the City of Keilor and part in the City of Essendon.
  - vi) Future monthly branch meetings will now be held alternately at both the Footscray RSL and the Sunshine Businessmen's Club.
  - vii) Members were saddened to learn of the resignation of Clem Mellor through ill health; Clem had been a member of Residence's Committee for a number of years, and in recognition of his service in the branch and on residence committee a motion of appreciation was recorded in the minutes and conveyed to him by letter.
- February 1968 - of the 38 boys attending boys class, 25 boys were examined by the optician, with three requiring glasses; - at the March meeting it was reported that the 80 widows who had made application for firewood had had their wood delivered; whilst the picture night at Merv Pentreaths raised \$191, and the annual football match between Footscray Police Station and the Sunshine Police Station raised \$350 - with both proceeds going to Legacy badge day appeal.
- Nearing the end of the 1969 - the first decade, a joint meeting was held with the Williamstown/Werribee branch, to foster the amalgamation of both branches in 1970; history records 'it was not to be', as Williamstown/Werribee branch elected not to amalgamate.

### **THE SECOND DECADE 1969 to 1979**

Commenced with Con Anselmi as chairman of the branch. The minutes over the ten year period record the reports and discussions on items and activities, similar to those which appear in 'THE FIRST DECADE 1959 to 1969' of this history; other items not previously recorded herein and deserving of special mention were-

- Legatee David Carter attending a branch meeting in June 1971 to report and inform members of a Pilot Study to be carried out by the Box Hill/Doncaster branch and the Footscray/Sunshine branch, on 'Visiting all Elderly Legacy Widows', whereby a given number of elderly widows were to be selected and interviewed, for the purpose of carrying out an 'in depth study on their needs and of the concerns of the Senior Elderly Widow'. The branch accepted the proposal and appointed Legatees John Lobb, Keith Stone and Ted Hales to organise the study. Forty five senior widows were later visited and interviewed and the reports from each interview were forwarded to Widow's Committee of Melbourne Legacy.

The reduced numbers of attendances at both boys and girls classes were noted; with average attendances at Footscray down to 27, and average attendances at Legacy House down to 18; whilst only 16 boys and girls attended Operation Float. Branch opinion being 'that the decline in numbers would continue in all Legacy youth activities', as many post second war children would be either working, undertaking or nearing the completion of their tertiary studies; so that the emphasis from mother with children and education requirements, to the elderly widow - without dependant children, became the pre-requisite for Legacy's concern and assistance given.

The branch minutes of the 23rd February 1972 contained a report on the Senior Widows meeting which was held at the Footscray RSL on the 22nd February, which states, quote-  
"mention was made that the meeting was initially set to cater for seventy persons, whilst 162 widows turned up, 144 of these signing the attendance book.

Items now for discussion at the next widow's meeting are:-

1. Venue of future meetings in Footscray.
2. Attendances of Widows at both Melbourne and Footscray functions.
3. Desirability of organised transport to both Melbourne and Footscray.
4. Type of entertainment desirable at Footscray.
5. Desirability of Legacy social Worker at Footscray.
6. Problems.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 21st March at the Footscray RSL Club Rooms at 1.30 pm."

There were 150 widows at the second meeting which was chaired by Legatee Bruce Harding, Chairman of Senior Widow's Committee of Melbourne Legacy, who indicated that he would



state the findings arising from the two surveys and the widow's meetings to the Senior Widow's Committee of Melbourne Legacy and report back.

The first of a number of reports from Senior Widow's Committee was presented for discussion at the November 1972 meeting, whereby the branch was informed that Mrs Lavelle, a Melbourne Legacy Welfare Officer would operate within the Footscray/Sunshine and the Williamstown/Werribee areas in her own car, three times per week, contacting war widows of world war one, giving priority to those living alone and with whom there has been no Legacy Contact in the past ten years.

Senior Widow's Committee believed that Mrs Lavelle would, on average, be able to contact twenty widows per week, and they recommended that the widows be not forewarned of the welfare officer's visit - this being a pilot scheme to ascertain the effectiveness of same.

