



# Care

Victoria Police Legacy Newsletter  
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*Berwick Regional Luncheon - Clover Cottage*

### **Big day out!**

After every major event or series of regional lunches, Victoria Police Legacy conducts a review of what went well and what could be improved. There is certainly no need to change anything when it comes to the Berwick Regional Lunch. Held in the heart of the old “E District” at Clover Cottage, on Friday, 24th June, it now provides the biggest gathering of legatees save the Christmas Luncheon and annual bus trip. This year’s luncheon was hosted by board members Stephen Cooper and Martin Park and the ambience, food, service and grounds along with the wonderful fellowship continue to be the subject of the many cards and emails to Eileen and Erica in the days that follow.

Guests included Regional Commander, Assistant Commissioner Luke Cornelius, Superintendent Derek Lamb, Senior Sergeant Gerry Hengel and Acting Senior Sergeant Phil Atkins along with Retired Police Association Secretary Arthur Roberts JP.



victoria  
**police legacy**

## Chairman's message

Treasurer Stephen Cooper and I recently attended the National Police Legacy Conference held in Brisbane, which coincided to the day with the inception of the Queensland Police Legacy Scheme 40 years ago. The gathering for such a conference was indeed extremely poignant given the killing of Queensland Detective Senior Constable Damien Leeding only two weeks earlier, and survived by his wife and two small children. The conference provides an opportunity to present respective State and Territory reports, discuss issues and emerging trends, network and learn from both the perspective of the business and as executive members of our respective boards and committees of management. All police legacies operate in slightly different ways, offering a range of support and services to people in the police family who have lost a husband, wife or partner. Regardless of our differences, at the core is a philosophy of caring for police families.

Queensland Police Commissioner Bob Atkinson opened the conference and as in 2005 espoused the importance and attributes of police legacy citing that the most important thing we do is to honour the wish of the departed police officer or partner and that is to look after their family.

The preparation of the State Report also provides an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the last twelve months and clearly articulate what the challenges are for our organisation. The commitment, passion and compassion of those involved in and with Victoria Police Legacy continue to be unwavering and growing. This includes staff, legatees, the board, volunteers, supporters, sponsors and of course Victoria Police. Feedback from those attending our events and functions is overwhelmingly positive as are the comments with regard to the increased Victoria Police Legacy media visibility.

Victoria Police Legacy has received confirmation that the Honourable Alex Chernov, AO, QC, Governor of Victoria has accepted our invitation to be our Patron-in-Chief.

I also take this opportunity to thank former Chief Commissioner Simon Overland for his support and Patronage of Victoria Police Legacy.

**Roger Schranz**  
Chairman

## VPL extends a thank you

VPL recently received confirmation that retired police officer Rod Hiam, who recently passed away, provided a donation to Legacy for the sum of \$1000. This donation is gratefully received and the Board will soon consider how those funds can best be put towards one of our services.

A recent special request from one of Legacy's families was answered by the Reliance Petroleum Group, recently taken over by BP to be renamed BP Rural and Regional. The head office is located in Hawthorn and the company is a keen supporter of its local community. Discussions with BPR&R's Chief Information Officer Charlotte Jones, herself a former police officer from the United Kingdom, identified an opportunity to donate a laptop, computer and software to Legacy. The computer was provided to a family with special needs.

Retired police officer, Peter Halden, from the Echuca/ Moama area, has volunteered to assist Legacy with transport for special events such as regional lunches and the Christmas luncheon. Peter and his friend, another retired police member Barry Cox, have both become volunteers through their connections to local legatees, and are happy to be the bus driver when required. VPL thanks Peter and Barry for their service.



## The beginnings of Legacy

Former Victoria Police Inspector Bryan Kelly (pictured) is an ideas man. He doesn't shy away from that reputation, and indeed sees some of today's benefits of policing as the fruits of a time when he was responsible for taking Victoria Police in a new direction.

With the support of then Chief Commissioner Mick Miller, Bryan was responsible for developing certain initiatives that would improve the life of all police officers. And while the terms 'strategic planning' and 'project management' hadn't yet become part of Victoria Police business, in essence that was exactly what he was doing when turning good ideas into policy and practice.

Some of these ideas were as diverse as securing a way for police officers to get a home loan through the creation of a Police Credit Cooperative, introducing a central banking model, and increasing the number of police women joining Victoria Police. Behind them you would find Bryan and a key group of passionate individuals debating, lobbying and ultimately working towards a model of support for police that extended beyond 'the job'.

