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VPL CHARITY BREAKFAST

100 YEARS OF WOMEN IN POLICING

CLASSIC CRUISERS
On the 27 April, Victoria Police Legacy held a charity fundraising breakfast with the theme of the event being, ‘Women’s Leadership’. The following is the opening address given by VPL Chair Superintendent Lauren Callaway.

“Welcome everyone.

Firstly, on behalf of Victoria Police Legacy, I extend thanks to every person in the room. All 451 of you, who decided this morning you would get up early and come in to the city to:

• support VPL;
• support mental health;
• and celebrate the leadership efforts of women.

Here at VPL, we would describe ourselves as a discreet and private charity that usually operates quietly in the background, helping the families of police who have lost loved ones to remain connected to Victoria Police and supported through the enduring experience of grief.

So with that in mind I would like to briefly share with you the genesis of this breakfast – which is our first and only major public fundraising event we have ever held.

About five years ago I was approached by our field officer, the wonderful Eileen Kelly, to meet with a young legatee whose husband had committed suicide. There were two beautiful small children involved and the reason Eileen wanted us to meet was more about this legatee’s rare willingness and candour to share the impact the suicide had on herself, her children and everyone connected to her husband, especially family and colleagues.

Her experience can be summed up in a few short words: condemnation, blame, embarrassment and regret.

It’s such a different experience to someone who loses a partner or parent to illness or accident.

Our initial support for the family started with a commitment to be there to help her and the children for the long term, without judgment. It is support that would be consistent, reliable and compassionate.

Regular visits and phone-calls by our field officers would follow.

Practical support came in the form of education grants, birthday and Christmas gifts.

The family began to participate in events and gatherings where they were introduced to other Legatee families. Perhaps this would provide the greatest support of all being that of friendship, a special understanding of being in the police family and sharing the experience of losing a family member.

This family, just like all of our 1000 legatees, have gone on to be part of our functions, Family trips, Christmas parties, teddy bears picnics, lunches and youth activities.

But back in 2012, that particular suicide turned out to be one of five suicides that occurred in a very short period of time. I often think that if we had lost five police officers in any other way there would have been an urgent review of our practices. As a Board, we decided that Legacy would do something to publicly acknowledge one of our most important principles:

There is no hierarchy of death. All losses are equally tragic.

So we went on to produce a Bluetube interview with our young widow that was an outstanding insight into life after suicide. It recorded over 5000 hits...

– I think the previous most popular video recording had only registered 300 hits.

People’s interest and empathy in a real story was phenomenal and we know that was partly driven because all of us have either experienced it first hand or know someone suffering from mental health.

From our perspective, the video prompted an organisational conversation that has lead Victoria Police down the path of a Mental Health Review, formal recognition and better acceptance of post-traumatic stress disorder, and a significant shift in culture towards greater acceptance of mental health issues.

This family, just like all of our 1000 legatees, have gone on to be part of our functions, Family trips, Christmas parties, teddy bears picnics, lunches and youth activities.
When our patron the Chief Commissioner asked VPL if we would like to consolidate our support beyond the individual family work, we decided this signature event would be our way of raising both funds and the profile of mental health.

And what better way to do it than by celebrating the leadership of women in our 100th year of women in policing.

So thank you again to everyone in the room for being part of that signature. I especially wish to thank our wonderful guest speakers:

- Deputy Commissioner Wendy Steendam
- Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation CEO Lucinda Nolan
- Business woman and founder of Carmen’s Muesli Carolyn Cresswell
- Impact Founder and president Kathy Kaplan
- and our host, Nine News icon Peter Hitchener who volunteered to be part of this occasion.

Your leadership on issues of social importance is something VPL is very proud to be associated with, and we look forward to exploring that more during our panel later this morning.

I’d also like to thank Wendy, Deputy Commissioner Andrew Crisp and Acting Deputy Commissioner Doug Fryer for representing our patron Chief Commissioner Graham Ashton this morning. It is terrific to have all Deputy Commissioner’s present at today’s function.

I would also like to thank Nez Demaj and the Northern Classic Cruisers Car Club for their generous $3,000 sponsorship of the audio visual equipment for today’s charity breakfast.

And lastly I’d like to thank all our government partners and corporate friends – you have all made today a success and we look forward to seeing you again.

Thank you and enjoy.”

Legacy fundraising breakfast 2017

This year’s charity fundraising breakfast was a huge success with over 400 people attending.
GOOD FELLOWSHIP CONTINUES AT REGIONAL LUNCHES

The tradition of Regional Lunches has yet again proved to be a big hit during the first few months of 2017.

