

COMMENTS FROM PRESIDENTIAL YEAR 1974

The sequential annual "Presidential Year" comments since 1965 now embraces a wealth of constructive data which I strongly commend to the thoughtful consideration of each incoming President. There is little merit in repeating what has already been admirably put - but perhaps some general observations might be helpful :

Calls on the President's time.

His role involves both "Administrative" and "Representative" functions. The former can not be delegated but need for his personal involvement is greatly reduced by the efficiency of our Executive Officer and his staff, of the Hon. Secretary and of Vice Presidents and Chairmen of Committees.

The "representative" role entails attendance at special domestic and external functions - e.g.:

Senior Widows Annual Meeting/Xmas Concert
Intermediate Legacy annual meeting
Boys & Girls activities
Annual meetings - Groups, Branches &
Other Legacy Clubs
Kindred Organisations.

These can, and should, be shared by Vice Presidents whenever possible and appropriate. The President's personal attendance is naturally sought by those concerned but should not be thought of as mandatory - for if it were then Legacy would be in danger of denying the office of President to many who just don't have that sort of time available.

New Legatees.

It seems to me that all Legatees should experience the role of visiting contactor to a family with younger children. Such new families are becoming fewer and should perhaps be "reserved" for new Legatees.

Present Legatees.

Many are now approaching retirement from civilian occupation and are less inclined to undertake Legacy Committee roles which require their wives to be left at home alone in the evenings. I think we will need to recognise this factor and meet the situation.


Annual "Change Over" Dinner.

Preference for a "Mixed" function seems to be growing. Perhaps the time has not yet arrived, but it would be desirable for the matter to be considered by the Board from time to time - say each second year.

In any case, with escalating costs and the "guest to Legatee" ratio of attendance apparently widening (with further impact on "per Legatee" cost) it will be pertinent to carefully watch the position. One possible alternative is a largely "Legatees Only" function - with a modified mid year function at which hospitality can be shown to representatives of kindred organisations etc.

Senior Widows.

Melbourne Legacy is now moving towards regular visiting contact for lone W.W.1. widows - or at least those without the routine support of their own families. This is a necessary initial step - but the early extension of this contact to all lone widows will be an essential further step. Planning and recruiting to this end is an urgent need.



W.A. BRAIDIE
PRESIDENT 1974.