The branches reaction to the report was to question the number of widows that could be visited in a three day week period after making allowance for time taken up in travelling to and from each visit, and that a welfare officer on a full time basis would be more effective. The branch then appointed a branch sub-committee of three Legatees to liaison with Senior Widow's Committee.

Following a further meeting of Senior Widow's Committee in April 1973, where they resolved to establish an Area Committee consisting of the chairmen of both the Footscray/Sunshine and the Williamstown /Werribee branches, with one other member from each of two branches and a member from each of the Welfare, Contact, Administration and Senior Widows Committees. Legatees Con Anselmi (Chairman) and Max McFarlane were the appointed branch representatives.

The first meeting of the Footscray/Sunshine 'Western Suburbs' Widow's Club was held on the 13th June 1973 in St Johns Anglican Church Hall, Paisley Street, Footscray, where attendance was not as good as was expected, but it was generally agreed that the meeting was away to a good start, with good entertainment and several addresses from Legatees, including the President of Melbourne Legacy - who informed the meeting that the widows would be required to form their own committee at the next meeting in July; at which meeting they elected their office bearers and committee; members of Legacy House welfare staff in the persons of Mr Smythe and Mrs Shepherd and 120 widows were present at this meeting; thus, the Western Suburbs Widows Club was firmly established and had decided, January excepted, to hold meetings monthly.

With the World War One survey having been completed, branch contact work had commenced to shift from second world war two widows without dependant children to world war one widows living alone.

A Legacy Office in Irving Street, Footscray was opened by the President of Melbourne Legacy, Legatee Bill Brady on the 10th July 1974, with approximately 130 widows and Legatees present. The premises were in size large enough to accommodate a part time welfare officer (Mrs Beck) and provide space for meetings, a kitchen and holding craft and sewing sessions for and by the Western Suburbs Legacy Widows Club.

Whilst the widows concerns in areas of contact, welfare and social activities had become the priority of the attention for both Legacy Committees and branches, not the least the Footscray/Sunshine Branch, who had become the first branch of Melbourne Legacy to establish a widow's club, but also the first to establish a branch office with a welfare officer in attendance - if only on a part time basis, but as is later recorded the branch office closed after a period of less than twelve months, as it became apparent that the widows did not really need (though they had thought they did in the responses given to the survey), or use or require the services provided by the welfare officer, which led to this being withdrawn and alternative service then provided by the Social Worker Services of the State and Commonwealth Government Office situated in Footscray. Significant donations of both a public address system and office partitions and fittings were made by the Rotary Club of Footscray and by the Footscray Institute of Technology, prior to and setting up the office in Irving Street, Footscray. These premises remained occupied by the widows for meetings, morning and afternoon teas and craft activities until they moved into their Legacy premises at 13 Pickett Street, Footscray, on the 26th October 1977; which had been purchased by Melbourne Legacy. The premises were located, negotiated and recommended by Legatee Keith



Stone with branch endorsement to Melbourne Legacy as being - location wise, both suitable as a Legacy House and widow's club rooms, and when purchased still required a fair amount of maintenance and improvements to be carried out, most of which was undertaken at working bees by branch Legatees at a cost of \$3,500, with Legatee Harry Whitehouse supervising the work. The first of many donations of \$1,000 and later \$2,000 was made to the President of Melbourne Legacy (Legatee Eric Baker) by the Footscray/Sunshine Widow's Club on the 23rd June 1976; being monies raised from cake and work stalls held at the Irving Street office premises and street stalls held nearby in the Mall, Nicholson Street, Footscray.

