

**AN ADDRESS TO LAUNCH
LEGACY BADGE WEEK 2021 BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC,
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
HOBART, 24th AUGUST 2021**

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, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.

It is a great privilege to launch Legacy Badge Week 2021 which will start next week on the 29th of August. There is a long history of Vice-Regal patronage of Legacy in Australia and Tasmania. I am proud to continue that association.

Hobart is, of course, where the Legacy story began in August 1923, when Major General Sir John Gellibrand, who was a highly decorated war hero, formed the Remembrance Club here in Hobart.

As a response to the failure of business and the need for our community to assist those men who returned from the battlefields of Gallipoli, Palestine and Europe, the Remembrance Club was founded on a promise made from one digger to another – to “look after the missus and the kids.”¹

Another returning soldier, Lieutenant General Sir Stanley Savige, was inspired to establish a similar club in Melbourne which was named Legacy. In 1944, the Club joined with the Melbourne club.

¹ <http://www.legacy.com.au/LegacyHistory> accessed 13 Aug 2019

The Remembrance Club then changed its name to Hobart Legacy.

The Legacy vision is that no dependant of a veteran suffers financial or social disadvantage as a result of their loved one's death or injury from service.²

There are currently approximately 6000 Legatees around Australia who have accepted that vision, some having served Legacy for more than 50 years. Our Hobart club has 65 members, who are responsible for looking after widows and children across all of Southern Tasmania³.

President of Southern Tasmania Legatee, Rob Grey, and the team⁴ continue to ensure that the Legacy vision is realised throughout Tasmania, where Hobart Legacy cares for nearly 900 widows and 20 children in Southern Tasmania.⁵

The range of ages of Hobart Legacy widows is from 34 to over 105 years. Hobart Legacy has approximately 707 widows of World War II veterans, 46 widows of Korean veterans, 94 widows of Vietnam veterans, twelve from Malaya/Borneo, two from Afghanistan veterans and five from Iraq.⁶

On behalf of the Tasmanian community, I thank you all for the services that you provide voluntarily to all these widows and children throughout the year.

I am very well aware of your efforts to raise funds for Legacy from the sale of Christmas puddings. These were assiduously plugged by your honorary solicitor, David Whitehouse, affectionately known as Digger, each year at Murdoch Clarke, where I was a partner for many years.

² Legacy Australia Inc Annual Report 2019-2020, p9

³ <https://www.legacy.com.au/clubs/tas/hobart/about-us/> accessed 16 Aug 2021

⁴ <https://www.legacy.com.au/clubs/tas/hobart/about-us/> accessed 18 Aug 2021

⁵ <https://www.legacy.com.au/clubs/tas/hobart/about-us/> accessed 18 Aug 2021

⁶ <https://www.legacy.com.au/clubs/tas/hobart/> accessed 18 Aug 21

Under the Legacy 2030 Plan, I understand that Legacy Australia is currently reviewing its organisation in response to a dramatically changing beneficiary and business environment. There is general acceptance that change is inevitable, and that Legacy must adapt to the internal and external factors. It is accepted that Legacy will remain as a club-based, volunteer, not-for-profit organisation. Accordingly, discussion is directed towards the most effective structure to be and the timetable for this change.⁷ I congratulate you on your commitment to change while maintaining those crucial components of Legacy service that have been so successful.

The bulk of the donations received to support the work of Legacy are generated from the sale of badges during Badge Week. This is Legacy's renowned and recognised fundraising campaign, successfully conducted since 1942. The funds raised from Legacy Badge Week enable Legacy to continue to assist approximately 60,000 beneficiaries, most of whom are elderly widows throughout Australia.⁸ Traditional digger and nurse bears are sold but significant success has been achieved with newer design bears dressed in the contemporary uniforms of the three Services.

I look forward to seeing our Defence Force men and women join their Legacy colleagues selling badges, bands and bears to raise funds to assist widows and children who remain part of the Defence family. The funds raised provide essential services, including financial support, developmental opportunities and social connection services.⁹

I thank you all for the work you do to help and support those in need.

I now formally launch Legacy Badge Week 2021.

⁷ Legacy Australia Inc Annual Report 2019-2020, p18

⁸<https://www.legacy.com.au/how-we-help/who-we-help/aging-and-vulnerable-widows/> accessed 18 Aug 2021

⁹<https://www.legacy.com.au/how-we-help/our-work/> accessed 18 Aug 2021