



Victoria Police Legacy Christmas at the Sebel on Albert Park.

Care

Victoria Police Legacy Newsletter
Issue 29 - April 2011

Catch-up Edition

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Chairman's message

Following a resolution of the 1979 Annual General Meeting of the Police Association of Victoria, Victoria Police Legacy (VPL) started on the 6th February, 1980. Initially with forty-eight widows and twelve children, VPL is certainly an example of the saying 'from little things, big things grow'. 2010 marked our thirtieth year and we have grown significantly with an expanded charter to include husbands, wives and partners of serving and retired police and of course Friends of Legacy. We currently number 545 widows/widowers and 150 children/young people, up to 22 years of age. Support and services have also changed to keep up with the contemporary needs of those for whom we

Continue overleaf...

provide. However the core philosophy remains the same, 'looking after your mates, colleagues and most importantly, their families when loss befalls them'.

At a recent memorial service marking the death of two colleagues we were reminded of the changes the world had witnessed. One can only look back at the last thirty years in awe of the triumphs and tragedies we have witnessed.

Support for VPL continues to grow with contributors ranging from the newest recruits to the Chief Commissioner complemented by external sponsors and supporters.

On behalf of everyone at Victoria Police Legacy, thank you all for your ongoing support.

Roger Schranz
Chairman

Combined edition

Regular readers of the Care newsletter will have noted the absence of the December 2010 edition. This was unfortunately delayed due to circumstances beyond our control hence this combined bumper catch-up edition.

Board update

At the Victoria Police Legacy Annual General Meeting held at Carlton on the 21st September, 2010, the following people were elected to the board, Detective Inspector Roger Schranz (Chairman), Detective Superintendent Kevin Sheridan (Vice-Chairman), Detective Senior Sergeant Stephen Cooper (Treasurer), Inspector Gary Storey (Retired), Superintendent Peter O'Neill, Sergeant Martin Park, Senior Sergeant Craig Pearson and Inspector Lauren Callaway. Commander Ashley Dickinson remains the Chief Commissioner's representative and Detective Inspector Brian Rix remains The Police Association Victoria representative.



Geelong regional lunch 2011

Geelong, Wangaratta and Frankston Regional Lunches 2011

Bistro@310 was a popular destination for Geelong Legatees to gather and sample some traditional Greek cuisine. The lunch provided an opportunity to catch up with former Regional Superintendent and Board Member Peter O'Neill. Legatees also met newly appointed Superintendent Mr. Paul Pottage.

Wangaratta Regional lunch was held on the 25th of March at the King River Café at Oxley. This new venue provided a relaxed cafe atmosphere for Legatees and Members from the Region to chat and enjoy some fine local produce.

Assistant Commissioner Luke Cornelius attended the Peninsula Country Golf Club for the Frankston Regional lunch in March. Mr. Cornelius addressed Legatees at the lunch and updated them on local policing issues.



Wangaratta regional lunch 2011



Frankston regional lunch 2011



Kate pictured with Mrs. Merle Smithwick at a recent Geelong Regional Lunch

Farewell to Kate

Kate Wisniewski commenced work with VPL in October, 2006, as our administrative assistant and later became the office manager. She was integral to the day-to-day operations and responsible for the arranging and/or facilitation of many of the events and activities since that time. Kate was always ready to listen, patient and a great ambassador for our organisation in her role as the first point of contact. She established a good rapport with those who we support and other stakeholders; and at times, proffered recommendations on additional or modified support and services we should provide.

Kate resigned in January, this year, to pursue an alternative career in the disability sector and enjoy some very well deserved time off to travel and spend more time with her family.

Everyone at VPL wishes her every happiness and success for the future and thanks her for all her efforts in supporting legatees and our organisation over the last four years.



Welcome to new Board Member, Lauren Callaway

I joined Victoria Police in 1994 and spent time in general duties in Melbourne, Ballarat and Geelong. In 2000 I took promotion to the Intelligence and Covert Support Department and spent six years involved in forensic intelligence, special projects and establishing the Victorian Sex Offenders Registry. I then spent a year as an Acting Inspector at the Crime Department working on violence against women and children strategies, before arriving at the Ethical Standards Department this year as an Inspector. My policing interest lie in change management, recidivism and strategic thinking.

