



Ryder-Cheshire News

NEWSLETTER OF RYDER-CHESHIRE AUSTRALIA

"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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**Newsletters are now issued twice each year,
in MAY AND NOVEMBER.**

*State reports (in Microsoft Word if possible), photos and
other contributions for the*

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BY 1ST OCTOBER 2008

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

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of this Newsletter.**

RYDER-CHESHIRE AUSTRALIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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RCF ACT member	Dennis Sleigh
RCF Victoria member	Peter Newton
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RCF Mt Gambier Homes member	Neville Gilbertson

NATIONAL AUSTRALIA WEBSITE www.ryder-cheshire.org

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL BIENNIAL CONFERENCE



THE BALLARAT POWER HOUSE BEHIND THE CONFERENCE (l to r)

Back Vice Admiral Vasant Koppikar (from Raphael) with Ballarat members Bernard Bradbury, Lance Jeffrey, Terry Warr, Leo Rennie and Maria Sozanski. **Middle** Joaquim Soares (from Klibur Domin) with Hazel Luke and Patricia Prendergast. **Front** Janice Cook, Dianne McGrath, Carmel Morgan-Wall and Dorothy Carpenter.

THE 2008 RYDER-CHESHIRE NATIONAL BIENNIAL CONFERENCE (HOSTED BY BALLARAT SUPPORT GROUP) WAS HELD IN BALLARAT ON SATURDAY 12TH & SUNDAY 13TH APRIL 2008

SOVEREIGN PARK IN BALLARAT EAST provided an excellent venue for the Biennial Conference. Part of the Red Lion Hotel complex it is set in historical Ballarat East on Main Road, one of the original bullock tracks from the Gold Rush days of the 1850's. The Hotel has great significance to the Chinese of the Gold Rush days.

The Mayor, Stephen Jones, welcomed Conference participants, sponsors, supporters and friends of Ryder-Cheshire Australia, some one hundred plus invited guests, on Friday 11th April at a Civic Reception in the beautiful Victorian Town Hall in Central Ballarat.

He gave an informative speech on the work of Ryder-Cheshire Australia and in particular the work done by the Ballarat Support Group for the Homes in India and Timor Leste. He gave special mention of the dedication of the Ballarat community towards supporting Timor Leste. Jen Pollard, Manager Community Strengthening and Services, City of Ballarat, as MC, also commented on the work Ballarat does toward supporting the people of Timor Leste. **Dr Don Sinclair, National President, spoke about the history of Ryder-Cheshire and the Ballarat Support Group and the commitment to the relief of world wide suffering.** He made particular mention of the Ballarat Schools who are supporters of this cause. It was a happy occasion of both young and older as well as new and long time members and supporters. Schools were represented by their Principals, student leaders and parents. It was wonderful to have the young supporters mingling amongst the gathering.

The Conference was fortunate to have guests from both India and Timor Leste; Vice Admiral Vasant Koppikar PVSM AVSM from the Raphael Council, Dehradun in India and Joaquim Soares, Manager of Klibur Domin, Tibar in Timor Leste. Greetings from Carolyn Tapley, Chairperson of Ryder-Cheshire New Zealand in Canterbury were read to the Conference.

The Conference sessions on Saturday and Sunday provided participants with time to share information about the work of Ryder-Cheshire Australia as well as providing up to date information about the Homes in India, Timor Leste and throughout Australia.

Technology gave support to the wonderful presentations being handled capably by Terry Warr, Ian Swann and Lance Jeffrey. Participants can look forward to receiving DVD copies of these recordings once all has been assembled. The flow and movement of the Conference program was handled capably and sensitively by MC Leo Rennie.

Ted Lovett, Ballarat Indigenous Elder, welcomed all participants to the land. MC, Leo Rennie, gave an insight into the historical significance of the gold fields of the 1850's in the vicinity of the Conference venue. Dr Don Sinclair officially opened the Biennial Conference noting in particular the separation of the AGM from the actual Conference for the first time.

Whilst attending to registration, collecting of Biennial Conference show bags, morning tea, catching up with long time friends, and making acquaintance with new friends every one was treated to beautiful harp music.