The emphasis in contact work had dramatically shifted from assisting the Legacy widow with children at school, to the widow with grown up siblings, or the widow living alone. More care and attention was now being focused on the latter of the three, namely the widow living alone; with the youngest of the 1st world war one widows more likely to be in her late seventies, their present and future accommodation was established by the branches widow's area committee as matter for urgent consideration and conveyed to the Senior Widow's Committee of Melbourne Legacy, on which two branch Legatees served. Thus, arising out of a branch recommendation, Melbourne Legacy provided the funding to establish hostel accommodation and or nursing home care for four Legacy widows at Westhaven (Baptist) Home, Paisley Street, Footscray.

During the period of between 1974 to 1975 both the boys and girls class numbers had considerably reduced, with boy's attendances varying between 8 to 18 - often the lower of the two figures, and with 5 girls now being regularly transported to Legacy House. Boys class in 1974 had shifted from the Footscray Drill Hall to meeting each Sunday morning at 9.30 am at the Sunshine Sports Centre, with Footscray footballer, Kelvin Templeton as class leader and instructor. Boys Class was discontinued on the 6th March 1977 due to lack of numbers; whilst girl's classes continued, the transporting of one girl and occasionally two to the city ceased in October 1978.

Other Junior Legatee activities, such as the Government House Christmas Party, Operation Luna Park and Operation Float, where branch Legatees' attendance was a requirement were soon to disappear; again witnessing the changing role of the branch Legatee from assisting the widow with children to that of the senior widow. Thus re-affirming the role of the contactor - firstly to make sure that the widow has applied for and received her rightful pension entitlements, whether a war widows or aged pension, and secondly, to assist in solving any other problem eg housing, accommodation and welfare.

Towards the end of the second decade the branch was-

- a) requested by Senior Widow's Committee of Melbourne Legacy to carry out a survey on 84 widows to whom they had been sent questionnaires and had not received replies thereto, which meant an allocation to each legatee of 4 widows; and
- b) the question of the branch boundaries, particularly the East Keilor and Avondale Heights area, which members felt ought to be the responsibility of the Essendon/ Coburg branch, not Footscray/Sunshine branch. Correspondence to this effect and on branches lack of recruitment was forwarded to Personnel Committee, Melbourne Legacy.

### **THE THIRD DECADE 1979 to 1989**

This commenced in the same pattern as the Second Decade had concluded, namely carrying out enrolments and providing Legacy assistance to the growing number of widows in the branch. Of the 180 widows contacted in 1980, their dependants were categorised as follows - 58 children between age of 1 year and 21 years, and 4 handicapped dependants over the age of 21 years. However changes do occur, particularly when a meaningful purpose presents itself, in this instance being the care and well being of Junior Legatees who were physically or mentally handicapped, that steps were taken by the branch to recommend Legatee Con Anselmi, a former school principal with experience in the area of handicapped children for appointment to Melbourne Legacy Handicapped Dependants Committee; similarly with Thelma Stone (The late Legatee Stone's daughter), who had volunteered her services in speech therapy.



Members with handicapped dependants were encouraged to advise their mothers of the availability of the free speech therapy service, and later have their son or daughter join up with other handicapped Junior/Intermediate Legatees in the organised activities arranged by Legacy Staff and members of Handicapped Dependants Committee.

The size of the branches perimeter and reduced manpower became the matter for serious debate in 1981, which led to discussing these matters with Melbourne Legacy's Personnel Committee; all that achieved was - to be advised to seek out suitable recruits from RSL's and service organisations as likely members of the branch; being similar to earlier advice.

A further branch survey in 1982 of 631 Legacy widows, this time by mail, resulted in there being 479 replies forthcoming, with the advice of six having deceased and one remarried. The average number of new monthly enrolments corresponding with the time of the survey totalled 10; whilst in the following year, 1983, new enrolments numbered 101 and special contacts 52; combined - the branch monthly average came to 13.

Mention was earlier made of yearly cheques being presented to the President of Melbourne Legacy by the Footscray/Sunshine - Western Suburbs Legacy Widow's Club of \$1,000 and the following year \$2,000. In 1984 the President of Melbourne Legacy was presented with a cheque for \$2,500 by the President of the Widow's Club; being money raised by the widows over a period of twelve months from street stalls, craft exhibitions and special efforts, truly a wonderful effort by these dedicated and hard working ladies.

