

## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS - 1992

Having read and re-read the comments made by Past Presidents and contained in this "Black Book", I feel hesitant, as have others before me, that I will be able to contribute words of wisdom that have not already been recorded. I will therefore confine my remarks to those items which in my mind "came into focus" during my year in office.

The difficulties which Legacy is to encounter over the next few years became obvious as I endeavoured to select my "team" for 1992/93. Many WWII Legatees declined to take office for various reasons. Post WWII Legatees were hesitant about accepting responsibilities which may adversely affect their employment and deciding on the times for meetings became difficult as the younger members wished to meet at night and the WWII members preferred to meet by day.

It became evident that the time for change had arrived and the responsibility for the activities of Legacy should be transferred as soon as practicable to the Post WWII Legatees.

The Melbourne Legacy Change-over Luncheon was the first official function of the year. This function had for some years prior, been held in Legacy House. With the encouragement of Past President, Legatee John Sullivan it was decided that this annual event should be up-graded and as a result the 1992 Luncheon was held in the Olympic Rooms at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. It was generally agreed following the event that future Legacy Change-over functions should be of an equally high standard.

On settling down to the day to day tasks which lay ahead I realised that our Support Group, established by the 1991 Board of Management, and performing with admirable enthusiasm, was being regarded as a group of younger people upon whom we could call to assist in badge selling, firewood distribution and similar tasks. It was evident that if the group was to continue along the path it was heading, it would in part only fulfil the role for which it had been designed, namely to assist the ageing Legatees in particular in their work. With the agreement of all concerned, action was taken to rectify this matter and members of the group have now been allocated to our Branches and Groups and are carrying out duties in line with, and alongside, Legatees.

The major topic of the year was The Future of Legacy and although this subject had been on the agenda of National Conferences for some years past it was in 1992 that the Code Review Committee, formed as a result of the 1991 Conference, put forward the recommendation that Clause 4 of The Code of Legacy be changed to admit to membership other than returned ex-service personnel. This subject created emotional, and sometimes heated debates and it was disappointing for me that at the end of the 1992 National Conference, the manner in which we were to obtain younger assistants remained unresolved. I did however feel that all was not lost as members had throughout the year been exposed to considerable discussion on the subject and were well prepared to make a considered decision in 1993.

One of the most pleasing aspects of my year was my realisation of the manner in which our various committees operate. With minimal direction from the Board of Management their functions are carried out effectively and efficiently and I was most grateful for their contribution throughout the year.

My thanks are extended to Executive Officer, Terry Walsh and all members of our Legacy House staff for their help and advice. We are certainly fortunate to have such a loyal and dedicated staff.

I am grateful too for the support given to both Joan and me by fellow Legatees and their wives and we thank not only members of the Melbourne Legacy Club but all Legatees and their wives of the many Legacy Clubs we visited during the year, for their friendship and hospitality.

It was indeed a memorable year for both of us and I am indebted to my fellow Legatees for the privilege of having served as their President in 1992.