It was during the early 1970s, through one of his other interests on the board of the Police Credit

Cooperative, that Bryan attended a national Co-op conference in Queensland and the idea of Legacy was discussed.

"We were in Queensland when two blokes asked my wife Peggy what we did in Victoria about our widows. My wife spoke to me, then Peter Ryan and I talked to these guys for an hour and half, and they hammered us about what we were doing with the widows and children," Bryan explained. "They had two questions: what are you doing with your widows, and what has happened to those in the past?"

"We came back from the conference, and as I was friendly with Mick Miller's assistant, Keith Thompson, I asked him to get me in to see him. Peter and I explained the concept, and he told us this was an excellent thing to do, and that we should go for it."

As was the protocol of the times, Bryan utilised the forum of the Police Association's Journal to start writing articles to gain support for Legacy. According to Bryan, there was an assumption the Association would take care of everything, and while both Victoria Police and the TPA each had welfare responsibilities, there were some situations that simply fell through the gaps.

Apart from submitting his Association articles for publishing, Bryan also travelled around Victoria lecturing to members at their local stations. Whether it was an audience of two or two hundred, he enjoyed the opportunity of selling the benefits of central banking, the Police Co-op and Legacy.

It was about 1979 when the next fundamental step occurred in Legacy's formation – the murder of Detective Senior Constable Bob Lane 'up on the Murray'. According to Bryan, this tragedy prompted a lot of impromptu fundraising for his widow that inadvertently divided the traditional circles of CIB and uniform. A group of well-intentioned CIB individuals proposed putting forward a motion at the forthcoming annual general meeting of the Association that \$10 be taken out of everyone's pay for Lane's widow and her two daughters.

"Some of the uniform blokes, who had attended functions to raise money, said that they had lost two uniform blokes in the same time and that nothing had been done about them," Bryan explained.

With tensions mounting between the loyalty of the CIB to look after their own, and the broader



*Bryan Kelly and family*

code of all police officers looking after each other equally, TPA secretary Tom Rippon suggested that someone should ‘go and get Bryan Kelly and see what he’s been talking about’.

“I had heard both arguments, and I knew there were 14 police who died in 1979, and they were all entitled to the assistance. I knew there should be a system put in place – which should be Police Legacy. So the meeting of the TPA agreed that I should go and research it.”

Knowing he had the support of the Chief Commissioner to make it happen, Bryan asked for like-minded people to come forward. “Murray Burgess, Jack Cook, Ron Braybrook and 15 others attended the old ballroom on the corner of Russell and Latrobe Streets, and we formed Police Legacy at that point, and registered it without taking it back to the Association.” This was no doubt a bold move at the time when the TPA was an essential stakeholder in endorsing any changes to Victoria Police.

“At this point I reported to Mick Miller what happened and he said, ‘you will need money for this, as it has been my experience that not everybody will come forward’. He then told me about his wife working at the tuckshop and how some women never turned up, so to make it easy across the board we put in a notice in The Gazette that a contribution would be taken from everybody from the force, and those who objected could come and see Inspector Kelly and report why.”

Bryan recalls that no one came forward, although Tom Rippon had some points to make about the Association being superseded in the process. Putting philosophical differences aside, both men knew they were essentially committed to the same greater good.

The initial contribution was 20 cents and collection was facilitated through the Police Pay Branch, sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner. It quickly became part of the standard deductions, along with superannuation, tax and association fees.

Bryan said the first Board arranged a list of all the widows by contacting all the OICs of the stations, and used the Police Gazette as a means of getting the message of support out. The initial Legacy family included 120 widows, and about 400 or so children. Bryan held the title as first president of Legacy, joined by other key contributors including Peter Ryan as secretary, Gary Storey, Jack Cook and Murray Burgess.

“Then Tom Rippon agreed that it was a proper thing to do to send out a piece of paper for everyone to sign to agree to up the contribution to 25 cents about four or five months afterwards. I honestly thought that was all that would be required.”

Another key initiative came from Ron Clapton, the former manager of Police Co-Op, who suggested Legacy should switch from a fixed contribution to a percentage of pay so that funds would automatically grow with time.

