



MELBOURNE

76th Report from the President 1999

This report highlights work of Melbourne Legacy in 1999, its 76th year. 1999 was the 'Year of the Older Person' which could apply to many of our Legatees who are World War 11 Veterans now in their 70's and also to a large percentage of the Legacy widows enrolled with us.

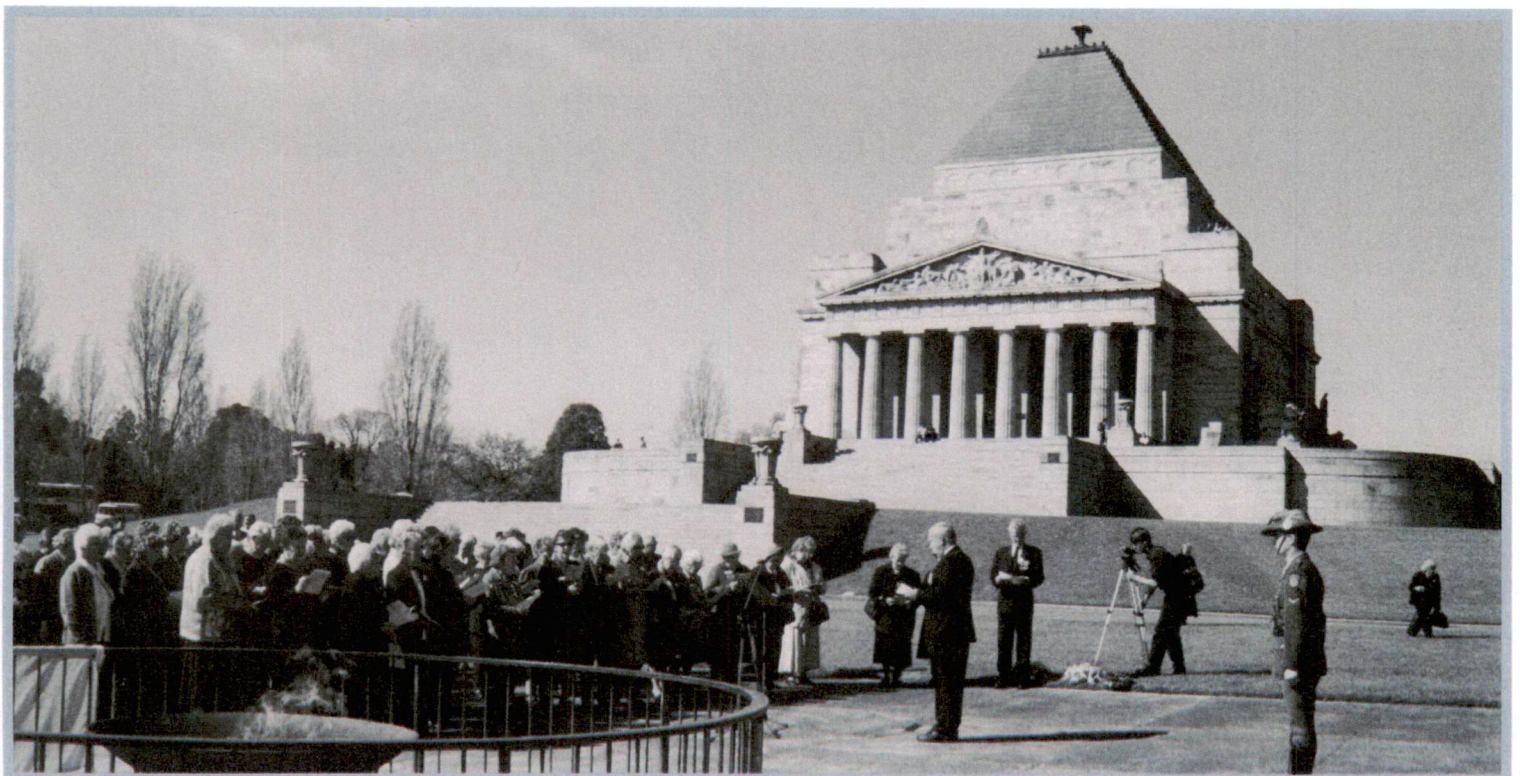
From September 1999, around 6,500 Australian service personnel were sent to East Timor as a peacekeeping operation. Should the need arise, their families may also one day come under the care of Legacy.

