

Little White House Children Need our Help

In recent years, Leprosy has become far less of a problem in India and this has meant Raphael has been able to make major adjustments to the services it provides. The number of residents in Shiv Sadan has reduced significantly from a high of 120 in the 1970s to fewer than 40 today, with no new cases being accepted. Similarly the numbers in the Little White House (LWH), which houses children of Leprosy parentage, have reduced from 65 to just 21 at present, and again no more children are being accepted. At the same time, the need for accommodation for children and adults with intellectual and physical disabilities has increased so the Little White House will be converted to house the extra numbers. The remaining LWH students will be relocated to another building until they complete their secondary education and move from Raphael to go into the work force or undertake tertiary training. In the past many from the LWH have joined the Police and Armed Forces and others have undertaken teaching, nursing and other tertiary courses. The funding for this tertiary training has mostly come from a very generous UK organisation, which is now struggling to meet the costs.



Little White House children with the Manager, Mrs. Shalini Kapil and Supervisor, Mr. Patrus Paulus.

So we in Australia have been asked to help by covering the cost of some of the remaining students who will commence their tertiary training over the next few years. Several generous donors have already undertaken to fund the costs of two of these students over the three or four years of their courses. We would love to hear from others who may be interested in helping. People who have sponsored LWH or other residents in the past might look on this as a wonderful way to give the children the best possible start in life.

CAN YOU HELP?

If so, please contact Peter Newton on 03 9894 3191 or email peter.newton@ryder-cheshire.org.

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Australian Government increases support to disability in Timor Leste

(From the Australian Embassy Timor-Leste website)

The Australian Government has underlined its commitment to assisting Timorese people with disabilities by announcing a further two years support to the **Disabilities Association of Timor-Leste (ADTL)** and its member organisations.

Australian Ambassador to Timor-Leste, Peter Doyle, announced the extended support during a visit to Klibur Domin a disability rehabilitation centre in Tibar, and a member of ADTL.



Joaquim Soares, ADTL Chairperson said "This valuable support will strengthen ADTL to continue to advocate and defend the rights of people with disabilities". The USD \$450,000 agreement signed between the Australian Government and the ADTL and its member organisations, will underpin disability inclusive development in Timor-Leste over the next two years.

Ryder-Cheshire gratefully acknowledges David and Neil Coath, of

**PROMPT DISTRIBUTION PTY LTD,
West Heidelberg, Victoria,
who most generously arrange and pay for
the distribution of this Newsletter.
Thank you David and Neil, we so much
appreciate your generosity.**

GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I have just returned from a week at Klibur Domin in Timor-Leste, renewing my enthusiasm to pursue our fundraising efforts for both Raphael and Klibur Domin. My wife Helen travelled with me this time. It was her first visit since 2001, and the intervening 13 years have seen huge progress at Klibur Domin and in the city of Dili where the infrastructure has improved significantly and many new buildings have been built. Sadly, not much has changed in the villages where the majority of Timorese people still live in primitive circumstances on about \$1 a day. Life is a tremendous struggle for them, and it is rewarding to know that Klibur Domin is making a huge difference to their lives with its mobile TB and disability outreach teams and its inpatient and respite facilities at the home.

The programs at Raphael and Klibur Domin are largely funded by the generosity of sponsors and supporters in Ryder-Cheshire Foundations and Support Groups in Australia. I would like to say a very warm thank you to all these generous people and encourage them to spread the word about the wonderful work being done at the two overseas homes and at the homes in Australia - at Ivanhoe, Mount Gambier and Singleton. Without your support, this work could not continue.

Can I remind people that, unlike many of the well-known charities, Ryder-Cheshire Australia does not have any paid executives or employees or expensive offices and our expenses are miniscule because our committee members constantly are putting their hands into their own pockets to pay for stationery, postage, telephone calls and the like. As an example, the expenses in Victoria in 2013 came to less than 1% of the amount received and this was more than covered by fund raising not associated with sponsorships and donations. So we can accurately and proudly claim that 100% of your donations reach the home you are supporting.

While we were at Klibur Domin, we inaugurated the new TB Laboratory and the GeneXpert machine, both of which will improve the home's ability to detect and treat TB and particularly the often fatal Multi Drug Resistant TB. My special thanks go to Rosemary Coffey, St Ignatius Riverview College and the Rotary Club of Como Jannali for funding the TB Laboratory building, to Therese Crollick and her Rotary Club of Ballina for the stainless steel sinks and benches, and to the six Rotary Clubs in and around Mount Gambier, Rotary District 9780 and the Rotary Global Grant for funding the GeneXpert machine.