Lunches held so far this year at Geelong, Frankston, Bulleen, Wangaratta and Bairnsdale have been well attended by legatees and again have seen strong representation from local Police commands and Force Command.

Regional lunches are an extremely important activity in the VPL calendar each year. They provide the opportunity for legatees, who share a common bond of being members of the broader ‘police family’, to come together and enjoy good fellowship.

YOUNG LEGATEES AND THE SOG!

On Monday 30 January, a small group of our young adult legatees were given the opportunity to attend and observe a Tactical Roping training exercise with the Victoria Police Special Operations Group (SOG), Victoria Police Airwing and international counterparts. The exercise involved boarding the Queenscliff Ferry from watercraft and rappelling onto the deck from the police helicopter. Those who attended thoroughly enjoyed watching the highly specialised units, and getting the opportunity to speak to the members.

Special thanks to VPL Board Member Inspector Glenn Owen from the SOG for giving this opportunity to our young legatees.

Victoria Police Legacy congratulates the following young legatees who have reached a milestone birthday during the early months of 2017 – their ‘21st Birthday’! So ‘Happy 21st Birthday’ to...

Mitchell Mumford
Jayson Irving
Jaiden Davies
Lewis Schembri
Sarah Kerr
Jessica Elliott

Our thanks to our donors and sponsors who make birthday gifts a reality for all of our legatees.
VPL EXPANDS ITS SUPPORT TO LEGATEES

We welcome Bryan Sharp to the team

In March, VPL was pleased to engage, on a contract basis, recently retired Inspector and Legatee Bryan Sharp.

Bryan’s work will see him assisting VPL Field Officer Eileen Keily in enhancing the provision of support and services to all of our legatees, with a focus for him being on our male legatees.

In addition to assisting Eileen in the support of legatees, Bryan will become a regular visitor to the Victoria Police Academy at Glen Waverley where he will speak with new Victoria Police Recruits on the role of Victoria Police Legacy and the importance of all members contributing towards the ongoing support of police families who have lost a loved one.

During April, 49 VPL legatees enjoyed 2 nights at The Langham Hotel as part of this year’s ‘City Escape’. From all accounts, all who went to the Princess Theatre to see ‘The Book of Mormon’ thoroughly enjoyed themselves with others having a night out at the movies. This year’s City Escape also saw a luncheon on the Wednesday with a great evening being spent over dinner at The Langham Hotel on the Thursday night.

In September of last year the Minister for Police Lisa Neville MP launched the VPL Child Safety Handbook at Parliament House. Many, but not all, Victorian primary schools received copies for distribution to their families. The book was really well received by schools, with many ordering more and more copies.

Due to the overwhelming response for hard copies, the handbook is now available across three digital platforms. Future updates to the Handbook will only be made available online, in keeping with the technology path of many schools throughout the state.

The handbook is available at childsafetyhub.com.au or the Victoria Police Legacy website and can also be downloaded via the iTunes App Store.

The Victoria Police Legacy Board:

**Board Executive**

Chair
Superintendent Lauren Callaway

Vice Chairman
Detective Inspector Roger Schranz APM

Treasurer
Senior Sergeant Darren Kenos

**Board Members**

• Sergeant Martin Park
• Senior Sergeant Diane Wilson
• Inspector Mark Galliott - Chief Commissioner’s Representative
• Inspector Glenn Owen
• Inspector James Dalton
• Senior Sergeant John Laird - President: The Police Association Victoria
• Senior Sergeant Kate O’Neill

The Legacy Team

**Executive Manager** Lex de Man AFSM

**Office Manager** Erica McMahon

**Field Officer** Eileen Keily

**Youth Coordinator** Andrea Lyons

**Contractor – legatee support** Bryan Sharp
In her more than 30 years in the job, former Senior Sergeant Joan Paffett saw a lot of changes for women. But one thing hasn’t changed – the pride and admiration she feels for all women who wear the uniform.

Ms Paffett was born into the blue. Her father was the officer in charge of Gordon station, where she was born, and the family then moved to Stanhope.

So when the 21-year-old signed up to join the family business in 1966 – her older brother was by then also a police officer – nobody was surprised. The admittance age for police women had dropped to 21 from 23, having previously been 25, just in time for her to sign up.

“Very few women were in the police then, I think you even had to wait until a woman resigned and then you could replace them,” Ms Paffett said.

“But because of my background it was pretty much what was expected of me.”

