



issue 28 march 09

Vietnam Trip

It had been our intention for sometime to provide a personal development/life experience opportunity for the young legatees who were no longer within the age range for the biennial children's excursion. Vietnam always topped the list for this inaugural trip and was chosen for a number of reasons including its developing nation status, rich history and culture, connections with Australia, growing tourist industry which is burgeoning in many previously less frequented areas. It is also a destination that would not ordinarily be the place this legatee group would have travelled to.

The group of twenty young people ranging in age from fifteen to nineteen were complemented by four supervisors, Kevin Sheridan (Vice-Chair VPL), Heather Thomas (Nurse), Senior Constable Vanessa Bate (Youth Resource Officer) and Roger Schranz (Chair VPL).

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The first stop in the ten-day trip was Hanoi where the group began to acclimatise and gain an appreciation for the Vietnamese way of life and included a bike ride and tours. An overnight stay at Halong Bay on two boats amongst hundreds of small islands provided the opportunity to relax, go kayaking and take advantage of the abundance of seafood available.

The group became extremely adept at the art of bartering with everyone taking advantage of the bargains to be had. The trip included tours of markets, monasteries, museums, cottage industries and the like and at times, was not for the faint hearted.

A short boat trip from Hoi An saw the group actively participate in a cooking school conducted by an extremely patient and amusing chef. Arriving in Saigon was certainly an eye opening experience with the sheer intensity of people everywhere and activity. One feels accomplished just crossing the street.



Notwithstanding the culture, road use and laws (or lack of adherence thereof), building construction techniques, lack of privacy and access to toilets proved interesting conversation topics; as did crawling through the extremely claustrophobic Cu Chi Tunnels and of course, the shopping!

The trip was indeed a humbling experience and a great way to bring this special group together. It was heart-warming to see these fine young people who share a common bond, albeit through the loss of a parent or guardian, come together, interact and share their experiences whilst also reaffirming friendships and making new ones.

Victoria Police Legacy thanks all those people who continue to support us, which enables us to provide an enviable range of support and services, including one such as this. Thank you also to Point Gellibrand Rotary, who supplied the easily identifiable t-shirts that looked resplendent, engendered considerable conversation with fellow travellers at airports, including Sunrise Host David Koch, and ensured that no one was left behind. Well nearly nobody! Sorry, what happens on the road stays on the road.

Comments from Vietnam

Natalie Marley

"..... the best part of the trip for me was Halong Bay ... it was peaceful and quiet compared to the other parts of Vietnam..... it was an awesome experience though, going through the markets was quite scary and overwhelming in some parts ... but all in all a great experience."



Ashley Marley

“I live in Portland that has 10,000 people, so to go to a place like Vietnam with 84,400,000 people, what a shock. There were people everywhere and they were always busy..... I made some great friends and formed some special relationships.”

Bridget White

“Vietnam for me, was more than an exciting experience. It was an opportunity to step outside my comfort zone, challenge myself and meet new people..... Sometimes it’s good not only to meet new people but to meet people who you can relate to and who have an understanding of your life. Even though we all have different stories we’ll always be connected somehow through VPL. ☺ The Vietnam experience is something we’ll always have. It’s something no one can take away from us and it’s something I’ll always be grateful for. THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!!!!!!”

Morgan Ryan

“Vietnam Trip was amazing. We all shared so many experiences and saw some really beautiful places. The Mekong Delta river was my favourite because we saw so much of Vietnam’s gorgeous natural scenery in one day, and fit in so many incredible experiences. From riding on a wonky donkey cart, to seeing a live snake killed and it’s blood drunk by Russian’s, to sipping coconut juice straight from the coconut after being paddled down a jungle river, it was awesome fun! The best part though I think was doing all this with such a fun group. I made some really great mates out of the trip and can’t wait till we all get together again!”



