

London Legacy Newsletter

January 2024



His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC, DSC (Retd) Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley, laying a wreath during the closing ceremony of the Legacy Centenary Torch Relay 2023 presented by Defence Health. The closing ceremony was held at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance on Friday 13th October 2023.

London Legacy – A division of Legacy Australia Inc.
Supporting our veterans' families

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PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS



With my brother Graham and sister-in-law Cathy at the finale of the Legacy Centenary Torch Relay 2023 presented by Defence Health.

Dear friends and supporters,

As we enter 2024, may I take the opportunity to wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Looking back, 2023 was an amazing year as Legacy Australia commemorated 100 years of service. The flagship event was the Legacy Centenary Torch Relay 2023 presented by Defence Health. The opening ceremony for the relay was held in Pozieres, France ahead of Anzac Day in April and then the torch passed through London. This London leg of the relay was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with the Australian community in London post-covid and to showcase the work that we do.



Jane Tripney

Following on from the London leg of the relay, beautiful thank you cards were hand made by beneficiary Jane Tripney and sent to VIPs who attended. The photo opposite shows the skill and care that has gone into making the cards.

At the London Legacy Centenary Ball we also raised sufficient funds to fly three of the Brient family to Australia to attend the Annual Children's Camp being held in Western Australia during January 2024; their photo is on the back page.



Thank you cards made by Jane Tripney.

During October, I was amongst those who greeted the Torch on the final leg of its journey and took part in the closing ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne, the birthplace of Legacy Australia. It was a very special time for me as I grew up in Melbourne.



From Left to Right: Past Chairman of Legacy Australia, Eric Easterbrook; myself; the Governor-General of Australia and Mrs Linda Hurley; Chief of the Defence Force of Australia.

I was also very excited to attend the Legacy Centenary Dinner at the MCG in the presence of His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC, DSC (Retd) Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley. The Chief of the Defence Force of Australia General Angus Campbell, AO, DSC, the Chiefs of the Army and Air Force, and the Deputy Chief of the Navy also attended the dinner, and I think this indicates the regard in which the Defence Force holds Legacy.

Legacy commissioned special memorabilia to mark their Centenary. Whilst in Australia to attend the Torch Relay finale I was busy purchasing commemorative stamps, as well as Legacy bears and Grevillea Flame plants. London Legacy beneficiaries will have received postcards with the centenary stamps and a card containing the commemorative coin as wonderful keepsakes of the centenary year.



Left: Purchasing Grevillea plants for my family. Right: My mother with her Grevillea plant.

2023 was also a memorable year for key anniversaries. It was the 70th anniversary since the end of the Korean War and 50th anniversary since the end of the Vietnam War. We have included articles in this newsletter to remember the sacrifices of our service members and their families.

In other news, during August I had the wonderful opportunity to spend a day with Rita Thompson in Wales and enjoyed catching up with her news. Past President of London Legacy, Simon Kleinig, visited the UK in October and it was lovely for both Legatee Tanya Briggs and myself to catch up with him while he was here.



Left: Myself with Rita Thompson. Right: Legatee Tanya Briggs with Simon Kleinig.

2023 saw six new legatees inducted into our London Legacy team – they are introduced in the centre of this newsletter. It also saw the



Legatee Anthony Birch at the opening ceremony.

departure of Legatee Lieutenant Colonel Birch who returned home to Australia with his family in December. We would like to give a very big thank to LTCOL Birch who greatly contributed to the success of the Torch Relay. He played a special role in the opening ceremony of the

relay in Pozieres and also took the lead in coordinating the London leg of the relay.

And, finally, the personal memoirs of Legatee Lindsay Birrell, a past president of London Legacy have been published and are available to purchase on Amazon. Lindsay successfully gained his Queen's Scout Certificate when he was fifteen, and the Certificate included the words: 'may your life be A Joyous Adventure', hence the title of Lindsay's memoirs.



***Legatee Yvonne Smith
President London Legacy***

THE TORCH ON ITS JOURNEY ACROSS AUSTRALIA

The London leg of the Legacy Centenary Torch Relay 2023 presented by Defence Health took place during April 2023. Over the following six months, we saw lots of familiar faces as the torch continued its journey; including Legatee Simon Kleinig, a past President of London Legacy, who proudly carried the torch in Adelaide.



*Above: Simon (right) carrying the torch.
Right: Simon with two of his granddaughters.*

Participation in the relay was a family affair for the Anderson and Trevor families, both of whom have an association with London Legacy. Bundaberg-raised sisters Rachael and Brianna Anderson honoured their father Rick as torchbearers in London and Bundaberg. Brianna lives in the United Kingdom and works as a paramedic. She is a London Legatee and her story was included in our previous newsletter. Brianna carried the torch in the London leg of the Relay on 28th April 2023. Rachael is an Occupational Therapist who is currently based on the Sunshine Coast and took part in the Bundaberg leg of the Relay in June. Sisters Celia and Chloe Trevor also honoured their father as torch bearers: Celia took part in the London Relay and her sister Chloe was a torch bearer in Melbourne six months later.



*Top Left: Brianna Anderson in London. Top Right: Rachael Anderson in Bundaberg.
Bottom Left: Celia Trevor in London. Bottom Right: Chloe Trevor in Melbourne. Photos: Csmith Photography.*

TORCH RELAY - MELBOURNE LEG

By Legatee Yvonne Smith

On Thursday 12th October 2023, the Legacy Centenary Torch made its way through Melbourne on the final leg of its long journey.