Unlike now-days where most squads have an even split of men and women, Ms Paffett was the only woman in her squad, not that it bothered her. “I knew the atmosphere,” she said.

“The realities of the job weren’t a shock to me because growing up the police station and our house were combined so we used to have people come to the house all the time.”

“My mother was a pseudo officer as most country officers’ wives were. With domestics, the husband would often be in the station and the wife and children would be in our kitchen and may stay the night in my room.”

Ms Paffett was assigned to the Women Police Division at Russell Street where female officers were paid the same and had the same powers, but were on a separate rank structure to their male colleagues.

“There were no girls in the Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB) when I joined. I did a lot of undercover work, such as for licensing and illegal gambling and abortion raids with the homicide squad, and I submitted a report to attend the Detective Training Course and was politely told ‘we don’t have females in the CIB’. Later when

In 2017, Victoria Police celebrates 100 years since the first female agents joined the ranks. It would take many years before they were made official police officers but these ground-breaking women forged a path that, a century on, continues to make Victoria Police a better and stronger organisation.

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**100 YEARS OF WOMEN IN THE FORCE**

- **1917**: Victoria Police’s first women are employed as “agents” - Madge Connor and Elizabeth Beers
- **1950**: Grace Brebner becomes the first female detective
- **1960**: Women take the first three places (dux, second and third) in a squad of police graduates
- **1973**: The Equal Opportunity Act comes into effect allowing women to work in general duties policing
- **1947**: Uniform for policewomen introduced
- **1956**: Kath Mackay is the first woman to reach the rank of sergeant
- **1978**: The requirement for female police applicants to be single is abolished
- **1980**: Police women are able to apply for handcuffs and batons
women were allowed in to detective training. I was already a Sergeant, had things been different I think I would have gone down that path.”

Eliminating this division and bringing in maternity leave were some of the most important and influential changes of her time, Ms Paffett said.

The 1978 Equal Opportunity Act saw the Women Police Division disbanded as women were integrated into general duties in line with traditional ranks.

“When I first joined you couldn’t be married. If you’d been an officer for more than 12 months before you could apply to be allowed to stay but there was certainly no one with children,” Ms Paffet, who is also a police widow, said.

“So maternity leave was a big plus, otherwise women had to leave.

“Equal Opportunity put the girls out there into the big wide world of the police force. They could begin to climb the ladder.”

One of Ms Paffett’s former trainees is Assistant Commissioner Deb Abbott who has received the Australian Police Medal and is one of the highest ranking women in Victoria Police.

“Women are doing very, very well – I’m very proud.”

Fellow Legatee Constable Alex Kapetanovski has also felt the changes across the organisation.

“I remember mum (Inspector Margie Lewis) climbing the ranks when it was more of a male dominated environment and I know she got push back,” the 24-year-old said.

“She’s definitely an inspiration and someone to look up to, but when I joined two years ago, my squad was 50/50 and by the end it was more women than men.

“Victoria Police is an organisation that is moving forward and building on equality.”

Const. Kapetanovski’s sights are set on becoming a detective, following in her late father retired Detective Inspector John Kapetanovski’s footsteps, and eventually joining Homicide Squad.

“Policing had always been in the back of my mind, I did a Bachelor of Legal Studies and planned to go back and do Law but I realised I’d rather be chasing crooks than representing them in court,” she said.

“I’m honoured to be a part of the history of women in policing and I’ve enjoyed every part of the past two years - let’s see where the next 20 years will take me.”

FAMILY TIES

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Alex Kapetanovski and her mother Inspector Margie Lewis

THE VICTORIA POLICE FORCE

1931
Police women were allowed to wear trousers as part of their uniform

1932
Jean Notting is the first woman appointed officer in charge of a police station

1939
Bernice Masterson becomes an Assistant Commissioner

1999
Rebecca Caskey is the first woman appointed officer in charge of a police station

2000
Jocelyn O’Brien and Kathryn Joyce are the first women in the Dog Squad

2001
Christine Nixon becomes the first female chief commissioner

2002
Natalie Cale is the first woman appointed to a one person police station

1981
Police women were allowed to wear trousers as part of their uniform

1982
Jean Notting is the first woman appointed officer in charge of a police station

1989
Bernice Masterson becomes an Assistant Commissioner

1999
Rebecca Caskey is the first woman to join the Search and Rescue Squad

2000
Jocelyn O’Brien and Kathryn Joyce are the first women in the Dog Squad

2001
Christine Nixon becomes the first female chief commissioner

2002
Natalie Cale is the first woman appointed to a one person police station
Thousands of dollars raised for VPL.

Victoria Police Legacy, through the efforts of VPL Ambassador and Life Member Superintendent Peter O’Neill, has established a great friendship with the car enthusiast club, the Northern Classic Cruisers (NCC). We are fortunate and very grateful that the NCC has, for 2017, chosen VPL as their ‘charity of the year’ and they have already been busy raising funds through the staging of two car shows.