It is with great pleasure that we congratulate Simon Overland on his appointment to the position of Chief Commissioner of Police. We take this opportunity to welcome Simon as the Patron of Victoria Police Legacy and we look forward to his ongoing support. Many thanks to our outgoing Patron, Ms Christine Nixon for her wonderful support and we wish her well in her future endeavours.

Special congratulations to two of our Victoria Police Legatees; Maureen Kimber and Peter Cazaly who became engaged in December. Maureen and Peter met at one of Police Legacy’s functions, and the rest as they say is history. On behalf of everyone involved in Police Legacy I wish them a very happy future together.



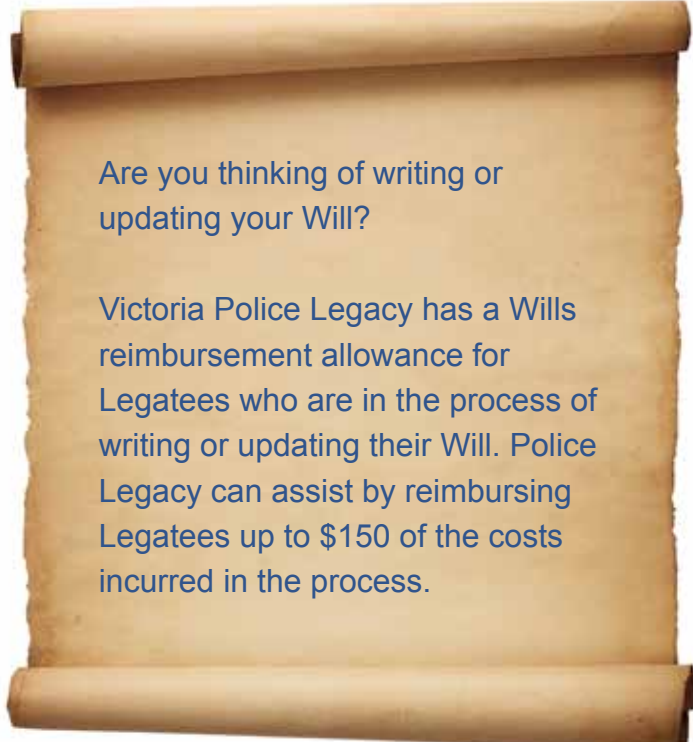


CEO's message

2009 is shaping up to be a busy year! Many of our legatees will have had a call from Glenys who has been working hard to keep you up to date with all that is happening this year. Bookings for the Regional Lunches have been filling up, but there is still time to get to many of them, just call Glenys with your intention to attend. If you would like to go to your local Regional Lunch but find you have a problem with transport, then please give Glenys a call at the office on 9347 5194 and she will endeavour to organise some assistance. Many of you will now know that there is a trip planned for late September to Canberra to take part in the Police Memorial Service, do some sightseeing and visit Floriade. Further information will be sent out to all Legatees around July, so for now enjoy the autumnal weather, let's hope our gardens get well watered and I look forward to seeing many of you at the Regional Lunches.

Congratulations to Kate Wisniewski for her promotion to Office Manager. Many of you know Kate who has worked tirelessly for Police Legacy for almost two and a half years and continues to be the friendly voice that answers the many queries that come through the office. Kate is instrumental in organising Regional Lunches and making sure the office runs smoothly and efficiently.

Following recent enquiries regarding bequests; Police Legacy has put together a brochure to help explain how a bequest works and the procedure involved. You will find a brochure included with this newsletter.



Are you thinking of writing or updating your Will?

Victoria Police Legacy has a Wills reimbursement allowance for Legatees who are in the process of writing or updating their Will. Police Legacy can assist by reimbursing Legatees up to \$150 of the costs incurred in the process.

Police Legacy contact details:

Telephone: 9347 5194
Outside metro area: 1800 065 999
Fax: 9349 2810

Postal Address:
PO Box 537 Carlton South 3053
Email: info@policelegacyvic.org.au

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