Discussion again took place with the Williamstown/Werribee Branch in 1985 regarding the amalgamation of both branches; Williamstown/Werribee indicated 'not interested'.

The 25th Anniversary formal dinner was held at the Footscray RSL on the 10th November 1984 with the President of Melbourne Legacy and other special guests present, the address being given by the inaugural branch secretary, Ron Crosbie.

Branch membership was reduced by four over the three year period 1985 to 1987, by the deaths of Con Anselmi, Viv Gore, Jack Griffiths and Jim McGhie; the passing of Con, Viv and Jack who had all been past chairmen and dedicated long serving members of the branch, was acutely felt by all who had worked with them and savoured their company.

The same pattern in contact work continued for the remainder of the decade ie to 1989; more senior widow enrolments and 'special' a one off contact visits, mostly relating to housing (both painting and maintenance) and accommodation problems. The monthly widow's club meeting in St John's Church Hall continued to be a place where a widow attending could discuss her problem(s) with one of the three branch Legatees in attendance, or at the BBQ/luncheon held during the summer months at Pickett Street.

A discussion paper by the President of Melbourne Legacy on "The Future of Legacy" was the only variation from the normal format of the monthly meeting held in June 1989, with all members present contributing to a comprehensive consideration of the contents of the paper, in particular those sections dealing with possible changes to eligibility rules and the proposed Foundation, with certain key paragraphs then agreed upon.

Thus concluded, thirty years of branch history.

## **THE FOURTH AND FINAL DECADE 1989 to 1999**

Apart from - 1) being set a badge day target of \$30,000 in 1990, and ultimately raising nigh on \$25,500; 2) having the October 1990 branch meeting at the Maribyrnong/Maidstone RSL in place of at the Footscray RSL; 3) agreeing to the request from Handicapped Dependants Committee to provide a luncheon on the 15th June 1991 for 40 mothers; 4) in October 1991, welcoming Mrs Barbara Leech, co-ordinator of the Western Suburbs Support Group as a Support member of the Branch; 5) Badge Day takings in 1993 realising \$23,000; and other than dispensing with the annual office-bearer changeover dinners, normal activities continued between 1989 and 1993. 1994 commenced on a very sad note with the death of Legatee John Lobb, the Foundation Chairman of the branch, being sometimes called 'The Father of the Branch'. Not only was he foundation chairman, but together with Clarrie Owen, he was charged with establishing the branch



back in 1957. John and his wife Peg entertained and endeared themselves to both members and their wives; Peg predeceased John by some two years.

At the request of the branch, the Executive Officer of Melbourne Legacy, Terry Walsh wrote to the Secretary of Ballarat Legacy in April 1994, seeking their agreement to take over the Melton, Toolern Vale portion of the branch's territory, or alternatively by providing a number of their Bacchus Marsh / Ballan / Daylesford Group members to assist with Legacy enrolments and special contacts in Melton area. Ballarat were later to decline both propositions.

At the 1995 January meeting correspondence was tabled from Mr Hart, the secretary to The Hon Ralph Willis, M.H.R, Federal Member for Gellibrand, which detailed the summary of the activities planned by the Federal Division of Gellibrand for the 1995 Australia Remembers Commemorative Year, in which reference was made to a Legacy and war widow's luncheon. In responding thereto, the branch advised that they would assist with organising the luncheon and the pre-luncheon ecumenical church service, both to be held at St Augustines Catholic Hall and Church in Somerville Road, Yarraville on August 15, and would need up to \$7,000 to finance a luncheon for 350 widows from funds allocated to the Federal Division of Gellibrand by the Minister for Veteran's Affairs. Legatee Whitehouse was asked to assist the committee and co-ordinate Legacy's involvement, with the church service address and homily to be given by Legatee Crosbie. In reporting on the church service and luncheon at the August 28 meeting, Legatee Whitehouse indicated that 320 persons attended the ecumenical service and 280 widows, legatees and guests attended the luncheon. Amongst the guests were Mr Willis M.H.R and wife, the State Member for Footscray, two Mayors and several clergymen/women. Members expressed their gratification and pleasure on both functions - this of course being the 'highlight' of branch activities in 1995.

