

## Comments on Presidential Year 1980

One can only be grateful for having had the opportunity to serve Melbourne Legacy as its President. It is both a challenging and rewarding experience.

A few minor innovations may be worthwhile perpetuating. These are -

1. The outgoing President to hand the incoming President a schedule of his engagements attended (or delegated) with appropriate guide notes.
2. Legacy Funeral Services - unfortunately there were rather more deaths among our members than usual, including four Past Presidents. In the case of a Past President it is usual practice for a senior Past President to give the oration or address and for the President to conduct the Service. Where I gave the address myself, or in some cases where there was no address, I arranged for a second Legatee (Branch Chairman or close friend) to participate in the Service by placing the wreath on the casket at the appropriate moment in the Service. This involvement appeared to be appreciated by the Legatees.
3. Badge Week is opened, I believe, on behalf of all Victorian Clubs (and of course our own Melbourne Groups). I therefore invited the President of each Victorian Club (and the President of each Melbourne Group) to the Opening i.e. pre-lunch drinks and the luncheon.

The most contentious issue in 1980 was the question of extending eligibility for membership to categories of ex-servicemen who had not served overseas or in the other areas presently defined in the Code.

This is not the place to debate the issue but I think I should briefly record the background.

At the Federal Conference in Bundaberg in 1979 it was resolved that Clubs study all aspects of the auxiliary work force - see page 106 of Record of Proceedings.

Melbourne's action was to canvass all Legatees individually by a questionnaire following an Extraordinary General Meeting at which the issue was thoroughly discussed - this action is fully recorded in a submission by Melbourne to the Albury Federal Conference last year - see appendix I of the Record of Proceedings.

At Albury -

- (i) a motion to extend eligibility failed
- (ii) a motion to complete the task was passed unanimously

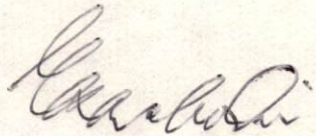


- (iii) a motion to keep the Future of Legacy Committee (a Committee of Conference not Co-ordinating Council) in existence but re-naming it "Federal Conference Planning Committee" was passed with its brief being extended to investigate Legacy's role under the Charter and other alternatives to enable the task to be completed - see pages 80/82 of Record of Proceedings.

This Conference also resolved that discussion of the future of Legacy be deferred for three years with the Planning Committee being given the on-going brief mentioned above - see page 90 of the Record of Proceedings - but this issue must also be kept alive by Melbourne and all other Clubs in the interim pending discussion at the 1983 Federal Conference.

As a final word probably each year the incumbent President has looked with increasing concern at the very large part of our income which is expended in administration. To me "it is a horse that's bolted" and I believe future Presidents will have to see what they can do to "rein it in".

12.10.1981

  
PRESIDENT 1980  
(E.K. ROBERTSON)