The Melbourne leg of the relay featured on the Channel 9 TODAY show with live crosses to TODAY's weather presenter, Tim Davies, for interviews along with his weather updates. The first, very chilly live cross was at 5:40 am at Victoria Barracks and featured the Legacy mascot teddy bears. At 6:17 am, Tim Davies interviewed Mark Dixon, the incoming CEO for Melbourne Legacy. Then at 6:36 am, it was my turn to star on behalf of London Legacy, whilst my mother was glued to the TV at home. I spoke about how exciting it was to be there for the start of the relay and to meet King

Charles III, while clips of the London Relay were broadcast. It was then a mad dash to the MCG for another three live crosses and a very welcome BBQ breakfast.

In typical Melbourne fashion, it started to tip down with rain about an hour before the start of the relay at 10 am. Despite the inclement weather conditions, 41 brave (and wet) bearers proudly carried the torch through the heart of Melbourne, concluding with a short service at Victoria Barracks: a fitting location steeped in military history.

It was such a great honor to be present at both the first and the last legs of the relay.



Top left to right: Legatee Yvonne Smith with the Legacy bears; Legatee Smith with TODAY's Tim Davies; Representatives from Melbourne Legacy with the Torch – Mark Dixon (current CEO), Kerry Jenke (then CEO) and Ken Tsirigotis (COO). Bottom: Tim Davies with Legatees, torch bearers and volunteers. Bottom photo: Csmith Photography.

Closing Ceremony – Torch Relay

By Legatee Yvonne Smith

After six months on the road, the Legacy Centenary Torch Relay 2023 presented by Defence Health concluded at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne on Friday 13th October. The finale of the Torch Relay saw 11 torch bearers carrying the torch from Legacy House in Swanston Street to ANZAC Avenue which leads to the Shrine. The procession was led by the WWII staff car of Legacy Melbourne founder, Sir Stanley Savige and was followed by a Legacy branded tram (donated by Yarra Trams) carrying four generations of Legacy beneficiaries.

Representatives of the Legacy Clubs that had taken part in the relay over the previous six months lined ANZAC Avenue and were waiting for the torch bearers to arrive, lined up in the order that the clubs had been visited by the torch. So I was first in line!

I received the torch from the final torchbearer and passed it to a representative from Western Australia and so the torch continued along the line. The club representatives then marched to the steps at the end of ANZAC Avenue.

The closing ceremony officially started with a RAAF flyover in a P51 Mustang before the Governor General of Australia His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC

(Retd) and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley received the Legacy flame and returned it to the Eternal Flame to signify the end of the celebratory journey. Speeches, including one from the Governor General, the ode, a minute's silence, and the laying of wreaths followed with music provided by the RAAF band. In his speech, the Hon Matt Keogh MP Minister for Veteran Affairs said:

"The torch has made it halfway around the world, done a loop of Australia and made it here, to the home of Legacy Melbourne. ... On behalf of the Australian Government, I thank Legacy for the century of support it has given to the families of those who have served our nation, and for the care you continue to provide."

The Governor-General concluded his speech with the words:

"We often conclude speeches with the words lest we forget."

Legacy is the organisation that reminds us that lest we forever forget service from families and their sacrifice, we are the worse for it.

Legacy, thank you for your big heart and your gift to Australia".



Legacy Club Representatives. Photo: Csmith Photography.



Top Left: The Legacy tram on the way down Swanston Street. Top Right: Torch passes iconic Flinders St Station. Middle Left: Legatee Yvonne Smith with the final torch bearer. Middle Right: Legatee Yvonne Smith passing the flame to the representative from Western Australia. Bottom: The Governor General and Mrs Hurley with the torch. Photos: Csmith Photography.

LEGACY CENTENARY MEMORABILIA

To celebrate the centenary of Legacy, special memorabilia has been commissioned by Legacy Australia. All London Legacy beneficiaries will have received the commemorative coin as well as postcards with the centenary stamps, and we hope you will treasure these wonderful keepsakes of our centenary year.

Commemorative \$1 Centenary Coin

Legacy Australia partnered with the Royal Australian Mint to develop the Legacy Centenary coin. The coin was released on Thursday 2nd March 2023 in a limited mintage of 30,000, providing a perfect start to the centenary commemorations of Legacy Australia.

The reverse of the coin features a sculpted interpretation of the Legacy logo torch cupped by a pair of hands with the title text: "Centenary of Legacy • 100 Years of Service", circling the design. The front side of the coin features the Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Obverse which will only be featured on coins made in 2023, making this coin even more collectible.



Top: Freshly minted- The commemorative Centenary of Legacy \$1 coin with the Legacy bears. Bottom Left: Beneficiary Mary Nicholson with her coin. Bottom Right: Legacy Australia CEO, Graham Boyd, with the Legacy Bears.

Commemorative Stamps

Australia Post honoured 100 years of Legacy Australia through a commemorative stamp issue featuring the iconic Legacy torch symbol.

The stamp design presents the iconic branding of Legacy Australia and echoes the colours of the Australian flag. The torch design prominently placed in the stamp represents the undying flame of service and sacrifice, the foundation of Legacy's existence. The body of the torch is presented in a gold colour, signifying generosity and compassion. In its wreath of laurel, with its points inverted in remembrance, is the guerdon of honour, to represent those who gave their lives for their country.



*Legacy Australia CEO, Legatee Graham Boyd
with Australia Post Group Manager, Michael
Zsolt.*



A limited edition sheetlet pack of stamps was also issued in October 2023 following conclusion of the torch relay. In a wonderful surprise, the photo on the cover of the pack features a photo of London Legacy Legatee Anthony Birch. The cover shows Legatee Birch carrying the lit torch into the Pozieres Memorial at the commencement of the opening ceremony for the Legacy Centenary Torch Relay.

