



# Ryder-Cheshire News

NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATIONS

"For the Relief of Suffering"

FOUNDERS:- Group Captain Lord Cheshire, VC, OM, DSO, DFC: Lady Ryder of Warsaw, CMG, OBE.  
NATIONAL PATRON:- His Excellency Major-General Michael Jeffery, AC CVO MC (Retd)  
Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia

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RCF Victoria member	Peter Newton
RCF South Australia member	Patricia Frith
RCF Mt Gambier Homes member	Neville Gilbertson

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## Important Announcement RYDER-CHESHIRE AUSTRALIA

After many months of drafting and legal process,  
**the Australian Association of  
Ryder-Cheshire Foundations  
was incorporated as a company  
on 12 February 2007.**

**The official name of the national body  
has changed to**

**RYDER-CHESHIRE AUSTRALIA (RCA).**

The new Board of RCA will meet in April 2007 to  
undertake a number of formalities and to plan the  
future direction for the Foundation.

The titles of the State Foundations will not be  
affected as a result of this change  
to the national body.

## OVERSEAS CONTACTS

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NATIONAL AUSTRALIA WEBSITE [www.ryder-cheshire.org](http://www.ryder-cheshire.org)

The Association gratefully acknowledges David Coath, of  
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most generously arranges and pays for the distribution  
of this Newsletter.

## NEWS FROM TIMOR-LESTE

From Helen Trueman, Klibur Domin.Support Person



A Happy New Year to all Klibur Domin supporters.

Klibur Domin continues to be a very busy and dynamic place. 2006 was a difficult year for East Timor, and Klibur Domin was no exception.

We can be very proud of the staff, volunteers and leadership at Klibur Domin who have kept Klibur Domin operational during this time.

Joaquim Soares and his family are once again living on-site at Klibur Domin. A local security firm has been employed at Klibur Domin to assist the local staff with security matters at Klibur Domin.

Last year Joaquim Soares visited Raphael. This was a wonderful opportunity for Joaquim to visit a "mature" Ryder-Cheshire Home. Here are some of his words summarising his experience.

*"I returned on 29 October 2006 to Klibur Domin full of hope and lots of information that would assist me and the staff to develop Klibur Domin in future, to provide a better assistance for the people with sickness or people with disabilities. On behalf of the Board of Management and staff of Klibur Domin, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Management and staff of Raphael and Ms Carolyn Tapley (from New Zealand RCF) for their generosity to sponsor my trip to India".*

**Following are extracts of reports by JANE SHAMROCK, the 2006 volunteer co-ordinator of the two pilot projects, on Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR Project) and the mobile TB clinic.**

**"The CBR project** started at the beginning of 2006. Three trainees were selected and training began in March 2006. Training was interrupted for four months due to civil unrest. In October training recommenced and has been on schedule since that time,

CBR as a way of thinking, is taught together with various techniques for helping the physical aspect of disability. Trainees have had to start their CBR work with very little idea of what they are supposed to do, and how to do it. The period of time when the training was stopped, meant that trainees were left with only partially formed concepts of how to continue with the new information being presented by CBR. These new ideas such as inclusion (the right for all people to be able to participate in their communities activities), involvement of the family in treatment and planning of what a disabled child can do, were hard to sustain. The social aspects of living with a disability are also very important, and this aspect of the

training had not been addressed as fully as the physical aspects of disability by the time the trainees were left to themselves for four months. Old beliefs re-emerged such as a commonly held idea that a disabled child cannot go to school."

The CBR team at Klibur Domin consists of three people. One is based onsite at Klibur Domin. She accompanies patients from Klibur Domin into Dili to attend professional physiotherapy sessions once a week. She is given exercise programs to carry out with her patients back at Klibur Domin and is able to take advantage of extra tutoring from the physios. She has worked with amputees, teaching them to walk again, first without the prosthesis, then later while the patient is learning to walk with his new leg. She has worked with disabled children, both in-patients and out-patients. During December a little play group was started to encourage the development of disabled children by showing parents how to encourage the child to take an interest in his surroundings and to develop normal milestones."

