

History

Of

Melbourne Legacy

Northern Branch

As of September 2023

This is a history of the foundation, development and eventual amalgamation of the Heidelberg (established 16th October, 1957) and the Northcote/Preston/Whittlesea (established 3rd May, 1958) Branches of Melbourne Legacy. On 12th December, 1984 an Inaugural Meeting was conducted amalgamating the two former Branches into the Northern Branch of Melbourne Legacy.

Heidelberg Branch

Heidelberg Branch of Melbourne Legacy, founded in October 1957, had responsibility covering an area extending from Fairfield to Kinglake. At least two families in the St Andrews area were also included. This area produced an annual average of 200 families eligible for and accepting Legacy assistance provided by Branch Legatees. Fairfield was later transferred to the former Preston/Northcote/Whittlesea Branch.

Legatee G M (Dick) Lee, the Foundation Chairman of the “old” Heidelberg Branch, was, in the opinion of some of the residual group of foundation members, worthy of note. As the first Chairman he established the basis of effective contact work. He is described as a hard but fair taskmaster on contact work. To Legatee Lee anything that interfered with contact work was secondary. Legatee “Dick” Lee was secretary of the Services Canteen Trust Fund until his death. “Heaven help the Legatee who forgot to apply for S C T F benefits: (Ian Mc Donald).

The inaugural meeting was held early in 1957 at the home of Legatee John Cox (deceased). Those present included Dick Lee, Sam Fry, Pat and David Dooley, J Evans, Herb Greenway, John Law-Smith and Ian Mc Donald.

The following Legatees were members of the Heidelberg Branch in 1958, the Branch being established in October of the previous year:

C M Lee, J S Cox, I H Brock, L G Canty, N H Dooley, D R Dooley, J H M Evans, A H Fry, H T Greenway, J A Hall, T J Harris, J R Law-Smith, A T Long, E J Love, I Mc Donald, E A North, J A Reid, W W Wilkinson, J A Battanta, K Kanake.

Heidelberg Branch was the senior Branch of Melbourne Legacy and three Branch Legatees have been nominated and have served full terms as the president of Melbourne Legacy. These are A V Dore (1965), G W Blackwood (1975) and E G Baker (1976).

Legacy families’ 25 years ago included many children. To provide activities for these Junior Legatees a system of Boys’ Classes was conducted in and around the metropolitan area, while Girls’ Classes were held at Legacy House, thus fostering national spirit, personal pride, a sense of discipline, team work, comradeship and the concept of service to others.

The **Heidelberg Boys’ Class**, established in 1958, was always one of the larger, weekly roll calls often reaching 60 to 70 fatherless boys. Over the years the number of Junior Legatees naturally declined, bringing about a compulsory end to Boys’ Classes. The final Heidelberg Boys’ Class was held in December 1979 when some 120 past and present Junior Legatees (with some mothers, wives and children) attended. Nine of those present had attended the original class 21 years before. At the function a letter received from John Cheffers, the Senior Instructor (later a professor of physical education at Boston University) and read by the class leader, Legatee Alan Long, advised the gathering this way – *“Let us not dwell too*

long in sadness but rather celebrate the passage of fruitful time and progress to other needed fields”.

This sentiment and the knowledge of an existing band of mature Junior Legatees who would be willing to help Legacy just as Legacy had helped them, had inspired Legatee George W Blackwood to initiate a group designed to assist Legatees in visiting the growing number of elderly and lonely widows. Towards this end a number of adult Junior Legatees were invited and enthusiastically agreed to form the “Heidelberg Helper Group” subsequently designated the “**Legacy Support Group**”. Legatee Blackwood was the convenor of this meeting and he was supported by Legatee Bert Clark. The following ladies attended: Mrs Lorraine Douglas, Derithe Harrison, Shirley Hickey, Winifred Lovelace, Lorna Webster, June Whitechurch and Wilma Rutherford. “It was explained to them that it is likely that there would be a committee within the Branch to which they could refer problems and from which they would obtain the information regarding the widows who would be the subjects of their attention and it is even likely that a Legatee would be nominated for each senior widow” (Blackwood 1979).

The idea has been taken up by other Branches, and Legacy Support Groups now supplement Legacy services by providing a home-visiting service, shopping assistance and the like, a facet of Legacy operations now acknowledged as being a significant success, Legatee Blackwood, now deceased, will be remembered for this, among other things.