Legatee Yvonne Smith arranged for a postcard with the commemorative stamps to be sent to all beneficiaries during her recent visit to Melbourne in October 2023. Already sold out at the post office, Yvonne purchased the stamps from ebay. One of the sellers shared the following story and Yvonne continues to be amazed by the number of people who have a connection with Legacy:

I became a Legacy Ward when I was 13; they were wonderful personal mentors and financially supported me with my education and health needs over five different towns in two states. A little Legacy story - in 1957 to 1958 at least - Legacy Mudgee NSW ran a camp for Sydney Boys at Havilah Station. We were two 14-year olds to shepherd the 30 boys aged 8 to 12 during their two-week holiday. Havilah Station was 25,000 acres with its own railway station and very large Shearers quarters to accommodate them, and our mothers had a big team of cooks to feed them. They stayed there with our Legatee Guardian - an ex-Major and Deputy High School Head. ... When these pale boys came off the train from Sydney we had to field questions like "Is that a sheep ??", "is that a Cow ??" By the time they left they could ride a horse, milk a cow and muster sheep and cattle - what a change. I know of FOUR boys who nagged their Mothers to move up to Mudgee - that they did, and joined our Legacy group".



*From the Finale: a postcard with legacy stamps from
London Legacy President, Yvonne Smith*

'Legacy Flame' Grevillea Plant



In honour of Legacy Australia's centenary year, one of its volunteers came up with the idea of creating a new variety of flower. A special Friend of Hobart Legacy, Suzanne Curry, worked with the horticulture industry across Australia to nationally release a special new cultivar of the Australian native Grevillea, 'LegacyFlame'. This Grevillea plant has been specifically chosen because its bright flame-like, orange-red flowers resemble the iconic Legacy Torch. The 'LegacyFlame' Grevillea is available at nurseries Australia wide and a portion of the funds from the sales of the plants will be donated to Legacy. During March 2023, a mass planting of over 200 Grevilleas was undertaken in ANZAC Park, Lindisfarne, Tasmania. The Park was the final destination of the Tasmanian leg of the Torch Relay.

Special Centenary Bears

Three collectible Legacy teddy bears were released in 2023 to commemorate the centenary of Legacy Australia. The bears represent each of the three service branches and the uniform best represents the uniforms that would have been worn when Legacy was established in 1923. The bears are pictured below with images of Australian Military Personnel from circa 1923.



COMMEMORATIVE BENCHES

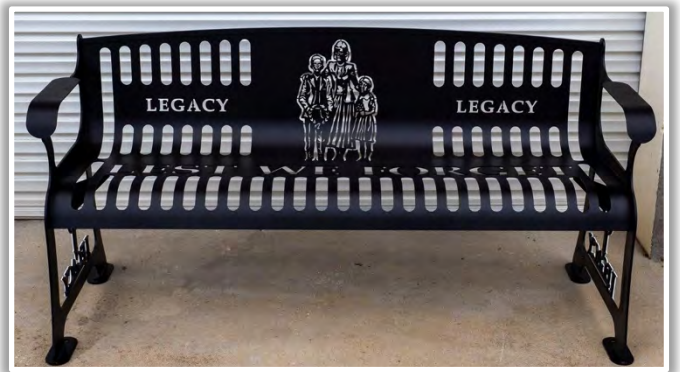
These commemorative benches were designed by Legatee Sonya Byrne who is the wife of Launceston Legacy president Terry Byrne. The benches were installed in 2022 and are a practical and useful way to remember those who have served in the Australian Defence Force.

The first of the two benches was funded by the Teddy Sheean Memorial Grants Program. It shows the tri-service emblems and the words "Lest we forget" which are reflected on the ground when the sun shines through. Launceston Legacy donated the bench to the City of Launceston council to provide a place for people to sit and contemplate when visiting the Launceston Cenotaph.

The second commemorative bench, funded by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, has been installed outside Legacy House in York Street. The bench contains an engraving of the statue that stands in the Legacy Garden of Appreciation at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne.



Teddy Sheean memorial grant bench.



Department of Veterans' Affairs memorial grant bench.

EDWARD "TEDDY" SHEEAN VC 23rd December 1923 – 1st December 1942

The Teddy Sheean Memorial Grants Program honours the sacrifice made by Edward 'Teddy' Sheean VC, as a representative of the many Tasmanians who gave their lives selflessly for others in the defence of Australia during WWII. Teddy was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for Australia in 2020. His VC Citation reads: "He sacrificed his life trying to save others"

In June 1942 Teddy began his service as an Oerlikon anti-aircraft gunner on the newly commissioned corvette, HMAS Armidale 1. On 1st December 1942 in the Arafura Sea, HMAS Armidale 1 was attacked by no less than thirteen aircraft, and was hit by two aircraft-launched torpedoes and a bomb. When the order was given to abandon ship, Teddy was helping Able Seaman Ted Pellet to lower the ship's lifeboat. When the Japanese started to strafe the helpless survivors in the water, Sheean made his way back to his gun and was wounded by two bullets on the way. He strapped himself into the gun harness of the Oerlikon, knowing he was condemning himself to certain death. As Armidale 1 continued to sink, he began to fire on the Japanese aircraft to protect those in the water. He managed to shoot down one bomber and kept other aircraft away from his comrades in the water. Crewmates recall seeing tracer rising from beneath the surface as Sheean was dragged under the water, firing until the end. Of the 149 men on board, only 49 survived the sinking and ensuing days on rafts and in life boats. Teddy Sheean died aged 18 years.



