



LEGACY LAW

Protecting the assets in your family tree

“To everything there is a season” – Thoughts on the European Summer 2026

My Aunt Nuala and Uncle Brian blazed a trail for me and came to Australia in the 1960s. Nuala said the migrant’s dream was to chase the sun and spend the northern summer in Europe every year and avoid the harsh Sydney winter.

So when Mrs Legacy Law and I saw our son finish High School and go to America to work on a summer camp this year, our opportunity arrived and we decided to take a gap year ourselves, well a gap quarter. We are in the middle of it now so it is time to reflect.

The real reason is to spend time with my Mum who is 88 soon. Even though I have been coming back here almost every year for 25 years, a week is nowhere near enough time. You have to put your own mask on first before you can help other families, right?!

I can assure you that, at this stage of my life, I am all about legacy personally and in my work. It has been quite moving to walk around the places that formed me and talk to people about what I have learned along the way and to hear their stories and see overlaps and themes. It’s a national obsession. Irish TV is full of stories about migration, history, politics, census and asking who do we think we are. I am in my Autumn season and my Mum in her Winter. Our son is in Spring and arriving next week from a stint as a Camp Counsellor in Maine, USA. When our kids are new parents or in careers they are in Summer. It is a helpful way to look at our peers and others with more empathy than I might otherwise have. “To everything there is a season”.

The Camino of St James starts at the Guinness Brewery so I have spent some time there too!

I am pleased to report that my Mum and I have really enjoyed each other’s company and have had lots of drives, meals and of course cups of tea and chats. We have been to a family wedding and a friend’s Mum’s funeral already. Nothing beats being close to the people you love and quality time with them. There is no time to waste as you know and opportunities need to be planned so that they can be grabbed.

Oh and lots of talk about the weather too. It is a hot summer as you may have read and it was also interesting to be here for a total eclipse that was not seen in Australia.



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We will not have long to wait and Australia will get four total eclipses in the decade starting on Saturday 22 July 2028 when we will see the moon completely obstruct the sun (a total eclipse) in the Kimberley about 11am local time before being observable in Bourke, Dubbo, Mudgee, Orange - and then directly over Sydney briefly at 2pm AEST. Put the times into your diary and consider booking a weekend away.

I must be honest that the eclipse was not as impressive as I expected but there was a real sense of the uniqueness of the occasion and observation points on hills and bridges were all packed with people who didn't know each other shoulder to shoulder on small elevated spots in the city. The camaraderie was palpable, even in a traditionally very friendly city. That's life too.

It made me and my challenges feel small in a good way and a tiny part of the bigger solar system. Then I thought I am messing with the orderly seasons by skipping winter this year. Might I need to find time to do the things that would normally be done in winter? Is there a risk that not hibernating this year will have consequences? Pass me an ice-cream please ...



It is not just me – there is a heatwave in Europe this year and even in Dublin where summers can be non-events, people are asking what is happening on this planet of ours. We even had an out of control bushfire near my Mum's house in the Dublin mountains.

What else have I noticed? Well bus drivers all say "hello good morning" and the passengers mostly say "thank you" before exiting. The yoga classes are all chatty and when invited to exhale loudly, everyone takes full advantage! So, there seems to be a lot more air.

The sport has been great and an underdog county won the grand final of Gaelic football after a 75-year gap and an apparent curse. You just have to say "Mayo" and everyone had a personal story and a big smile or even a watery eye. They ran out of beer in that county of course.

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The whole country was supporting Spain in the Football World Cup and demonising the FIFA boss Infantino. Ireland failed to make it into the competition but found joy in England not winning it! Small-minded I know but there is a lot of history there.

We were surprised to see a lot of Cape Verde flags in schools. It turned out a local Dublin player, Roberto “Pico” Lopes, who captains the top local team Shamrock Rovers, starred for Cape Verde and helped keep both of the finalists to a draw for 90 minutes – no need to talk about what happened after that. Celebrate your successes.



Our son joins us next week so we will do some more travelling. Thank you for your continuing patience with replies to your emails; the fabulous paralegals in the office are trying to keep all matters moving and I am available for chats from 5pm AEST most days which is the morning on this side of the planet.

Good planet this one.

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