Two CBR staff go out to the local villages to visit children with disabilities in their homes. These two have done some very good work. They have a growing list of approximately 28 children (December count) that they visit as needed. They have provided wheel-chairs to families in remote areas. They have also provided other equipment such as standing frames or special chairs to help with posture. They are becoming more proficient in repairing broken equipment. They are now better able to identify when there are other medical problems which need addressing and often supply food supplements to very poor families who have a disabled family member.

The social aspects of disability management are being addressed now (the beginning of 2007) and I would hope that all trainees are beginning to get a more rounded idea of how they can really help a family with a disabled child. As CBR trainees gain confidence their skills in the social aspects of CBR will improve. Their main need is sound support and mentoring and encouragement to carry out the new skills that they are learning".

**If you would prefer to receive your Newsletter by e-mail, it is now available in PDF format.**

Just send an e-mail to

**[iandaswann@bigpond.com](mailto:iandaswann@bigpond.com)**

giving the email address to which you would like it sent, saying

**'Ryder-Cheshire Newsletter', plus your name and postal address.**

Everyone else will continue to receive the Newsletter via Australia Post.

## THE TB MOBILE OUTREACH PROGRAM,

### KLIBUR DOMIN, TIMOR-LESTE

By Jane Shamrock (project coordinator 2006)

**“ The Klibur Domin TB Mobile Outreach Program was started in March 2006.** Two nurses were employed. During the first few weeks of the program the TB staff looked for known TB suspects who had, for various reasons, never been followed up by healthcare providers. In addition to following up these referrals, the staff identified potential suspects by screening the household contacts of known TB suspects and patients. Consequently further people with TB were identified. As word of Klibur Domin’s program spread, more referrals were received.

The team decided that to ensure efficiency and a high standard of service, the program needed its own laboratory. A proposal was drawn up and, when approved, two small isolated buildings were converted to a laboratory and office. An experienced nurse was employed as laboratory worker. The laboratory met with the standards of the National TB program.

By April 2006, the nurses had begun a DOTS program (from **Directly Observed Therapy Shortcourse**) This is the usual way to give TB medication in developing countries. The TB worker (or volunteer) gives medication every day and watches the patient take it, using volunteers found opportunistically, eg a “chefe sucu” (village leader) or a local school teacher.

During the crisis period of May and June it was expected that patients would be afraid and move away to other areas. However no patients were lost during this period, although the nurses had to find patients who had left their usual homes. DOTS were handed out to several people in remote areas in three day packs instead of having the usual daily sighting.

Door to door screening was carried out in the Tibar valley starting on 18 September. This screening revealed 34 people with TB out of the 3004 people screened. This number equates to around 1% of the population. This is approximately twice the prevalence generally accepted for East Timor. This interesting finding has not been confirmed by an independent laboratory.

**“Target TB”** (Formerly *Ryder-Cheshire UK*) expressed interest in the Klibur Domin program and funding was granted that will allow two health promotion staff to be added to the Klibur Domin team.

Besides making DOTS visits, the team may be involved in conducting a screening day at a venue in a village, collecting sputum samples from TB suspects, the laboratory nurse will prepare and read slides, and ensure that all work areas are spotlessly clean. Some staff may also be training a volunteer, or giving advice to the Klibur Domin staff.

**The Klibur Domin TB Mobile Outreach program has quickly generated respect. An inspection in December from the National TB program based in Dili confirmed that the program was running particularly well. The program demonstrates that highly skilled and motivated staff can achieve excellent results, even in an environment as difficult as Timor-Leste.”**

## TARGET TB (UK)

**T**arget TB is a not-for-profit organisation based in Brighton, United Kingdom, established in 2003 by the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation (UK) in response to the global TB emergency.

Target TB gives funding, support and advice to local partner organisations in Southern Africa and South Asia which work directly with impoverished communities affected by TB.