A meeting to establish a Widow's Club at Melton was held in the Melton Guide Hall on October 16, 1996, with 51 widows and Legatees Saltmarsh, Whitehouse and Rounds and their wives present. There were 25 apologies, though 100 widows or thereabouts had replied to the Legacy House letter advising of the meeting, the number of attendees was disappointing.

At the December 1997 meeting, with decreasing branch membership and increasing enrolments of widows per active Legatee, the decision to change from holding monthly meetings to that of bi-monthly meetings and commence in January 1998 was made. At the same meeting the secretary was directed to write to Personnel Committee and request that consideration be given to reducing the branch area, more particularly that part of Avondale Heights and East Keilor which be ceded to North West Branch. On the winding up of the Footscray/Sunshine Branch in February 1999, no response to this letter or similar letters, being one to the President and one to the Chairman of Operations Committee.

Branch membership at this time consisted of 15 Legatees, including one on the Reserve List, one admitted or about to be admitted into a nursing home, one who had a stroke in 1996 and had been unable to resume Legacy duties since; not including two legatees who recently had heart attacks; thus reducing effective and working membership down to 12, hence the concern re membership and branch workload.

At the 1998 May meeting, the secretary when reporting on his then recent conversation with the Executive Officer of Melbourne concerning the lack of a response from Personnel Committee - referred to above, was informed that there was nothing forthcoming, nor was there any likelihood in the near future. It was then resolved that the secretary write to former Junior Legatees living in the branch area, whose names and addresses were included in a list of Junior Legatees provided by Legatee W (Bill) Lewis of the Outer Eastern Branch. Of the ten letters sent to former Junior Legatees in June 1998, only one responded, that being from Diane Harford from Melton, who indicated her inability to assist Legacy, due to work and family commitments.

The 'highlight' in 1998 was the Footscray/Sunshine - Western Suburbs Legacy Widow's Club 25th Anniversary luncheon held at the Footscray RSL on June 24, with 120 widows attending. With the widows cheque of \$2,500 presented by their President, Mrs Lorna Russ, to the President of Melbourne Legacy, Legatee Tom Butcher at the luncheon, the aggregate of their yearly cheques to Melbourne Legacy over the period of 25 years came to \$55,000.



Again, this time at the August 1998 meeting, the question of branch boundaries, manpower and lack of response to a prior December letter provoked quite spirited discussion on the lack of co-operation and or assistance from the President or the Chairman of Personnel Committee, that branch resolved that the secretary again write a further letter detailing the branches current position, but this time that it be sent to the Chairman of Operations Committee

As had been the customary procedure at the last meeting of the year to elect and or make other appointments for the succeeding year - 1999, in this instance at the November 1998 meeting, the chairman called for volunteers to fill three positions, namely, chairman (John Dunstan had been chairman for the current usual period of two years), secretary ( Ron Crosbie was interstate and had been uncontactable) and contact secretary (Percy Harrison the current contact secretary who would be resigning from Legacy at the end of 1998), to which there were no respondents. "It was then moved Legatee McFarlane and seconded Legatee Whitehouse, that the chairman write to Legacy House explaining that the Branch office bearers positions for 1999 could not be filled and that the position be again looked at in the New Year."

At the subsequent January 1999 meeting, the Chairman, Legatee Dunstan reported on having attended a meeting with Legatee Waters at Legacy House in relation to the motion passed in November 1998; others present at that meeting chaired by the President, Legatee Tom Butcher, were from both Personnel Committee and the Williamstown/Werribee Branch. The outcome of the meeting was that Footscray/Sunshine Branch would join with Williamstown/Werribee Branch to form the Western Branch of Melbourne Legacy, and this would take place in March 1999.

