



THE BULLETIN

Journal of the
Legacy Club of Melbourne

No. 2934 3RD DECEMBER, 1998



**OFFICIAL OPENING OF CONFERENCE BY HIS EXCELLENCY
THE HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM DEANE AC, KBE
GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA**

Let me commence by saying how much Helen and I welcome the opportunity of being with you today for the Official Opening of the 1998 National Conference of Legacy Clubs of Australia. For one thing, it enables us both to personally offer our warmest congratulations as you celebrate Legacy's 75th Anniversary. Perhaps more important, it enables me, as Governor-General and on behalf of all Australians, to pay public tribute to the sheer goodness of this uniquely Australian voluntary ex-service organisation in this very special Anniversary year.

For three-quarters of a century Legatees have been caring for the widows and the dependant children of Australian servicemen and women who have been killed on active service, of veterans who have subsequently died, and of defence force personnel who have been killed during training exercises or on hazardous service. Thus, to cite one of the more recent examples, you are assisting the surviving families of some of the servicemen who were tragically killed in the Black Hawk helicopter training accident near Townsville in June of 1996. I have, in the period since the crash, endeavoured to maintain personal contact with those families. I can personally assure you of the importance not only of any assistance actively given but of the knowledge that assistance will be available if and when it is needed.

I mention that because it demonstrates not only the **needs** of service families in crisis remain as they always have, but also that the readiness of Legatees to **respond** to those needs continues undimmed across the years. The Legacy of care and friendship for surviving family members, bequeathed by those who served in the First World War, has been nobly taken up by the generations of service people who have served in the Second World War, those who fought in Korea and Vietnam, those who have served with our country's peacekeeping forces in many of the world's trouble spots. And let me not forget the many Junior Legatees, who were themselves assisted as children, who now are returning by way of service and membership, something of their own inheritance of care and commitment.

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**LEGACY HOUSE WILL CLOSE ON WEDNESDAY 23RD DECEMBER, 1998
AT 12 NOON AND RE-OPEN MONDAY, 4TH JANUARY, 1999 AT 9:00 A.M.**



**LAST BULLETIN FOR 1998 - 17TH DECEMBER.
FIRST BULLETIN FOR 1999 - 14TH JANUARY.**



GUEST SPEAKER - TUESDAY 8th DECEMBER, 1998
Mr John Glover
RMIT - DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL RADIATIONS SCIENCE
"FACIAL MATURATION BY COMPUTER SIMULATION"

**OFFICIAL OPENING OF CONFERENCE BY HIS EXCELLENCY
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As I think you all know, there is a certain amount of friendly rivalry between Melbourne and Hobart as to which Club can claim paternity of the Legacy movement. I do not intend to enter the dispute. What is beyond dispute, however, is that 1923 was the year of birth. It was in that year that Major General Gellibrand began the Remembrance Club in Hobart, mainly to provide mutual support between soldiers who had returned from the First World War. General Gellibrand suggested to Captain, later to become Lieutenant General Stanley Savige, that he start a similar Club in Melbourne – which he did, in that same year of 1923. General Savige called his Club Legacy and, with the formation of other Clubs, Legacy spread. The Hobart Club adopted the name when it joined Legacy in 1940.

I mentioned that the original purpose of the Hobart and Melbourne Clubs was to provide mutual support among returning servicemen. It is difficult in this, the 80th Anniversary year of the 1918 Armistice, to appreciate how difficult it was for those who had survived the horrors of the Great War to return to a normal life and normal living. Some missed the bonds of shared training, shared service, shared danger and shared loyalty under arms. Some felt that their sacrifices, their suffering, their losses and their disabilities were not always understood or adequately acknowledged. Wounded minds and bodies had to be healed. For many the return to peacetime work or study was extraordinarily difficult. The Returned and Services League of Australia, as it is now known, had emerged as a powerful advocate and champion of the particular needs of returned servicemen, and as a national voice dedicated to upholding their values and preserving and honouring the memory of the sacrifices and achievements of our servicemen and women and our nation's cause.

But something in addition was wanted. Something whereby those who had returned could honour and make manifest their enduring loyalty to those comrades-in-arms who had not returned. And so in 1925 Legatee Frank Doolan suggested to members of Melbourne Legacy that a worthwhile monument to their dead mates would be to look after the families – “the missus and kids” ... to in some way make up for the role of the family member and counsellor who would not be coming back. As you well know, the continuing care of service widows and their children was adopted as a worthy goal and became the basic of all Legacy Clubs.

