



Way Out West - 2009

“You must be mad!” was the resounding chorus when Victoria Police Legacy (VPL) announced that we would take twenty of our legatee youth to Vietnam earlier this year. When we sent out invitations to the Biennial Children’s Trip and received an enormous response, which resulted in thirty-five kids ranging in age from nine to sixteen travelling to Perth during the first week of the July school holidays there were similar questions raised as to the sanity of those responsible!

Nonetheless the group set off early on Wednesday, 1st July, from Melbourne Airport and after an initial accommodation hitch made our way to the Perth Ambassador Hotel that was to be our base for the next few days. A walking tour of the Perth CBD and visit to the Perth Mint by the older group saw an early night for the younger group and movies for the teenagers.

Day Two saw another early start and a visit to the Calamunnda Camel Farm in Kalamunda atop the Darling Range, which included a short camel trek, a guided bush tucker tour and insightful presentation about birds of prey. Then it was off to Hilary’s Marina for an afternoon at *aqwa*, the Aquarium of Western Australia. A marine discovery centre with an interactive pool provided an opportunity for a number of kids to take advantage of the warm weather and end up soaked through.

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Next stop was the nearby Great Escape - trampolines, rides, mini golf and things to climb including the jungle mountain climbing tower which is described as a true test of fitness and fear of heights. Once you reach the top you get to fall through the interwoven elastic webbing on to a padded base. A height of about three storeys! Great fun?

Day Three started with a visit to the Fremantle Maritime Museum and the 'Life Beneath the Waves' guided tour of a decommissioned Ovens submarine. A quick lunch at the sheds wetted the appetite of those wanting to shop at the nearby E Shed Markets but it was not to be. After a security check we were then ferried out to the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS George Washington courtesy of our friends at Western Australia Police Legacy (WAPoLleg). The aircraft carrier is work and home to some 5000 personnel serving on board. The tour of the carrier was conducted by staff and aided by members of the Association of Naval Aviation Squadron 55 'The Sandgropers' who are locals with a special interest in naval aviation and as a result of their assistance, more naval personnel get to take shore leave. The tour provided an interesting insight into life on board the crown jewel of the US Seventh Fleet and is certainly a lot different to the submariners' environs. There were plenty of fighter planes, helicopters, and surveillance aircraft. Girls and ladies, did I mention lots of sailors?

An obligatory shopping session and tea for forty was followed with an evening tour of the Fremantle Prison for the not so faint hearted.

Saturday, Day Four and another early start and still no sign of anyone, with the exception of the adults, tiring. A ferry across to Rottnest Island followed by a day of exploring, making friends with quokkas, bike riding, lazing in the sun, relaxing, walking, snorkelling and swimming with the only respite being a BBQ lunch hosted by Superintendent Hadyn Green of the Western Australia Police who represented WAPoLleg and was supported by local police Neal Bonnzaier and Rachel Macey who undoubtedly must have one of the best policing locales in the state.

Another session at the movies including an exciting screening of Hannah Montana during which many in the audience joined Miley Cyrus in song, especially one of our younger legatees who did not miss a word.

The last day, thank goodness (just joking?), we spent the morning exploring the beautiful Kings Park in Perth and again basking in the sun. Then came a much quieter trip home and much anticipated welcome home by many of the well rested mums/dads; or in some cases, those who had had an extra good time the night before at the VPL Saturday in the City.

Regardless of age, everyone mixed well and supported each other with many sharing their stories of the loss of a parent/guardian, subsequent



1st place Erin Peebles



2nd place Elyse Boulter



Equal 3rd Ta

Congratulations to Erin Peebles winner of the First Prize in the Perth Trip Photo Competition. Second prize Bayly and Lucy Miller. Well done to everyone who sent in their photos. Check out the website to find some

experiences and concerns. It is this special bond that legatees young and old share. A number of issues were identified during the trip whereby VPL will be able to provide additional support or advocacy.

Nearing the end of the journey comments such as 'awesome', 'terrific' and the clincher, "This was better than Lindeman Island" (the VPL 2008 family trip) confirmed this trip was a success.