Prior to becoming a police officer, I lived in Gippsland (Sale, Morwell and Traralgon) where I did a cadetship as a journalist. Having never let go of writing, I also wrote a book in 2005 titled `Against All Odds' which was a biography on an Aboriginal jockey called Darby McCarthy. However my enduring efforts are to my beautiful daughter Ava, who is about to start high school next year and thinks her mother works too much!

I feel extremely privileged to have been approached by Roger to join the Board of Legacy, and hope to bring my personal experiences in raising a child on my own, and my professional commitment to improving the lives of men, women and children to the role.



Kyle and Rosemary Johnson, Neville Taylor, Roger Schranz and Stuart Taylor

Young Legatee takes to the sky

It was a special day for Legatee Kyle Johnson in March this year when he accepted a gift from Superintendent Neville Taylor. The gift was a chance to experience the exhilarating adventure of tandem skydiving.

After a training session Kyle took to the sky above Torquay with Rosemary (Mum), Neville and Stuart Taylor and Chairman Roger Schranz watching on. Travelling at over 200 kph in free fall before the parachute was deployed, Kyle had five minutes under canopy to take in the sights of Torquay from a most spectacular view point.



Kate pictured with her father and VPL Board Member Superintendent Peter O'Neill

Thanks to Kate O'Neill

Joining Victoria Police in 2001 Kate O'Neill contributed financially to Police Legacy from day one and over the last three years has been an active volunteer and integral part of many of our major events and functions such as the Children and Family Camps, bus trips and Christmas Luncheons and Children's Christmas Party.

Having learnt the craft of 'street' policing in the Broadmeadows area Kate worked in various workgroups before becoming a Tactical Intelligence Officer in the Crime Department which included being one of the first on scene at the Black Saturday Bushfires to assist in the pursuant investigation particularly in relation to Marysville and Yea.

Kate is now a detective at the Clandestine Laboratory Squad. Kate was an accomplished traveller before she joined the job, and has since travelled extensively during her career. 2011 will see her on extended leave and undertaking voluntary work in the missions of Central America.

When asked about her involvement in Police Legacy, Kate said, "I just love it and I love the people. It is a great family and I love being part of it. It is great to see the young ones especially, really forging a link with the wider police community and making sure they never forget their connection to Victoria Police. Legacy assists on so many fronts and that's what makes it such a great organisation."



Chief Commissioner, Mr. Simon Overland presents a cheque to Chairman of VPL, Mr. Roger Schranz.

Christmas giving continues

On the twenty-first of March Chief Commissioner Simon Overland presented a \$5,100 cheque to Chairman of Victoria Police Legacy, Roger Schranz.

The donation was for monies raised from the sale of last year's Victoria Police Christmas Cards.

Mr. Schranz thanked those people in Victoria Police who purchased the cards last year and also to the Internal Communications and Publications Unit for this initiative.

The cheque was presented in the presence of women from the Police Widows Association who kindly allowed the use of their meeting venue for the occasion.



VPL welcomes Erica McMahon to the position of Office Manager

Our new office manager, Erica McMahon, started with VPL in mid March 2011. Erica has been working at the Victoria Police Academy in Glen Waverley at the promotions programs unit which conducts training for all newly promoted sergeants, senior sergeants and inspectors. Erica has extensive experience in the office management role and is a very welcome addition to the Victoria Police Legacy staff.



Paul McBride and Andrew Hives

VPL Photographers

Police Legacy are very pleased to have the support of Paul McBride and Andrew Hives who are Senior Sergeants at Ringwood. Paul and Andrew are also talented photographers and now attend major events to capture the many faces of Victoria Police Legacy.

Paul and Andrew can be contacted on:
0418 322 672.



Wodonga Police Sports Club Support

Wodonga Sports Club supports Victoria Police Legacy

Victoria Police Legacy would like to thank Wodonga Police Sports Club for their recent donation. It is admirable that Police can combine their hobbies, sports, passions with community engagement for the betterment of charities.



Photographs by Paul McBride

Children's Christmas 2010

Victoria Police Legacy Children's Christmas party was held at Wesley College, St. Kilda Road campus.

The historic heated indoor swimming pool was filled with youthful enthusiasm when Legatees donned snorkels and oxygen tanks for what was for most a first lesson in scuba diving.