### Its aims are

- To eradicate TB by improving access to treatment for people with TB
- Reducing the poverty caused by TB to patients and their families
- Educating people about TB to reduce the spread of the disease
- Addressing the problems caused by the co-existence of TB and HIV/Aids

All partners work within their governments' nationally agreed guidelines for the control and eradication of TB. Together, the aim is to make a positive impact on the global TB burden and achieve the millennium development goals set out in the Global TB Plan. Three full time staff cover the programme management, fundraising, administration and publicity functions and rely heavily on specialist and generalist volunteer support.

CEO of Target TB is **ALASTAIR BURTT**, who will be known to many Australian supporters as former CEO of Ryder-Cheshire Foundation (UK). **DICK BIRD OBE** is the Chairman, and other members of the Board include **SIR CHRISTOPHER FRANCE KGCB** as vice-Chairman and **PATSY WRIGHT WARREN CBE**, formerly the Chairman of Ryder-Cheshire Foundation UK and a regular visitor to State Foundations in Australia.

*(Information taken from Target TB website)*

Newsletter coordinated by Chris Lopez, SA. Tel (08 8322 1833)

Edited and produced by Evelyn Petters, WA. Tel (08 9349 5043)

*Newsletters are issued every four months*

in **MARCH, JULY AND NOVEMBER.**

*State reports, photos and other contributions for the*

**JULY 2007 ISSUE** should be sent by e-mail to

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by **15 June 2007**

## THE RYDER-CHESHIRE HOME MOUNT GAMBIER, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**T**hursday 20 April 2006 dawned wet and windy but the spirits of the Mount Gambier Support Group could not be dampened by the weather because it was opening day (*of the new Home*) at last !!

The last week had been very busy on the building site, attending to lots of last minute details, because we wanted everything to look its best. Unfortunately we had been unable to have the garden completed, but at least most of the building site rubble and rubbish was gone and the paths were established.

Kaye Gilbertson, who coordinates our Duchess catering group, had all "the troops marshaled" and we knew we could rely on her to provide a delicious luncheon. There was the usual anxiety about the quantity, but as it turned out there was more than enough.

We had about 80 guests, the most important being our fellow Ryder Cheshire members of course. We were so delighted to see you. The huge expense and time commitment, understandably prevented many from making the long journey south. We thank everyone for the good wishes extended to us. This of course is your home too and we deeply appreciate all the support from the Foundation.

It was a very joyous occasion with speeches by the National President Don Sinclair, who officially opened the home and Richard Bruggerman, who was effusive in his compliments about our home. Indeed all our guests were impressed and amazed about what the Foundation has achieved. In his speech Richard said that the Ryder Cheshire Foundation had lifted the benchmark considerably, in the provision of independent living for the disabled in SA.

A local handicraft group called the Pine Tree Quilters presented us with 5 beautiful, individually designed, quilts crafted by their members over the last year. Each of our residents has one each,

After the formalities, photos and media interviews, we enjoyed the luncheon and fellowship and basked in the compliments of our guests who were all so impressed with not only the home but with all the work of the Foundation.

**It is a true home now that all our residents have moved in.** The staffing of the Home is managed and financed by Disabilities SA. The same staff work there each day so our residents have an ongoing relationship with their carers.

Nikki Ling, who is the Regional Manager of Disabilities SA is on our Board as well as representatives from two of the families of our young women. The Board of the Ryder Cheshire Mount Gambier Home consists of 8 members, 5 of whom are members of RCF (including our President).

Our Board members are **Neville Gilbertson** - Chair, **Di Little** -Vice chair (Parent and RCF member), **Di McEwen** (Secretary and RCF member), **Raelene Kuhl** (Treasurer and RCF member), **Mary Heysen** (Parent and RCF member), **Paul Jenner** (President RCF Mt Gambier), **Olive Lane** (member RCF and RCF SA liaison) and **Nikki Ling** - Regional manager Disabilities SA.