Similarly, the **Legacy Leadership Group**, which is composed of ex Junior Legatees who have qualified at Outward Bound Courses now sponsors outdoor activities for teenage Junior Legatees and also organises outings for the widows and their children.

The success of the Handicapped Dependants Committee owes much to the enthusiasm and guidance of its original Chairman, the late Legatee Rod Fraser of Heidelberg Branch and the support of the Branch members’ wives. This work as Chairman of the Committee was most successfully continued by another Heidelberg Branch Legatee in Neil Kirk.

Cited as an example, these resources were used in a combined operation to enable the Heidelberg Branch to assist a distressed widow from another state. The widow, living in Hobart with a handicapped son and a handicapped daughter, was at her wits end when the daughter fell from a window becoming a paraplegic and requiring nine months in Austin Hospital. The Branch arranged a panel of daily visitors comprising nine ladies from the Heidelberg Branch Support Group and mothers of Legacy handicapped dependants, who maintained their voluntary, compassionate service over the full nine months, thus enabling the distracted and most grateful mother to remain in Hobart with her handicapped son. In such ways Heidelberg Branch exemplified the spirit of Legacy.

Chairmen of the Heidelberg Branch prior to the merger were as follows:

1957	G M (Dick) Lee	1971	N H Kirk
1958	G M Lee	1972	J N Roscholler
1959	J A Hall	1973	J Fowler
1960	D R Dooley	1974	H B Tregonning
1961	D R Dooley	1975	A S Davis
1962	G B Smith	1976	I Mc Donald
1963	A H Fry	1977	L C Freemantle
1964	J S Cox	1978	S F Morton
1965	D E Davis	1979	H E Clark
1966	W W Wilkinson	1980	H E Clark / R C G Lea
1967	W D Seabrook	1981	R C G Lea
1968	G W Blackwood	1982	R C G Lea
1969	N T Harvey	1983	T G Nisbet
1970	E G Baker	1984	D W F Jordan

Heidelberg Widows' Club

The Inaugural Meeting was held at Ivanhoe RSL in November, 1983 with 57 widows in attendance. This Club has an average attendance of 60 though recorded membership is much higher and is currently being computed.

The Foundation President was Mrs Jimmison (through to June, 1984) followed by Mrs K Caulfied (from June, 1984 to February, 1987). Mrs E Boyle is the current President. Mrs Mary Canty (widow of the late Legatee Lin Canty) has been the Treasurer throughout this period.

The Club arranges the activities which include craft instruction, guest lecturers, excursions, picnics and other outings and it has a role in fund raising. Like all Northern Branch Widows' Clubs (3) it has adopted the guidelines laid down by Melbourne Legacy for such Clubs. Legatee J Cohen assisted By Legatee D W Alexander played significant roles in the formation of the Heidelberg Widows' Club.

House Painting

Boys from Ivanhoe Grammar School apply external painting for up to 5 widows' homes per year in the area served by the "old" Heidelberg Branch and have been doing so for 12 or more years. During this period Legatee I H H Brock has provided the liaison between the schools, widows and Tough and Goldsworthy who tend the equipment. Painting is now going outside the original "Heidelberg Branch" boundary to Reservoir and beyond.

Fund Raising

In the Heidelberg area funding was provided by the Heidelberg Civic Fund until it ceased to operate, the Heidelberg Rotary Club, by the Heidelberg City Council and by the Rosanna Golf Club which promotes an annual event, the money being shared by Legacy and "Carry On".

Northcote/Preston/Whittlesea Branch

On January 23rd, 1958 a special meeting was held at Legacy House, Melbourne with a view to forming district branches in the Northcote and Essendon areas. The meeting was chaired by Legatee Bert Nathan.

Present at the meeting were the following Legatees who were to form the nucleus of the Northcote Branch: John Paterson, Bill Gaff, Fred Salter, Fred Thompson, Matt Walton, Ron Ashmore and Leigh Johns.

It was explained during the meeting that the first task would be to look for suitable men residing in the district who could be recruited into Legacy.

Legatee John Paterson was charged with the responsibility of establishing the first Northcote Branch.

