



Media Release

## Intercultural Consulting Group

### Legacy Week 2018

#### Limited “Soil of the Somme commemorative collection”

ICG is very proud to be a supporter of Legacy as we approach Legacy Week 2018.

ICG is launching and supporting Legacy with a very special project -our **Soil of the Somme commemorative keyrings** collection. This limited edition keyring contains the soil of one of each of five significant Australian Battlefields of France. The Certificate of authenticity gives the exact GPs co-ordinates where the soil was collected on the Somme.

This is a unique collector’s item to commemorate and remember Australia’s participation in the Great War.

The Keyrings will be available during Legacy Week from selected locations. All proceeds go to the incredible work of Legacy.



*The Spirit of Legacy is Service, and the key element is the personal contact which is maintained by individual Legatees with those widow(er)s and other dependants whom they assist. It is this personal contact that makes Legacy care special and gives the work of Legacy its unique character. Legacy has met that commitment over the intervening years and continues to deliver some of the stability, guidance and assistance that a partner would normally provide to his or her family.*

*For 94 years, Legacy has supported thousands of Queensland widows and children whose loved ones have lost their lives or health representing our nation and its interests. Legacy supports more than 16,000 widows and 250 children and dependants with a disability living across QLD. Legacy’s support extends to the families of fallen heroes from all conflicts*

*since World War I to today's Australian Defence Force members. It also extends to families whose spouses have been incapacitated through physical or mental injuries, or lost their lives after returning from service. Due to the dangerous nature of modern day deployments, the demand on Legacy services continues to grow: Legacy supports approximately 10 new families in south-east Queensland every month. This growth is expected to continue: Legacy extends its services to the families of those who have served in conflicts in Vietnam, Malaya, Borneo and Somalia – as well as the rising number of new families of veterans of East Timor, Iraq, Afghanistan and other peace keeping operations. The need for Legacy's assistance is expected to continue beyond 2081 based on the nation's current involvement in foreign conflicts.*

Australia has lost just over 100,000 service men and women in all conflicts – many, many more were badly injured, both mentally and physically. In WWI alone, around 60,000 service men and women were killed with another 60,000 losing their lives in the following 10 years as a result of their service. In the past 15 years alone, more than 50,000 Australians have travelled abroad to serve in foreign wars, conflicts and peace keeping missions in places like Somalia, East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan. With the help of the community, Legacy's goal is to be able to live up to our promise to care for the families of local men and women currently serving, and veterans of any future conflicts, should the worst happen.

During the Great War, the Somme region in France saw some of the bloodiest battles that Australian soldiers took part in. Fromelles, Pozieres, Bullecourt, Villers Bretonneux and Hamel are just 5 of the major campaigns where over 50,000 Australians were to lose their lives in the trenches and the battlefields of the Somme and WW 1 battlefields.

Over the decades since, Legacy's mission has not changed, but the families they care for have. The number of young families supported by Legacy has understandably grown in recent years. Regardless of which war a spouse served in, Legacy provides the same stability, guidance and assistance that a partner would normally provide to his or her family, but families have very different needs depending on which stage they are at. Legacy is a source of support and advocacy for widows through the most challenging time in their lives, from accessing war pensions and other entitlements through to providing ongoing companionship and involvement in social activities.

The challenges faced by young families are often more complex, as children and young people have higher support needs, which include education, socialisation and grief management.

Legacy is helping young families at an increasing rate, and there are many more families who desperately need their support.

## Background.

**Legacy** exists because of the promise a digger made to his dying mate in the trenches of WW1 "To look after the missus and the kids".

Some of the men who returned from those battlefields felt their colleagues in business were failing to assist other returned men adequately. One of them who lived in Hobart decided to do something about it. His name was **General Sir John Gellibrand**.

In 1923 Gellibrand founded the Remembrance Club in Hobart. Its aim was to encourage returned

servicemen in business. **Stanley Savige**, a former 24 Battalion Officer who had also served on Gellibrand's brigade staff, visited Hobart in August 1923. Gellibrand urged him to set up a similar club in Melbourne.

Soon after Savige's return to Melbourne, a group of ex-servicemen met to farewell one of their number who was about to go to England. Savige used this opportunity to bring up the idea of a club similar to Gellibrand's Remembrance Club. After several informal meetings, the Melbourne club's inaugural meeting was held in ANZAC House in Melbourne. For the next 26 years, due to his commitment, energy and enthusiasm, Savige's name became inseparable from both the club and the movement.

In 1925 it was suggested that Legacy should look into caring for the children of deceased servicemen. This proposal was accepted and Legacy found its soul. The legacy of care continues today.

Find out more about Intercultural Consulting Group  
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