Now retired, and with 31 years police service under his belt, 50 years of marriage, seven children, and a host of personal and professional achievements, Bryan can tell you something about most aspects of Victoria Police, most of which he retains passion for. But in relation to Legacy the overriding message is simple: “When you ask them – the widows and widowers what they want – it is all about if they have a need, there is someone there to help.”



*Connection Day - April*

## **Police Connection Day**

One of the special opportunities Victoria Police Legacy provides its young legatees is Police Connection Day, held this year on the 12th of April at the Victoria Police Forensic Services Centre (VPFSC). Our host for the day was Bernadette De Vere, Manager of the Education and Library Unit at the VPFSC.

Within the walls of this centre located at Macleod, over 300 highly specialised police, scientists and experts are responsible for processing crime scenes and testing materials taken from all types of serious crimes committed in Victoria. This makes the VPFSC one of the largest providers of forensic science services in the world.

But on this day, young legatees were able to discover for themselves this special area of service and training within Victoria Police. Bernadette and staff explained some of the different areas of Forensic Services including Crime Scene investigation, Fingerprints and the science of DNA. The children enjoyed making 'fingerprint bookmarks', and exploring the various equipment used at crime scenes. The 'spaceman' special contamination suit was also a favourite.



*Director Karl Kent welcoming the group*



*Learning the finer points of fingerprinting*

## Fundraising help wanted

Sergeant Peter Dikschei of Police Communications (D24) and a group of colleagues are planning to participate in the gruelling 2012 Gibb River Road Challenge to raise funds for Victoria Police Legacy. This and similar popular events are run by police districts around regional West Australia. The Gibb River Road Challenge is a seven hundred kilometre mountain bike ride over six days in the heart of the Kimberley region in northern Western Australia in May next year.

Peter and his team are looking for people with skills in fundraising to volunteer and help raise funds and/or those who have business contacts that can assist or sponsor the team.

For more information, Peter can be contacted on phone: 92473 222 or email [peter.dikschei@police.vic.gov.au](mailto:peter.dikschei@police.vic.gov.au)

To learn more about the event visit [www.thegibbchallenge.net.au](http://www.thegibbchallenge.net.au).

More details will follow on the Victoria Police Legacy website in due course.

## The Baton Run

At the time of writing, Detective Inspector Brian Rix, President of the Police Association Victoria and Victoria Police Legacy board member along with legatee Leading Senior George Berk of the Road Policing Operations Investigation Division, State Highway Patrol, Heavy Vehicle Unit are nearing the end of their around Australia 'Baton Run' where they delivered a handmade wooden baton with the insignia of each jurisdiction inscribed to each Chief Commissioner, Commissioner or their representative. The baton provides for the details of any fallen police officer(s) to be inserted into a hollowed section. The batons will then be delivered by the respective jurisdictions to Canberra during the Wall to Wall Ride later this year.

Victoria Police Legacy thanks Brian and George on their mammoth ride and acknowledges the Wall to Wall Ride which was the initiative of Brian and New South Wales Police Force Assistant Commissioner Michael Corboy, who is also the New South Wales Police Legacy Treasurer.



## Your shopping helps Victoria Police Legacy

VPL has now been linked to the Ritchies' Community Benefit card/tag scheme, which sees donations provided to certain organisations, schools and other community-minded groups of the shopper's choice.

These cards and tags can be used at any Ritchies store throughout Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. If you don't already have a Community Benefit card or tag linked to Victoria Police Legacy you can pick one up at the registers next time you shop at Ritchies. All you do is nominate Victoria Police Legacy - it's that easy and there are no costs involved. Use your card or tag every time you shop even if you only buy a couple of items, it all adds up.

As the customer, you are entitled to over 1000 red ticketed discounted items throughout the store – and of course every time these items are purchased a small donation goes towards the work of VPL.



*Eltham luncheon. Board member Kevin Sheridan, legatee Betty Owens who was the first employee of Police Credit and Police Credit Chairman Lionel Allemand*

## Regional lunches

This year's regional lunches kicked off on 29th April at the Yarra Yarra Golf Club in East Bentleigh, with a royal flavour to table discussions as Prince William and Kate Middleton's wedding was to be telecast that evening.

Approximately 35 ladies were in attendance to enjoy a wonderful meal provided by the golf club, amid the beautiful surrounds of the course and one of Melbourne's sunniest Autumn afternoons.