Edward 'Teddy' Sheean, VC.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF WWII MEMORABILIA

In May 1993, Rick Cove purchased a 1940 Chevy that turned out to have been the WWII staff car of Legacy founder Sir Stanley Savage.

The Chevy has been the “Guest of Honour” at quite a few remembrances, including being the official Legacy vehicle on Anzac Day in 1998 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of Legacy. And more recently, it participated in the finale of the Legacy Centenary Torch Relay 2023 presented by Defence Health, leading the procession from Legacy House in Swanston Street to the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne.

Legatee Yvonne Smith met with Rick and his car at the finale, and Rick told her the fascinating story about how he bought the car.

The Best \$2 I Have Ever Spent. By Mr Rick Cove

My 1940 Chevrolet Ride Master Deluxe was manufactured in early 1940. Chassis number 40-308, it was one of many supplied to the military for use as a car for Senior Officers during WWII, known as a ‘Staff Car’. This is some of its story.

War was declared on 3rd September 1939 and the Government decided to raise an all-volunteer force known as the 2nd AIF. Under the command of General Thomas Blamey, the 6th Division was the first division formed with the 2nd AIF. The 6th division consisted of the 16th, 17th and 18th Brigades, each with four infantry battalions.

The Commander of the 17th Brigade was Gippsland born Brigadier Sir Stanley Savage KBE, CB, DSO, MC, ED. He also happened to be the very first owner of my Chevrolet Ride Master Deluxe, and used it as his staff car from 1940 until early 1942.

The 17th Brigade of the 6th Division, along with my car, saw service in Palestine in the North American Campaign, the Battle of Greece and the Syria-Lebanon Campaign. It was used during the Syrian Campaign against the Vichy



A typical scene in the Libyan Desert in 1941.

French during the Six Week Battle (June/July 1941), and is today displayed in the camouflage of that Syrian Campaign.

The car suffered bullet damage in Greece, and sports some bullet holes under the left rear mudguard towards the door/seat area and an “in the field” repair in that area too. The left rear door does not sit right at the bottom, and the left rear mudguard has a different curve to it. I like to think of it as character.

Brigadier Savage arrived back in Australia on the 5th January 1942. My car took a little longer, returning to Australia onboard Liberty Ship USS Somerville, in April 1942.

In March 1943, Brigadier Savage became Commander of the Australian 3rd Division in New Guinea and, as such, oversaw the battles for Wau, Salamaua and Lae. During this time, my father was a member of the 2/7th Independent Commando Company, directly under Brigadier Savage’s command.

But back to the car. In 1945, as the threat of Japan’s invasion of Australia lessened and the fighting moved further north towards Japan, the need for civilian style cars lessened within the Australian Military Forces. Some of the better-quality vehicles were released for sale to the Australian public, who had been starved of motor vehicles since 1939. My Chev chassis number 40-308 was released in mid 1945 and purchased by a Mr Don Williams from Ararat, Victoria. Mr Williams kept the car until 1971 when it was purchased by Mr John Woodburn from Dunkeld.

In May 1993, while working in the area, I was told of an old army staff car about 3km up the road at Mr John Woodburn's property.

Sitting in an open fronted hay shed since 1981 and looking a bit sad was the 1940 Chev Ride Master Deluxe. Flat tyres and chook dung were the first things to be seen on the car. Mice had started to make their home in the boot, alongside the military fittings that had been stored in there years ago. The odometer had just over 87,000 miles. Under the bonnet, the original oil can was still in its original bracket.

Being a bit smart, I pulled out a handful of coins from my pocket and jokingly asked Mr Woodburn if there was anything there in my hand he would like to take for the car. He reached out and plucked a \$2 coin from my hand and said "SOLD". In a state of surprise and disbelief, I spoke to his wife, who told me

that the car had run out of brakes in 1981 and none of their kids had offered to help get it back on the road so "if he wants to sell it to you for \$2, then you take it".

I have not restored the Chev but maintained it as an ongoing memorial to all those who have served our country. I have rebuilt the engine (which had a good dose of Libyan sand in the sump) and the gearbox, located the correct wider wheels, and temporally fitted bucket seats instead of the bench seat for my own comfort. Jill, my wife, and I have travelled all over Australia (except WA), including the "border track" (VIC/SA border), one of the toughest 4x4 tracks in Australia... much to the amazement of the many expensive 4x4 vehicle owners.

It is certainly the best \$2 I have ever spent.



Former staff car of Brigadier Sir Stanley Savige KBE, CB, DSO, MC, ED on display at the Melbourne leg and Finale of the Torch Relay. Pictured with owner Rick Cove and Legatee Yvonne Smith.

NEW LEGATEES

GRANT MASON



Grant's 32 years of service in the Army has spanned a variety of roles, the majority focused on combat command in Afghanistan and Iraq, organisational leadership, and strategic planning roles. Grant has also been responsible for selecting future Army officers, worked on major Defence capability acquisition projects, and overseas liaison and diplomatic roles. Grant holds a Masters of Business from the University of New South Wales' Australian Graduate School of Management. Grant also has board director experience in a range of not-for-profits companies, is currently the Patron of Australian Army Sailing and is a Freeman of the City of London. On 9th August 2023, Grant took on the role of London Legacy Trustee, where he hopes to provide much needed and important support to London Legacy and its beneficiaries.