As you look at Legacy in this your 75th Anniversary year, it is appropriate that you look back with pride at the magnitude of past achievements. While precise comprehensive statistics are unavailable, the numbers of people helped by Legacy must be counted in the hundreds of thousands. The months, years and even decades of time devoted by individual Legatees to the work of support, guidance and affectionate companionship is beyond estimation. The worth of that work surpasses human measure.

The three critical haunting lines of Dr. John McCrae's poem, *In Flanders Fields*, which we have heard read come to mind:

“If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields”.

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More than any other organisation or movement, Legacy has enabled our nation not to break faith with those who have given everything, including life, in its service. More than any other organisation or movement, Legacy has allowed our deceased veterans to sleep secure in the knowledge that there is and will be someone to help and care for the loved ones they left behind. In that, Legacy has served not only those who it has aided. It has served our country and us all. And that is not surprising since Legacy represents – indeed is – all that is good and compassionate and caring about Australia and Australians.

In this Anniversary Year, Legacy must also look to the future. For the work must continue. For instance, at the present moment Legacy looks after approximately 1,000 dependant children: assisting with education expenses through to tertiary level – and it is Legacy's proud claim that no child has ever been denied continuing education for financial reasons – helping with sports and recreational activities, the annual live-in camp and training schemes such as the "Outward Bound" movement, and so on. There are in addition some 800 disabled dependants, some of who are themselves now quite elderly, who in addition to the usual Legacy benefits are offered regular group activities and visits and a place at the special annual live-in camps.

While most of the children may now be adults, the widows of the ex-servicemen who Legacy helps continue to have needs that must be met. Legacy still helps 130,000 widows with counselling, financial assistance where necessary, with accommodation, with health advice and with the friendship and support that is provided through more than 400 Legacy Widows' Clubs around our country.

So that, even as you look back on all that has been achieved over the **past** three-quarters of a century, you will be considering a range of suggestions to meet the **new** century that is almost upon us. There are various proposals about possible ways of broadening the effective membership – perhaps by expanding the Legacy Foundations. I know there have been suggestions that the work of Legacy may be extended to other areas of un-met need, among which, are the needs of disadvantaged young people in our society.

These are all matters for you to consider at this Conference which is both a celebration of the past and an examination of the way forward for Legacy. To all of your deliberations I am sure you will bring the same compassion, the same sense of obligation, the same commitment, and the same spirit of goodness and humanity that you have brought to the past "Seventy Five Years". For all that you have achieved, and for all that you are yet to achieve, let me, as Governor-General of our country, express my congratulations, my admiration and my thanks. I offer every good wish for the success of this Conference and for all the years of work, of generous sacrifice and of achievement that lie ahead. May God bless and guide you in all that work through all those years.

And now with great pleasure, I officially declare open the 1998 National Conference of Legacy Clubs of Australia.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DIARY (Continued)

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| 1 st December, 1998 | ➤ | Attended the Legacy Widows' Christmas Concert at the Melbourne Town Hall, accompanied by President elect, Legatee Graham Riches. |
| | ➤ | Attended the Sandringham/Mordialloc Branch Pre-Christmas Comradeship Function at the Beaumaris Ex-Services Club, accompanied by Jean Steele. |
| 2 nd December, 1998 | ➤ | Attended a twilight performance by the Australian Army Band at Macleod and received a cheque from the sale of the Band's programs throughout the year. |

CURRENT NEWS

**75TH ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF LEGACY CLUBS OF AUSTRALIA
2ND – 4TH October, 1998**

Opening Ceremony**Welcome to Melbourne:**

The Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Councillor Ivan Deveson AO welcomed visiting Legatees and their Partners to the City of Melbourne with these words.

His Excellency Sir William Deane, Lady Deane, may I say a very special welcome back to Melbourne.

Mr John Thwaites, many distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Melbourne is, of course, famous for more than cold showers. It remains the worlds most livable city. It always has been the sporting capital of the universe. It is a great city for artistic and intellectual endeavour and as you have already witnessed in many ways this morning a great city for music.

It is for me a wonderful multicultural success story as people of over 140 different ethnic backgrounds live in harmony. But above all it remains a caring city and it is my distinct pleasure to welcome everyone to the birthplace of Legacy. We are truly honoured to have representatives and members of Legacy Clubs from across the nation with us here today and I issue you with a very warm welcome. And we are obviously gathered to mark what is a truly historic occasion in the life of the City of Melbourne – 75 years of Legacy.