The needs of those who rely on the care and support of Legacy continue to grow. Melbourne Legacy cares for 24,000 widows and more than 500 children and disabled dependants. But while demand for everything from financial assistance and advice to a friendly chat over a cup of tea rises, the number of volunteer members is dwindling. Our community is greying and it's not surprising in so many ways that Legacy reflects that.

That's why it is vital for those young people Legacy helped in the past (Junior Legatees) to step forward and carry the

Legacy torch into the future. Legacy's task is far from finished. Sadly however many of our Legatees who provide this valuable service are ageing and there is an urgent need to recruit new members.

In 1999 Melbourne Legacy recruited some 50 new members of whom around half were former Junior Legatees. We are delighted to welcome these new Legatees into our organisation but clearly need to recruit additional volunteers to enable us to continue our caring work in the community.



ABOVE: Over 700 Legacy Widows celebrated the start of Legacy week. The widows join together each year to honour spouses who were either killed in action or died subsequently



W i d o w s

a n d

W i d o w s C l u b s

In 1999 Melbourne Legacy enrolled over 900 new widows. The total number of widows enrolled is some 24,000 and it is predicted that this number will not reach its peak until around 2005.

As soon as Legacy learns of the death of a Veteran, arrangements are made for a Legatee to make contact with the recently widowed spouse. The majority of widows readily welcome the introduction of Legacy into their lives. The Legatee will ensure that the widow receives special individual advice that relates to her personal situation. In particular help will be provided with applying for all the Government benefits to which she is entitled - in particular the War Widows' Pension.

Melbourne Legacy procedures ensure that each new widow is introduced to her local Widows' Club and placed on the mailing list to receive a copy of 'The Answer', the widows' newsletter. If the widow needs assistance with any financial or legal issue this will be arranged by the Legatee.

Some widows are restricted in their physical mobility and have difficulty with regular household tasks. Many receive assistance in that area from a Legatee. Legacy endeavours to help widows remain in their own homes as long as possible. Others who decide to move to alternative accommodation will be helped with advice on available options including aged care residences.

In many cases the widow simply needs to feel she has someone who is there for her, should the need arise. This may be practical advice or simply a friendly chat over a cup of tea. If a widow needs someone to mow her lawn or a maintenance person she can contact her Legatee who will recommend a reputable person in the area. For

individuals in necessitous circumstances Legacy provides direct financial assistance in the form of a grant or loan to help widows overcome short term problems. The needs of a war widow vary considerably and the widow can take comfort that she is able to discuss whatever her particular concerns are with her Legatee who will help her wherever possible.

H a p p e n i n g s

at Legacy

H o u s e

Hundreds of widows regularly call in to Legacy House in Swanston Street, Melbourne to have a cup of tea in the Widows' Lounge whenever they are in town and need a bit of a break. Voluntary helpers cheerfully serve the widows who can take comfort in the

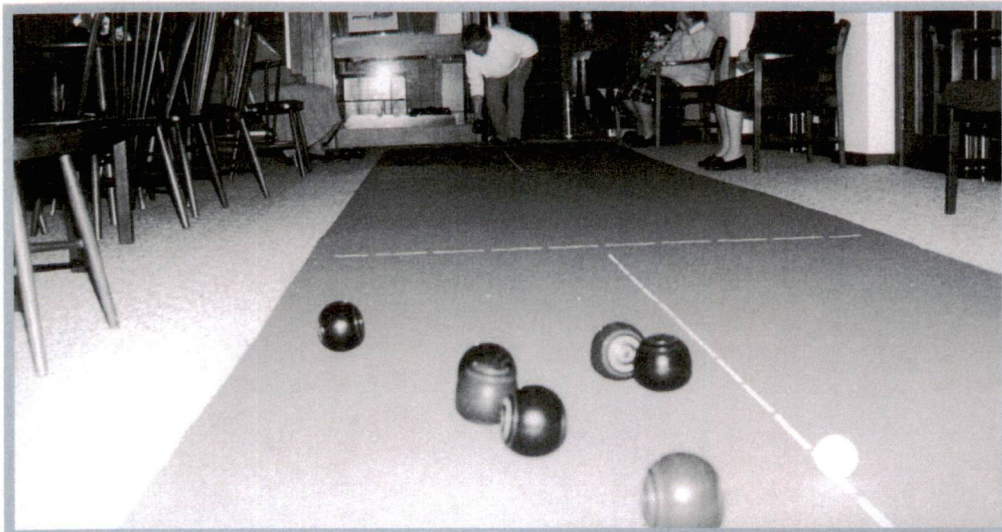
fact that they can come in for a friendly chat any time from 10am - 3:30pm. Legacy House in Swanston Street also provides a venue for a variety of activities for widows including aerobics/exercises, painting and tapestry classes, bowls, cards, monthly concerts or informal gatherings.