BRIANNA ANDERSON



Since 2007, Bundaberg Legacy has been an unwavering pillar in my life. My father, Richard Anderson, devoted over 21 years to the Army, serving 4.5 years in the SASR. His health took a toll when I was 5, as he battled early onset dementia, ultimately passing away when I turned 17. I moved to Brisbane the following year and proudly assumed the role of Legacy Brisbane's inaugural Youth Ambassador, sharing my story at numerous fundraising events. Legacy has gifted me extraordinary experiences, including a poignant study tour of the Western Front, conquering the Kokoda Track and skydiving from a C17A Globemaster! Amidst pursuing my dual degree in Paramedic Science and Nursing, I dedicated substantial time to Legacy, taking on the role of Youth Leader in Brisbane. My commitment is rooted in my own experience as a Legacy kid. Today, I am a Hazardous Area Response Team Paramedic with the London Ambulance Service and am honoured to join London Legacy and continue paying back.

JENNY DUNN



I have been involved with Legacy with my partner, Lindsay Birrell, for many years, especially during the time when Lindsay was president of the London branch. I have met many of the widows and got to know a number of them personally. Now, as a new Legatee, I look forward to having a closer relationship with one of them. Since I retired from work, I have become involved in many voluntary activities: National Trust at Chartwell, the Globe Theatre, London Olympic Games, London Open House events, the Lord Mayors Parade supporting Barts Hospital, UCL Alumni, the local Neighborhood Watch and various other organisations. I have lived in Bromley in Kent (one of the London Boroughs) for many years though I originate from Marton-in-Cleveland, Yorkshire, where Captain Cook was born, and attended his old school there when I was young so I do have an Australian connection!

NEW LEGATEES (CONTINUED)

DANICA (DEE) ELLICOTT



I have been involved with Legacy for almost a decade, having started with Canberra Legacy while I was still an Officer in the RAN. There I became a Legatee and had a Legacy Ward Family under my care, and also organised the Canberra Legacy Youth Anzac Day Camp for the two years before taking leave to post to the UK. I now serve as a Navy Reservist supporting Team Navy in the Australian High Commission, and work full time as an Australian Public Servant for the Australian Government based in Cambridgeshire, UK. I grew up in Melbourne, where I started volunteering as a 'Nipper' with the Victorian Life Saving Society, and over the years, grew into a Life Saver volunteer and then a professional Life Guard before I joined the Military. Along with helping London Legacy where I can, I travel to teach and dance Brazilian Zouk throughout Europe.

MICK RICHENS



I am a British Army Veteran and became a Legatee this year after coordinating Boeing's support to the Torch Relay here in London. I have worked for Boeing for the past 14 years and am currently the C-17 International Chief of Staff based at RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire, supporting the C-17 across the global. In addition to my Chief of Staff duties, I am also the Boeing Global Strategy Lead championing the causes of Veterans across the company. I am married to Claire and have twin sons, Theo and Edward (18) and a daughter, Sofia (7). When not be given things to do by the family, I enjoy gardening, fishing and just being outside.

ANNA SAMUEL



I am currently working as an Assistant Psychologist within an autism service and am keen to train as a Clinical Psychologist in the future. I previously completed my undergraduate degree at Oxford University and then did my masters at the University of Warwick. Outside of my studies, I love playing sport, particularly netball and rowing. I have experience in volunteering with mental health charities including Mind and Nightline. I have also volunteered in Tanzania and Ghana, helping with community projects, volunteering in local schools, and running outreach programmes to reduce the stigmatisation of mental health. These experiences have equipped me with crucial skills in compassion and communication which I hope to utilise within Legacy. I am very excited to be involved with this amazing charity!

REMEMBERING THE KOREAN WAR

The story of Sub Lieutenant Richard Sinclair and his widow Naomi

2023 marked 70 years since fighting in the Korean War came to an end. 27th July was the anniversary of the armistice of what many call 'the Forgotten War'. It was overshadowed by the end of WWII and the subsequent 'Cold War', and yet the sacrifice of the allied Armed Forces was extremely high.

As we look back, we would like to re-share the story of Richard Sinclair and his widow, Naomi Sinclair.



*Sub Lieutenant Richard (Dick) Roslyn Sinclair,
RAN, 805 Squadron.*

Sub Lieutenant Richard Sinclair was born in Western Australia. He was sent to Britain to train as a Navy pilot with the Fleet Air Arm. There he met Naomi, got married, and subsequently moved to Australia.

Richard was a fighter pilot in 805 Squadron, RAN, and flew sorties in the Korean War. His Sea Fury was shot down on 7th December, 1951. He bailed out, but on the way down his head hit the plane's tail and died instantly. His body was recovered and then buried at sea from HMAS Sydney. The 805 Squadron Diary entry for that day reads as follows:

'Armed Recce No 2 for the day was 51 Flight and this turned out to be a milk run. After

checking some junk at 951904 a strafing attack was made on some troops in trenches. The flight then headed for [intelligible] to check the rail yard [for] box cars. On leaving this area 51-4 (Sub/Lieut Sinclair) was hit by an explosive shell and called up to say there was a smell of burning in the cockpit. He then gained height and headed seaward. Directly over the coast flame appeared from forward and underneath the aircraft and very shortly afterwards the aircraft went into an apparently uncontrolled dive. Approx 300-400 feet from the deck the pilot was seen to bail out and the parachute open at 100 ft. On hitting the ground the pilot was not seen to move, and when the helicopter from Bromide-Baker picked the body off the mud bank there was no sign of life. Medical examination subsequently showed that he was hit by the tail surfaces and the parachute was broken open by the impact.

S/Lt Sinclair was one of the best shots in the Squadron and had the keenest eyesight of all, he will [be] missed by all – especially by those in the casbah'.