Lengthy and lively discussion then followed concerning the branch position - both on 1) the person nominated by Williamstown/Werribee to be the contact clerk, and 2) whether the branch workload in outer areas, namely Melton and Toolern Vale would also be undertaken by Williamstown/Werribee Legatees. It was then Resolved that 'the current office bearers of the branch, except with Legatee Max McFarlane as Contact Clerk, all remain in office until the new Western Suburbs Branch of Melbourne Legacy is established.'

Indeed, this is what occurred at the following combined Footscray/Sunshine and Williamstown/Werribee branch meeting held on February 22, when office bearers were elected and other appointments made. A final resolution from this meeting was to direct the outgoing secretary of Footscray/Sunshine Branch to write to the President of Melbourne Legacy, requesting that the branch boundaries be revised as a matter of urgency.

Thus, became the end of the Footscray/Sunshine Branch after just over 39 years of working existence and occasional monthly comradeship - 'happy and rewarding memories'.

Ron Crosbie  
9th November 1999



# Appendix 1.

## Footscray/Sunshine Branch of Melbourne Legacy List of Branch Members 1959 to 1999

NAME	INDUCTED into Legacy	RESIGNED or DECEASED XX	TRANSFER
J.D (John) Lobb	1947	XX	
J.M.Mc(Jack) Vance	1959	1963	
R.F.S (Ron) Crosbie	1959		Western 1999
E.F.(Frank) Dwyer	Prior 1959		Darwin 1965
K.A (Ken) Hall	1959	1963	
D.S (Don) Henderson	1959		Western 1999
A.E (Ben) Bolt	1959	1967	
W.S (Bill) Dawson	1959	1963	
E.J (Ted) McKenzie	1959	XX	
J.F (John) Poolman	1959	1964	
N.F (Norm) Rooney	1959	1973	
L.J (Laurie) Rowlands	1959	XX	
K.F (Keith) Stone	1959	XX	
S.F (Syd) Walkerden	1959	1962	
F.R (Frank) Ryan	1960	XX	
V.W (Viv) Gore	Prior 1959	1983	
E.G (Graham) Lomas	1960	1963	
T (Terry) Fogarty	1960	1963	
H.J.B (Bert) Hewitt	1961	1973	
C.R (Clem) Mellor	Prior 1959 1966		
G (George) Ackland	1962	1963	
J.B (Jack) Griffiths	1962		Mornington/ Peninsula XX
J.A (John) O'Connor	1962	XX	
M.M (Mal) Porter	1962	1964	
R.G (Ralph) Watkins	1962	1970	
C.R (Ray) Christie	1962	1969	
J.L (Leo) Daly	1962	1978	
R.O (Ray) Walker	1962		Brisbane 1966
R.H (Rod) Couacaud	1963	1969	
G (Garry) Emmett	1964	1968	
L.L (Lionel) King	1964		Brighton 1979
R.V (Ron) Marsh	1963		Bendigo 1981
W (Bill) Neale	1963	1968	
S.W (Syd) O'Reilly	1963		Western 1999
S.E (Stan) Peebles	1964	1966	
V (Verdun) Cocks	1966	1977	
M.S (Max) McFarlane	1966		Western 1999
E.J (Con) Anselmi	From Colac 1967	XX	
K (Ken) Brown	1967	1969	
E (Ted) Hales	1967	1983	
R (Bob) Just	1970	1973	
K (Ken) Stokes	1971	1973	