The first show held in February on the grounds of the Epping RSL in Melbourne’s northern suburbs, saw in excess of 280 Classic Cars and motor cycles (pre 1985) on display for the huge crowd to view and admire. VPL thanks the Epping RSL for allowing the use of their grounds, at no cost, and for the unexpected donation of $500.

A great day was enjoyed by all, with one of the highlights being the presence of a 1950’s London Metropolitan Police Car, kindly on display from the Police Historical Museum.

The second show held at Williamston in late March, again saw a large contingent of Classic Cars (pre 1985) on display. V8 Super Car Driver, John Bowe was very generous with his time, speaking with many of the car enthusiasts who had braved a cold Melbourne day to attend the show. This event proved to be yet another success for the NCC and Victoria Police Legacy.

In early April, Victoria Police Legacy was presented with a donation of in excess of $7,000 through the fund raising efforts from the two car shows.

The NCC is planning to hold a further two car shows in September and November of this year in support of VPL. Details of on both of these shows will be available on the VPL website in the coming months.

Victoria Police Legacy is truly grateful for the ongoing support of the Northern Classic Cruisers and for the work of Convenor Nez Demaj and his dedicated team of Volunteers.
The first graduation at the Victoria Police Academy for 2017 saw two very special legatees meet for the very first time!

Our eldest legatee, Thelma McKenzie 105 years young, and our youngest legatee, two-year-old Kade MacArthur, along with Thelma’s son-in-law and Kade’s mum and siblings, were special guests of VPL Patron Chief Commissioner Graham Ashton AM and Assistant Commissioner Kevin Casey for lunch, and then at the graduation of Victoria’s newest Police Constable’s for 2017.

Thelma’s husband, Kenneth McKenzie reg. no. 8457, joined VicPol in March 1929, retiring at the rank of Superintendent in January 1967. Natalie’s husband, Wayne MacArthur reg. no. 27513, worked in the Geelong area and retired due to ill health in 2012 at the rank of Leading Senior Constable. Kade is Natalie’s youngest child and is one of 7 children.
REMEMBERING VICTORIA POLICE LEGACY IN YOUR WILL

By remembering Victoria Police Legacy in your Will you can ensure that the bereaved police and protective service officer families continue to receive emotional support and services provided through Victoria Police Legacy.

A bequest, no matter how big or small enables us to plan for the future and can bring life changing benefits to those in need beyond your lifetime.

Because your Will is a legal document, we advise that you obtain independent legal advice from your solicitor. They will provide the appropriate wording for your Will.

Including a bequest to Victoria Police Legacy in your Will is easy. When you make a Will or update your existing one, simply ask your solicitor to include a bequest to Victoria Police Legacy. There are a number of ways to do this but always discuss the options with your solicitor to see which one is right for you.

Please Consider the following questions if you wish to include Victoria Police Legacy in your Will.

What do you intend to Bequest?
Before drafting your will, you need to consider what it is that you wish to provide to us for example:

1. A specific dollar amount.
2. The residual of an estate, that is, after some personal and real property has been distributed to others the residual (what is left over) is provided to the organisation.

What do you intend Victoria Police Legacy do with the bequest?
You may choose to:

1. Leave us the bequest with our discretion as to how we best apply it under the terms of our current constitution; or
2. Leave us the bequest for a particular purpose. For example, a Tertiary Scholarship for younger legatees or for any other type of Victoria Police Legacy activity.

If you wish to provide a bequest for a particular purpose, you should advise us accordingly. By being explicit in your will and to your executor/s, your request will be both possible and respected.

Our Legal Name
In any document which you or your solicitor drafts, including your bequest, the following legal name and address of our organisation is required:

Victoria Police Legacy Scheme (Inc)
ACN 44 598 947 546
71 Drummond Street
CARLTON SOUTH VIC 3053

Thank you for your consideration.

NEW WEBSITE!

VPL launched its new website in early May.

The new website, with its modern day look, is much more ‘user-friendly’ for mobile devices with more regular updates also being made available. As we move forward, the website will provide the ability for legatees to update personal details, i.e. change of address and greater online access to information about our events. Have a look and let us know what you think!

policelegacyvic.org.au

Have you got an event or a story you would like to share? Tell us all at...