### Mount Gambier Support Group

**Membership of the Home Foundation is open to the community, and Individual or Corporate/Business Memberships are available. For details please telephone the Home Foundation 08 8725 2453**

### From the Media Release October 2006 "New Home for the Disabled Opens in Mount Gambier"

A new home to provide independent living for five disabled women has been built by the Ryder Cheshire Foundation in Mount Gambier. Since the early 1990s, a Parent Advocacy Group had been lobbying governments for "across disability" (both physical and intellectual) for such a facility.

**The home is the culmination of several years planning by a small but energetic group of members of the Ryder Cheshire Foundation.** The cost of the project, \$650,000, was a partnership between the Foundation and local, state and federal governments. \$450,000, most of the cost, was met by the Foundation. **This came from generous bequests from the estates of Dame Roma Mitchell, a previous State then National President of the Foundation and Mrs Geraldine Sherrington-Brown, an Adelaide resident who was completely unknown to the Foundation.**

The newly completed home in Mount Gambier has the appearance of an ordinary suburban home and provides a bedroom with en suite bathroom for each resident. The beautifully appointed living areas are spacious and convenient and there is a quiet area set aside to provide privacy for family and friends visits. The recurrent funding for the day and night care is provided by the state government through Disabilities SA.

The selection of the five residents, by Disabilities SA, involved a very careful and assiduous process, as this is their home for life should this be their and their families' wish. The women, varying in age from early twenties to late thirties, have varying degrees of intellectual challenges and one also has quite profound physical disabilities as well. Since moving in at the end of May 2006, they have become a close knit "family", supporting each other and enjoying each other's company.

**The wonderful outcomes of this unique project are that these women, in the true sense of the Ryder Cheshire philosophy, are living as independently as possible and to the best of their individual potential. Their families have the peace of mind of knowing that their beloved children have a home for life.**

### THE HONORABLE DAME ROMA FLINDERS MITCHELL AC, DBE, CVO, QC, Decd.

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 to 1981. Then, while Governor of South Australia, she was Patron from 1991-1996.

She was also President of the National body from 1981 to 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.





## The Residents of our Mt. Gambier Home

The following vignettes of each of the five residents illustrates how the Ryder-Cheshire Home enables them to live independently as well as providing support and security.

*Michelle* has been living in the Ryder-Cheshire home since it opened in May 2006 and she has settled in very well. After living with her parents for the past 39 years of her life, she now feels that she has her very own home. Even though she has multiple disabilities, with parental and other support. Michelle has been able to maintain a busy lifestyle and she continues to work two days a week as a volunteer at the Community Day Care Centre. She also enjoys walking, going to the gym and having a coffee with family members.



*Georgina* has just turned 25 and is the "baby" of the group. She has settled in very well and has established friendships with her fellow residents and the staff. She was born with multiple disabilities but has found this peaceful and spacious environment enables her to feel comfortable and find her own space when required. Every weekday she attends Day Activities where she enjoys Riding for the Disabled, swimming, cooking and many community excursions. She also returns to spend regular week-ends with her family on their farm which is situated 40kms from Mt Gambier.



*Miss A* is 34 years old and suffers from a neurological condition. She enjoys craft, reading, cooking, shopping and community group activities and she has a close relationship with her family.

*Miss B* is 29 years old and has an intellectual disability. She enjoys her employment in a sheltered workshop in Mt Gambier and also her social recreational pursuits, particularly with her family and in the community

*Miss C* is 31 years old and has an intellectual disability, she enjoys the company of others and she is employed in a sheltered workshop in Mt Gambier. She enjoys social and recreational activities with her friends and in the community.



A. The beginning                      B. Front entrance to the Home.                      C. Residents in the kitchen preparing a meal.  
 D. The living room of the Home.                      E. The Plaque to commemorate the opening on 20 Apr 2006.