Anita Rana, a former resident of Raphael and the Conference guest speaker, spoke of her gratitude to Ryder-Cheshire for supporting Raphael. She spoke about growing up in the Little White House. She went on to study nursing in New Dehli and graduated with her Diploma of Nursing. She is currently living and working in Ballarat as well as studying for her Bachelor of Nursing at the University of Ballarat. Her brother-in-law, Mr Vijay Kumar, was able to attend the Conference as he was in Australia visiting Anita. Her wide smile radiated throughout the whole Conference. She is a wonderful ambassador for Raphael and for her country of India. We were indeed honoured to have her as our guest speaker.

As always the work being carried out at Raphael and in the villages at the foothills of the Himalayas is both inspiring and encouraging. **Raphael will be celebrating its fifty years' anniversary in April 2009.** Vice Admiral Koppikar presented a detailed account of the current situation and directions for Raphael.

Under the management of Joaquim Soares, Klibur Domin is forging ahead encompassing a wide role of care in the communities of Timor Leste. Joaquim's dedication, commitment and enthusiasm is motivating to all. His stories and accounts are full of compassion and leadership.

There was time for reflection after viewing a short talk by Leonard Cheshire from the DVD called, "Thoughts for the Future". This assisted in setting the mood for the Conference. As always his words are both inspirational and energising for all of us to help continue the work for the relief of suffering.

After lunch six Forums were set up around six topical issues for the organization and these were:

- Future directions – technology*
- Preserving history - archives*
- Show casing - publications*
- Competing charity dollar – fund raising*
- Valuing present and future members - membership*
- Revealing the secret - publicity*

The Forums enabled the participants to share, discuss and celebrate thoughts, ideas and possible directions. Scribes volunteered their time to assist with entering the data on computers enabling each forum's discussion to be reported back to the whole Conference group.

All these reports are currently being collated for distribution in the form of a DVD, to all Foundations, Support Groups and Homes. Some action based upon these reports has already begun particularly in the areas of archives and technology.

The New York Bakery on Saturday evening gave a "real" impression of Ballarat in the 1850's. The beautiful music, meal and camaraderie were wonderful. And of course, the entertainment when Don Sinclair was arrested by the local constabulary provided great fun.

Continued on page 3

Contd from page 2

Sunday commenced with "Indian Summer", a movie obtained, researched and introduced by Hugh Elphinstone. This was a chance to either relive or discover the story of Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder and the beginning of Ryder-Cheshire Homes.

Sunday also enabled the three **Australian Homes of Singleton, Ivanhoe and Mt Gambier**, to deliver most informative power point presentations. The absolute dedication to task and cause was highly evident by each presenter as they proudly explained the special details of each of the homes.

The open Forum, though could have been longer, provided the opportunity to speak about technology, the Cheshire Rose and to enable Joaquim to take further questions about Klibur Domin.

Barbara Lewis and Anne Boyd, prompted by Helen McKendrick and Helen Newton, gave a wonderful ending to the Conference as they shared stories from the early days of Ryder-Cheshire with Leonard and Sue. This was impromptu, but such a delight causing much laughter and a fitting end to the Conference.

Friday, Monday and Tuesday gave time for specialised visits in Ballarat for Joaquim and VA Koppikar. Helen Rennie escorted Joaquim around PINARC and the Ballarat Specialist School, centres for young people with physical, emotional and intellectual challenges. Joaquim went on to Mt Gambier after the Conference to visit the Mt Gambier Home. He then flew to Melbourne before returning to Dili via Indonesia to visit students from Klibur Domin studying at the University.

VA Koppikar visited school sponsors on Monday and Tuesday. Ballarat Grammar School for morning tea, Ballarat and Clarendon College for lunch and Loreto Girls' School to receive a cheque, plus the two rural schools of Mt Blowhard and Learmonth Primary Schools. It was a busy schedule but so rewarding for all of us to listen to the students telling with great excitement their new friend, "Koppi", the ways they raise funds and communicate with their sponsors. Don met VA Koppikar and they returned to Melbourne via The Great Ocean Road.

Throughout the Biennial Conference, including before and after, the days were covered by the local regional newspaper, *The Ballarat Courier*. We are most appreciative of this cover. It certainly has assisted in raising the profile of Ryder-Cheshire Australia.

