

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Following the retirement of Peter Newton, RCA National President for six years, we welcome our newly appointed President, RORY McEWEN, of South Australia.



In December 2016 Rory McEwen was appointed President of Ryder-Cheshire Australia for a two year term, succeeding Peter Newton. Rory has volunteered at Klibur Domin and plans to visit Raphael this year. He also plans to visit all our Foundations and Support Groups as time allows. Rory's wife Diane has been actively involved with Ryder Cheshire in Mount Gambier since 1972 and Rory is currently president of RCF SA.

After achieving degrees in agriculture and management Rory completed his national service, and began a career with the department of TAFE, ultimately becoming manager of TAFE's Rural and Horticultural Program in South Australia. Active in local government, in 1997 he was elected to the South Australian Parliament as an Independent and this was the start of a challenging and demanding new career in which he remained for six years. He held a range of portfolios including Agriculture Food and Wine, Forestry, Local Government and State Federal Relations.

After retiring, Rory joined a number of boards in private enterprise and government. He is very active in the community, serving as the President of his Lions Club this year, involved in Legacy, Ulysses, and events like Lions Mad Minute and the Christmas Toy Run. Two grandchildren have now added a new dimension to his and Diane's lives. He is looking forward to working with a talented board to build on the great foundations laid down by Peter Newton and his predecessors, focussing on the relief of suffering.

*Covering the first four months since his appointment, Rory gave this report at the recent meeting of the RCA Board.*

"As I ease into the role Peter Newton has chosen to step back from after six years, leading us with distinction, it is great to see how well the Board and the team at large perform. Everybody who has a role just seems to get on with it. You will see this in the individual reports presented to the AGM. I am mindful that any successful organisation needs to have an eye on continual renewal and continuous improvement. Both these topics will remain the theme for the Board and I trust equally for our Foundations, Support Groups, Homes and Friends Groups. There is no one right way, we all need to do what suits our specific circumstances, but equally learn from and share ideas with each other. The greatest challenge is always that of raising sufficient funds to support and grow our overseas homes. The Biennial Conference next year will again be a key occasion to share and grow and planning is well underway.

I am certainly looking forward to the year ahead. Di and I are hoping to catch up with as many of you as we can and I plan to visit Raphael in early October."

Kindest regards to you all. *Rory*

## IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to our new President	1
Thank you to Peter Newton	2
End of an Era	3
Contacts	3
Vale - Bhola	4
Raphael Story	4
An Amazing Experience	5
Volunteers Return	6
Vale Jill Moor	7
Supporting Ryder-Cheshire	8

## ADVANCE NOTICE

Planning is underway for the  
**2018 RYDER-CHESHIRE  
BIENNIAL CONFERENCE**

To be held  
**13 - 15 April 2018.**

At Ivanhoe  
**MELBOURNE**

Put the dates in your diary now and watch out for more details in the next Red Feather later in the year.

Ryder-Cheshire Australia gratefully acknowledges  
**David and Neil Coath,**  
of

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**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.

### IN DECEMBER 2016 PETER NEWTON AO STOOD DOWN AS PRESIDENT OF RCA AFTER SIX AND A HALF YEARS AT THE HELM.

Building on strong foundations laid by the previous President Dr Donald Sinclair OAM, Peter's time in office has been exemplified by continuing improvement in communication, co-operation and shared endeavour between Foundations and Support Groups. Ryder-Cheshire continued to mature from a collection of like minded but separate groups into a cohesive organisation with strong networks and shared aspirations for the overseas and Australian homes.



In 2000 while President of RCF Victoria, Peter wrote a paper entitled **'The Way Ahead'** which made the case for extending the work of Ryder-Cheshire into Timor Leste, our close neighbour in dire need of assistance. This move was embraced by the organisation as a pathway to renewal. Our supporter base increased, Raphael benefited

accordingly, and from rugged beginnings Klibur Domin (KD) has flourished.

As President of RCA Peter led from the front and nurtured the ideals of our Founders. We thank him for his vision and leadership.

Peter continues to serve in the role of National Project Officer (Timor Leste) with responsibility for Klibur Domin. He is on both the Board of Directors of RCA and the Board of Management of Klibur Domin, and maintains a close advisory relationship with the Director of Klibur Domin, Joaquim Soares.