*From the Raphael  
Newsletter of March 2007*

- **AVA VIHAR.** There are 47 residents of whom about half are young children, who attend School everyday at the Day Centre. Most of them are independent in all areas of daily living and go home regularly to their parents or guardians.
- **DAY CENTRE.** There are 61 children in the Day Centre. The school curriculum has undergone change. The concept of subjects has been introduced, each subject having a special teacher. The children move from class to class which they seem to enjoy and the general feeling is that this has proved to be useful.
- **LITTLE WHITE HOUSE.** Children who have completed their schooling are already on their way to find their vocations. Four girls have joined nursing schools, and one boy has been admitted to a hotel management course.
- **THE TB HOSPITAL.** The 26 bedded TB hospital and the Outpatient department have been very active. Patients have been coming from all parts of Garhwal district and adjoining areas of Dehra Dun and UP. We are grateful to Target TB UK for their support and financial assistance towards this programme.
- **RESIDENTS CLINIC.** The Clinic covers all wings of Raphael and is kept active with residents requiring care and treatment. The possibility of inviting specialists to visit our clinic on special days is being explored.
- **VISITORS.** We have had the pleasure of welcoming a number of visitors in the past six months. These have included **The Chief of Naval Staff of New Zealand, Admiral David Ledsen and his wife Barbara Devery.** Barbara was a volunteer at Raphael some years ago. **Also from New Zealand, Derek Everett, Warwick Smith and Humphrey Nisbet** from the Rotary Club of Milford, NZ. **Joaquim Soares** visited from Klibur Domin, East Timor, and **Nadia Porceddu** from Melbourne.

### **"The Hidden World" by Leonard Cheshire**

When some of our members visited the Leonard Cheshire Archive Centre in the UK last year, they were delighted to receive as a gift from the Archivist Jill Roberts, a number of copies of **"The Hidden World" by Leonard Cheshire.** Copies have now been passed on to each of the Australian Ryder-Cheshire Foundations that raise funds for Overseas Aid. It is an inspiring book, and great to lend to new committee members as part of their introduction to the ethos of Ryder-Cheshire. The books are much appreciated, thank you Jill.

*"The Hidden World" by Leonard Cheshire, was first published by William Collins Sons & Co Ltd London in 1981,*

**CHRIS HANNAN AND HER HUSBAND GRAEME OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES FOUNDATION,** were very welcome visitors to Raphael in Dehra Dun, India, earlier this year.

**CHRIS WRITES ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES DURING THIS RECENT VISIT.**

" During January 2007, I was fortunate enough to travel to India with my husband Graeme. The highlight of our journey was a visit to Raphael. We flew in to Delhi from Sydney and a day later went north to Dehra Dun. **It was early January and the children who attend the special education classes there were still on holidays, but we were received with wonderful warmth and affection by Brigadier Sinha and the administration staff.** After a briefing by the Brigadier on the history and current programs at Raphael, we set off on a tour of the whole facility. We visited the TB hospital, inspected the refurbishments in the administration block and the volunteer accommodation flats and were shown the substantial renovations in the building which will accommodate the special education courses from 2007.

The weather was cool but the day was sunny and when we got to Ava Vihar, the residents were sitting outside enjoying the warmth of the sun. Several of them took us on a tour of their sleeping and living areas, proudly pointing out all the different features. **It was a particular joy to meet Jenny, a long term resident, who has been sponsored since the 1970's by the students of the school at which I teach.**

Our next stop was the weaving workshop where we met a number of the residents of the Shiv Sadan, who were very happy to demonstrate their skills to us. **We were particularly thrilled to meet with Badal II and his wife Shamla,** with whom we have a connection. On leaving the workshop we were introduced to **Patrus, who, with Kanti his wife,** is in charge of both the Little White House and Ava Vihar. **This was a wonderful experience because Patrus, as a young resident of the Little White House, had been sponsored by my students until he had finished his schooling. What a great example of the power of sponsorship!** We were taken on a tour of the Little White House (quite large and now pink) and met some of the older girls. As we were leaving, the younger children arrived home from school full of energy and smiles, so we were able to say hello and take some photos.