The royal theme was obvious on one table where several legatees, led by Ms Joan Paffett, donned princess tiaras in honour of the impending royal nuptials.

Guests included Assistant Commissioners Emmett Dunne and Andrew Crisp, with Emmett noting how fortuitous he was sitting next to legatee Marie Johnson. Marie's late husband Commander Alan Johnson was a former boss to Emmett, and as a young constable he never forgot seeing him atop a horse at the Mounted Branch – indicative of Alan's personality to give any challenge a go – horse riding being no exception.

The following week a group of 20 ladies met at the Main Hotel in Bairnsdale for the East Gippsland regional lunch. Local Police Service Area manager Peter Harrington was on hand to greet legatees, which included his own mother Sylvia who made the trip from Melbourne that day. The family resemblance was striking and proves you are never too old to have your mum on hand, and to sing your praises!

It was also good to welcome new legatee Margaret Lane, whose husband Barry was at one stage in his career the Officer in Charge of the Trafalgar Police Station, and well known to many police families in Gippsland.

Two weeks later, approximately 26 legatees enjoyed a lunch at Mercers Restaurant in Eltham. There were a number of guests in attendance, including Assistant Commissioner Tim Cartwright and his partner Sue Robinson, Victoria Police Forensics Services Centre representatives Bernadette De Vere and Superintendent Doug O'Loughlin, and local Victoria Police Senior Sergeant Russell Langley.

Police Credit Co-op representatives Lionel Allemand and Christine McIntyre APM also attended the luncheon. VPL acknowledges the ongoing support of the Police Co-op for the work of Legacy. This year the Co-Op has made a special donation for the Children's Christmas Party of \$5000.

Board members Superintendent Kevin Sheridan and Sergeant Martin Park were also on hand to enjoy the festivities, along with Field Officer Eileen Kelly.

Another regional lunch was held in Bendigo on Friday 10th June at the National Hotel. Approximately 25 legatees joined VPL Board members Kevin Sheridan and Peter O'Neill for good food and local hospitality. Local police guests included Senior Sergeant Craig Gaffee and Superintendent Darryl Clifton. VPL volunteers Barry Cox and Peter Holden joined the lunch for the first time.

Field Officer Eileen Kelly noted it was wonderful to be joined by new legatees who were made to feel very welcome by the group, and those who have suffered recent illnesses but were able to make the outing.

As with all Legacy functions, the regional lunches provide an excellent opportunity to reminisce over common experiences and relive memories of times that were shaped by being part of a police family.



*Berwick Regional Lunch. Assistant Commissioner Luke Cornelius welcoming legatees to his region*

## A new website for Victoria Police Legacy

As a result of discussions with stakeholders, it was identified the current website did not meet the needs of Victoria Police Legacy. According to Treasurer Senior Sergeant Stephen Cooper, the site did not provide adequate information about upcoming events and services available.

“It was agreed the website was not conducive for two way communications, especially on important aspects with our legatees, supporters or partner organisations,” he said.

A new website will be uploaded in the coming weeks, and can be found at [www.policelegacyvic.org.au](http://www.policelegacyvic.org.au).

Designed by Blue SKYS Media, the site will provide easier access to information and enable online completion of applications for assistance or grants. It will also allow for events to be instantly uploaded, so that those who are unable to attend can view online both during and after the said event. Also media files such as movies and slide shows will be included, as an improved way of remembering those special occasions from the past.

VPL is keen to hear from anyone who has a suggestion or an idea for inclusion on the website. Ideas can be forwarded either through the website or by contacting VPL direct.



*Mum, Cherise, Thomas, birthday boy Ben, Chairman Roger Schranz and Jessica White*

## Twenty-one club

Congratulations to legatee Ben White who turned twenty-one earlier in the year. Whilst Ben, his family and friends were having lunch at the Crown Casino Complex, Conservatory Restaurant to celebrate the occasion on a magnificent Melbourne Saturday afternoon, Victoria Police Legacy Chairman, Roger Schranz, dropped in and presented Ben with his birthday cheque.

Ben assures us that it will be put to good use, as spending money on a forthcoming overseas trip. Ben completed his commerce studies mid-year and will commence a highly coveted position in the Ernst Young Graduate Program.

Victoria Police Legacy also congratulates legatee Grant Hines who turned twenty-one recently.