### The following thanks to Peter on his retirement as National President, are just a few from individual Ryder-Cheshire supporters and groups across Australia and overseas

*"On behalf of the Board of Management, staff, patients and their families please accept our thanks and appreciation for your excellent commitment and dedication to Ryder Cheshire and Klibur Domin. We thank you for your great leadership and dedication and in particular during the last six years as National President of Ryder Cheshire"*

**Joaquim Soares, Klibur Domin**

*"Luckily for all of us Peter is going nowhere, rather he has chosen to share the load a bit and focus more of his time on Klibur Domin as it goes from strength to strength. He is a wonderful asset to RCA"*

**Rory McEwen, RCA National President**

*"Since assuming presidency of the Homes at Ivanhoe I've come to know Peter quite well and have been most impressed with his loyalty to Ryder-Cheshire and particularly to RCA's Klibur Domin commitment. It is my privilege to know him and I wish him all the very best in his continued association with Ryder-Cheshire Australia and Klibur Domin"*

**Don Hamilton, Ivanhoe, Victoria**

*"I first met Peter when he came to Bendigo to solicit donations from Rotary Clubs for Klibur Domin. It has been a privilege to support Ryder-Cheshire Australia with Peter at the helm. Peter and Helen are always kind and caring and I am proud to call them my friends".*

**Hugh Elphinstone, Bendigo Support Group, Victoria**

*"On behalf of the NSW Committee, I would like to extend our warmest thanks to Peter for his untiring leadership of RCA, wholehearted commitment to the work of the Foundation and wonderful devotion to our Timor-Leste project. On a personal note, I offer my deep appreciation for his guidance, patience and support offered to me during the time of his Presidency. We are very fortunate that he has agreed to continue to play a role in the Foundation's future".*

**Chris Hannan, President RCF NSW**

*"Peter, when I first met you at the Sydney Biennial Conference, some few years back, it was your encouragement to become involved that gave me the motivation to really get in and do work for the relief of suffering. At that Conference, I spoke about Ryder-Cheshire becoming more involved in our schools with the young people and you responded by saying, "Dianne that is a job for you, go ahead and do it." I was amazed at your trust and belief that a new comer to the organization was given immediate permission to get going. And that is what I did with the Ballarat Support Group"*

**Dianne McGrath, Ballarat Support Group, Victoria**

..... **And Father Ted Burns refers to "PETERS DREAM"**

*To visit Klibur Domin is to see a dream realized...Peter's dream...and like all Ryder-Cheshire people, I'm proud to be part of it, as it continues to grow and flourish. It was no surprise to me that Peter's dream worked, his administrative skills were highly respected in the RAAF. But there was much more than that...as a Commanding Officer Peter had what every Chaplain (literally) prays for in a leader, a genuine concern for the people under his command. This is what Peter Newton brought to broken Timor Leste in 2000...and the benefits for the people of Klibur Domin region are incalculable.*

**(Father) Ted Burns, Victoria**

## END OF AN ERA - Singleton Home closes

By Ann Boyd

In February 1979, Leonard Cheshire spoke at the Combined Service Clubs Dinner in Singleton and referred to seeing young physically disabled people in nursing homes before their time, and the need for a group house for the 18 to 35 age group.



Thereon, we formed the Singleton Ryder-Cheshire Support Group (umpteenth cake stalls, art shows, etc.) The local community and service clubs were generous. We sold cards and sponsored Raphael residents.

In April 1985, after years of fund-raising, we purchased "Locksley", a six bedroom 1890 weatherboard house with a large garden and back lane access, not far from the shopping centre and the RSL Club. The announcement was made with both Leonard and Sue present. The house was ramped and renovated to allow total access for someone with up to a T6 paraplegia. On the 30th November 1985, with neither of our Founders able to attend, we officially opened the home with a pottery exhibition by Sonja Witt, who had run the first Singleton Pre-School in this house. In 1992, we created a memorial garden on the death of Leonard Cheshire, with Air Marshal Jake Newham, Josephine Collins, Barbara Lewis and Joan Usher in attendance. In 2000, we unveiled another plaque on the death of Sue Ryder.

Over the years, 75 people have benefited either as long term, short-term, or overnight residents. Many availed of the local Home Care Service which extended to personal care. One person, mute and quadriplegic, stayed eight years, and went tandem sky-diving at weekends. There was a period where we partnered with Hunter Carer Respite to give carers a break. Residents loved the home, the garden, the space, and the comparative independence we offered. There were nine years when Witmore Enterprises used the facility for Daily Living Skills programs for young adults with developmental disabilities. There were three eras of the house being occupied by families in need because of a heavily disabled member, including a young family with a boy with quadriplegia and four other children. For two and a half years, Integrated Living facilitated their community advisory services, occasional overnight respite accommodation and craft, cooking, gardening and education courses for aboriginal groups.