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H (Henry) Hansford	1971	1974	
I.S (Ian) Duxson	1972	XX	
G (Garry) Cocks	1972	1981	
P.S (Percy) Harrison	1972	1998	
R (Bob) Berwick	1973	1978	
H.F (Harry) Whitehouse	1975		Western 1999
S (Stan) Lesinski	1973		Transferred
W (Bill) Hoffman	1976	1979	
K.T (Keith) Hudswell	1976		Western 1999
G (Garry) Wykes	1977	1980	
R.L (Bob) Andrew	1978		Colac 1991
A (Arnold) Branson	1978	1980	
J (Jim) McGhie	1978	XX	
A (Alf) Hawken	1979	1991	
D (Doug) Gonsalves	1980	XX	
F.R (Frank) Smith	1980	XX	
D (Don) Weaver	1980	1983	
C (Cleven) Healey	1980	1982	
G.J (Garry) Welsh	1980		Western 1999
R (Ray) Bevan	1982		Western 1999
R (Ray) Landers	1982	XX	
S (Syd) Knape	1985	1986	
J.L (Jack) Waters	1987		Western 1999
L.B (Bernie) Clarke	1988		Western 1999
J.J (Jack) Brander	1989		Western 1999
G.R (George) Standish	1989	XX	
K (Ken) Rees	1989	XX	
L.R (Laurie) Rounds	1993	XX	
J.M (John) Dunstan	1994		Western 1999
P (Phil) Shepherd	1994	1995	
H (Heather) King	1995	1996	

Support Group:

B (Barbara) Leach	1991	1994	
H (Heather) King	1991	1995	



## Appendix 2

### Footscray/Sunshine Branch Office-Bearers 1959 - 1999

<u>Year</u>	<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Secretary/Contact</u>	<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Contact Secretary</u>
1959	J.D Lobb	R.F Crosbie		L.J Rowlands	
1960	J.D Lobb	R.F Crosbie		L.J Rowlands	
1961	J.M Vance	R.F Crosbie		L.J Rowlands	
1962	A.E Bolt	R.F Crosbie		L.J Rowlands	
1963	K.F Stone	R.F Crosbie		L.J Rowlands	
1964	R.F Crosbie	V.W Gore		L.J Rowlands	
1965	D.S Henderson	V.W Gore		L.J Rowlands	
1966	V.W Gore	R.O Walker		L.J Rowlands	
1967	J.B Griffiths	R.O Walker		L.J Rowlands	
1968	L.J Rowlands	R.F Crosbie		E.W Hales	
1969	J.L Daly	R.F Crosbie		E.W Hales	
1970	E.J Anselmi	R.F Crosbie		E.W Hales	
1971	E.W Hales	R.F Crosbie		S.W O'Reilly	
1972	M.S McFarlane	R.F Crosbie		S.W O'Reilly	
1973'74	R.V Marsh	R.F Crosbie		S.W O'Reilly	
1975'76	S.W O'Reilly	K.F Stone & M.S McFarlane		E.W Hales	
1977'78	L.L King	M.S McFarlane		E.W Hales	
1979	R.F Crosbie	M.S McFarlane		E.W Hales	
1980'81	H.F Whitehouse	M.S McFarlane		E.W Hales	
1982	D.S Henderson	M.S McFarlane		E.W Hales	
1983	R.L Andrews	M.S McFarlane		E.W Hales	
1984'85	K.D Hudswell	M.S McFarlane		R.Bevan	
1986'87	S.W O'Reilly	M.S McFarlane		R.Bevan	
1988'89	D Gonsalves	M.S McFarlane		R.Bevan	
1990	R.L Andrew	M.S McFarlane		R.Bevan	
1993'94	J.L Waters	M.S McFarlane		R.Bevan	
1995'96	H.F Whitehouse	R.F Crosbie		R. Bevan	P.S Harrison
1997'99	J.M Dunstan	R.F Crosbie		M.S McFarlane	P.S Harrison & M.S McFarlane

#### Note:-

The Branch amalgamated with Williamstown/Werribee Branch on the 22nd February 1999 to form the Western Branch of Melbourne Legacy; Legatee J.M Dunstan volunteering to become the chairman of the new Branch.