For the third year running, a team of Rotarians from Mount Gambier travelled to Klibur Domin in 2014 to renovate a building which has added extra accommodation for our overseas volunteers. The renovations to the kitchen are virtually complete and kitchen staff will have an efficient and hygienic work place. This was funded by RCF Victoria, so my thanks go to all who were involved in the fundraising.

The lead article on page 1 seeks your support to help pay for the cost of tertiary education for the children of the Little White House. Several generous donors have already committed to paying the costs for two students, and I commend this to you as a very practical way to enable these children to realise their full potential. Also Raphael is seeking our assistance to fund the cost of converting the Little White House to a facility to accommodate 40 residents with disabilities. Supporters wishing to know more about these initiatives should contact me.

Finally, you will see on page 3, a promotional notice regarding the book I wrote, "**Klibur Domin -Sharing with Love**". With my deep involvement with the establishment and development of Klibur Domin over the past 15 years, I felt it was time I wrote it down for those who wanted to know more about it and for posterity.

I hope you might be able to attend one of the book launches or order a copy through the mail. All proceeds will go to Klibur Domin.

As Christmas approaches, I take the opportunity of thanking all Committee members, volunteers, sponsors and supporters and wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.

Peter Newton
President, Ryder-Cheshire Australia

" Motivation was not hard to find at Klibur Domin "

In 2013 **Timothy Burn** left his job as a public servant and went as a volunteer to Klibur Domin. In this extract, Tim gives a lovely summary of this experience.

" Motivation was not hard to find at Klibur Domin. I saw the important work of the staff in the in-patient, TB and CRB teams every day and the difference that they made to some of the most vulnerable people in Timor.



I also took great inspiration from the work of the Director, Sr Soares and it was my great privilege to work with this indefatigable, intelligent and brilliant man who was so committed and passionate to both the organisation and more broadly the welfare of people with disabilities in his country.

Moreover, as I learnt of the history of Klibur Domin through my work, I was humbled by the commitment that so many had made to the organisation. I came to realise that the buildings and staff with which I had been so impressed when I arrived, were not there by chance, but by the direct support of many individuals and groups who had worked so hard before me.

I am very grateful to Ryder-Cheshire and Klibur Domin for giving me the opportunity to work with them. For me it was the catalyst for a change in my life and career and I'm not sure if I will ever be able to give back more to these organisations than they have given me.

As I commence work in Timor for a new organisation, I still consider myself to be a KD and RCA person, and look forward to hearing more news about their continued success. "

Fun Day at St Joseph's Primary School Raises Over \$900 for Klibur Domin

St Joseph's Parish Elsternwick and its sister parish Holy Cross at South Caulfield have been generous supporters of Klibur Domin in recent years. But on 12 September, it was the turn of the children of St Joseph's Primary School to support this most worthy cause.



After a preliminary meeting with teachers and Ryder-Cheshire representatives, the children in the Students' Representative Council organised a fun sports day where the whole school was involved in games and activities, with the students paying a small amount to participate in each event. The students ran all the events most effectively. The morning started as the students were told about the work being done at Klibur Domin and shown photos of the residents and patients. Many students asked questions about the patients with tuberculosis, malnutrition and those with disabilities. They found it hard to comprehend that most Timorese people live on just a dollar a day and most live in conditions that are unimaginable to people living in Australia. **After nearly two hours of fun and games, the buckets of coins and some notes were collected and revealed total takings of more than \$900.**

This money will go to a project at Klibur Domin which the students can relate to and have some input into. The aim is to hold similar functions each term and to build a bond between the school and Klibur Domin. The students will gain a much better understanding of the difficulties of living in a third world country.

**Ryder-Cheshire and Klibur Domin send a very warm thank you
to the students and staff of St Joseph's.**

Love built it - new book tells story of Klibur Domin

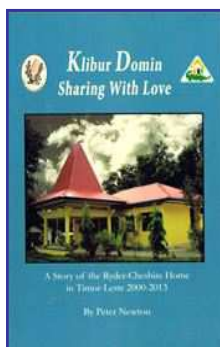
Klibur Domin is a home built on love, and now Ryder-Cheshire Australia president Peter Newton is sharing his love for the Timor Leste project, with his inspiring book about how this vital and vibrant institution was developed.

"**Klibur Domin Sharing with Love**" tells the story of the establishment, and first few years of operation, of the Ryder-Cheshire home in Timor Leste. Peter was among the group of Australians that managed Klibur Domin between 2000-2004, before operations were transferred to the Timorese people. He is still closely involved with its operations, and continues to work to drive fundraising for the incredible project.