On March 3rd, 1958 the Northcote and District Branch was established with Legatee Paterson as Chairman.

Early meetings of the Branch were held at the Northcote RSL but after some months it was decided to establish links with other RSL sub-branches. Meetings were thus held more or less in rotation at Northcote, Preston and Reservoir, with an occasional meeting at Epping and Whittlesea. It was during the early years of the Branch that the name was changed from Northcote and District to Northcote/Preston/Whittlesea. The change of name identified the wide area covered by the Branch and this encouraged a wider range of support.

Municipal councils, RSL's and service clubs such as Lions and Rotary were very supportive. Several business houses and sporting clubs also provided support. The Strathallan Golf Club emerged as an enthusiastic supporter early in the history of the Branch and that support still exists.

Chairmen of the Northern Branch of Legacy since Amalgamation have been:

1985	J A Battanta
1986	O J Jenkin
1987	J N Roscholler
1988	J N Roscholler

Widows' Clubs formed since the amalgamation of the two Branches are located in the old Northcote/Preston/Whittlesea area.

Preston / Reservoir

Inaugural Meeting – July 1985. Foundation President was Mrs McKenna, Secretary Mrs Carlisle. Average attendance is now 100 of a total of 150 members.

Northcote

Inaugural Meeting in May, 1986. Foundation President was Mrs Preuss, Secretary, Mrs Morgan. Average attendance is now 62 of a total of 65 members. Legatee K Jones, C Mc Gillycuddy, C L Greenway and D W Alexander all contributed, with Legatee Jones playing a leadership role.

Thus Widows' Clubs in Northern Branch have an average attendance of 222 at their regular monthly meetings.

This history was compiled with the help of the following members of the Northern Branch: Legatees Geoff Lea, Leigh Johns, Bill Wilkinson, Bert Clarke, Dennis Jordan and John Roscholler.

JOHN N ROSCHOLLER

(Chairman Northern Branch) 21st October 1988.

ADDENDUM TO THE HISTORY OF THE NORTHERN BRANCH OF MELBOURNE LEGACY

Following are the numbers of Legatees who formed the work force in the Branches acting separately until 1985 and then as the new Northern Branch from then on:

	<u>Heidelberg Branch</u>	<u>Northcote/Preston Whittlesea Branch</u>	<u>Northern Branch</u>
1957	8		1985 - 57
1958	17	8	1986 - 54
1959	21	11	1987 - 54
1960	24	13	1988 - 54
1961	27	16	
1962	26	19	
1963	32	18	
1964	32	22	
1965	34	24	
1966	37	26	
1967	35	26	
1968	42	27	
1969	48	27	
1970	47	27	
1971	42	28	
1972	39	26	
1973	41	27	
1974	43	28	
1975	45	25	
1976	44	27	
1977	45	28	
1978	43	23	
1979	41	25	
1980	39	21	
1981	38	23	
1982	40	26	
1983	39	26	
1984	38	23	

Northern Branch Meetings

Meetings continued to be conducted once a month at the Ivanhoe RSL until 1999. In 2000 meetings were transferred to the Heidelberg RSL where they are held every second Wednesday of the month at 7.30 p.m. followed by comradeship after the meeting.

Branch Chairmen

1989	J Cohen	1999	R Davies
1990	A Long	2000	A James
1991	K Rentoul	2001	A James
1992	E Jowett	2002	L Smith
1993	L Hubbard	2003	L Smith
1994	R Greene	2004	D Harrison
1995	G Durkin	2005	D Harrison
1996	T Woolcock	2006	J Howell
1997	R Kean	2007	I Harrison
1998	R Davies	2008	G Archer

2004 Workforce Numbers

Active Members	31
Reserve	16
Total	47

Widows Clubs

Since last reported there are six Widows Clubs that comes under Northern Branch. These branches all have Legatees attending their monthly meetings. They are:

Epping	Legatees Laurie Smith, Dave Evans
Eltham	Legatees Ted Woolcock, John Howell
Heidelberg	Legatees Ken Cavanagh, Eddie Jowett
Northcote	Legatees Ray Easy, Leigh Johns
Preston/Reservoir	Legatees Jan Shearer, Derithe Harrison
Watsonia	Legatees Lawrie Hubbard, Jack Rose, Ray Keane

Widows meetings are attended by approximately 280 – 300 widows a month. Legatees give a monthly report of meetings at monthly Branch meetings. Widows groups continue to enjoy numerous outings, guest speakers, birthday luncheons and quality time together.