This anniversary is also a landmark event in the life of every capital city, town and neighbourhood around the country in which Legacy Clubs have also been established following the birth of the Melbourne Branch in 1923.

Legacy's 75th Anniversary is also a milestone in the lives of those who have been touched by Legacy's mission, especially in the core areas dedicated to the care and welfare of widows and children of those who have given their lives in the service of this great country.

Of course there are many others who have not been directly involved with Legacy but for whom today is significant. I am referring to the vast army of Legacy admirers, those who continue to support Legacy's mission year after year in recognition of the debt that we as a country and community will always owe to those who have fallen in battle. For their deaths derived meaning of the big things in life – the really big things like self sacrifice, freedom, protection of the weak and vulnerable, protection of our children.

Anniversaries like today's, of course can be solemn occasions for they remind us of the terrible price that was paid and the losses that we have suffered as a city, a State and country and especially as families.

But occasions like today's Anniversary can also be stirring and inspiring, as we gather to remember and to re-commit ourselves to the values and the memories of those who gave their lives for us, as we pause also to reflect on the impact their deaths continue to have on how we lead our lives as cities and communities, as a nation and as individuals.

Events on and around the battlefield of history have come to symbolise this City's Golden Spirit, an Indestructible Fighting Spirit, forged out of the self-sacrifice of young men and women from Melbourne and other Australian towns and cities.

That spirit now extends beyond the theatres of war to the sporting fields and other sites and venues where Australian men and women are called to give their best for their country at the highest level.

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**75TH ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF LEGACY CLUBS OF AUSTRALIA
2ND – 4TH October, 1998 (Continued...)**

Melbourne is the home and birthplace of many outstanding community groups, organisations and companies, but none, I repeat, none, holds the special place in the heart of the City that Legacy does.

The spirit of Legacy has left an indelible mark on Melbourne's heart and soul as a caring as a compassionate city ... a city, in other words, which has the Legacy spirit built into its infrastructure, its very character.

And above all in the privileged position of Lord Mayor if there is any one character I would like to see Melbourne retain it is that caring character.

Voluntarism in our city remains a great part of our life style. They are up at the Shrine looking like they are paid soldiers, they are in our tourist boxes helping you during your visit to Melbourne. I should tell you recently I was at the Zoo and there was a gentleman sitting in a box selling elephant paraphernalia opposite the elephant compound for the "Save the elephant" fund. I thanked him for his voluntarism and walked away but couldn't help myself and walked back again and said to him, "why do you volunteer?". He looked at me like I was the village idiot and said "because I like elephants".

Legacy's volunteers have over the years also established their own traditions of unmatched service on behalf of the community to the families of those killed in war. It is these volunteers who have given us cause to believe that there really are Guardian Angels after all.

Legacy also played a pivotal role in Melbourne getting its Shrine of Remembrance in St. Kilda Road. A holy and sacred site whose special aura attracts not only local, but also interstate and overseas visitors to pay homage to those who have fallen, and therefore to their families and their relatives, their wives and children, and their children's children.

The splendour of this majestic memorial which Legacy fought so hard for, provides the City and the nation – with a noble and uplifting way of remembering and honouring those who died in the service of our country in a way that we can only hope makes them and their families very proud.

Today, after 75 years, the spirit of Legacy grows stronger and stronger on this historic Anniversary as the public's appreciation and understanding of the courage, the bravery and devotion of those who died fighting for this nation continues to grow.

Finally, I would urge all Legacy Club members and Legatees, especially those from interstate, to visit the new bronze Legacy statue alongside the Shrine of Remembrance.

The new statue, which features a war widow and her two children, perhaps best symbolises the essential service of Legacy – often referred to as "Australia's Largest Family". It is a family that we, the community, by virtue of sharing the fruits of the country that Legacy's soldiers served and died for, are all linked to one another in a very special way. For we all share a common bond with those who paid the ultimate price.

The new monument is indeed a moving memorial to those who have left us with perhaps the greatest memorial of all – a free and a fair society – for their children and loved ones as well as our children and families. It is a precious Legacy that we have been bequeathed.

They are not only historic heroes, they are present heroes and future heroes and we are all the guardians of the Legacy spirit.

Thank you and again, welcome to Melbourne.