The last part of our visit was to the Shiv Sadan, where the cured lepers live. We were welcomed with open arms and shown around the whole village. There were plenty of invitations to come into the residents' homes, lots of smiles and many photo opportunities. We were both impressed by the tangible atmosphere of community and the friendship immediately extended to us.

This visit was the highlight of our two weeks holiday in India. **It gave me a renewed sense of the importance of our continuing support for Raphael, alongside the work we doing in East Timor.** I am already planning our next visit to this remarkable continent and Raphael is definitely back on our itinerary ".

*Christine Hannan  
New South Wales Foundation*

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

*From Margaret Blaber, Secretary.*

**2006 ended with a well attended and successful Barbecue**, held in the Garden of the Charles Sturt Museum, on 5<sup>th</sup> November. The weather was perfect, the food excellent, and the raffle and trading table (as usual well organised by Barbara Phillips) well supported. **Many thanks to the Lions Club of the City of Adelaide for sponsoring this function, and providing the vittles, and the cooks!!!** President Patricia Frith presented **Honorary Life Membership Certificates to Joan Riggs and John Van der Sman** (both of whom have been with the Foundation since almost the beginning, and both have served terms as President). Close to \$1000 was raised for the Foundation at this event. It is proposed to hold another Barbecue function in November of 2007.

**THE CARD SHOP** in the Southern Cross Arcade has once again given us a successful year. **The Shop will continue with all-year-round trading from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each week day.** If our supporters are in the city, pop into the shop, where there are cards for all occasions, birthday calendars, and craft items. For many years, the Card Shop has been a good and profitable way to add to our funds, and at the same time promoting the Foundation.

**T-SHIRT PROJECT.** The idea for this project came up at a committee meeting – to purchase good quality plain T-shirts, imprint the RC logo on them, and involve primary schoolchildren in adding on pictures, thus producing a “Friendship T-Shirt”. President Patricia Frith investigated the possibility of sending them to the young folk at Klibur Domin. Helen Trueman (our KD liaison in Victoria), and Joaquim Soares, Director of Klibur Domin, welcomed the idea. **Patricia attended the McLaren Vale Primary School** and invited the students to paint a picture on the shirt, showing where they live, drawings of flora and fauna, a surfer, a Holden car. **30 of these “Friendship T-Shirts” are now on the way to Klibur Domin, accompanied by messages of cheer and love, and photos of the students in action.** An excellent project and a way of involving these young students in the work of the Foundation. Patricia is investigating other schools that could become interested.

**MT. GAMIER RYDER-CHESHIRE HOME.** Elsewhere in this Newsletter Mt. Gambier have reported on this facility, which is now up and running. Foundation members are now being sought. An individual membership will be \$10 per year and a corporate membership \$25.

**COMMITTEE.** At the last meeting in 2006, the programme for 2007 was discussed. Other than the end-of-year BBQ in November, no specific fundraisers were planned for 2007. Members will be advised in good time of any function that may arise. It was also decided to cut down the number of meetings each year, to reduce the workload on our small, though enthusiastic committee members. President Patricia thanked all members for their support through the year. The meeting concluded with refreshments and good wishes all round.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. This will be held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May,** and notices of time and venue will be sent to all members, including our new members in Western Australia.

**CONGRATULATIONS to BARBARA PHILLIPS AND LLOYD ISAAKSON** on occasion of their wedding in January of 2007. Barbara has been (and continues to be) a strong supporter and fundraiser for Ryder-Cheshire. All in the South Australia Foundation send very best wishes to Mr. & Mrs. Isaakson for a long and happy union.