One group of widows has raised considerable revenue by recycling used stamps. Another group prepares the rosemary sprigs which are given to school children for Legacy's Annual ANZAC Commemoration Ceremony for students and to city marchers on ANZAC Day.

For nearly forty years a group of widows, fondly referred to as the 'Bully' ladies, have been folding



June Sparks & Sue Sargent, two of our voluntary helpers ready to serve you at Legacy House Widows' Clubrooms



Widows' Pension claims and appeals. The Legacy Pensions team applies that expertise and personal support to ensure she has the best possible chance of realising a favourable outcome.

Over 700 War Widows' Pension claims and appeals were handled in 1999 with results that have earned many warm messages of appreciation from the widows assisted.

TOP LEFT: Widows playing bowls at Legacy House

BELOW: Widows at the Shrine of Remembrance

and placing 1000 Bulletin newsletters in envelopes each fortnight. However in December the 'Bully' ladies retired and this operation will now go out to a Mailing House.

Melbourne Legacy has 72 Widows' Clubs which are run by the widows themselves. Through meetings, outings and visits to one another, the ladies provide each other with comradeship and mutual support. For many ladies this contact brings a real sense of belonging and purpose to their life.

In May 1999 a special Widow's Seminar was held at Legacy House and was attended by the Presidents and the Secretaries of our Widows' Clubs. Topics covered included Fire Prevention, University of the Third Age, Palliative Care, Women's Health Issues and Vision Australia. Legacy endeavours to ensure our widows are up to date with current issues and concerns. Melbourne Legacy's bi-monthly widows' newsletter 'The Answer' provides health and welfare information and items of general interest. It is mailed directly to Legacy widows six times per year.

**Lending
a Friendly
E a r**

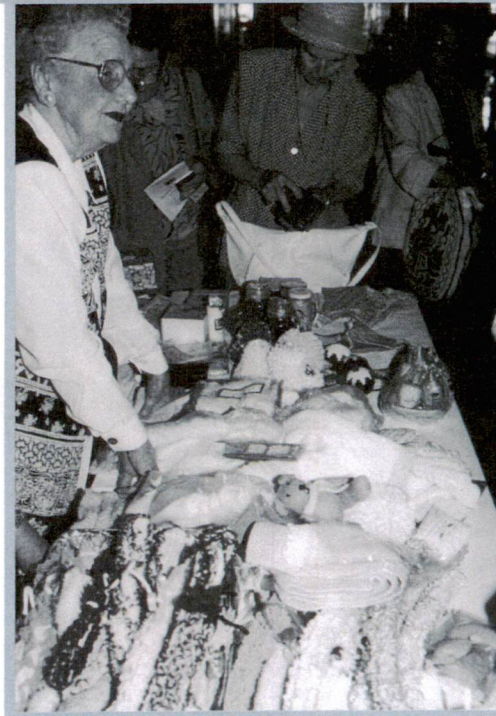
The spirit of Legacy is SERVICE. Its task is to help and guide. Most widows are able to make personal contact with an individual Legatee. Others are able



to call on Legatees who are on duty at Legacy House each weekday between 10am -3pm. Whether it's a query on accommodation, house maintenance, health issues or information on widows social activities there is always a committed Legatee ready and willing to try to assist.

