



Victoria Police Legacy Chairman's Christmas Message 2008

The last twelve months for Victoria Police Legacy (VPL) has seen continued significant development and improvement in a range of areas. Some of the key achievements for the last year include:

- The fully funded family holiday inclusive of legatee parents/guardians and children to Club Med, Lindeman Island during the July school holidays. As one mother who attended reflected, "travelling together gave all of us the opportunity to develop stronger friendships and understandings of those who shared similar experiences.... and developing new support networks." Those contributing members should be very proud of their support with one young legatee writing to VPL stating how spoilt and special she felt to have 'these' people who care so much about her family.
- Attending the South Australian Military Tattoo during which the group rendezvoused with South Australia Police Legacy and on the way home attended a dinner with local legatees at Warrnambool, which was the biggest regional gathering with the exception of the annual Christmas luncheon.

Continued overleaf...

- > Victoria Police Legacy -
Chairman's Christmas Message 2008
- > Government House Open Day
- > New Chief Executive Office (CEO) -
Ms Maureen Corrie



Abbotsford Convent was a lovely location for the 2008 Children's Christmas Party. After a delicious BBQ lunch under the Separation Tree the children were delighted at the arrival of Santa in a police car. Santa took time from his busy pre Christmas schedule to meet each of the children and distribute gifts.

Field visits continued and the regional lunches have been well patronised not only by legatees but local police and regional Assistant Commissioners. This year's Christmas Luncheon at Leonda was extremely popular with increased numbers who were entertained by the magnificent Victoria Police Show Band. Chief Commissioner Christine Nixon, Deputy Commissioners Walshe and Overland headed a large contingent of police and volunteers for an afternoon of festivities and friendship.

VPL thanks Christine for her support and genuine warm engagement with legatees during her time as Chief Commissioner and Patron of VPL and we wish both her and husband John all the best with the next stage of their lives.

Thank you to our friends, Sergeant Greg Dean and Constable Nathan Juran of the Collingwood Police Station for helping Santa arrive safely at The Abbotsford Convent for the Children's Christmas Party at which Deputy Commissioner Simon Overland also represented Victoria Police and was followed by a visit to the Collingwood Children's Farm.

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- The continued evolution of the Friends of Legacy concept whereby VPL provides support and forums for the parents of deceased police.
- Obtaining Public Benevolent Institution status, which means that any donation made to VPL of \$2.00 or more, is tax deductible.
- Launching our Internet site, which includes secure legatee and director access. The site can be accessed at policelegacyvic.com.au.
- Increasing the Tertiary Education Grant to \$5000 per annum.
- Undertaking the role of National Secretariat and hosting the 2008 National Police Legacy Conference – Better Boards: Better Legacies, which was sponsored by Police Credit.

This year will have undoubtedly created some lasting memories, new friendships and enjoyable experiences for all involved in and with VPL.

2009 has the hallmarks of being another extremely busy year commencing with the Youth Development/Life Experience trip to Vietnam, group trip to Canberra for the National Police Remembrance Day service and Floriade, Children's Camp, plus all the usual regional lunches, field visits and a range of additional business activities. Some of the key challenges for 2009 include the development of strategic partnerships, sourcing additional revenue streams, going green, expanded field officer capacity and advocacy. We will also begin preparations for 2010 when VPL will reflect on thirty years of caring for police families who have lost a loved one.



Above: A blue and white theme welcomed visitors to Leonda which was again the perfect venue for the Christmas Lunch.

Thank you to all VPL staff, Laurie, Kate and Barbara, who have all worked hard to provide quality support and services to legates throughout the year and to Maureen who has arrived and taken over at the busiest time of the VPL calendar.

Thank you to the Board for their work throughout the year, and in particular, Vice-Chair, Kevin Sheridan, and Project 100 Co-ordinator and MC extraordinaire, Peter O'Neill. The Annual General Meeting saw Doug Hocking stand down and not seek re-election due to other commitments.

Doug joined the board in 2003 and spent five years as Treasurer overseeing our increasingly improved financial position and investment portfolio for which I thank him. Thanks to Gary Storey for stepping up to take on the Treasurers role.

I also thank Laurie Snowball for his time at VPL most recently as Chief Executive Officer and also as a former Council member and field officer and wish both he and wife Carmel all the best as they focus on retirement proper.

I have said on many occasions that Police Legacies embody a very positive aspect of our policing culture; that is, looking after your mates, colleagues and most importantly, their families when loss or hardship befalls them. Whilst many members of Victoria Police, ranging from our newest Constables to the Chief Commissioner, contribute financially to VPL fortnightly and others directly/indirectly support legates; the very ethos has already been instilled in recruits undergoing their training at the Academy, whereby during the September school holidays the youth group going to Vietnam stayed overnight for an information/bonding session were embraced by recruits who spent time befriending these fine young people. We look forward to the ongoing support of members of Victoria Police in 2009 and beyond.

Finally, on behalf of VPL Staff and Board, I wish you and your families a very Happy and Safe Christmas and New Year.

Roger Schranz
Chair



Government House Open Day

Open Day at Government House is an excellent opportunity to visit this beautiful building and explore parts of the historic gardens. Professor David de Kretser AC Governor of Victoria and Mrs. Jan de Kretser invite all citizens of Victoria and visitors to the state to visit Government House on Monday 26th January 2009 between the hours of 10am and 3pm.

Open day is a completely free event and this year visitors will be able to view the State Apartments, Private Apartments and the Governors' Study many of these rooms are not normally open to the public. Refreshments will be available for purchase, there will be children's entertainment in the grounds and musical performances in the grounds and inside the house.

Thank you to Victoria Police Credit for its assistance in sponsoring the National Conference held in Melbourne in August this year. We look forward to continuing our relationship with our good friends at Police Credit and wish everyone there a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Ms Maureen Corrie has recently been appointed our new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). We look forward to working with Maureen in the future as we continue to expand the range of support and services we provide to Legatees. Maureen moved to Melbourne eight years ago and has been employed in management roles within the disability sector, cemetery industry and most recently as CEO of a Melbourne based international medical tourism company. Originally from country Victoria, Maureen continues to have ties with family and community groups in Gippsland. Maureen's extensive experience in management, welfare and marketing will be put to good use in her new and challenging role as CEO of Victoria Police Legacy.

Applications for education grants are now available if you haven't received yours please contact Kate at the office.

Ph: 9347 5194, Email: katew@policelegacyvic.org.au

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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