



*Ryder Cheshire Foundation
Mount Gambier*



OUR FOUNDERS

Two remarkable English people, Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder founded our organisation. As a Second World War bomber pilot in his early twenties, Leonard Cheshire's courage and brilliant leadership was legendary. He was awarded several medals including the Victoria Cross.

After the war, in 1948, he started the Leonard Cheshire Foundation, an organisation devoted to the service of the chronically ill and disabled. His mission was to see, "disabled men and women contributing to society, not exiles from it". There are now over 300 homes in 50 countries throughout the world. In 1991 he was created Lord Cheshire of Woodhall for his services to humanity.

In 1992 Leonard was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disorder and he died on July 31st. He said as his death became imminent, "Heaven is a place of peace. This world, by contrast is a battlefield. I want to remain here to do what little I can to help those in need."

Sue Ryder served with the highly secret Polish section of the Special Services Executive during the war. This organisation helped facilitate the escape of those men and women who risked their lives working for the Polish resistance movement.

Following the ceasing of hostilities she managed to reach the ruins of Warsaw and worked tirelessly to assist those whose lives had been shattered. The Sue Ryder Foundation was created out of these activities. Her 100 homes, in Britain and 20 other countries, exist to give care mainly to those with cancer and other life threatening diseases. Many Sue Ryder Homes offer short term respite care. Throughout Britain there are over 500 Sue Ryder Shops which help raise funds to continue her work. Sue was created Baroness Ryder of Warsaw in 1978 for her great humanitarian work.

It was probably inevitable that these two remarkable people would meet and this happened in 1954. They married in Bombay, India in 1959 and out of this liaison the Ryder -Cheshire Foundation was born.

THE RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATION

The first project of the new Foundation was to establish a home for leprosy sufferers near Dehradun in the north of India. The home, named Raphael after the archangel of healing, has developed from a collection of a few army tents to a thriving community offering a permanent home to about 300 destitute and chronically sick people. Following the 1999 post referendum violence in East Timor the foundation established a home called Klibur Domin. This home assists the people of East Timor who are ill or who have a disability.



Raphael, India



Klibur Domin, East Timor

RYDER-CHESHIRE IN AUSTRALIA

Leonard Cheshire's first contact with Australia was during the second world war when several Australians served under him. Then in 1956 the Australian cricket team made history when they were the guests of honour at "The Kangaroo Hop", a prestigious occasion held to raise funds for the Leonard Cheshire Foundation.

Following their marriage, the Cheshire's came to Australia with the hope of arousing interest in Raphael. After a second visit by Leonard in 1964, a start was made, eventuating in a national body being established in 1971. There are now Foundations in South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

RYDER-CHESHIRE IN MOUNT GAMBIER

Leonard Cheshire was associated with several Mount Gambier men during the war. Mr. Bill Carey flew with him in 617, the famous Dambusters squadron. Mr Bill Braithwaite, Mr. Charlie Miller and Mr. James Hancock also knew him during this time.

As a consequence of this association, a public meeting was held in Mount Gambier in 1971 and a Ryder-Cheshire Foundation support group was formed and has been part of this community ever since. The support group has raised money in a variety of ways over the years, including by offering sponsorships of residents of Raphael, and in 2008 became Ryder-Cheshire Foundation South Australia.



THE RYDER-CHESHIRE HOME IN MOUNT GAMBIER

In 2000 the Australian Foundation became the beneficiary of a generous bequest from the estate of the late Dame Roma Mitchell, who had been associated with Ryder Cheshire for many years. Since 1992 a small group of local parents had been lobbying for permanent, independent, supported accommodation for the disabled in our community.

The connection was made, a committee was formed and after many trials and tribulations, capital funding of \$600,000 was achieved. The funding came from several sources. The Australian Association of Ryder-Cheshire Foundations and the South Australian Ryder-Cheshire Foundation provided large grants as did the Federal Government Regional Partnerships program and together with a bank loan the Home was constructed and opened in April 2006. The City of Mount Gambier Council generously donated the land and assisted in preparation of the site for building.

The Home is the permanent residence for five young women with a range of disabilities and the South Australian government provided 7 day, 24 hour care. The Home is widely acknowledged as an excellent model for supported, independent living.

IVANHOE—VICTORIA

The Ryder-Cheshire Victorian Home, established in 1981, provides inexpensive supported accommodation in fully equipped self contained units at Ivanhoe.

It is open to country and interstate patients undergoing out-patient treatment, who do not need nursing care or similar assistance, and requires a referral from a doctor or social worker. It is also available for a relative or friend accompanying a patient for either in-patient or out-patient treatment.



SINGLETON—NEW SOUTH WALES



The Singleton Ryder-Cheshire house is currently in use by a family who urgently required accommodation modified for wheelchair access.

Our aim is to be flexible in order to meet the immediate needs of disabled people.

The spacious Victorian house has been upgraded to comply with current requirements for wheelchair occupants and includes elevated gardens.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Home Foundation is open to the community. Enquiries are welcome.

Individual or Corporate/Business Memberships are available.

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.



Ryder-Cheshire Mount Gambier Home Foundation
PO Box 834

Mount Gambier SA 5290

Websites: www.ryder-cheshire.org

www.ryder-cheshire.org/mt_gambier_home.html

DAME ROMA MITCHELL

The Honourable Dame Roma Flinders Mitchell AC, DBE, CVO, QC, was born in Adelaide on 2nd October 1913.

During her lifetime she achieved a number of firsts. She was the first Australian woman Queen's Counsel (1962), the first woman Chancellor of a university in Australia (University of Adelaide 1983-1990) and the first woman governor of an Australian State (South Australia 1991-1996).



Dame Roma had a long and fruitful association with the Foundation. She was President of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation South Australia 1970—1981, then Patron while Governor of South Australia 1991—1996 and also President of the National body 1981—1991.

Dame Roma Mitchell died on 5th March 2000 after a short illness. The high esteem in which she held the Foundation became evident when it became the beneficiary of a very large bequest from her estate. Some of those in our region, who suffer from a disability, have become the beneficiaries of her generosity to Ryder-Cheshire.