



LEGACY LAW

Protecting the assets in your family tree

## Article on ANZAC Day and aiming to be remembered well

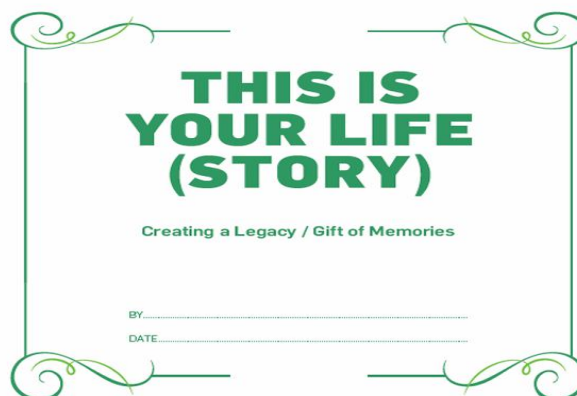
I have seen 25 ANZAC Days but it was only this year that I saw its connection to my work. It is never too late for some of us!

It struck me, eventually, that Australia and New Zealand as cultures do understand the importance of remembering those who came before us and who made sacrifices so that we can enjoy our lives. Maybe we celebrate the wrong legacy – drinking in the morning and gambling? Or maybe it is a deep part of the Australian psyche, to have fun even in very difficult times?

What we consistently forget is that we too will inevitably leave a legacy – and it is less likely that it will be about the number in the inventory of our Grant of Probate (hopefully not a Grant of Administration of an intestate estate with the Government deciding who gets what based on a formula set by a civil servant).

Our legacy is more likely, in my experience, to be about what we taught people in our family, what efforts we made in the face of difficulty, what consoling words or advice or help we gave to people we love.

So, why don't we make it easy for the people we love to remember that side of us? I have designed a booklet to help people capture these thoughts. Even better, why not ask the grandchildren to interview you and ask you their questions about you – do you think they will remember that? It can be recorded of course if you like that type of thing. We include some excerpts from the tool we have credited.



This is an important part of your estate plan. At Legacy Law we understand the importance of you having both personal and legalistic guidelines for your family. If you would like us to check the legal documents you have in place, please contact Donal Griffin at Legacy Law. [www.legacylaw.com.au](http://www.legacylaw.com.au)



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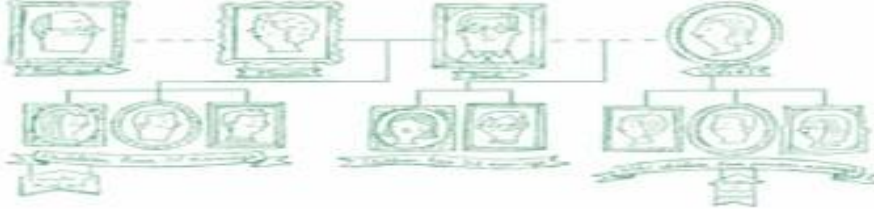
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## LEGACY LAW

### FAMILY TREE



**Do you wonder why TV shows like “Who do you think you are?” are popular? We all try to figure ourselves out and at some point we realise that we are a product of both our parents and of our environment. But what does that really mean?**

We tend to worry about the near future and our immediate concerns. It is consoling to know that those who came before us struggled and strived to make the world a better place for us. As we try to do the same for the next generation, we feel the connection that was always there with those who have come and gone before us.

For those of us who post happy photos on Facebook, we should not expect this to be a reveal on our secret inner life. When the past is not captured in daily online updates and photos, it is even more difficult to re-experience. On any search, it is good to get clues. They could save us a huge amount of time and even a fortune in therapy!

If you want to forget a trauma, writing it down can be a good first step. You can deflate its power over you, call it out and then put it in a box and forget about it.

If you have a good story to tell or an encouraging message for people, why not share it? You probably do this when talking to people but the written word is even more powerful. If you wrote it down, a person you mention may feel the sincerity all the more profoundly.

Good memories pay dividends every time we reflect on them. If there is any dementia in your family, it is a good idea to write down your important memories. Do it now, using bullet points which can be filled in on your next long haul flight or holiday. Your family will thank you for making their life easier.

Memoir is the fastest growing literary category. We all have a story. In the particular detail lies the universal. We offer prompts at the top of each section of this workbook; see what story you want to tell.

Feel free to meander and remember that this is your story, you are the star here. Handwriting is powerful so long as it is legible! If you want to type it up, your audience may thank you.

Whatever you do, start now using this list. The good news is you can skip over any section that does not appeal to you, or come back to it later. You can even delete it so that no-one knows that you did not want to comment on them.

You can be honest or sugar-coat what you want and whatever comes out is a version of you. Curate your own “best of” or “greatest hits” compilation and write the sleeve notes yourself.

Well done for taking on this important project. Your voice is an important part of our history. Those who come after you will remember you as you really are.

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I was reminded of this by my sister who sent me a recording of our Dad asking our family about a day we had just finished on a family holiday - when I was probably seven, she was five and our brother a newborn. Just to hear us talking about what sandwiches we had and conversations we had was a beautiful thing. Wow, were we ever that innocent? Yet, there were also clues there for the adults we became...

We all have a million photos and videos of our kids now but an intentional Q&A has arguably even more power.

Why not make it a podcast or even a campfire? Do you think the elders in your family might enjoy the time with younger relatives and do you think the young ones could make it fun?

#beabetterancestor



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