2 new Legatees Brian Mills and Keith Gaff were inducted into Legacy in 2004.

In December 2004 we were saddened by the passing of the following Legatees, John Roscholler, Laurie Smith and Russ Oliver.

Committee – 2004 - 2005:

Branch Chairman	Legatee Derithe Harrison
Deputy Chairman	Legatee John Howell
Secretary	Legatee Ted Woolcock
Contact Secretary	Legatee Lin Freemantle
Convenor, Pensions Panel	Legatee Tony Battanta
Branch Recruiting Officer	Legatee Ian Harrison
Welfare / Housing	Legatee Ted Woolcock
Badge Appeal	Legatees Lawrie Hubbard

2005 was an excellent year for recruiting. New Legatees to the branch were Legatees Gordon Archer, Tess Easy, Heather Fidler, Ian Fidler, Richard Keeling, Lena Puckey.

Legatees Dick Davies passed away in December 2005.

2005 was a successful year for Northern Branch with the reformation of a Badge committee and the role once again being shared by the branch. The comradeship instigated by this move has been excellent.

Committee - 2006:

Branch Chairman	Legatee John Howell
Deputy Chairman	Legatee Ian Harrison
Secretary	Legatee Heather Fidler
Treasurer	Legatee Ted Woolcock
Contact Secretary	Legatee Lin Freemantle
Convenor, Pensions Panel	Legatee Tony Battanta
Branch Recruiting Officer	Legatee John Howell
Welfare / Housing	Legatee Ted Woolcock
Badge Appeal	Legatee John Howell

Two Legatees transferred into our Branch in January 2006, Legatees Daryl Pinner and Clyde Smith (Reserve).

Legatee Ronald Ashworth passed away in January 2006.

Branch numbers certainly depleted during 2006. Legatees Doug Blackney, Dave Evans and Alan Long were placed on the reserve list and 4 members resigned from Legacy due to various work and health related issues. Legatee Rob Redzeppi transferred to Echuca branch and during the year Legatees Bill Wilkinson and Dick Davies passed away.

In January 2007 Legatees Eddie Jowett and David Dooley passed away.

Legatee John Howell, Chairman of Northern Branch was involved in an accident in January 2007 and had to request leave for 6 months to recover from his injuries. Legatee Ian Harrison stepped into the role of Chairman for the remainder of John's year.

Committee - 2007:-

Branch Chairman	Legatee Ian Harrison
Deputy Chairman	Legatee Ian Dossier
Secretary	Legatee Gordon Archer
Treasurer	Legatee Ted Woolcock
Contact Secretary	Legatee Ian Dossier
Convenor, Pensions Panel	Legatee Tony Battanta
Branch Recruiting Officer	Legatee Ian Harrison
Welfare / Housing	Legatee Ted Woolcock
Badge Appeal	Legatees John Howell/Derithe Harrison

2007 Workforce Numbers

Active	26
Reserve	15.
Total	41

In 2007, the following Legatees passed away:

David Dooley, January 9th
Eddie Jowett, January 11th
Harley Tregonning, May 6th
Ray Keane, October 4th

A 50 year Certificate was presented to Legatee Ted Love, inducted on October 16th 1957.

Committee - 2008:- 2009

Branch Chairman	Legatee Gordon Archer
Deputy Chairman	Legatee Ian Dosser
Secretary	Legatee Ian Fidler
Treasurer	Legatee Ted Woolcock
Minute Secretary	Legatee Heather Fidler
Contact Secretary	Legatee Ian Dosser
Convenor, Pensions Panel	Legatee Tony Battanta
Branch Recruiting Officer	Legatee Gordon Archer
Welfare / Housing	Legatee Ted Woolcock
Badge Appeal	Legatee Keith Gaff

Reserve Status was granted to Legatee Lin Freemantle.

A 50-year Certificate was presented to Legatee Alan Long, inducted on February 25th 1958.

John Fletcher was inducted into Melbourne Legacy on November 20th 2008.

