

BALLARAT LEGACY

Legacy is dedicated to caring for the families of deceased and incapacitated veterans Australia-wide. This includes advocating for rights and entitlements, ensuring basic needs are met and helping families thrive, despite their loss.

Ballarat Legacy in Victoria has some 760 widows, children (Junior Legatees) and disabled dependents in care. Nationally, around 72,000 people of all ages are recipients of Legacy assistance.

Volunteer Jeremy Bannister came up with the idea for a Legacy family camp in 2010. It has been held a number of times since, however, funding has been restricted by the generosity of public support.

The Rotary Club of Ballarat South realised the camp perfectly met the grant criteria of the Rotary Australia Compassionate Grants. The club put in money, along with the Rotary Club of Ballarat and Ballarat Legacy, to raise \$14,396. This amount was

then matched by the Compassionate Grants Fund.

In 2018, the camp was able to play host to 15 mothers, 29 children and three fathers, who had returned from service alive, but experiencing significant psychological injury. They travelled from Ballarat, Albury, Wodonga, Geelong, Melbourne, Mildura and Sydney to accommodation provided at a heavily discounted rate at Sovereign Hill School.

Over four days, the families visited the Wildlife Park, Sovereign Hill, the Ballarat Yacht club, Ballarat Aquatic Centre and the playground in Victoria Park. A highlight for all was a ride on the Golden City paddle steamer.

Local businesses took it in turns to supply lunches. A member of the Rotary Club of Alfredton and owner of a local café served a wonderful dinner at Legacy House.

The camps not only provide much-needed relief from stressful daily life, but also allow adults and children to



come together with those sharing similar, heartbreaking circumstances.

“To come somewhere like this and have time out with all these children and mums, who have had similar things happen to them, has been amazing,” said young widow Julie Gittins, who had only met with elderly widows in her hometown. “It’s heartbreaking talking about what happened to our husbands, but it’s therapy. It makes you feel normal.”

TRANSPORT CHALLENGES FOR PURPLE HOUSE KIDNEY PROGRAM IN OUTBACK AUSTRALIA



Sue Trevaskis, right, with Sarah Brown and a Purple House staff member with the Purple Truck on display at the Darwin Zone Institute in September.

A Compassionate Grant will match the funds raised through a new campaign to purchase new vehicles for Purple House.

The Western Desert Dialysis Purple House program aims to improve the lives of people with kidney disease through providing treatment and health education via moving dialysis clinics in remote areas in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Their impressive purple truck, with dialysis equipment on board, does the rounds throughout this vast area. However, additional support vehicles are urgently required, especially given current plans to open three new dialysis units at Papunya, Docker River and Mt

Liebig, NT. One vehicle is needed to enable nurses to access these remote units, and a second to cope with increasing administration demands.

Sue Trevaskis has made Purple House her special project during her husband Noel’s two-year term as Rotary International director, with a special appeal formed to fund the vehicle project.

“I’m often asked about projects to support Indigenous Australians, and Purple House is one of the very best available,” Noel said. “We hope to provide the first vehicle by the end of the Rotary year.”

To find out more, call 0419 011 750 or email peteainscow@gmail.com