**Pensions and
the Department of
Veterans' Affairs**

The number of widows seeking Legacy's assistance regarding a War Widows' Pension continues to increase. In line with Legacy's policy that widows receive all Government benefits that are properly due to them, all involved in the Legacy Pensions team do their utmost to ensure pension claims and appeals are presented in the best possible light. Legacy has developed detailed knowledge of legislation relating to War



ABOVE: Voluntary helper selling items that have been donated or made by widows

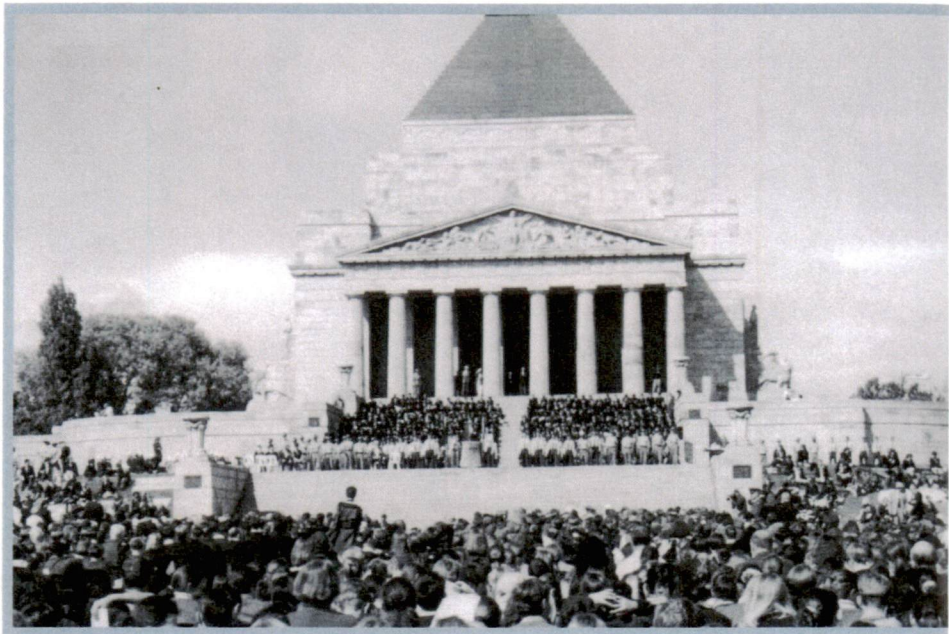


Education

By encouraging and financially assisting Junior Legatees to advance their education to the maximum of their capabilities, Legacy continues to fulfil its accepted obligations in this vital field of service.

During 1999, 26 female Junior Legatees have been assisted in this way, half of them now being at the tertiary level. 39 male Junior Legatees in Melbourne and an additional 15 across Victoria received similar assistance through the Barbara MacRae Trust administered by Melbourne Legacy.

RIGHT: More than 3000 students attended the 1999 ANZAC Commemoration Ceremony.



Students proudly carry their school banners at Legacy's Annual ANZAC Commemoration Ceremony

Spirit lives on in Special Event

Legacy has helped keep the ANZAC Spirit alive and well. Schools from around the State take part in an annual ANZAC Commemoration Ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance. Now in its 68th year, the ceremony is a moving experience as school children decorate the Shrine steps with beautiful wreaths.

Another way Legacy helps keep the ANZAC Spirit alive is through the Gallipoli Lone Pine project. Legacy has worked hard to spread the message of this poignant piece of living history. Schools and many other public and private bodies are now presented with the seedlings derived from the original tree, in the hope they will flourish and be cherished as a symbol of Australian nationhood.

THANK YOU

A special thank you is extended to the following organisations who have helped keep the Torch of Legacy alight:

Huntingdale & Rosanna Golf Clubs, The RVBA, the Bowling fraternity & Bowls Clubs, Burnley College, Institute of Land & Food Resources, The Sub-Branchees of the R & SL, Teachers & Students at schools and colleges, Coles Victorian Supermarkets, College Cadet Corps, The Armed Services,

The Corporate Sector, Trusts & Foundations, The management & staff of metropolitan & suburban media.

Legacy salutes you and the many, many individuals who are friends of Legacy in so many helpful ways.



Speaking of Legacy

More than 2000 young people from around Australia took part in this year's Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award competition.

The award which originated in Melbourne in 1988 aims to enhance oral skills of 12-14 year olds who are judged on use of language, to convey a message or point of view, or to relate to an experience. This award allows young people to learn something of Legacy's timeless ideals. Their main five-minute speech must be based on a story about those ideals: voluntary service, caring and mateship.