### NEW SOUTH WALES

*From Jayne Robinson, President.*

Our Committee has been busy over the past few months selling our wonderful selection of Christmas cards. Thanks to the support of all of you who have supported the Ryder Cheshire Foundation this proved to be another successful year for fund raising. **Our next major fund raising effort will be the annual dinner to be held at St Ignatius College, Riverview, on 5th May 2007. The guest speaker will be Fr Frank Brennan.** If anyone is interested to attend, please contact our office on 02 9489 5589.

Over the Christmas Season we were fortunate to have two of our committee members travel to the homes we support in India and Timor Leste. **Moira Truskett travelled to Timor Leste and Chris Hannan visited Raphael** (see Chris's article on Page 6).

**MOIRA AND HER HUSBAND PHIL HAVE BEEN TO TIMOR LESTE ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS AS PHIL IS A SURGEON WHO VOLUNTEERS TO WORK FOR AUSAID AND SPENDS HIS HOLIDAY BREAK OPERATING AT THE MAIN HOSPITAL IN DILI.**

**HERE ARE MOIRA'S THOUGHTS ABOUT THIS LATEST VISIT.**

“ It was with some sadness that I left Dili in December 2006. This was my sixth visit, and I usually have a feeling of hope and contentment having witnessed plenty of examples of political and economic growth.

This time it was certainly different. Many people had fled or had been forced out of their homes and now were in refugee camps sprinkled all over and surrounding Dili. Even vacant ground in Dili National Hospital had become a tent city. There was grave concern that these camps would succumb to disease and hygiene breakdown once the Wet began but fortunately this did not come.

There was also an undercurrent of recurrent violence. The fighting seemed to involve mainly young men and would occur most evenings. The violence would include the use of knives, home made darts and even guns with deaths most nights. It did not seem random but rather focused between various groups. As a result there was a loss of confidence in everyone and a feeling of uncertainty.

Due to security issues, I was only able to visit Klibur Domin on one occasion. It was pleasing to see that the home was still able to provide care for patients and residents. The Mobile TB Clinic and “Children with Disabilities Outreach Program” continues to provide an outreach service.

One only hopes that the upcoming elections proceed without incident “.

*Moira Truskett  
New South Wales Foundation*

**VICTORIA**

*From Anthea Swann, Honorary Secretary.*

The RCF Victoria Committee members celebrated the end of 2006 with a most enjoyable and relaxing social evening together, which was a change from the business orientation of our monthly meetings. That was followed by a long break until the February meeting at which we prepared for the year ahead.

Our committee numbers are stable, and we have started another sub-committee to develop the PR resources we use to support people giving talks, setting up displays, and responding to new expressions of interest. As a group we are also reviewing the overall structure of the committee to try and share the workload more equitably, and plan for future succession.

**As always the Support Groups of Ballarat and Bendigo provide their reliable contributions and support in many ways.**

On the fundraising front we had a week in the Lions' Club Mount Waverley Op Shop in December, and another unexpectedly when the Shop re-opened in January. **Ahead of us we have a Bridge Day and a Trivia Night in April.** Christmas card orders are well under way for this year, with some combined interstate ordering to improve our buying power. This is an area of income that has expanded very rapidly under the direction of Helen Newton. Sponsorships for Klibur Domin and Raphael remain an important income source. As we lose some sponsors due to ageing, their loss is being balanced by new people stepping forward.

A number of our long term Raphael sponsors have recently queried the fact that they have been paying \$250.00 for many years now and there has been no increase to take account of inflation. At the National Biennial Conference in 2002, a decision was taken that future sponsorships would be \$365 pa (or \$1 a day). This was to bring the rates for new sponsorships up to the normal rate applied by the majority of charities running sponsorship schemes. However we also decided that we would not ask people with existing sponsorships to pay this higher amount. Some Raphael sponsors have been sending more than \$250.00 and we are very grateful for their generosity, but there is no pressure or expectation for others to do likewise.