It has been our pleasure to organise this 2008 Biennial Conference for Ryder-Cheshire Australia. We set out to provide a structure that would enable the State Foundations to reacquaint with each other, get to know each other more and above all to share ideas, communicate dedication and commitment and be proud to celebrate the work undertaken by members of Ryder-Cheshire Australia. **We believe that this was achieved. We believe that the spirit of the founders is well and alive. We thank you all for your co-operation, active participation and positive energy. We have enjoyed working with you all and will continue to do so.**

We are now working on the technology from the Conference to send out DVD's covering presentations, photographs and forum reports.

BALLARAT SUPPORT GROUP

From Dianne McGrath, Vice President.

As you would well know, our energies have been directed toward hosting the Biennial Conference. It was indeed a privilege for us to organise the Conference and show off our beautiful city. April in Ballarat's Autumn is lovely even if our lake resembles a grassy paddock!

Ballarat Support Group is well known for holding seasonal raffles as a means of fund raising. We decided to keep this reputation in place so organised door prizes for the Biennial Conference. Robert Brookes, our resident "wine merchant" provided the bottles of wine. The special door prize was arranged and donated by Carmel Morgan Wall and Olive Lamont. Olive has been hospitalised for many weeks and sadly was unable to attend the Conference so providing the gorgeous photograph of "Ballarat in Autumn" was her way of assisting with the Conference. Sr Jane from the Ivanhoe Home was the happy winner. She now has it proudly displayed at the Home with a note to tell the story.

Now that the Conference is over, it is back to business as usual. However, being inspired by the energetic Forum discussions, we have been motivated to put our archive preservation high on our agenda.

We wish the next hosts of the Biennial Conference all the best and we will be happy to assist in any way that we are able.

*The following article was published in the British Catholic weekly newspaper, *The Tablet*, on 22 March 2008.*

NOT FORGOTTEN

There are no reminders of Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder in the village where they lived after their marriage and where Lady Ryder first set up her Foundation. The couple, famed for their major charities they each established for the sick and disabled, lived for many years in Cavendish, Suffolk. Lady Ryder, as she later became, opened her first nursing home at the Old Rectory, the house once owned by her mother. She and her husband were Catholics and they opened an ecumenical chapel in the grounds. An Augustinian priest from nearby Clare Priory would celebrate Mass there on Sundays.

Lord Cheshire died in 1992, and after his wife's death in 2000 the nursing home was closed and the Old Rectory has been empty ever since. The chapel was also closed and also a museum dedicated to the work of the Sue Ryder Foundation. **Now the local vicar, Canon John Rankin, has come up with the idea of installing a plaque dedicated to the couple's memory in the parish church. It will be circular, carved in Portland stone and three feet in diameter. After giving the couple's names and dates it will state "They lived and worked in this village and dedicated their lives to the relief of suffering".** Contributions to the plaque may be made payable to "**Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder Plaque Account**" and sent to c/o The Vicarage, 14 High Street. Clare, Suffolk, CO10 8NY, United Kingdom.

DONATION TO MEMORIAL PLAQUE for OUR FOUNDERS

Arising from discussion in Open Forum at the Biennial, all RCA Board members present agreed that RCA donate A\$1,000 to the appeal for the carved stone plaque being erected in a church in Cavendish, Suffolk, in memory of our Founders. Leonard and Sue lived there for many years and it was the site of Sue's first home, but the home and all other reminders of the couple have gone. Five Hundred GB pounds (Approx \$1,000) has been sent to the Sue Ryder Plaque Account from Ryder Cheshire Australia.

FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Don Sinclair.

The recent Biennial Meeting hosted by the Ballarat Support Group was a very enjoyable occasion, due in no small measure to the skill and enthusiasm of the Ballarat organising committee. We were pleased to welcome Vice-Admiral Vasant Koppikar, a member of the 'Raphael' council and Joaquim Soares, manager of 'Klibur Domin', together with members and supporters from all foundations and support groups.

'Raphael' celebrates its GOLDEN JUBILEE WITH FOUNDERS DAY ON 5 APRIL NEXT YEAR. A big celebration is planned for this exciting occasion and all foundations and support groups will receive a direct invitation from Air Marshal Brijesh Jayal, President of the 'Raphael' Council, to attend.

RCA will organise a tour to India that will conclude in Delhi immediately prior to 5 April 2009, with an opportunity included for participants to continue to Dehradun. The planned tour will depart from Australia in mid-March and full details of this program will be sent to all Foundations and support groups in the near future.