LEGATEES CORNER!

Do you have something that you would like to share with the readers of CARE?

Maybe a special birthday, or local ‘coffee’ catch up with other legatees, or a story that you would like to share with others, then let us know here at VPL. ‘Legatees Corner’ will be a new section in future editions of CARE for our legatees to add stories, events or calendar dates, etc.

If you have something to share and that you would like to be considered to be included in the next and future editions of CARE, just send it to us via info@policelegacyvic.org.au or at Victoria Police Legacy P.O. Box 573, Carlton South 3053.
The opening of a new police station is always a significant event for any local community, and in early March a number of legatees, VPL Volunteers and Board Members were invited to be present at the opening of the new Echuca Police Station by the Minister for Police & Water, The Hon Lisa Neville MP.

Victoria Police Legacy extends its thanks to Superintendent Darren Franks for the invitation and also to the Echuca Police members for the warm welcome extended to all from VPL on the day. By all accounts it was a terrific event.

Present at the Echuca Police Station opening, Vice Chairman – VPL Inspector Roger Schranz, VPL Board Member & Police Association President John Laird, VPL Field Officer Eileen Kelly, VPL legatees Fay Smith, Essie Nisbett, Lesley Matthews and Margaret Tosh along with VPL Volunteers and retired members Barry Cox and Geoff Halden along with Kerrie Cox and Anne Halden.

ANZAC Day 2017 saw Victoria Police and VPL participate in an ‘RSL Community Initiative’ at the Shrine of Remembrance. The initiative saw a number of Legatees join in with Deputy Commissioner Andrew Crisp in the making of ‘kiln fired clay ANZAC Plaques’ with a personal ‘ode’ in memory of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Once completed the plaques will join others on a wall in one of Melbourne’s iconic laneways, Drewey Lane. The laneway is being transformed through a City of Melbourne Project to create a permanent community memorial to those who have served in the Australian Defence Forces and who never returned home from war.

Victoria Police Legacy was approached earlier this year by ‘The 41 Club’, (why is it called ‘The 41 Club?’ – that was the address of the Police Association Building when it was next to the former Russell Street Police Headquarters at ‘41’ McKenzie Street), for two young legatees to each be awarded an educational scholarship, to the value of $1,500.00.

This year’s recipients of these inaugural scholarships are Clare Burmester whose dad Carl, is a Constable at Ararat Police and Joe Rocco whose dad, Dean is Detective at Frankston Sexual Offence and Child Abuse Investigation Section.

Victoria Police Legacy thanks ‘The 41 Club’ for their generous support of our young legatees and congratulates both Clare and Joe on being this year’s recipients.

Left to right: Legatee Elyce Boulter, VPL Executive Manager Lex de Man, Legatee Loreen Thompson with daughter Nikki Thompson, Legatees Debbie Meldrum, Ros French and Shanleigh Meldrum and RSL Community Development Project Coordinator Sankar Nadeson.

Left to right: VPL Executive Manager Lex de Man, RSL Community Development Project Coordinator Sankar Nadeson, Legatee Ros French and Deputy Commissioner Andrew Crisp.

Victoria Police Legacy supports ANZAC Plaques

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Left to right: VPL Executive Manager Lex de Man, RSL Community Development Project Coordinator Sankar Nadeson, Legatee Ros French and Deputy Commissioner Andrew Crisp.
We remember them

At each VPL Board meeting, the Board and staff acknowledge the passing of both serving and retired members. This is an integral part of confirming eligibility and contacting surviving partners and any dependent children to offer support and connection to other legatees. Recognizing that the spirit of engaging, supporting and connecting people through Police Legacy starts with knowing that someone has suffered a loss, the Care magazine shares that information with our broader police family.

We recognise the passing of serving, retired or resigned police officers, as well as legatees.

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<td>Sergeant Donald Hugh SLEIGHT</td>
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<td>Senior Constable John Howard HORTON</td>
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<td>Mrs Mary Elizabeth CASHIN</td>
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<td>Deputy Commissioner Eric Thomas MILLAR AM</td>
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<td>Mrs Edith TYLER (wife of Senior Sergeant Ralph TYLER)</td>
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<td>20.04.2017</td>
<td>Mrs Nicole RICHARDSON (wife of Det/LSC Keith RICHARDSON)</td>
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<td>Senior Constable John Frederick JOHNSON</td>
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Thankyou

Thank you to all those organisations that support Victoria Police Legacy in many ways.