



Club Med Lindeman Island Holiday

Taking advantage of some free time in the mid-year school holidays and a Police Legacy invitation to escape Victoria's winter weather, 33 legatee children and their parents (22) from metropolitan and country areas flew to Queensland with 4 staff for a taste of summer and great hospitality at Club Med Lindeman Island.

Victoria Police Legacy entered uncharted waters in undertaking this holiday for legatee children and their parents. Such a venture on such a scale had not been attempted either in Victoria or in the other police legacy jurisdictions throughout Australia before. It is the very supportive membership that made this large commitment possible.

Having successfully completed the trip, the words for our report to the Board and membership is best left to the children and parents who ventured away with us. Please take time to read the following example messages received at the Police Legacy office following our return.

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Thank you to police who made this trip happen

The mother of a 13 year old smiled with satisfaction while reflecting on the contrasting behaviours of her son who was enjoying his time away, "Here he is spending quality time outdoors with other kids in a wide variety of energy sapping activities; at home, his time is spent with eyes glued to a TV or some crazy electronic game!"

A mother of two wrote, 'What can I say apart from a big, big thank you. We all had such a wonderful time and will never forget it. Laurie you did an amazing job in organising such a successful trip with great helpers, Martin, Barb and Peter. My girls know how special they are to be a member of Police Legacy, but to go on a trip of a lifetime like this showed them even more how supporting and caring police members are to support them like this. I myself had a wonderful time and got some very special 'me time' just lying by the pool and sharing it with such wonderful people in our group. Can you please put a big heartfelt message of gratitude to all police members who are supporting Police Legacy; the smile on the kid's face over the 5 days was priceless."

Another parent said, "The experience of travelling together gave all of us the opportunity to develop stronger friendships and understandings of those who have shared similar experiences.

In her letter to us following the trip, one 11 year old wrote, "Thank you so much for the trip to Lindeman, I really had a ball and I thought it was so much fun. The food was awesome, and the activities were brilliant. We were all so lucky to be in such great weather. Mum was much, much happier there, to have adult company and I felt spoilt and special to have these people who care about our family so much. It was great to meet up with old friends, and I also made a lot of new friendships. All the people there were welcoming and helpful, and the trip couldn't have been any better. Thank-you again for all your hard work and effort.

And from a mother of four, "I had one of the best holidays I have ever had (and with the caravan, I've had a few!!) Being with a group of fantastic people, all with similar histories, meant that we could really have fun because there was no need for pretence (we are all on the 'same page'), we all felt the same way, (so nice to sit around and not have the Mum every five minutes. Don't get me wrong, I loved having my children there. Going up every afternoon to shower and them (and me) ready for tea was really special. Catching up on all their day activities was lovely, and yet I still felt a certain sense of restfulness that I don't usually have on holidays ('cause really things don't change much, just our location).

Police Legacy Board member Peter O'Neill was asked for ideas to evaluate the level of success of the trip and quickly replied, "Just measure the length of smiles on the kids faces."

Pictured above: Legatee kids and parents pictured at the airport on the final day of their trip.



Adventure in the snow with kids from Melbourne Legacy

Adventure in the snow with kids from Melbourne Legacy

Over the past couple of years, Victoria Police Legacy has been strengthening ties with our military counterparts at Melbourne Legacy who look after children of servicemen who have been killed while in service to their country. During our recent winter, Melbourne Legacy had arranged a trip to Mt Buller for some of their youngsters and, as often happens they had a couple of last minute vacancies to fill and called us. Luke and Tara Bayly from Warragul readily accepted the invitation to go with the bus load of Service Legacy kids for a weekend away, taking advantage of the best snow Victoria has seen in years. Following introductions, friendships quickly formed and a great weekend ensued. Their mum Sue reported that the young bodies endured fatigue and aching muscles till the end of the week!



Pictured above: (right) Luke ready for his first ski, (left) Lunchtime for Tara

Shop at Ritchies and help Victoria Police Legacy

Victoria Police Legacy is very fortunate to benefit through the Ritchies Community Benefit Card (CBC) program which donates 1% of customer expenditure to a charity of the customer's choice. As a result we receive monthly payments from Ritchies that contribute to the many services and functions that Victoria Police Legacy provides.

If you want to participate, ask for a card at your Ritchies supermarket or liquor store, **enter our name (Victoria Police Legacy) or our Community Benefit number 93073**, and hand the card to the cashier.

The rest is simple. Shop at Ritchies supermarkets or liquor stores and ensure that the barcode on your card or key ring is scanned at the checkout. Victoria

Police Legacy automatically receives a donation at the end of each month totalling 1% of your overall purchases. This program is easy and of great benefit to Police Legacy. There is potential savings for you as well. Ritchies routinely has around 4,000 specials each week that offer an extra discount for Ritchies CBC holders. These specials can save you anything from 5 cents to \$5 per item.

The CBC initiative is a win/win situation, with Ritchies supporting their valued customers and customers supporting the charity of their choice.



Murcotts Advance Driver education testimonial

An additional service to legatees is the complementary offer to young legatees to attend and gain skills at Murcotts Advanced Driving course. Legatee Carl Evans has recently completed the course with Murcotts and was grateful for the experience. "Prior to the course, I felt confident and believed I was a safe driver. In fact, there was an eye opening experience in store. The facts I was presented with and the skills I was encouraged to practice will be invaluable in staying safer on the road for years to come," he said.

Younger legatees are encouraged to contact our office to arrange a booking for the advanced driving course and benefit from the Murcotts course.



Board and Staff changes

Doug Hocking

Doug has retired from the Board of Victoria Police Legacy. He was a Board member for five years. He has been a worthy, hard working representative of our police members. In 2004 Doug added the Treasurer's responsibilities to his portfolio. He brought with him expertise in organisational and situational planning on top of his policing management experience. Doug has been a valuable contributor to the Victoria Police Legacy Board. We wish him well in the future.

Laurie Snowball

After two years at the helm, our CEO Mr Laurie Snowball has resigned to spend more time with his wife and family and return to his interests in the local community plus travel, photography and golf. "The past two years have rounded off a wonderful association with a great organisation. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time administering Police Legacy services on behalf of our members in Victoria Police."

Laurie was a member of the Victoria Police Legacy Board until he retired from Victoria Police in 2001. He then worked for three years as our Field Officer and rejoined us as the CEO in January last year.

Laurie gave encouragement to the Board and to the police members it represents, "This is a fantastic extension of 'the police family looking after police families'. It is an ongoing service available to all police families. The concept of a Police Legacy ensures that no police partner or family is forgotten following the death of a loved one."

"As I depart I take this opportunity to thank the Board and staff for their assistance during my time as CEO. It is a small charity organisation and I have appreciated the dedication and hard work of everyone involved." But his special thanks went to our legatees. Laurie said, "You were genuine and generous in your appreciation and thanks to me and the staff for the services. You made the job so much easier. I wish you all well."

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

Website: www.policelegacyvic.org.au