Jayne Robinson, Trish Frith and Dennis Sleigh have recently completed or will soon complete terms as presidents of the NSW, SA and ACT foundations. We thank them for their great contribution to Ryder-Cheshire over many years. All will continue to actively support our mission. We welcome Chris Hannan and Patricia McDonnell as the president of the NSW and ACT foundations respectively. The new SA president is yet to be announced.

The Mt Gambier Support Group and the Mt Gambier Homes Foundation have enthusiastically offered to co-host the 2010 Biennial Conference. We thank them for this generous offer. The dates will be announced soon.

FROM RAPHAEL

extract from Raphael Newsletter of January 2008.

Dear Friends,

Raphael's activities have continued in the same hectic pace as before. Despite a short lull during the monsoons, we have been busy with various events, workshops and functions, and have also tried to initiate different ways of projecting Raphael more effectively.

We are now looking forward to the new season with hope and joy and usher in the year 2008 by wishing everyone a peaceful and happy year.

Our special thanks and good wishes to all our supporters sponsors and donors for their generosity and their continued efforts to make the lives of our residents and children comfortable and happy.

Nita Roy



BENDIGO SUPPORT GROUP MEMBERS AT THE BIENNIAL
Back l to r Graham Brook, Hugh Elphinstone, Vasant Koppikar.
Front l to r Anne Elphinstone, Dennis Robinson,
Joaquim Soares and Nigel Christie.

Submitted by Margaret Blaber, South Australia.

A MOST VALUED SUPPORTER

Margaret writes "Late last year I received a phone call from Amy Ramsay. **Amy joined the SA Foundation in 1970, through the late Ross Stanford and for the past 38 years has been a strong supporter and a significant annual contributor to the work of the Foundation.** Amy sent me Christmas greetings with the attached photo with the message".....

"Here I am with my youngest of 8 great grandchildren, Alexandra Stock, who is the 3rd daughter of my grandchild Louisa. By next February I shall have 10 great grandchildren and I love them all so much. God being willing, I will be 92 on 11th March 2008. I enjoy Ryder Cheshire News very much. God Bless you and a merry Christmas"



Amy pictured with great-granddaughter, Alexandra.

Amy has since renewed her subscription for the coming year, and added a generous donation. Thank you so much Amy.

NEWS FROM TIMOR-LESTE

From Helen Trueman, Klibur Domin Support Person.



Extract from the Report given by Joaquim Soares, Manager, Klibur Domin, at the RCA 2008 Biennial Conference.

Klibur Domin in East Timor is continuing to run its programs to provide medical and social assistance to the patients, residents, adults and children with disabilities and the community throughout Timor-Leste. Klibur Domin programs have been contributing to the National development through Health and Social programs. Klibur Domin has created very good relationships and cooperation with government and other agencies in Timor to provide assistance to the people in need.

The current programs at Klibur Domin are 1) To support the National Hospital and clinics around Timor-Leste by providing accommodation and treatment for various types of patients 2) Provide care for 8 elderly people 3) TB mobile program 4) Multi Drug Resistant (MDR) TB 5) Community Based Rehabilitation for children with disabilities 6) Community Services and 7) Provide basic medical assistance to the Tibar community.

Klibur Domin Patients

Since the political crisis of 2006, the total numbers of patients at Klibur Domin has reduced. The number of patients is between 20 to 40 people and the number of carers between 12 to 21. The duration of the patient's stay at Klibur Domin is very variable depending on the patient's condition and can be anything from a few weeks to months, or if necessary up to a year or two. Klibur Domin cares for patients with fractures, amputation, malnutrition, stroke, tuberculosis, mental health and other types of patients who need continuing review and treatment at the national hospital. Klibur Domin continues to care for its eight permanent residents. Most of them are still very independent and busy with activities like farming, feeding animals, going to the market.

Tuberculosis Program.

The tuberculosis program is progressing well to support the National TB program to reduce and combat TB in Timor Leste. Staff continue to run the program in the Liquisa district to support the Liquisa TB program by doing case detection, treatment and basic health promotion and education in subdistrict Bazartete. Community leaders and families support this program Klibur Domin has a basic TB laboratory. It has established 150 volunteers in the three subdistricts in Liquisa. The volunteers support the TB staff by doing case detection, delivering medication to the patients and doing basic health promotion to prevent the spread of TB in their community. **This program is generously funded by Target TB, UK, for three years commencing in 2006.**

This year, International TB day was celebrated at Klibur Domin. About 1500 people, including the Vice PM, the head of WHO and some government ministers attended the celebrations. At the same time, the centre for MDR TB at Klibur Domin was inaugurated.