In 2008, the following Legatees passed away:

Leigh Johns, February 12th
Ken Cavanagh, May 31st
Alan Long, September 6th

The following Legatees were inducted into Melbourne Legacy in 2009:-

Jenny Griffiths, 28th July
Nicholas Wheeler, 29th September

In 2009, the following Legatees passed away:

Tony Battanta, May 5th
Dave Evans, August 5th

Committee – 2010 – 2011

Branch Chairman	Legatee Daryl Pinner
Deputy Chairman	Legatee Keith Gaff
Secretary	Legatee Ian Fidler
Treasurer	Legatee Ted Woolcock
Contact Secretary	Legatee Gordon Archer
Convenor, Pensions Panel	Legatee Ian Harrison
Branch Recruiting Officer	Legatee Daryl Pinner
Welfare / Housing	Legatees Ted Woolcock / Tess Easy
Badge Appeal	Legatee Keith Gaff
Social Convenor (Branch)	Legatees Tess Easy and Heather Fidler

In 2010 Legatee Ian Dosser transferred to Wangaratta/Myrtleford/Bright Group.

On July 27th 2010 Brett O'Connell was inducted into Melbourne Legacy.

Legatee Lin Freemantle was presented with his 50 year Certificate for service to Legacy on 20th March, 2011 at the Branch Comradeship Luncheon at Darebin RSL.

Reserve Status was granted to Legatee Lawrie Hubbard in March 2011.

On May 31st 2011, Judith Carter and Malcolm Davis were inducted into Melbourne Legacy.

Committee – 2012

Branch Chairman	Legatee Keith Gaff
Deputy Chairman	Legatee Jenny Griffiths
Secretary	Legatee Ian Fidler
Treasurer	Legatee Ted Woolcock/Derithe Harrison
Contact Secretary	Legatee Gordon Archer
Convenor, Pensions Panel	Legatee Ian Harrison
Branch Recruiting Officer	Legatee Keith Gaff
Welfare / Housing	Legatees Ted Woolcock / Tess Easy
Badge Appeal	Legatee Keith Gaff
Transport Officer	Legatee Daryl Pinner
Social Convenor (Branch)	Legatees Tess Easy and Heather Fidler

Legatee John Carey passed away in January 2012.

Legatees Nick Wheeler and John Fletcher resigned from Melbourne Legacy in March 2012.

Legatee Jenny Griffiths moved to Rye in July 2012 and has transferred her membership to the local Legacy Group.

Due to ill health Legatee Ted Woolcock was given Reserve Status in October 2012.

On 9th November 2012 Legatee Eric Baker passed away.

Committee – 2013

Branch Chairman	Legatee Keith Gaff
Deputy Chairman	Legatee Heather Fidler
Secretary	Legatee Ian Fidler
Treasurer	Legatee Derithe Harrison
Contact Secretary	Legatee Gordon Archer
Convenor, Pensions Panel	Legatee Ian Harrison
Branch Recruiting Officer	Legatee Keith Gaff
Welfare / Housing	Legatee Tess Easy
Badge Appeal	Legatee Keith Gaff
Transport Officer	Legatee Daryl Pinner
Social Convenor (Branch)	Legatees Tess Easy and Heather Fidler

Legatee Judith Carter resigned from Legacy in March.

Legatee Ian Harrison made President Elect for Melbourne Legacy for the years 2014/ 2015.

Tuesday 9th April 2013, Darryl Sanders was inducted into Melbourne Legacy.

April 2013, Legatee Ray Easy was given Reserve Status.

June 2013, Legatee Keith Smith was given Reserve Status.

On 3rd September 2013, Legatee Ted Woolcock passed away.

Committee – 2014

Branch Chairman	Legatee Gordon Archer
Deputy Chairman	Legatee Heather Fidler
Secretary	Legatee Ian Fidler
Treasurer	Legatee Derithe Harrison
Contact Secretary	Legatee Gordon Archer
Convenor, Pensions Panel	Legatee Brett O'Connell
Branch Recruiting Officer	Legatee Gordon Archer
Welfare / Housing	Legatee Derithe Harrison
Badge Appeal	Legatee Darryl Sanders
Transport Officer	Legatee Gillian Baxter
Social Convenor (Branch)	Legatee Heather Fidler

On 16th March 2014 Legatee Ian Harrison was inducted as President of Melbourne Legacy.