Sub Lieutenant Richard (Dick) Sinclair

Richard was 22 when he died, leaving behind his young wife Naomi and their three-month old son Roger. Naomi and baby Roger returned to Britain and London Legacy immediately took them under their wing. Naomi was supported for the rest of her life by London Legacy, and was very grateful for the support she received.

When Naomi passed away in 2011, Legatee Simon Kleinig was privileged to deliver the eulogy at her funeral in the town of Leatherhead in Surrey. This is Naomi's story, written by her in 2010:

"From that awful day 7th December 1951, when Legacy stepped in and looked after me and my 14-week old son Roger, Legacy and London Legacy has been there in the background. Always at Christmas, they remembered us. When I needed some method of augmenting my pension they gave me the money to buy a sewing machine and I was able to do dressmaking etc. which was a great help.

As for my husband, Sub Lt. Richard Roslyn Sinclair RAN, he was born in Perth W.A. on 14th May 1929. He attended Hale School Perth and he was a middle-distance runner who did very well. His two older brothers had both served in the RAAF as bomber pilots during WWII. His father served in WWI and they had all returned home safely.

Dick joined the RAN in 1948 to train as a fighter pilot for whom he was sent to England and, in March 1950, we met in HMS Garnet at Eglinton Co. Derry where I was an aircraft engine mechanic in the WRENS. We were the missing halves of each other and we married on 3rd June. His time over in the UK was up in July that year and, after much begging and pleading, we were fortunate enough to get berths on the same ship, RMS Orcades, arriving in Fremantle in August 1950, where he received orders to stay on board and proceed to Melbourne and Point Cook, leaving me with his parents and brothers in Perth.

He returned to Perth at the end of August on two weeks leave. Then he had to return to

Point Cook, for training in how to become an Officer, having been raised from P4 to Sub Lt. I then followed him across the Nullabor Plains taking three trains by myself for the three day, 3,000 mile trip. From there it was a room in Frankston, south of Melbourne, before my husband was posted to Sydney. I followed again and we were a month there. Then we went to Nowra, south of Sydney on the coast, to a caravan in December.

In March 1951, he was told that HMAS Sydney was going to Korea for six months to relieve HMS Glory. From that time, he was on board much of the time training on Sea Furies. By then I was pregnant and our child was due on 18th August that year, the day that Dick came home on embarkation leave and when we moved into our first married quarters. The baby, however, had other ideas and did not put in an appearance until 2.20 am on Tuesday 28th August 1951, 10 days late. Dick said goodbye at 10.30 am on Thursday 30th August. He never saw his son again.

Sadly, he was killed in action aged 22 on 7th December 1951. He was heavily strafed and forced to bail out only to hit his head on the tail of his Sea Fury. His body was recovered and a burial service was held on HMAS Sydney that day. In the letter he wrote the day before he died, he said he was very frustrated at that point as they had just been told that instead of going straight back to Sydney as planned; they would be escorting Princess Elizabeth on her proposed 1951 tour of Australia. However, the King died the day before I left Australia to return home to live and I do not think that tour ever happened.

This is the background into which Legacy and later London Legacy stepped in. I have never forgotten the verse Dr Morrison told me in 1951 - To you, from failing hands we throw the torch. Be yours to lift it high. If ye break faith with us who die we shall not sleep though poppies grow in Flanders fields. Australian Legacy and London Legacy have not broken faith and I am grateful – 80 years old now and still grateful.

Thank you all. God Bless." Naomi Sinclair

BIRKHILL VIGIL FOR VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL

2023 marks 50 years since the withdrawal of Australian combat troops from Vietnam in 1972. To mark this anniversary, a dusk to dawn vigil was held on 3rd August 2023 to remember the lives of the 523 Australian servicemen killed in action during the conflict, with services of remembrance held at graves or commemorative plaque sites across Australia and overseas.



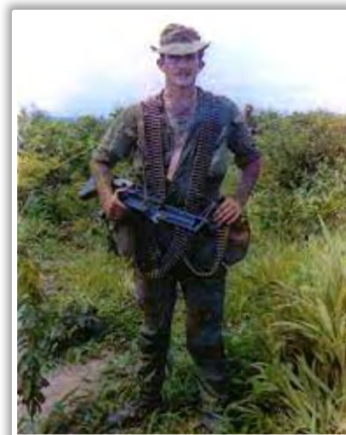
Birkhill Dusk Vigil, 3rd August 2023.

The vigil commenced with a dawn service at the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial in Canberra. Services of Remembrance were held at 1100 h local time across Australia and in Malaysia. The vigil concluded in Scotland with a dusk service at Birkhill Cemetery where Australian serviceman Lance Corporal Robert (Jock) Buchan is laid to rest with his parents. Wooden crosses were placed at his gravestone during the service to commemorate the 20 Scottish soldiers killed in action during the Vietnam War. Legatee Sian Loftus attended the Birkhill Vigil on behalf of London Legacy.

L/Cpl Buchan was born in Dundee and emigrated with his family to Australia in 1951 when he was four. His family returned to Scotland nine years later, and he decided to return to Australia alone in 1966 to work on a farm in Western Australia. In 1968 he enlisted in the Australian Army at age 21.

He was a piper, but refused to join the army's band, preferring to serve in a combat unit. After basic training, he began a tour of duty in Vietnam in May 1969.