International TB Day – inauguration of MDR Centre.



Celebrating International TB Day.

CBR program.

In Timor-Leste most people with disabilities are not living in very good conditions. Klibur Domin is continuing to provide basic assistance to those children in their community with mobility equipment, clothes, medical treatment, physiotherapy, nutrition, education and accessibility. The total number of children assisted is now 45.

The Japanese Embassy is supporting (to the value of \$US 86000) a renovation program of 5 cottages at Klibur Domin. This work is still in progress.

OT and PT students in Solo.

RCA provide funds to support two Timorese students to study physiotherapy and occupational therapy in Solo, Indonesia. The 2 students complete their study in 2010 and will come back to work with Klibur Domin. Before they went to study they signed an agreement with KD and this was witnessed by the village chief and the students parents.

Future programs at Klibur Domin.

Klibur Domin is discussing with the Vice Minister of Health the possibility of establishing a respite centre for people with physical and mental disabilities. The Ministry promises to support Klibur Domin by providing three nurses and some funding.



Dr Rui, Chairman of KD Board of Management, visiting patients at Klibur Domin.



Staff at Klibur Domin.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

From Dennis Sleigh.

REPORT TO THE BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Since the 2006 Biennial, the membership of the ACT Foundation has grown slightly, but we continue to face the problem experienced by other Foundations: we are no longer as young as we were. However, there has been a slight growth in the membership and we have maintained our resolve to keep the organisation alive.

The transfer of Margaret and Dennis Sleigh to Temora in NSW (about 210 kilometres away from the ACT) has inevitably impacted on the frequency of meetings but we have taken advantage of modern technology with a video link-up to supplement meetings. The generosity of the ACT members in fitting in with these arrangements is deeply appreciated. The more recent departure overseas of secretary Anne-Maree Sleigh has also exacerbated the situation.

The main fund-raisers for our group continue to be our annual Dinner and Auction and the sale of Christmas cards in the two charity shops in Canberra. The dinners include a guest speaker, and we have been particularly privileged in recent times to have Fr Frank Brennan SJ AO and Mr Tim Fischer AC. Both have very strong links with Timor Leste and each spoke very powerfully to the large audience present. We have established close links with Canberra Friends of Dili and work with them in running these functions.

Patricia McDonell has continued to play a significant role in the outreach of the Foundation to Klibur Domin and she has made three extended trips to Timor Leste in the past two years. She has proved to be a tireless worker on behalf of the Foundation in speaking to schools, service clubs and other organisations. Patricia took over as President at our the March meeting.

Ryder-Cheshire has benefited each year from being one of the charities selected to sell cards through the Christmas card shop and now with two of these shops, we continue to enjoy this privilege.

Sponsorships, especially with Raphael, continue to appeal to some members and supporters and they offer people the chance to be directly involved without actually having to attend meetings or other functions. The support of these sponsors is greatly valued.

The Spring Luncheon that proved so popular in 2006 could not be repeated in 2007 because of other demands but it is hoped that this will return to the program in 2008, along with our Afternoon Tea for Supporters and Friends.

We thank the members of other Foundations and we want to stress that it is the sense of collegiality that exists between these groups that helps us to stay on task. The regular arrival of Ryder Cheshire News and other contacts with the National Board are an essential part of our on-going efforts.

NEWS FROM THE ACT

The recent Biennial meeting at Ballarat proved to be a huge morale boost for the four ACT member privileged to attend: Patricia McDonell, Wendy Altamore and Margaret and Dennis Sleigh. The opportunity to share in the enthusiasm of other members from other places is always a reminder that we do not walk alone. The hospitality of the Ballarat group was very impressive and we all left with a sense of gratitude for their hard work.

Our major fund-raiser for the year is the annual Ryder-Cheshire Lecture and auction. This year we will enjoy the company of Michelle Grattan, political editor of The Age. Previous guests at this function have included John Bell (of Bell Shakespeare), Fr Frank Brennan SJ AO, and Tim Fischer AC. This dinner will be held on July 26. Once again we will partner with the Canberra Friends of Dili, who share our enthusiasm for supporting Timor Leste.