Unfortunately, with the recent NDIS changes to disability pensions, care-giving facilitators can no longer commit to agreements and no occupants were forthcoming. After 31 years (37 years for our aging committee), we made the huge decision to sell the home.

Leonard Cheshire said "If too many obstacles present, you are on the wrong track of the LP record". IT WAS TIME. The proceeds of sale and all of our funds are being distributed to Ryder-Cheshire projects - Raphael, Klibur Domin, Mt. Gambier home and Nardy House in Bega.

## RYDER-CHESHIRE AUSTRALIA

### Patron:

His Excellency, General the Honourable  
Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Ret).  
Governor General of the  
Commonwealth of Australia

### Founders:

Group Captain Lord Cheshire of Woodhall  
VC OM DSO DFC  
and Lady Ryder of Warsaw CMG OBE

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by e-mail to [petters@inet.net.au](mailto:petters@inet.net.au)

by 13 OCTOBER 2017

VALE

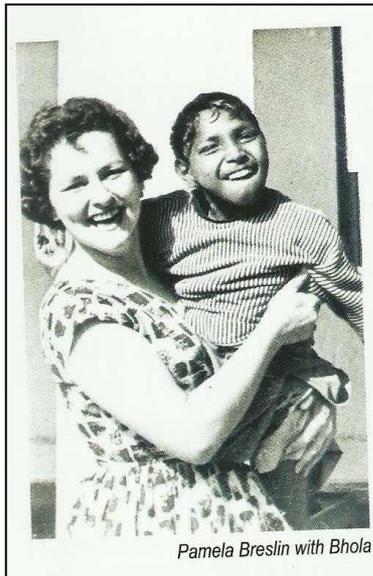
**BHOLA The gentle man who touched so many hearts**

**It is with a heavy heart, we inform you about the sad demise of Bhola, one of our permanent residents who came to Raphael in 1959, the year of our establishment and left for his heavenly abode on 2nd January 2017.**

Life has unexpected twists and turns and often what seems to be the very end may turn out to be the beginning of a beautiful story – a story of reaching out, of love and care, of helping hands extended in assistance to fellow travellers in life’s remarkable journey. Such has been the story of Bhola’s life. It is one which touches the well spring of human compassion, tenderness in human interaction and it spans countries.

Bhola’s story begins with pain and rejection: a handicapped four year old left to die on the railway tracks by despairing parents dejected perhaps by the challenges of poverty and of the child’s physical weakness.

The story dramatically becomes one of divine intervention as an alert Railway Driver jams brakes at the very last moment to save the life of the child. It then weaves through the patient and determined efforts of the newly established Raphael institution (1959) in bringing up Bhola – a victim of severe spasticity, who had severe speech limitations and was completely dependent on others for all his needs.



Pamela Breslin with Bhola

It was indeed remarkable that despite his severe physical limitations Bhola had learnt to paint holding the paintbrush in his mouth. Protected and sustained physically, Bhola was also nurtured emotionally. Residents of Raphael loved Bhola like an elder sibling, volunteers were concerned for him, teachers supported him.

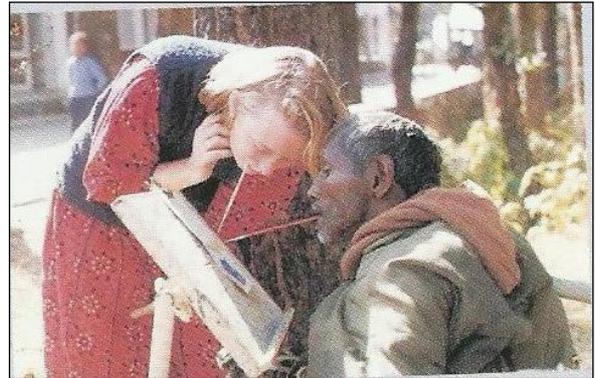


Bhola as a young man

Love, Concern, Support, that is how one defines a family. Bhola found one in Raphael. In his willingness to engage with life, Bhola imparted the lesson of strength and courage. Many volunteers and visitors have written in to share how Bhola has impacted their lives. Anne and Phillip Boyd recall being told by Pam Harrison (who in 1959 had started Ava Vihar) how Bhola was able to recognize her at the 2009 Golden Jubilee and even addressed her as “teacher”.