L/Cpl Buchan lost his life at 22 years of age on 11th December 1969 whilst serving with D company, 6 Royal Australian Regiment (RAR). L/Cpl Buchan was leading his platoon through a well-used track in an area known to



L/Cpl Buchan

contain Viet Cong when his forward scout signaled an enemy bunker 15 m ahead. L/Cpl Buchan halted his platoon, ordered they take cover and moved forward to investigate, dying in a hail of gunfire as the enemy engaged from a distance of 10 m. His decision to stop the platoon moving forward saved the lives of his men. L/Cpl Buchan's body was taken to RAAF Butterworth in Malaysia for a military funeral and cremation, with his ashes returned to his parents in Scotland.



L/Cpl Buchan's funeral in Malaysia

L/Cpl Buchan's name is on the Australian War Memorial and he is commemorated at the Garden of Remembrance at the Perth War Cemetery in Western Australia. There is also a Robert "Jock" Buchan Memorial Track at the Vietnam War Era Memorial Compound in Toogoom, Queensland. Lest we forget.

RODDERS' RECOLLECTIONS - VIETNAM WAR ERA



'Rodders'

During the Vietnam War, I became eligible for National Service and was part of the 'Draft' cohort eligible for Australian 'Call up', officially referred to as National Service. Selection was based on an individual's birthdate. I remember watching the draw on TV and being stupefied when my birthday was not called up for National Service. Below are my recollections from this turbulent period of history.

The "Television War"

As a contented aspiring university student living at home with my parents in the 1970s, I became aware of the war raging in Vietnam. Events were extensively covered in the press and newsreel film was shown every day during the prime lead story spot in the evening news. Daily newspapers carried front page close-up photographic images of recent war conflict. The images were extremely graphic, or so we thought.

The Vietnam war became known as the "television war" as it was the first major conflict to be televised with camera crews onsite in combat zones. During previous conflicts, reports were broadcast over the radio and footage taken from non-combat areas was broadcast in movie theatres as TV had not yet been operationally established.

In Australia, the first public ABC TV broadcast was made in 1956, mainly in readiness to

broadcast live coverage of the Olympic Games that were scheduled to be held in Melbourne. ABC TV initially broadcast a test pattern, and later programming only lasted a few hours each day via the single ABC channel. During inaugural broadcast testing, some fledgling anticipatory viewers would actually watch and marvel at the static test pattern accompanied by an audible hum.

Protests and Marches

Sydney and Melbourne, where I lived, became the settings for many protest marches orchestrated to promote Australia's withdrawal from the war in Vietnam and the termination of National Service. The 1970 Melbourne Vietnam Moratorium in May attracted an estimated 70,000 protesters (reported by The Age) who gathered at the Treasury building adjacent to State Parliament House, then marched down Bourke St. The group chanted while animatedly waving banners and homemade placards. Opposition party politicians intermingled between groups of young people around my age who would take it in turns to rally the crowd with stirring announcements yelled over megaphones. Groups gathered to appear to publicly burn their buff-yellow 'Draft' cards ceremoniously. A few theatre groups regularly joined public events, and routinely featured in protests and marches, painting their faces white and wearing long black gowns.



Protestors at the 1970 Melbourne Vietnam Moratorium with a theatre group in the foreground.



Protestors near Myers in Bourke Street.

Moving against the flow during the march, I was taking coloured film records using my personal Super 8 cartridge movie camera. Colour film and contemporary film cameras were expensive for a student budget, yet I felt compelled to document events. I sensed that this was a unique period in time and that a set of “different” events and socio-political change mechanisms were in play.

The Little Red Book

The Little Red Book was popular with many university students who were vehemently opposed the Vietnam war and call up. The small book was freely available for sale in shops that included Mary Martin’s Book Shop in Swanston St. In the shop, which was actually quite close to Legacy House, the stacked red covered books prominently covered a large round display table accompanied by a handwritten price notice.

The book was published by the People’s Communist Republic of China from 1964-1976 and advocated State power as an ultimate societal goal, and armed insurgency as the revolutionary means by which the masses could achieve the objectives of change. The book was often waved around and referred to

in protest situations and speeches, especially by more-radical protesters. Out of pure curiosity I decided to buy a copy from Mary Martin’s bookshop.

I recall that the book cost a few dollars. Consisting of quotes allegedly sourced from Mao’s speeches, I found the text quite simplistic, unimaginative and its methodology brutal. I was amazed to contemplate how such raw material could inspire radicalism; in an Australian context at least. I perceived that the book’s ethos reminded me of an old-fashioned feudal uprising that did not resonate with contemporary Australian democratic values.

Soon after, the Victorian Vice Squad simultaneously raided bookshops and seized stocks of the Red Book. I kept my copy for historic reference, but maintain my distaste for its advocacy of violent change. I suspect that only a minority of protesters subscribed to such radical behaviour, however the movement was noticeable.

The 1970s National Service Public Selection Process

People knew in advance when your month of birth was to become part of the date pool from which the draftees were to be drawn. The actual draft draw was broadcast live on television. I think my draw was on a Thursday just before tea. Three men appeared on the screen wearing what I believe were grey suits, as TV was only black and white in that era. The men wore smoky grey rectangular spectacles, a style avoided by young people. I was fortunate to wear trendy black frames for example. In front of a plain, flat TV set backdrop, a bingo-type wire barrel with a crank handle sat on an undressed table. While two men watched on, a third turned the barrel handle then reversed it, causing the small selected numbered wooden ball to roll out into the external inspection rack.

As I watched, knowing this was my month, FOUR sequential numbers rolled out before my birthday. As I watched the final ball draw, I vividly remember seeing the next ball roll out. It was the day immediately following my birthday.

There was no TV pause or rewind control facility in that era, so I sat and reimagined over-and-over what I had just observed. After a while the reality sank in. I walked out into the kitchen where Dad had just arrived home from work and Mum was cooking our meal. I told them that my birthday date for National Service had not been drawn out. Dad looked at me and said "right." Mum said "right...and what do you think of that? [then] ... tea will be ready soon." That was that!