To launch the book, Peter will visit

**Mt Gambier on 15 October 2014,
Ballarat on 11 November 2014, and
Melbourne on 19 November 2014, with plans for a Sydney event in 2015.**

The book will be available at each event and launches will be advertised locally, or contact Peter on peter.newton@ryder-cheshire.org or 03 9894 3191 for more information.



"**Klibur Domin Sharing with Love**" can also be ordered through your local group or by contacting Peter, at just \$10 a copy, plus \$4 postage. Peter looks forward to sharing his insights into Klibur Domin with you all, and thanking supporters for the invaluable contributions that have achieved so much.

RYDER-CESHIRE AUSTRALIA

Patron: His Excellency General the
Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd)

Founders:

**Group Captain Lord Cheshire
VC OM DSO DFC**

Lady Ryder of Warsaw CMG OBE

CONTACTS

National President

Peter Newton AO 03 9894 3191
peter.newton@ryder-cheshire.org

National Secretary

Anthea Swann 03 9877 7084
antheaswann@bigpond.com

Adelaide Friends

Patricia Frith 08 8556 2604
folly8@internode.on.net

Ballarat Support Group

Leo Rennie 03 5333 3111
leorennie@hotmail.com

Bendigo Support Group

Hugh Elphinstone 03 5443 1163
hugh_elphinstone@hotmail.com

Mt Gambier Home

Neville Gilbertson 08 8725 5510
kaynev62@bigpond.com

New South Wales

Christine Hannan 02 9416 7569
c.hannan@optusnet.com.au

Singleton Support Group

Patricia Bestic
patricia.bestic@bestilaw.com.au

South Australia

Rory McEwen 08 8725 2453
rorymce@bigpond.com

Victoria

Peter McConnell 03 9939 7501
marg.peter@optusnet.com.au

Victorian Homes Ivanhoe

Ivanhoe Home 03 9254 2400
Jill Moor 03 5422 2351
jillmoor@pics.com.au

Overseas Volunteers Co-ordinator

Susie Mackerras 02 9880 8094
rydercheshirevolunteersaust@gmail.com

Website Co-ordinator

Terry Warr
twarr@ozemail.com.au

Website

www.ryder-cheshire.org

Newsletter

Evelyn Petters 08 9349 5043
4 Arkana Way, Balcatta, WA 6021
petters@iinet.net.au

MELBOURNIANS – SAVE THE DATE !!

We loved "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel"

On Saturday 24th February 2015, we will be holding a

FILM AFTERNOON at 4:30PM

Showing the new release

"The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel"

If you have email, please consider

HELPING US REDUCE OUR PRINTING COSTS

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Every Little Bit Helps

THE KAFFEE KLASCHE Meeting for a coffee is routine in the 21st century lifestyle, but at Ulverstone on Tasmania's north-west coast, a group of locals is achieving a lot more than a caffeine fix.

The group's average age is 80 plus, and they've been meeting every Thursday morning since the early 1990s. **The laughter-loving girls - currently Mary, Kate, Jess, Rita, Sandra, Susan, Janelle and Pat** - love to catch up on local and international news, avidly share their reading habits, support each other through tough times, and are working to support others too.

In 1999, the group saw a Ryder-Cheshire Newsletter containing an article by then Victorian President Peter Newton which made them aware of the grim circumstances faced by sick, disadvantaged and disabled people outside Dili, in East Timor. The small nation was newly independent and suffering post-referendum unrest. Ryder-Cheshire was working to establish a home, Klibur Domin, to deliver shelter, medical attention, and training for these people. **The Kaffee Klasche** decided that each week, they would each donate \$2. The contributions went in a beige suede purse, and were the group's first commitment to support the work of Klibur Domin.

From that small decision the group fundraised through Christmas cards; former member **Nolene** contributed from her participation in the Open Garden scheme; **Kate** sold greengages from her garden, and **Mary** suggested saving five cent pieces.

Over 15 years, their efforts have added up - and their support has been invaluable. The placing of that gold coin in the little suede purse has **proven that EVERY LITTLE BIT DOES COUNT** in alleviating the suffering of those less fortunate.



Kath Myers from Geelong with Peter Newton

Decades of good fun and support

RCA IN GEELONG Established in May 1975 the Geelong Support Group was a vibrant fundraising arm of Ryder-Cheshire Australia, and their efforts impressed even the Founders themselves.

Geelong Support Group foundation president Vin Fitzgerald, secretary Ross Webb and treasurer Margaret Cody attracted diverse sponsors and supporters from across the region. Fundraisers included street stalls, theatre nights, bus trips, film screenings and open days at committee members' homes.