ABOVE: State finalists at the 1999 Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award

Our

Badge

Our Badge Appeal Committee has had a very busy and productive year which culminated in raising in excess of \$317,000 in the Melbourne metropolitan area alone which was almost 2% more than the 1998 total.

The excellent result of our 1999 Badge Appeal was produced by the wonderful team of volunteers including members of the Legacy family and friends of Legacy.

The participation of sellers from many sectors of the community was a heartening feature of the Appeal. This included the continued support of the Defence Forces, the R.S.L. (Victorian Branch) and numerous members of local R.S.L. Sub-Branches, the Salvation Army Red Shield R.S.L. Sub-Branch, the Air Training Corps cadets and involvement of sporting bodies, public and private firms together with members of the general public, Legacy Widows' Clubs members, and students from a number of secondary schools. Badges have also been sold in Coles Supermarkets throughout Victoria and we have greatly appreciated that support.

A contribution from the Commonwealth Bank of Australia towards the cost of promotional material for the Badge Appeal also contributed to the successful outcome of the Appeal.

As Legacy moves into the new Millennium the continuation of community support is vitally important to funding our ongoing work.

RIGHT: School students are a welcome addition to the Sales Force during Legacy Week.

BELOW: Legacy Widows help raise extra funds with a street stall on Legacy Friday

Appeal





Community Effort

Whilst the annual Badge Appeal is Legacy's major fund raising effort, Legacy also organises fundraising events each year. These include sporting events such as charity golf days at the Rosanna and Huntingdale Golf Clubs and the Open Pairs Bowls Tournament for the Dallas Brooks Trophy.

Legacy is particularly grateful to the Department of Defence for nominating Melbourne Legacy as one of the joint recipients of the proceeds from the 1999 Tenix Defence Charity Ball.

TOP RIGHT: Guest speaker at the Launch of Legacy Week was entertainer Normie Rowe, a Vietnam Veteran



Youth Activities

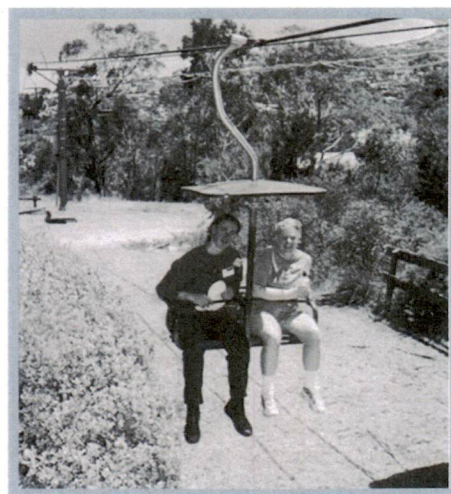
Melbourne Legacy has 162 registered Junior Legatees who share a bond forged through common experience. Many have grown up without a father and seen their mother struggle to raise children without a husband.

The Youth Activities Group's major event is the annual Christmas Camp. This was held at Lakewood Park situated between Lakes Entrance and Bairnsdale, and was attended by 32 Junior Legatees including children from Tasmania, Northern Territory and New South Wales.

During the two week camp, activities such as swimming, canoeing, ropes course, boogie boarding, horse riding, hovercraft ride and rafting took place.



ABOVE: Not alone Junior Legatees Megan, Peter, Jessica and Luke with mum Gillian Hazelager



ABOVE: Having fun at the Arthur's Seat chairlift.

RIGHT: Over 30 'Junior Legatees' attended Legacy's annual holiday camp at Lakewood Park Educational and Recreation complex situated between Lakes Entrance and Bairnsdale from the 9-18th of January





The Melbourne Legacy Leadership Group ran the program and should be complimented on the high standard that they maintained. The ongoing management of Youth activities is maintained by the Leadership Group, a dedicated group of young people aged between 18 - 35 who were themselves Junior Legatees. Other activities throughout the year include water skiing, sailing, rafting and caving, ice skating, indoor rock climbing, basketball, horse riding and an outing to the Puffing Billy.

Legacy endeavours with all activities to place an emphasis on education - teaching children things such as first aid and general social skills.

Disabled Dependants

Legacy's long tradition of caring also extends to the disabled dependants of deceased servicemen, no matter what their age.

Melbourne Legacy has 328 disabled dependants in its care, ranging from 25 to 70 years of age.

