

**RECEPTION TO MARK
THE CENTENARY OF LEGACY AUSTRALIA
REMARKS BY
HIS EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE ALAN BLOW AO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
BALL ROOM, WEDNESDAY 17 MAY 2023**

VICE-REGAL SALUTE

Good evening everyone and welcome to this reception to mark a significant milestone in our Nation's history. My wife Margaret and I are very pleased to be here with you as we celebrate the centenary of Legacy.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community and recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land and sea.

There is a long history of Vice-Regal patronage of Legacy in Australia and Tasmania, and I am proud to continue that association. It is especially meaningful for us in Tasmania as we are all aware that the Remembrance Club, later to become Legacy Australia, was founded here in Hobart by returned veteran Major General Sir John Gellibrand, who was born in Ouse.

Legacy is a remarkable organisation that has been making a positive impact in the lives of Australians ever since it was established. Its role has always been to support the families of Australian veterans who have lost their lives or have become incapacitated as a result of their service to our country. Originally it supported the families of those who fought in the First World War.

The Remembrance Club was formed in Hobart in 1923, and shortly thereafter a Victorian Lieutenant General, Sir Stanley Savige, was inspired to establish a similar club in Melbourne. It was named Legacy.

In the early days it was returned servicemen who undertook the duty of caring for and supporting widows and orphans. Those men later became known as Legatees, the title still used for members of Legacy who volunteer to assist. Most Legatees now are members of the community, many with some Defence service but not necessarily operational experience.

As time went by, Legacy came to care for tens of thousands of widows who had lost their loved ones and been affected by their partners' service in the Korean War, the

Malayan Emergency, the Vietnam War, campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan, and peacekeeping operations across the world.

The work that Legacy Australia does is vital in ensuring that the families of those who have served our country are not forgotten or left behind. The organisation provides a wide range of services to support those families, including financial assistance, education support for children, and assistance with social and emotional wellbeing.

The impact that Legacy Australia has had on the lives of Australian families is immeasurable. The organisation has helped thousands of families in their time of need, providing them with the support and resources to rebuild their lives. Legacy Australia has also played an important role in preserving the memory and legacy of our veterans, ensuring that their sacrifice is not forgotten.

In addition to the vital work that Legacy Australia does in supporting veterans and their families, the organisation is also involved in a range of community initiatives. This includes supporting youth programs and other community organisations, as well as fundraising and advocacy work.

The Centenary of Legacy includes a significant program of events that reach across the globe. The Legacy Torch relay, launched at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance, has started its journey through Europe and will conclude in Melbourne at the end of this year.

There are commemorative coins and stamps planned for issue, as well as art exhibitions and an education program aimed at secondary students. At Government House, we have planted a number of examples of *Grevillea* 'Legacy Flame' in our gardens. You can see an example of the *Grevillea* here on stage tonight. You can also see some Gellibrand memorabilia on display below it. *Grevillea* 'Legacy Flame' has been specifically chosen to resonate with the symbolism of the Torch as it has an abundance of long flowering red/orange flower spikes. It is also easy to care for, water wise, small in size and attracts birds, making it suitable for most gardens.

As Australians, we owe a debt of gratitude to those who have served our country, and to their families who have sacrificed so much. Legacy Australia is a vital organisation that plays an important role in ensuring that our veterans and their families receive the support they need and deserve. I thank everyone here this evening for supporting

Legacy Australia, whether through donations or volunteering, to help ensure that this important work continues for generations to come.

After the formal part of the evening is concluded, you'll be invited to join my wife and me for some refreshments while we listen to incidental music provided by the Australian Army Band – Tasmania.

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