Members of the Polish community in Geelong were strong supporters, inspired by Sue Ryder's strong love for and assistance to the Polish people after WWII. **Mary Walta** was another very active committee member, and called on her Dutch community to support the group. Her work with Geelong continued until she became the first "House Mother" of the newly established Ryder-Cheshire Victorian Homes at Ivanhoe in Melbourne in 1981.

The group's fundraising over the years was colourful and successful. Events included a Parade of Fashions of Yesteryear featuring beautiful gowns and outfits from the 19th and early 20th centuries; a variety concert titled 'Close Up' and another concert - 'Talent Review 84'. All extremely well supported. Over the years, the Geelong Support Group raised many thousands of dollars to support the Raphael home in India.

In March 1979, Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder visited Geelong, and were greeted by the heaviest rainstorm seen there in many years. Wild weather did not deter the Geelong community, with more than 150 people attending a public reception. Leonard also spoke to more than a hundred Rotarians, and Sue visited and spoke at the Polish Club. They attended a Mayoral Reception and gave media interviews. Leonard returned on 16 September 1981 with his daughter Gigi. Both visits created a huge interest in Geelong, and resulted in an inflow of funds for Raphael.

Kath and Eric Myers had been involved with the Support Group since its inception. On 12 May 1980, Kath took over as president, later alternating with Vin Fitzgerald and Margaret Cody. Kath also held the positions of secretary and treasurer until Eric became ill in 2002, and it became necessary to wind up the Group. Vin, Margaret, Kath and Eric had been the glue that kept the group together. Sadly Eric passed away in 2004 and Kath now lives in a retirement home in Ballarat.

We sincerely thank the dedicated members of the Geelong Support Group for their commitment to Ryder-Cheshire and to Raphael for nearly three decades.

News from Raphael

Orphaned by the Floods

The floods of June 2013 in India's Uttarakhand State ravaged Kedar Valley in the Garhwal region. Many children were orphaned and homeless.

One such child aged 7 years, named Divya, was brought to Raphael.

Even 8 months after the fury of floods she was in a traumatic state, unable to speak a single word. Her only sound was crying. Our team found her to be intellectually disabled. We instantly adopted Divya as Raphael's girl. With all the love affection and care bestowed on her, she is picking up living skills and now is able to mix freely among other residents.



Community Rehabilitation Program (CBR)

Divya, Anjana and Nirmala our Resource persons have put their heart and soul into this programme which now benefits 99 children on the Shimla bypass. Our Early Intervention team, which goes to the CBR area two to three times a week, has brought tremendous improvement to the lives of smaller children.

From Barbara Cottage

Ashu, Chavi, Pooja and Komal have become fairly independent in their daily living and domestic activities. They enjoy each other's company and love to arrange impromptu parties for their outgoing friends. For this they love making costumes for themselves as well as designing them.

Work on the proposed cottage for independent living for boys (similar to the very successful Barbara Cottage) is nearing completion

Mount Gambier Rotary Team returns to help

In June a team representing Mt Gambier Rotary worked on several much needed projects, and made a big contribution in just two weeks to the new Rotary Cottage. Mt Gambier Rotary had already provided funds to employ local workers to replace roof and ceilings, repair damaged walls and windows, and prepare the external areas. The team completed most of the external and internal painting after intensive cleaning, and bought outdoor furniture. The cottage now provides comfortable accommodation.

They also transformed one of the general wards which had become rundown. They cleaned and repainted, repaired windows and flyscreens, with much interest from the patients! Ananias, a 20 year old long-term patient who has paraplegia and is largely confined to his bed, now has a much brighter and cleaner room for himself and his family carers.

Uma Barbara Cottage Improvements

(This cottage is home for a small group of people with disabilities)

Over the past twelve months living conditions of Uma Barbara have greatly improved due to the efforts of the AVI nurse mentor Maria, working with the staff towards more patient-centred care.

Carers working specifically with Uma Barbara's residents organise for them to eat meals together, and offer daily diversional activities. They ensure that residents have supplies such as hygiene products and clothes.

One resident, who previously stayed in her room and didn't talk, now speaks with others and is taken outside in a wheelchair, while another who had to be forcibly washed now washes herself and has started sleeping inside the house.

The residents are more content, and there is less aggression between them. It has been a challenge working with the nursing staff towards more patient-centred care, but the changes so far are very positive for residents and carers alike.



