

COMMENTS ON PRESIDENTIAL YEAR - 1979

Melbourne Legacy is held in very high esteem by the public at large, and in particular by many influential leaders throughout our community.

This has been the case for more than fifty years, and the maintenance, defence and protection, and even the development of this reputation represents a heavy burden of responsibility on the incumbent President; more especially in present times when it is widely accepted that "Legacy, as it now stands, is at the cross-roads".

The President of Melbourne Legacy is a public figure who is frequently exposed during his year of office, to members of a broad cross-section of our society, both in metropolitan and country areas. An increasing number of these people are beginning to seek some clarification of some slight, but growing, doubts about the justification of the continuance of the work of Legacy.

Of greater significance is the fact that similar doubts are also exercising the minds of some of our own members - particularly those of more advanced age who are now experiencing difficulty of coping with their Legacy work and the responsibilities of maintaining active and effective membership. Understandably, most are averse to submitting resignations from the Club.

These doubts may well lead to an early call for a decision to plan the termination of our activities. Regrettably, as soon as this call is heard the premature demise of our great organisation will be precipitated and, sadly, this would take effect well in advance of the time in which our responsibilities and commitments - as clearly defined in our Charter - will have been fulfilled.

I can envisage that future Presidents, especially those occupying the Chair in the ensuing five years will be engrossed with this vital issue which will represent their most challenging task in the process of honouring the spirit and obligations of the Club.

The most redeeming and comforting feature, on which successive Presidents can surely rely, is the certainty of receiving the complete loyalty, the unfettered respect and spontaneous support of his fellow legatees.

*John De Haven*