Thank you to my wife, Leanne Schranz, who gave up her holidays to help look after the group, also Senior Constable Kate O'Neill (Homicide Squad) and Acting Senior Sergeant Stephen Cooper (Region 1). Thanks to Eileen Keily our new Field Officer who came in at the deep end and now knows the younger legatees and gained a thorough insight into their loss and experiences. Also thanks to Kyle Johnson, 16 yo legatee from Colac who provided considerable support to the supervisors and demonstrated leadership and maturity in his dealings with our young charges. It was great to catch up with Acting Superintendent Bill Leonard, Chair: WAPoLeg and thank him for their support.

The final thanks, again, goes to all those members of Victoria Police who provide the donations without whom we would be unable to undertake such activities.

Roger Schranz

Chair



Tara Bayly



Equal 3rd Lucy Miller

went to Elyse Boulter and equal third prize to Tara of the entries.



Metcard in September

A month of Metcards devoted to promoting Police Legacy and reminding the community of Police Remembrance Day on September 29th. Metlink is kindly highlighting the work done by legacy by issuing all Metcards for September with the Police Legacy logo and message. So whether you travel by train or tram grab your special Legacy Metcard, it is sure to become a collectors item.

Victoria Police – Regional Boundary Changes

Following the devastating February 2009 bushfires Victoria Police has realigned its boundaries with those used by other large government agencies that will see police resources spread throughout four regions and twenty-one divisions. The regions are North-West Metro, Eastern, Southern Metro and Western with headquarters located at Broadmeadows/Victoria Police Centre, Geelong, Rosanna and Dandenong respectively.

The changes to the boundaries will not alter VPL services and support to legatees nor the schedule and general locale of 'regional' lunches.

Police Legacy New Website

Launch of the new Police Legacy Website. Same address www.policelegacyvic.org.au completely new look and feel. Now you can find all the newsletters, latest information and even the Retired Police Gazette on the website. Discover future events and find photos and stories of fun times. With loads of great information the new site is the perfect place to keep in touch; with a section where you can post comments on a private legatees page. So visit us on the web and stay a while, you are sure to be informed.



Happy Birthday To Sarah Hiriart

Sarah Hiriart recently celebrated her 21st birthday. Sarah is pictured receiving her birthday cheque from Sgt Clive Smith and Sgt Jim Baum both of whom worked with her late father Paul over many years. Congratulations on your 21st Sarah.

Thank You Western Australia Police Legacy

In the aftermath of the February, 2009 Bushfires Western Australia Police Legacy (WAPoLleg) rang with an offer to provide a donation of money for disbursement to legatees who were affected by the fires. An assessment of our legatees revealed that none sustained substantial loss and when this information was conveyed to WAPoLleg, without hesitation they requested that donations be made to those sworn and unsworn members of Victoria Police who had lost their primary place of residence and possessions. A request that VPL has been honoured to facilitate.

VPL and the recipients of the donated monies were extremely humbled by the support provided by our friends in the west. It epitomises the very ethos of Police Legacies, that of looking after your mates, colleagues and most importantly their families when loss or hardship befalls them.

Thank you Western Australia Police Legacy.

Friends of Legacy

At the August 2009 Victoria Police Legacy (VPL) board meeting the Friends of Legacy (FoL) concept was reviewed and it was agreed that the current criterion remain as is and we continue to extend support and fellowship to this group within the police family who would not ordinarily be recognised as a legatee.

A FoL is:

- The parent or sibling of a deceased member of Victoria Police where the deceased member was not married and/or in a current relationship;
- Legatees who have entered a new relationship and/or remarried;
- Any other person(s) as deemed appropriate by the Board of VPL.

A FoL is afforded an invitation to a regional lunch and field officer support, as and when deemed necessary or appropriate.

Whilst the status of a legatee parent/guardian may change when they enter a new relationship, the child/children will always remain eligible for VPL support and services, which will obviously at times include their FoL parent, for example attendance at the Children's Christmas Function, Reconnection Day and Family Trips.

If you are unsure of your status, know anyone who may be eligible to be a legatee or Friend of Legacy please call and or encourage that person to contact the team at VPL.

Care Alert Systems

Legacy now has available Care Alert systems for legatees who live alone and might like some extra security. If you are interested in having a Care Alert button or for a chat about security or any other support or service issue, please contact the office on 9347 5194. Field Officer Eileen Keily is available to visit Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays by appointment.

Police Legacy contact details:

Telephone: 9347 5194

Outside metro area: 1800 065 999

Fax: 9349 2810

Postal Address:

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Email: info@policelegacyvic.org.au