Executive changes in the ACT Foundation have seen Patricia McDonell take on the Presidency, with the departure of the Sleights from Canberra. Margaret and Dennis Sleigh have remained on the executive but their daughter Anne Maree (currently in Edinburgh, Scotland) has stepped down as secretary.

The annual general meeting for the ACT Foundation will be held on 21 June.



ACT MEMBERS AT THE BIENNIAL

Back l to r Margaret Sleigh, Dennis Sleigh and Wendy Altamore.

Front l to r Vice Admiral V L Koppikar (Raphael),
Joaquim Soares (Klibur Domin) and Patricia McDonell.

Supporters interested in sponsoring a bed at Raphael in India or Klibur Domin in East Timor, please contact your State/local Committee (details shown on page 1 of this publication).

Sponsorships of \$365 a year are tax deductible

and help to ensure that the valuable work being undertaken at Raphael and Klibur Domin can continue.

YOUR SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

NEWS FROM THE STATES

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

*From Diane McEwen,
Secretary Mt Gambier Home Foundation.*

As **Mt Gambier** is a support group and not legally bound so much by protocol, we are pretty casual regarding the frequency of meetings. We only had about three in 2007. However due to our frequent fund raising through our Duchess Catering group we often met informally. Duchess Catering has acquired quite a good reputation now and we are often called on. It is our main fund raiser apart from our sponsorships and we were able to send RCF SA in Adelaide quite a handsome amount of money.

Kaye Gilbertson, our catering coordinator, deserves special mention because of the wonderful job she does. We are doing less this year because Kaye is having a well deserved kitchen renovation.

We voted in a new president at our Annual General Meeting in October 2007. Paul Jenner has a history of being very active in our community and has taken on the role with a great amount of enthusiasm, especially now that he has attended his first biennial and met the wider family of Ryder Cheshire devotees.

Our first fund raiser for 2008 was a real treat. It was a one man show called Discovering Oscar Wilde. An Adelaide man, who has a great interest and history in amateur theatre writes and performs his shows about famous writers. His last show was Presenting Noel Coward and he donated a performance to Ryder Cheshire in 2004. Discovering Oscar Wilde raised \$1,600 profit for us.

Due to a decline in man power and an incline in years of our Adelaide colleagues, **Adelaide and Mount Gambier will be swapping roles at the RCF SA on May 20th. Mount Gambier members will become the South Australia Foundation Executive and the Adelaide members will become the support group.** It has been a big decision for us but we are keen to maintain a South Australia Foundation. It seems to be a good outcome because our Adelaide friends who choose to, can maintain their interest. At this stage a member will continue with the cards sales and another with the Adelaide/West Australia Sponsorships, so our load will be lightened. **WE WISH THE RETIRING ADELAIDE MEMBERS OUR BEST WISHES AND OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE FOR THEIR LONG AND LOYAL SERVICE TO RYDER CHESHIRE.**

Our Mount Gambier Home is going very well. Our five young women residents are well settled and happy. They lead very busy lives during the day with their various activities. We have established a gym for them with equipment donated by a local health club and we are in the throes of having a pergola erected to facilitate outdoor activities.

Finally, congratulations to Ballarat for a great Biennial. It was well organised, informative and interesting. The accommodation, dinner venue and conference centre were very good and convenient.



RYDER-CHESHIRE HOME, MOUNT GAMBIER, WINS COMMUNITY AWARD

The Mt Gambier Home won the Best Community Project section in the Limestone Coast Regional Awards in December 07. Pictured are the President of the Ryder-Cheshire Mt Gambier Home Foundation, Neville Gilbertson, and Di McEwen, Secretary. They are pictured with the Award Certificate and the Award of a glass pear.



SOUTH AUSTRALIANS AT THE BIENNIAL
Back row l to r *Neville Gilbertson and Paul Jenner.*
Front row l to r *Diane McEwen, Patricia Frith,
Judith Weston and Kaye Gilbertson.*

**“As for Rosemarie, I lett it runn alle
Over my Garden Walls, not onlie because
My Bees love it, but also because ‘tis
The Herb sacred to Remembrance, and therefore to
Friendship”**
St. Thomas More

NEWS FROM THE STATES

NEW SOUTH WALES

From Jayne Robinson, President.

