

CONFIDENTIAL

1994 COMMENTS

I became President of Melbourne Legacy by default. I had agreed to continue as Vice President (Fund Raising and Public Relations) under nominated President Allan Quayle. Unfortunately, Allan suffered a very serious accident in December, 1993, and I took his place. Happily, after a long illness, Allan is well again.

The year was, I believe, one of steady application to the Legacy task. Widows enrolled increased from 24,904 to 25,457. Widows' Clubs increased from 70 to 73. Disabled Dependants remained approximately the same, and the number of other Junior Legatees decreased from 224 to 201. The number of pension claims and appeals processed increased by 20%, and the success rate rose by nine percentage points.

The year was marked by the formal adoption of the Legacy Foundation of Victoria as the preferred auxiliary workforce, in preference to the Support Group. Legatees also decided that members of the Foundation allocated to Melbourne Legacy would be Affiliate Members of Melbourne Legacy, could come from any walk of life provided they shared the ideals of Legacy, could vote at meetings other than on matters relating to the Code of Legacy, and occupy any office other than President or Vice President of Melbourne Legacy.

While this appears acceptable, it creates a situation that must be carefully monitored. There have been statements by one Branch and a number of medium to high profile Legatees that Melbourne Legacy should be preparing to transfer its Charter to the Legacy Foundation of Victoria to complete the task. I am firmly opposed to this suggestion. To my mind, there is sufficient workforce within Melbourne Legacy, and sufficient potential to increase it when and where required. On the one hand, numbers of PWWII Legatees have doubled in the last six years, and the younger members attract others; and we now have the facility to recruit Affiliate Members through the Legacy Foundation of Victoria.

In theory at least, Melbourne Legacy has the ability to remain active until it is decided that the remaining workload is so small that it could best be handled by the Foundation.

As I have said, I believe the situation should be closely monitored.

There are also those that say that Legacy should only enrol those in necessitous circumstances. I do not agree. However, we should continue to ensure that, whenever possible, those that can pay their way do so.

I have been grateful for the opportunity to be President in 1994.

Serge Woodward
31/1/95