The professional team from Academy of Scuba guided the children through the training and lots of underwater fun followed. The diving board and inflatables were also popular on the day.

Some of the children made their own Christmas decorations before having lunch and waiting for Santa to arrive.

Santa didn't let us down and was soon handing out presents to the children as they posed to have their photos taken before the gift wrap was quickly dispensed with.



Chairman of Police Legacy, Roger Schranz with Guest Artist Donald Cant and Deputy Commissioner Mr. Kieran Walshe

Christmas at the Sebel

On the 27th of November 2010 The Sebel on Albert Park provided a picturesque location to hold the Victoria Police Legacy Senior Christmas Function.

Legatees, Staff, Board Members and Special Guests came together to celebrate Christmas and acknowledge the thirtieth anniversary of Victoria Police Legacy.

Specially inscribed vases were designed to mark the occasion and presented as gifts to those in attendance.

Chairman Roger Schranz welcomed the guests and took them on a journey through the history of the organization and the more recent events in 2010.

Deputy Commissioner and special Guest Mr. Kieran Walshe spoke of the role Victoria Police Legacy played over past years and its ongoing support of the Police Community.

Special acknowledgement was given to Mr. Bryan Kelly QPM, the inaugural President of Victoria Police Legacy.

A highlight of the day was a memorable performance by Donald Cant, one of Australia's leading musical theater and concert performers. Accompanied by the vibrant and dynamic Victoria Police Showband, Donald won over his audience with his passionate performance and booming baritone voice.





Newly appointed life Member of Victoria Police Legacy Mr. Kevin Sheridan

Life Membership for Kevin Sheridan

Life Membership of Victoria Police Legacy is bestowed on those the board declares to have rendered outstanding service. The 2010 Christmas Luncheon saw Vice Chairman Kevin Sheridan receive his life membership. Chairman Roger Schranz told the audience of 290+ Legatees, Friends of Legacy, police and supporters that Kevin had been a member of the board since 2004 and became Vice-Chairman shortly thereafter. He has worked consistently to improve and enhance VPL as an organisation and the support and services provided to legatees. He has provided a strong corporate and governance focus, was the architect of the reinstatement of the VPL deductible gift recipient status by the Australian Taxation Office and has a demonstrated ability to translate visions into tangible results, for example, the Youth Development/Life Experience Trip, Metlink initiative, RACV partnership to name but a few.

Kevin actively engages with legatees, Friends of Legacy and those who are our supporters. He undertakes advocacy and espouses the values and attributes of a VPL board member including honesty, enterprise, excellence, accountability, independence and wide representation. Unbeknown to many, much of this work is undertaken after-hours. The Chairman also acknowledged the support of Kevin's wife, Lyn, in his VPL activities.

In accepting his award from Deputy Commissioner Kieran Walshe, on behalf of VPL Patron, Chief Commissioner Simon Overland, and Chairman, Detective Inspector Roger Schranz, Kevin said "It is an honour to be recognised with this award but the real reward comes from being part of the team that provides the service to legatees."



Pictured attending Christmas at the Sebel are Life members Kevin Sheridan, Gary Storey, Allan and Lynette Pocock and founder of Police Legacy, Bryan Kelly.

Legatees coming of age

“I have been a member of Police Legacy since I was three. Legacy has always done so much for my family and I, and I continue to be inspired by the work that is done to assist so many Victorian families. Some of my fondest memories over the years are of the two Sydney trips I attended, and of course, the Vietnam trip. Since Vietnam, I have gone on a semester of exchange to Malaysia, and recently travelled to Europe for a month and a half. I am now beginning my Honours year at university. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone at VPL for their support, and for so many amazing memories.”



Chairman Roger Schranz congratulates Amanda Straw'n on the occasion of her 21st

Victoria Police Legacy Board Member Commander Ashleigh Dickinson met with Mark and Dean Kennedy to congratulate the twins who recently turned twenty-one. Mark was in the last months of his Bachelor of Science at Deakin and working part-time. Dean was in his third year of a Turf Management apprenticeship. They are both pursuing their passion for music and are currently playing in a heavy metal band called Damnation Day. Mark and Dean thanked Police Legacy for the support received.