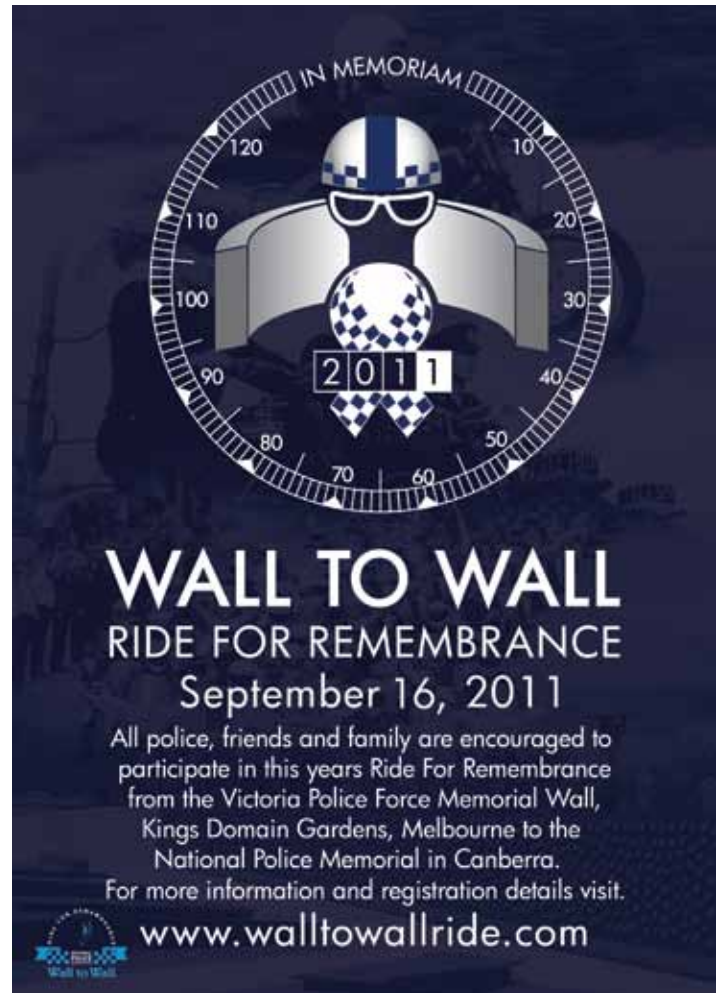
## Victoria Police Executive sign up again to Legacy

When Legacy began in 1980, the average cost of a pound of sirloin steak was \$1.89 and if you wanted to have fried eggs with that steak, it would set you back 95 cents for a dozen.

Commensurate with the costs of the times was the idea that police would contribute 20 cents per pay to help police families who suffered the loss of a spouse who was 'in the job'.

According to Board member and retired police officer Gary Storey, the then Chief Commissioner Mick Miller instigated the contribution scheme and invited anyone who objected to donating a small portion of their pay to submit a report. His memory is slightly different to former president Bryan Kelly (see previous article), as he recalls that three members who were so bold as to object all earned a meeting with the Chief and changed their minds after considering the benefits of joining Legacy.

Thirty years later the Board has recognised the increasing costs of living and embarked upon the task to raise the contributions of its members from 0.1% to 0.15%. Included in the ambit of Project 100, which also sets out to attain of 100% contribution rate from all sworn members; the increased contribution rate kicked off in April this year with a commitment by the Victoria Police Executive to sign up to the increased contribution rate. Legacy is confident this commitment will continue with the forthcoming Assistant Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and appointment of a new Chief Commissioner. Board member Senior Sergeant Craig Pearson said it is always encouraging to see the Executive renew their personal financial commitment to the ongoing work of Legacy.



## Wall to Wall Ride

The Wall to Wall Ride For Remembrance Victorian contingent will set out from the Victoria Police Memorial Wall, Kings Domain Gardens, Melbourne, at 8.00 am. on Friday, 16th September, 2011, and rendezvous with riders from all other States and Territories outside of Canberra the following morning culminating in a service at the National Police Memorial. Everyone is welcome to attend the Melbourne start and see our riders off. The ride honours those Australian police who have lost their lives in the line of duty and promotes motorcycle road safety with all funds raised going to Police Legacies throughout Australia. For further information refer to the website at [www.walltowallride.com](http://www.walltowallride.com).





**Victoria 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](mailto:info@policelegacyvic.org.au)

[www.policelegacyvic.org.au](http://www.policelegacyvic.org.au)



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