While their ages vary greatly, so do the abilities of these disabled Junior Legatees. Most are intellectually disabled, while some also have physical disabilities.

BELOW: A group of disabled dependants enjoying themselves at the Somers camp.



The Disabled Dependants Committee organises recreational Saturdays once a month. Activities during 1999 included outings to the Zoo, Werribee Park Mansion, the Yarra Valley and the movies, capped off by a Christmas party at the Hard Rock Cafe.



ABOVE: Hitting a six at Somers.

The highlight of the year, though, was the two-week summer camp. For the 16th successive year, 50 disabled dependants made the trek down to Somers on the Mornington Peninsula. The holidaymakers tried their hand at a range of activities, including painting and drawing, volleyball and cricket, before taking to the dance floor at the

local disco. There was also cooking, dance and drama classes, while karaoke singing proved a particular success. The summer camp gives disabled dependants the chance to make new friends and enjoy a real holiday from

their usual routine. It also gives their mothers and carers a well-deserved break.

YOUR WILL- THEIR FUTURE

By remembering Legacy in your Will you can leave an enduring gift to ensure support for widows & children of deceased veterans and of those who lose their lives in hazardous Service training.

Melbourne Legacy alone needs to raise \$2.5m each year in order to maintain the level of its services to some 24,000 widows plus 500 children & disabled dependants

Legacy's income is not Government-based, and it relies on the generosity of the community for financial support.

A bequest will greatly assist Legacy to continue its welfare work well into the future.

*For information please contact: Mrs Ann Logan
Melbourne Legacy 293 Swanston St, Melbourne
Tel: (03) 9663 3564*



N e w

President

Melbourne Legacy's President for 2000 is David Kelly.

David joined Legacy in 1988 having been proposed by his father-in-law Legatee Albert Prohasky. In 1992 he was appointed member for the Northern Territory on Legacy Co-ordinating Council. From 1994 - 1999 he was Honorary Secretary/Public Officer on Co-ordinating Council and was Deputy Chairman of the Finance & Property Committee Project 1997 Plus review.

David has been with the National Australia Bank for 33 years in a variety of roles from Retail Banking, Management Education & Training to Human Resources. He is currently an Area Manager for Premium Financial Services, responsible for a team of 22 Financial Planners spread throughout rural Victoria and Tasmania.

David and his wife Helen have two adult daughters - Rebecca and Prue. His many interests include golf, football, cricket and gardening.



ABOVE: Incoming President David Kelly (left) is congratulated by 1999 President Graham Riches.

A n

unforgettable

Year

To have been President of Melbourne Legacy, the 'mother club' of this uniquely Australian movement, is a great honour.

The strength of Legacy is the support it derives from fellow Australians who respect what Legacy does. Gary Parsons record breaking longest ever, continuous run around Australia in support of Legacy last year, is a magnificent example of that sort of support.

As I have travelled round the country on Legacy work I have enjoyed the hospitality of numerous people. There will be new challenges for Legacy as the new century unfolds. The bonds of friendship built on that hospitality will help us face those new challenges together. I look forward to a new role as the Vice Chairman of Legacy Co-ordinating Council.

Thank you for the unique experience as President and the support you have given me and Legacy.

*Graham Riches,
1999 President*

Help Keep the Torch of Legacy burning

Legacy's challenge is to ensure that we can offer peace of mind to the War Widows of our dearly departed veterans. To keep the Legacy Torch burning in 2000 we will need in excess of \$2 million. A bequest to Legacy in your will is a lasting gift of remembrance. Suggested forms of bequest are:

- * "I bequest the sum of \$_____ or,
- * I bequest _____% of my residuary estate.....
- * I bequest the whole of my residuary estate.....

free of all deductions, to Legacy Melbourne to utilise for the general purpose of such Fund and the receipt of any one of the Directors for the time being of such Fund shall be a sufficient discharge to my trustees."

If you would like to support Melbourne Legacy in this way you may obtain further information from:

The General Manager
Melbourne Legacy
GPO Box 4312PP,
Melbourne 3001
Tel: (03) 9663 3564
or Fax: (03) 9663 3015

Legacy, Melbourne ACN 004 301 348

Visit our Internet Home Page www.legacy.com.au/melbourne
or contact us by email melb@legacy.com.au