Commander Ashleigh Dickinson with Mark and Dean Kennedy



Regional Lunches

With Regional Lunches now in full swing Victoria Police Legacy has made some changes to venues so they are more aligned to where Legatees reside. Some have also been changed in response to requests for better access or parking.

No matter what the venue, Regional Lunches continue to provide a meeting place for Legatees to come together and support each other and enjoy the companionship of others with a shared understanding of the Police Life.

Legatees 21st celebrations

Congratulations to Dale O'Donnell who recently celebrated his twenty-first birthday. Board Member Sergeant Martin Park visited the family home to wish Dale all the best on behalf of Victoria Police Legacy. Dale intends training with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. We wish him every success in the future.



Dale with Board Member Sergeant Martin Park



Presentation to Blake Cook

In August last year, Blake Cook who now lives in Queensland with his mother, Kaye, turned 21. It has become a common practice for a board member to present the 21st birthday cheque on behalf of VPL and as a connection back to Victoria Police, which for many was an important part of their father or mother's life. Contact was made with Retired Police Association of Victoria member John Panozzo (15784) of Coolangatta, who generously agreed to act on our behalf. It is great to know we can count on former colleagues to assist at this important time in the lives of our young Legatees.



Kirk Fuller with trophy

Congratulations to Kirk Fuller

On Friday the 17th of September Legatee Kirk Fuller left Ballarat and headed for New Zealand with Mum Judy for the All New Zealand National Karate Tournament. This is the second year Kirk has represented Australia in this tournament. He competed in two events. The U17 Non-Contact Lightweight and the U17 Colts Full-Contact Lightweight.

Australia had a great first day of competition with placings in all events, including 1st place for Kirk in the Non-Contact making him the New Zealand Non-Contact Champion in the U17's division.

At the Australian National Titles in late October, Kirk competed in the Lightweight Colts Division finishing in 3rd place. We look forward to further installments of Kirk's Karate successes.

Website news!

Victoria Police Legacy invites you to take a look at our new and improved website which will take shape in coming months.

Blue SKYS Media, a social enterprise of St Kilda Youth Service (SKYS), are the design team behind the website. By using Blue SKYS Media we were able to get great quality design whilst supporting a not for profit agency in employing disadvantaged young people and assisting them in their future careers.



*Chelsea Lane accompanied by Bryan Kelly
Photography by Greg Noakes*

National Police Remembrance Day

National Police Remembrance Day is held annually on the 29th of September. This year serving and retired police members, their families and the public gathered at the Victoria Police Memorial in Kings Domain Gardens Melbourne to honour the dedicated Men and Women who have given their lives in the line of duty. Services were also held in Regional Centres throughout Australia.



*VPL Board Member Craig Pearson lays a wreath at
the National Police Memorial Day in Bendigo*



*Chief Commissioner Mr. Simon Overland pictured
with three generations of the Lane family and
Mr. Bryan Kelly QPM*



Inaugural Wall to Wall Ride

Wall to Wall Ride support Police Legacies

On September 18th 2010 over six hundred Police from around Australia rode to the National Police Memorial in Canberra for a special service to honour Police who have paid the ultimate price in the line of duty in the inaugural Wall to Wall Ride for Remembrance.

Organised by National Police Memorial Executive, The Police Association of Victoria, New South Wales Police Association and motorcyclists within the Police family in Victoria, Western Australia and New South Wales, rides to the service began in Perth, Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra. The riders all met on the outskirts of Canberra on Saturday, September 18th and rode to the memorial together. This ride was for all motorcyclists to participate and remember Police officers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. All riders were invited to participate.

The Wall to Wall Ride remembers and honours those Police officers who have fallen in the line of duty and promote safe and lawful motorcycling whilst raising awareness and money for Australian Police Legacies. Monies raised were donated to Police Legacy organisations in each State and Territory.

Plans for next year's Wall to Wall Ride for Remembrance are well underway. The ride will take place in Canberra on Saturday, September 17th. Rides are being planned in Darwin, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. It is hoped other states will also become involved in 2011.



Wall to Wall cheque presentation in Canberra. Assistant Commissioner NSW Michael Corboy, Police Legacy Board Member and President of the Police Association Brian Rix, President of the Police Federation of Australia Vince Kelly and Chairman of Victoria Police Legacy Roger Schranz.