**Four of our committee (including Don Sinclair as Tour Leader) will be joining the Odyssey Tour to India and are immensely looking forward to visiting Raphael. It will also be an opportunity for them to renew contact with counterparts from other committees, and supporters, who will be travelling too.**

**COMING EVENTS FOR  
MELBOURNE SUPPORTERS**

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 18 BRIDGE DAY**

Uniting Church Hall, 603 Toorak Road, Toorak.

11.00am to 3.00pm \$25 per person, includes lunch, a glass of wine, and other beverages. **Booking essential.**

**Contact Helen or Peter Newton on 9894 3191.**

**SATURDAY APRIL 28 TRIVIA NIGHT**

Air your knowledge and have some fun with MC extraordinaire, Bendigo's own, Hugh Elphinstone! Lots of prizes!

7.30 pm Uniting Church Hall, 603 Toorak Road, Toorak.

Tables of ten. Entry: adults \$20, children \$10.

**Booking essential,**

**please contact Penny Connolly on 03 9634 5983**

**BYO drinks & nibbles.**

**BALLARAT SUPPORT GROUP**

*From Dianne McGrath.*

We welcome the New Year with our newly elected Committee and wish them well in all their planning for the **forthcoming National Biennial Conference in Ballarat, 2008.**

**PRESIDENT:** Bernard Bradbury      **SECRETARY:** Janice Cook

**TREASURER/SPONSORSHIPS:** Dorothy Carpenter

**VICE PRESIDENT/NEWSLETTER:** Dianne McGrath

**CARDS/STATIONERY:** Olive Lamont      **LISTS/COMPUTER:** Hazel Luke

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Carmel Morgan-Wall, Robert Brooks, Leo Rennie

**Fund raising** has seen an outstanding sale of Christmas cards at the Ballarat Charities Card Shop. The Ryder Cheshire cards sold out very quickly and thanks to Olive and Helen Newton's immediate responses we were able to obtain additional stock to sell. All these cards were also sold out!! The East Timor gift cards sold very well. These have again proved to be a great alternative to giving presents to friends and loved ones at Christmas and for other celebratory occasions.

**We have endeavored to make a focus on raising awareness of the work of Ryder Cheshire in the greater Ballarat area.** We hosted a Jewellery Making Workshop just before Christmas. Our appreciation goes to our hostess, Rachel from "Rings On Her Fingers" bead shop in Ballarat. It was a wonderful opportunity to make Christmas gifts. Rachel offered a very generous door prize. The winner was thrilled and says that she will wear the jewellery with pride. This activity attracted many young people.

We received donations from two school groups. **MT BLOWHARD AND LEARMONTH PRIMARY SCHOOLS**, who support Savita at Raphael in India, invited us to a morning tea at their school. The Junior School Council organized the fund raising event at which they proudly presented their generous cheque.

**BALLARAT AND CLARENDON COLLEGE-JUNIOR SCHOOL** hosted Asha Day, a market day organised by their teachers. The students set up stalls of fun activities and goodies to buy and eat. The day is in honour of their very first sponsored person at Raphael some twenty plus years ago. They now support five people at Raphael. The day was full of excitement, energy and buzz!

We have extended our involvement with locally based groups who are supporting the people of East Timor. Our members have contact with The Ballarat Friends of Ainaro of the Ballarat City Council, East Timor Association, Mercy Mission in East Timor and other service and cultural associations. This provides a positive means of both sharing and collecting information about East Timor, its triumphs and struggles.

We are eagerly awaiting the return of **Tom Horniblow** who has been volunteering at Klibur Domin. His specialties are with children with special needs and outdoor education. He will share his experiences and photos with our group.

**Val Sarah**, Past President of the Group, is currently traveling with the Ryder Cheshire team through out India under the leadership of Dr Don Sinclair. She had spent time at Raphael in its early days. We are looking forward to hear her report upon her return to Ballarat.

**Our meetings are held on the FOURTH TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE NEW TIME OF 8:00PM. We are appreciative of Olive's hospitality in allowing us to use her home as our meeting venue.**

**Our best wishes to all the Foundations and Support Groups for their endeavours for this year.**