Fund raising events have been quiet in NSW since October 2007. Grateful thanks must go to all our members in NSW who purchased Christmas cards through the mail out.

In our last newsletter we were unsure as to where the future of the NSW committee was heading but I can happily report that we will be moving forward with renewed vigour. We are most grateful to a number of people who have volunteered to step into the Directors roles. Firstly, Chris Hannan, a long-standing committee member, has offered herself as a nominee for President at the upcoming AGM. We have a new member, Mr Peter O'Donnell accept the role as Treasurer. Andrew Hannan, whose family have had a long affiliation with Ryder Cheshire Foundation, has offered to stand as secretary. Thanks must go to all the enthusiastic members of our committee who contribute their time and effort to raise funds for Raphael and Klibur Domin.

A number of our members attended the Biennial Conference in Ballarat during April. **We wish to commend the members of Ballarat on a very well run and most enjoyable conference. Once again we came away inspired by all the enthusiasm shown by everyone involved in the Ryder Cheshire Foundation.**



AT THE BIENNIAL FROM NSW

Back l-r Jenny Coleman, Cheryl Nesbitt, Anne Boyd, Graeme Hannan, Stim Robinson, Barbara Lewis. **VA** Vasant Koppikar, **Front l-r** Joaquim Soares, Chris Hannan, Jayne Robinson and Peter Coleman.



VICTORIANS AT THE BIENNIAL **Back l-r** Peter Newton, Vice-Admiral Koppikar, Ian Swann, Joaquim Soares, Don Sinclair, Helen Newton, Terry Warr, Peter McConnell, **Front l-r** Margaret McConnell, Anthea Swann, Sheila Meares, and Helen McKendrick.

VICTORIA

Peter McConnell, Vice President.

The Committee is very pleased to welcome new member Margaret McConnell who has contributed energetically to many functions since her husband Peter joined the Committee some years ago.

A continuing fund raising opportunity for us is the staffing of the Mount Waverley Lions Club Op Shop. We staffed the Op Shop in December 2007, and January & March 2008. **We are also scheduled for July and December 2008.**

We are having a small fundraising event on 5th June at The Costume Collection, an exhibition of historical costumes - see details below.

Also, we are continuing with another film night. **The film selected is Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull being held on 28th May, with drinks and nibbles being served from 5.45pm, prior to the screening.** These film evenings are always enjoyed by all and give us a great opportunity to spread the message of the Ryder Cheshire Foundation to a wider audience.

Our Bridge Days have been on hold as we seek a suitable venue, and we are hopeful of re-commencing the Bridge Days, which have been a tradition for Ryder-Cheshire, later in the year.

Our communications Sub-Committee has been active over the past year. We now have a film library in excess of 25 titles in 16mm format, and are arranging conversion to DVD of the most suitable for use with various presentations. We are also further developing a speakers presentation that can be used by members of the Committee when presenting to groups interested in the work of the Foundation

The Ryder-Cheshire Biennial Conference was held in Ballarat from 11th to 13th April 2008. A total of 9 members of the Victorian Committee attended the conference. **The Ballarat Support Group are to be congratulated for their organization and enthusiasm.** The presence of Joaquim Soares – Manager of Klibur Domin, Vice Admiral V.L. Koppikar representing Raphael, and guest speaker Anita Rana – herself a former resident of Raphael – added a real depth to our experience and we all came away with renewed vigor to work for our Foundation.

Coming Events for Melbourne Supporters

WEDNESDAY 28 MAY

Film Night at the Palace Cinema Balwyn
Thrills and excitement with **Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull!!**

Starring Harrison Ford, Cate Blanchett and Shia La Beouf
Drinks and nibbles served from 5.45 pm, prior to the 6.30 pm session start. **\$20 all inclusive.**

BOOKINGS: RING PENNY CONNOLLY ON 9634 5983.

Visit the Costume Collection

39 Greenway Street Bulleen

THURSDAY 5 JUNE - 10.30 AM

A unique exhibition of historical costumes

from 1800 to early 1900's

Entry \$15

Bookings - Danny Standish 9877 2598
or Anthea Swann 9877 7084