Legatee Anthony James resigned from Legacy in May.

On Tuesday 17th June 2014 Deborah Warren-Smith was inducted into Melbourne Legacy.

On Tuesday 29th July 2014 Veronica Kelsey was inducted into Melbourne Legacy.

2nd September 2014 Legatee Lin Freemantle passed away.

On 23rd September 2014 Irene Capacchiano was inducted into Melbourne Legacy.

Committee – 2015

Branch Chairman	Legatee Brett O'Connell
Deputy Chairman	Legatee Heather Fidler
Secretary	Legatee Ian Fidler
Treasurer	Legatee Derithe Harrison
Contact Secretary	Legatee Gordon Archer
Convenor, Pensions Panel	Legatee Brett O'Connell
Branch Recruiting Officer	Legatee Brett O'Connell
Welfare / Housing	Legatee Derithe Harrison
Badge Appeal	Legatee Darryl Sanders
Transport Officer	Legatee Gillian Baxter
Social Convenor (Branch)	Legatee Heather Fidler

On 15th March 2015 Legatee Ian Harrison commenced a 2nd year as President of Melbourne Legacy.

On 17th March 2015 Fiona Rule was inducted into Melbourne Legacy.

On 14th October 2015 Jack Rose and Lawrie Hubbard were presented with their 25 years service certificates at the Luncheon at Melbourne Legacy.

Committee – 2016

Branch Chairman	Legatee Brett O'Connell
Deputy Chairman	Legatee Malcolm Davis
Secretary	Legatee Ian Fidler
Treasurer	Legatee Derithe Harrison
Contact Secretary	Legatee Brett O'Connell
Convenor, Pensions Panel	Legatee Ian Harrison
Branch Recruiting Officer	Legatee Brett O'Connell
Welfare / Housing	Legatee Derithe Harrison
Badge Appeal	Legatee Darryl Sanders
Transport Officer	Legatee Daryl Pinner

On 11th March, 2016 Legatee Heather Fidler resigned from Melbourne Legacy.

On 20th March, 2016 Legatee Ian Harrison handed over the Presidents Badge to Legatee Graeme Plumridge.

2016 Legatee Darryl Sanders resigned from Melbourne Legacy.

Committee 2017

Branch Chairman	Legatee Irene Capicchiano
Deputy Chairman	Legatee Malcolm Davis
Secretary	Legatee Ian Fidler
Treasurer	Legatee Derithe Harrison
Contact Secretary	Legatee Brett O'Connell
Convenor, Pensions Panel	Legatee Ian Harrison
Branch Recruiting Officer	Legatee Brett O'Connell

Welfare / Housing
Badge Appeal
Transport Officer

Legatee Derithe Harrison
Legatee Keith Gaff
Legatee Daryl Pinner

2016 – 2017 Legatee Derithe Harrison held the position of Chair of the Widows Committee.

Committee 2018

Branch Chairman
Deputy Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer
Contact Secretary
Transport Officer

Legatee Irene Capicchiano
Legatee Malcolm Davis
Legatee Ian Fidler
Legatee Derithe Harrison
Legatee Brett O'Connell
Legatee Daryl Pinner

On 24th February, 2018 Legatee Jack Rose passed away.

On 10th April, 2018 Kay Carey, Yvonne Freeman and Judith Sutherland were inducted into Melbourne Legacy.

On 23rd October, 2018 Sue Fitzgerald was inducted into Melbourne Legacy.

Legatee Irene Capicchiano resigned from Melbourne Legacy on 31st December, 2018.

Legatee Malcolm Davis agreed to take on the position of Chair of Northern Branch from January 2019.

Committee 2019 - 2021

Branch Chairman
Deputy Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer
Contact Secretary
Transport Officer

Legatee Malcolm Davis
Legatee Veronica Kelsey
Legatee Ian Fidler
Legatee Derithe Harrison
Legatee Brett O'Connell
Legatee Daryl Pinner

On 27th April, 2021 Helen Anderson was inducted into Melbourne Legacy.

Committee 2022 – 2024

Branch Chairperson
Deputy Chairman
Secretary
Contact Secretary
Transport Officer

Legatee Veronica Kelsey
Legatee Brett O'Connell
Legatee Ian Fidler
Legatee Brett O'Connell
Legatee Daryl Pinner