

## 1985 COMMENTS

1985 was a slightly different year from others. The "year" was only nine months (Mar-Dec), the President was a post-WW2 and Group Legatee and several major, some unique events occurred - the Legacy film was launched, the Legacy concert in the Concert Hall was held and Melbourne was host to a National Conference (at Morwell). As a result there was little time for contemplative planning and it was very much a "doing" time.

Some comments which hopefully will be helpful follow:

1. Beware of Tuesdays. From midday to 1 pm is chaotic as you try to collate items for mention at lunch, bone up on the guest speaker, deal with the innumerable questions thrust at you by Legatees while you try to look after the guest speaker and liaise with the Sgt-At-Arms for the programme and timing of guests, visiting Legatees, Reserve birthday boys and inductions. During lunch you have to watch the time closely, assemble your thoughts for what has to be said and listen to the speaker so that, in thanking him/her, you can comment on what has been said.
2. Thursday Comradeship, in contrast, requires no Presidential performance and you can relax a little.
3. With the best will in the world, relations with Coordinating Council at times become a little strained and can require some effort to see their point of view. Co-habitation has its plus-es and minus-es.
4. I tried to foster the notion that Melbourne Legacy IS composed of groups and branches. Groups and branches do have different procedures and, groups particularly, different problems. Visits by the President and effective work by LOs facilitate maintaining a sense of cohesiveness.
5. When visiting, always take your "cheat sheets", to cope with any surprise duties that may be foisted on you. When visiting other clubs, check beforehand if you are required to speak, instal or induct someone. Regardless of the answer, be prepared to have to speak etc.
6. Funerals are a concern. There is a procedure for notifying everyone concerned and for preparing for the service. It would be wise, early in the term of office, to check that the procedure is working. Rob Allison is helpful, particularly with the preparation for and conduct of the service.
7. Keep in mind the "alternative Board". Advisory, Tradition and History are understandably jealous of their role and it is prudent to consult them, as appropriate.
8. You can't attend every function to which you will be invited so use your Deputy to help meet the commitments. When dates clash, perhaps the wise priority is to choose "family" functions before others.
9. You will be overwhelmed at times by the support and loyalty shown to the office of President. With buckets of tolerance, a sense of humour and a liking for meeting people you will enjoy a most happy and satisfying year, as all your predecessors *have*.

*W. J. ...*