*The 2014 restored container, Campion College
Volunteers and Klibur Domin Staff*

Container Gets a Facelift

When Klibur Domin was established in September 2000 a container, funded by a generous member of the Lions Club of Nunawading, was sent across full of building materials for a Rotary team to effect repairs to the buildings; and furniture and equipment for the first contingent of volunteers set up the new home. The container arrived the day before the Rotary team and was transported to Klibur Domin on the back of a small tilt tray truck. The trailer was tilted backwards and the container slid off. Miraculously, not one item in the container was broken, including over two tonnes of glass to replace the broken windows.

A year later, a group of enthusiastic volunteers, Dianne McGrath, Wendy Smyrk and Mark Chapman, set about painting a colourful crocodile mural. The crocodile is the mythological grandfather and national emblem of Timor-Leste.

The container was subsequently fitted with an iron roof and internal shelving, to function as a storeroom. Some years on, it was relocated to a remote part of the complex and it fell into disrepair.

In 2013 an RCA volunteer, Siobhan Reeves, found the neglected container with its deteriorating mural. The administration office needed secure storage for documentation and Siobhan hoped that the container could be relocated, renovated and used for that purpose.

The opportunity came in 2014, when a small group of students from Campion College volunteered at KD for two weeks in July. Siobhan and her brother Liam were there in advance of the group. Liam organised the challenging but successful relocation of the container, avoiding power lines and fragile water pipes, into position alongside the main administration building.

Restoration was next - there were many holes in the roof, and unexpected torrential rain (in the middle of the dry season!) caused some havoc. Students were soaked trying to place plastic sheeting over the container at midnight, and later Liam undertook the difficult and noisy task of cutting a window in the container for ventilation.

Students Tobias, Anna and Cara all worked hard to seal the roof, put mesh and security bars in the window and reseal and repaint the exterior before they completely restored the original mural.

Finally secure, the group moved in shelves and a table, purchased plastic boxes for storage, and removed several geckos and one very cranky lizard! At Joaquim's request, the updated RCA logo and the names of the original painters of the container were included on the painting. The KD staff are very happy with the outcome, and it is wonderful that an important part of KD's history has been restored.

This Newsletter is edited and produced by Evelyn Petters
in West Australia

Email petters@iinet.net.au Tel (08 9349 5043)

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and the next issue

will be published in early April 2015

**Contributors should submit articles and photos by
e-mail to Evelyn Petters (petters@iinet.net.au)
by 1 April 2015**

NEW SPONSORS URGENTLY NEEDED !

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE IN RYDER-CHESHIRE'S HUMANITARIAN WORK

Sponsors are essential to allow us to maintain support and develop much needed programs at Raphael in India and Klibur Domin in East Timor

RAPHAEL

There are two ways you can become a sponsor:

- **Sponsor an individual resident:**
 - Regular updates about the sponsored resident's progress are provided from Raphael
- **Choose a program to sponsor from the following:**
 - **TB program.** There are 26 beds in the ward, together with an out-patient program treating over 2000 cases each year.
 - **Community Based Rehabilitation Program.** An outreach team supports children with disabilities in their villages.
 - **Day Care Centre Program.** Provides education and therapy to 160 children and adults with Disabilities

KLIBUR DOMIN

You can sponsor any of the following three programs:

- **Inpatient Services Program.** Provides care for patients recovering from illnesses and injuries.
- **TB Program.** Includes in-patient and out-patient services, a mobile TB Team, and a Multi Drug Resistant TB Ward
- **Community Based Rehabilitation Program.** An outreach team supports children with disabilities in their villages.

SPONSORSHIP COSTS

- The usual cost is \$1 per day, or \$365 per year, but sponsors may contribute less or more, if preferred.

Can you help?



HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Ryder-Cheshire Overseas Aid Fund is a Tax Deductible Gift Recipient (ABN 15 362 991 732), and all donations and sponsorship payments of \$2 and over are tax deductible. Please complete this form and post to:

Ryder-Cheshire Australia, PO Box 51, Glen Iris, Victoria 3146. A receipt will be posted to you.

I would like to make a donation of \$
- to be used where most needed ()
- to Klibur Domin in East Timor () *Tick one*
- to Raphael in Northern India ()

I am interested in becoming a Sponsor for \$365 or \$ (other amount) at
- Raphael () *Tick one*
- Klibur Domin ()

I would like information on how to make a Bequest to support the work of Ryder-Cheshire.

Name Address

Telephone (. . .) Email Address

My cheque for \$ is enclosed **OR** Here are my Credit Card details

Visa/Mastercard No - - - - / - - - - / - - - - / - - - - Expiry Date - - / - - Amount \$

Name on Card Signature