

OCTOBER 2014 MEETING

Speaker: Philip McNamara

Topic: Legacy - History and Work

Philip McNamara from Legacy gave a very entertaining account of the history and work of Legacy. Philip spent most of his working life in the Australian Army and retired with the rank of brigadier. On his retirement from the Army, he moved to Thirroul and was Director General of the NSW State Emergency Service based in Wollongong.

He joined Legacy while still a serving officer and continued his involvement when he came to Wollongong. Legacy was founded in 1923 as the Remembrance Club to assist returned servicemen in business. A similar club was established in Melbourne the same year by Stanley Savige who spent the next 26 years developing and promoting Legacy.

In 1925, Legacy undertook to care for the children of Australian service personnel killed in action. The Association was particularly active in the aftermath of the First and Second World Wars when there were large numbers of families requiring assistance. Nationally, Legacy now cares for more than 90,000 widows and 2,000 children.

The initial focus of Legacy was on helping the widows and children of servicemen killed in action. Over the years the focus has changed and Legacy now cares for the spouses and dependents of service men and women killed or injured as a result of their service.



The Badge of Legacy symbolises in its torch the undying flame of service and sacrifice handed to us by our comrades in war who have passed on.

The services provided by Legacy are wide ranging and include assistance with pensions and other social service entitlements, and providing counselling and other support. The Association is particularly active in the education and welfare of children. There is a scholarship scheme that supports students throughout their school and tertiary education. In 1961 the first Junior Legacy camp was held at the Mount Keira Girl Guides Camp. This includes 10 days of sport and social activities from Sydney to Jamberoo.

Other social events enjoyed by members of Legacy include:

- Choice of a hamper or attending a special lunch at Christmas
- Annual harbour cruise

Probably the most significant aid given by Legacy is mentoring. Members of Legacy are assigned widows or families with whom they keep in touch. This programme ensures that there is always someone who cares, who can help when needed and who knows the background and needs of the individual.

Legacy is a voluntary organisation supported by veterans, servicemen and women, and volunteers drawn from all

walks of life. The Associations is not government supported and raises funds primarily through its annual Legacy Week activities. The Wollongong and South Club hold a yearly business lunch which raises money for activities that include an annual children's camp.

With the continued involvement of Australia in peacekeeping and military activities throughout the world, the work of Legacy continues. The Wollongong South Coast Club welcomes donations and volunteers. You do not have to be a returned service person to be involved. The club is located in Legacy House at 96 Market St, Wollongong. **JS**

RESTORATION OF BOER WAR MEMORIAL, MACCABE PARK



The Society has been negotiating to have some restoration work done to Trooper Frank Andrews Boer War Memorial in MacCabe Park. This should be done in the New Year. **JMcC**