## Appendix 3 -

### Other Branch Committee Appointments 1959 - 1998

#### Badge Appeal

E.F Dwyer  
V.W Gore  
E.J Anselmi  
F.R Ryan  
G.R Standish  
J.L Waters

#### Boys Classes

C.S Buckley (prior 1959  
to 1974)  
G.L Homewood (W/W)  
A.R Crews (W/W)  
F. Ironside (W/W)  
N.F Rooney  
L.J Rowlands  
D.S Henderson  
D. Simondson (Instructor  
and a former Junior Legatee)  
K.Templeton (Instructor)

#### Education

E.J Anselmi

#### Employment

R.L Andrews  
D. Gonsalves

#### Firewood

J.B Griffiths  
M.S McFarlane

#### Girls Classes

K.F Stone  
E.W Hales  
I.S Duxson  
G. Wykes  
H.F Whitehouse  
Other volunteer drivers-  
Members of the Sunshine  
Apex Club & R. Matherson

#### Housing

J.B Griffiths  
V.W Gore  
D.S Henderson  
W. Hoffman  
R.F Crosbie  
V. Cocks  
J. McGhie  
R. Landers  
P.S Harrison

#### Pensions

G.J Welsh  
H.F Whitehouse

#### Problem Cases

D.S Henderson  
R.F Crosbie  
E.J Anselmi

#### Welfare

E.F Dwyer  
E.J McKenzie  
R.F Crosbie  
K.F Stone  
L.L King  
P.S Harrison

#### Widows Activities Club

K.F Stone  
E.J Anselmi  
V.W Gore  
S Knape  
L.L King  
D.S Henderson  
E.J Hales  
L.J Rowlands  
R.L Andrews  
M.S McFarlane  
H.F Whitehouse

#### Widows Advisory Club

K.F Stone  
R.F Crosbie  
E.J Anselmi  
M.S McFarlane  
L.L King

Note- Committee dissolved when  
widow's club moved to 13  
Pickett Street, Footscray.



## Appendix 4

### Footscray/Sunshine Branch of Melbourne Legacy

#### Some Badge Day Results:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1959 - 1965	Not available (due to missing minute book)
1966	\$5,338
1968	\$5,000
1970	\$5,115
1972	\$6,300
1974	\$6,677
1978	\$8,220
1980	\$10,021
1982	\$9,200
1984	\$9,400
1986	\$9,920
1990	\$25,444
1994	\$19,219
1996	\$7,023
1997	\$8,209

#### Some of the Firewood Deliveries:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number</u>
1967	80
1971	163
1973	52

Note: No other numbers were recorded in minute books.

#### Branch Picnics and BBQ's were held during the Branches history at:-

Terry Fogarty's farm - Toolern Vale

John & Peg Lobb's home - Wheelers Hill

Keith & Maude Stone's home - Mount Macedon

Bill Dawson's property - St Andrews

Jan Searle's home - Wheelers Hill; on the occasion of her father's 70th birthday -  
Legatee D.S (Don) Henderson.

Hank Van der Pot's Garden - Mount Macedon-

The Western Suburbs Legacy Widow's Club during the 90's also made yearly visits and had their lunch at the Hank Van der Pot's gardens, Mount Macedon; though Hank died in 1997, his wife has continued to invite the Legacy widows back every year since Hank's death to see her gardens and have a BBQ lunch with her, which was arranged by Legatee Bob Andrews and catered for by the Footscray/Sunshine Branch.

#### Notes on Sources-

The minute books of the Footscray/Sunshine Branch of Melbourne Legacy-

Book 2, from 27th October 1965 to 28th February 1973;

Book 3, from 28th March 1973 to 26th February 1990, and minutes in-

File, from 22nd January 1990 to 1st May 1995 - all inside protective covers;

Loose Leaf Cover from 29th May 1995 to 22nd February 1999, all also inside protective covers;  
and

Several Annual Reports by Branch Chairmen.

Note - Minute book 1, is missing containing the period from 1958 to September 1965; this period is covered by recalling the earlier meetings prior to establishing the branch and subsequent events, and referring to newspaper reports from both the Sunshine Advocate and the Footscray Mail, and by referring to correspondence and photographs in the historians private collections.

Ron Crosbie - 9th November 1999