A week-or-so later my draft card arrived in the mail confirming that I did not need to report for National Service. I looked at it then double checked. I kept the card for short term evidence if required and for longer-term historic reference. Even today, when I hold the card and read it, my mind instantly recalls my awareness of life at the time of the draw. I remember who I was, where I was and how I felt. The future outlook felt positive.



Victorian Liberal M.P., Mr E. D. Mackinnon, holds aloft the first marble he drew in the ballot to decide the 20-year-old youths who will be conscripted into the Army.

Source: The Sydney Morning Herald.

Friends and Those Who Served

Unusually perhaps, during the draft period, none of my inner circle of friends were called up. One friend was selected, but he was rejected by the Army Medical Board. Amongst my wider circle of friends, a number were called up and served in Vietnam. When I encountered them years later, it was clear to me that they had changed remarkably. I never raised the war with anyone who had served and neither did they. Many demonstrated difficulty settling and maintaining relationships.

They appeared twitchy and looked past me as they did to other old friends present, maybe as if scanning the distance. Some had difficulty concentrating and perhaps drank a little heavily to the detriment of their health. The mention of Vietnam around those who had served, set some on edge or they left.

A number of veterans I encountered suffered from a persistent rash on their hands and neck plus shortness of breath. I subsequently heard that some individuals were later diagnosed as having been critically adversely affected by Agent Orange. I never saw them again as we all moved on in life and careers.

I remain in contact with my school friends, now sadly fewer in number. I remember and mourn the detrimental effects of conflict on the former enlisted personnel we knew. I offer my humble respects to the survivors, the damaged and those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The End of National Service

A pre-election promise announced by the then Federal opposition Australian Labour Party, was to end National Service and withdraw Australian troops from Vietnam; if elected. Baby Boomers, who were eligible for National Service, represented a large demographic of young voters, and in 1972, Labour won the Federal election.

Following Labour's electoral victory, PM Gough Whitlam, revoked the National Service legislation and withdrew Australian troops from Vietnam.

Living through, experiencing and now vividly recalling this period gives me the opportunity to share my [hopefully] objective recollections. I appreciate that I remain able to recall events that both shaped Australia, and the conflict that lamentably cost too many lives.

I feel grateful and privileged to live in a democracy where we remain able to express our thinking. My gratitude and thoughts are with the many who have sacrificed themselves to allow those of us who remain to live with integrity, preserve freedom, and foster peace.....*Lest We Forget.*

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2023

On 10th December 2023, Legatee Yvonne Smith had the honor of laying a wreath on behalf of London Legacy at the annual Service of Remembrance at the Australian War Memorial at Hyde Park Corner. Lest we forget.



Top: The Remembrance Day Service. Bottom Left: Australian Defence Force Officers saluting the fallen. Bottom Right: His Excellency the Hon Stephen Smith, Australian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and Patron of London Legacy, at the Remembrance Day Service.

CHRISTMAS CAKE CEREMONY 2023

The annual Christmas Cake Ceremony was held in the Great Hall at Royal Hospital Chelsea on 13th December 2023 and Legatee Yvonne Smith attended as a guest. The Ceremony was first held in 1949 and is a symbol of the enduring friendship between the UK and Australia. Each year a different state of Australia presents a cake to the Chelsea Pensioners and this year it was Tasmania's turn.

During the Ceremony, the Chaplain blessed the cake in rhyme, speeches were made by the Governor of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, General Sir Adrian Bradshaw KCB OBE, and the Deputy Australian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom Ms Elisabeth Bowes PSM, and Colonel Grant Chambers read out a speech on behalf of the Tasmanian Premier the Honorable Jeremy Rockliff MP. The cake was then cut by a Chelsea Pensioner using a ceremonial sword. Following the ceremony, everyone joined in enthusiastically to sing the Australian and United Kingdom National Anthems and Waltzing Matilda.

The speech by the Tasmanian Premier made reference to the many stories that link the service of Tasmanian soldiers with the units shown on the wall in the Great Hall, and he specifically acknowledged the sacrifice of Tasmania's 15 Victoria Cross recipients, with specific mention of the 15th recipient 'Teddy' Sheean. The Grants Program established in his name funded one of the Legacy benches mentioned earlier in this newsletter.



Top Left: Deputy Australian High Commissioner Ms Elisabeth Bowes with two Chelsea Pensioners. Top Centre: The cake being cut with Colonel Grant Chambers and the Governor of the Royal Hospital standing by. Top Right: Colonel Grant Chambers with Ms Elisabeth Bowes. Bottom Left: The Great Hall at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. Bottom Right: The cake presented by the State of Tasmania to the Chelsea Pensioners.

OFF TO CAMP

Legacy Australia holds an Annual Children's Camp in Busselton, which is located approximately three hours south of Perth in Western Australia.

First held in 1956, the camp supports the children of deceased or injured Australian veterans to build meaningful connections with others in similar situations and gives them the opportunity to learn essential life skills with the support of the Special Air Service Regiment. The camp creates life-long memories and friendships.

Funds raised at the Legacy Centenary Ball held in London in April 2023 have enabled London Legacy to send three of the Brient Family to attend the 2024 camp, accompanied by Legatee Brianna Anderson who is serving as one of the Youth Leaders.



Legatee Brianna Anderson with the Brient family at the airport before flying to Australia for the 2024 Annual Busselton Camp.

London Legacy – A division of Legacy Australia Inc.

Supporting our veterans' families

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