AFL Grand final day at Camp Wyuna



Some time out for Parents and Guardians during the Victoria Police Legacy Family Camp at the seaside resort of Queenscliff.



Legatees make the most of a visit from The Streetsurfer youth bus. The Bus is an initiative that involves Victoria Police and several community service organisations in Geelong and the Surf Coast.

Queenscliff family holiday

Victoria Police Legacy Parents and Children Retreat was held in September 2010.

The venue for the Family Holiday was Camp Wyuna – YMCA at Queenscliff, located just inside the entrance to Port Phillip Bay on the Bellarine Peninsula.

During the stay a range of activities and programs were organised for the children and parents / guardians including a beach carnival, bay cruise, lighthouse tour and a ride on board the historical steam train. The Camp fire was a popular destination in the evening with toasted marshmallows aplenty.

On Friday night while the children were entertained with a movie on the big screen, parents and guardians enjoyed a fabulous dining experience at the historic Vue Grand Hotel.

Saturday saw the Movie room come alive with the colours of the opposing teams for the AFL Grand final – round one!

After a scrumptious bbq dinner the activity room filled with darting disco lights, children in fancy dress and some high energy dance moves as the DJ played the latest disco music.

Sunday brought farewells as cars were packed for the trip home. New friends made and old friends reacquainted, another wonderful time shared by all.



Echuca Moama Seniors Trip 2010



Seniors trip to Rich River

On Tuesday the 3rd of August our annual seniors trip got underway with two buses with eighty six on board leaving Melbourne bound for the historic river towns of Echuca and Moama.

The group stopped for lunch at the Tooborac Hotel and Brewery, a friendly pub with open fires and solid bluestone walls adorned with photography and memorabilia of years gone by.

Rich River Golf Club Resort provided comfortable accommodation overlooking beautifully landscaped gardens.

On Wednesday Legatees boarded the M.V. Maryann cruising restaurant. The Captain's commentary recalled the rich and colourful history of the area. Country music and views of the red gum lined Murray added to an afternoon of relaxation.

Legatees joined their local counterparts and police members at the Regional Luncheon held at Oscar W's Wharfside restaurant. Fine cuisine and friendly conversation was enjoyed by all.

A highlight of the trip was an evening of music and dancing with local band "on thin ice" delighting the audience with old time tunes and contemporary classics.

A stop for lunch on the way home was made at the historic Kyneton Anglican Church and Hall. The local committee served up a buffet of home cooked treats and Legatees and local police members attending were given a recital by Father Tony on the grand pipe organ.

August 2011 will see Senior Legatees board buses for a trip to the coastal town of Lorne as guests at the Erskine Beach Resort.

The Secret Millionaire and one good turn deserves another

In September last year the VPL office received a call from a man seeking details of our bank account as he was wishing to make a donation. He had recently sold his home and made a substantial profit and wanted to donate money to a police cause as police at South Melbourne had supported him. In short, he stated they had been terrific and amazing to him and spoke fondly of a number of local police including Sergeant Andre Faulk (deceased). He was directed to VPL and after a checking the VPL website he was suitably impressed.

On Tuesday, 21st September, 2010, after experiencing some difficulties transferring the money electronically from the bank and a quick call to the Chairman, the benefactor, who wishes to remain anonymous, and his young son attended the VPL offices, where the board were preparing for the monthly and annual general meeting and he reaffirmed his praise for police and presented us with a cheque for \$10,000.

On behalf of VPL and the legatees that will benefit from this generous donation we wish to pass on our thanks to this benefactor and all those police at South Melbourne who may have directly impacted on this person.

Churchill Park Golf Club's charity day



Picture: Jane Ollerenshaw Leader Newspapers Sgt Andrea Winfield, Tim O'Sullivan (club manager), Billy Wolstenholme and Sen-Sgt Steve Wood.

More than 140 golfers turned out for the Endeavour Hills Police and Friends Charity Golf Day, at Churchill Park Golf Club in November 2010. Victoria Police Legacy was a grateful recipient of a donation from funds raised at this event. Spokesman Sgt John Blackburn said "This is our fourth year of golf days and our sixth year of fundraising and we are grateful for the sponsorship support we get from business in our policing area and community on the day". (Extract Berwick Leader Newspaper Nov. 24, 2010.)

Victoria Police Legacy would like to acknowledge the support of the following organisations:



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