As the first inmate of Raphael, Bhola’s life has illustrated the efforts of Raphael - patience, steadiness and determination in meeting huge odds.

In the words of Peter Newton  
*“Bhola personified the spirit of Raphael”*



Bhola painting with volunteer Claire

**EMPLOYMENT FOR SANDEEP**

Empowerment for our residents and students has always been at the core of all efforts at Raphael. We attempt to build their self-esteem, strengthen and develop their social skills to enhance their communication and interaction with the world.

Sandeep Gauniyal is a young 22 year old associated with Raphael since 2006. Sandeep’s father has died and his mother is a housewife. Sandeep is intellectually challenged and has been part of the candle making training unit at Raphael, attempting to learn skills which can help him to steadily build his sense of self and his confidence. It is a joy to report that today Sandeep has found employment as a gardener in Doon Girl’s school, situated nearby.

Gardening is a creative endeavor and interaction with nature is soothing. Work can provide Sandeep with a sense of satisfaction and achievement. Doon School is a compassionate organization who already employ another resident of Raphael and Sandeep presently works under his supervision. Working under a familiar person can ease the stress and difficulty of a coping with a new environment and new responsibilities. Raphael continues to support Sandeep and each week a staff member of Raphael visits him at work.

**We wish Sandeep well in his newfound vocation**

Since returning home to North East Victoria at the beginning of April I have been reflecting on my three year experience supporting the tuberculosis (TB) program at Klibur Domin (KD). I often find myself smiling as a memory pops into my mind. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work alongside the staff involved with the TB program. The commitment and resilience of the TB program staff will remain a fond memory and will provide an ongoing source of inspiration.

**I have completed two volunteer assignments with KD as part of the Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) program, funded by the Australian Government.**

My TB Program Management Mentor roles involved working alongside the KD staff in various areas such as program



planning and proposal writing, activity implementation and financial management, and monitoring and reporting. I also assisted with the development of TB education materials and a four-day TB training module for health

volunteers, and supported the lab staff to roll out the GenEXpert TB diagnostic technology.

**The AVID program focusses on capacity development, and sharing of knowledge is a key component of this.** I have learnt a lot about TB during the past three years from the KD staff, Ministry of Health staff and World Health Organization (WHO) consultants. I have also learnt a lot about the culture, history and pride of the Timorese people.

I have learnt to speak some of the Tetun language and, although basic, it has been enough to communicate every day and this has helped with building relationships, gaining a better understanding of the people and achieving the best

results that I could in my roles at KD. On a more personal level, I have learnt a lot through my time at KD about patience, diplomacy, importance of community and adaptability.

I have enjoyed working closely with the TB program staff to try and better understand the multiple reasons that contribute to Timor Leste having one of the highest rates of TB in South East Asia. There are some common issues that are often discussed such as: people living remotely in mountainous areas



with poor road access; limited health knowledge of the community; delayed health care-seeking behaviour; traditional healers being first contact for people that are sick; lack of TB related knowledge by health facility staff; and the difficulty getting samples to laboratory for diagnoses.

**One of the biggest learning experiences has been supporting KD to become a sub-recipient of the Ministry of Health and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.**

This has assisted KD in implementing the TB program. I helped to write the program proposal in 2014 and in April 2016 the program commenced. As with any new program, there are new requirements from the donor, expanded areas of implementation, different ways of measuring program success and different financial reporting requirements.

There has also been recruitment, training and monitoring of new staff. I am happy to have been involved from the early stages of the program with the new donor, from planning to implementation, and have learnt a lot that will be invaluable in future work.

There is still a lot of work to be done in Timor-Leste, but I am hopeful that **the current international TB motto 'Unite to end TB'** will be realised in the coming years. I am excited to see the progress and results that the KD TB team has achieved and I look forward to follow the progress into the future.

Through my time at KD I have learnt a lot about TB and I hope in the future to continue working in this area, particularly in Timor-Leste and South East Asia where TB rates remain high and many individuals, families and communities are impacted.

**There are many TB cases that go undiagnosed and this is the challenge for all involved, but with a united approach it is possible to 'END TB'.**



### My Volunteer time at Klibur Domin *From David*

When I left Klibur Domin in November 2016 a lot of what was going through my mind concerned “what hadn’t been done”. There were some specific tasks on the agenda from day one. Tasks identified by others, tasks that could lead to giving real assistance to the Director.

Snr Joaquim Soares, Director of KD, was the perfect host. Briefing me the first day he took me around the campus, an orientation walk, and an introduction to a few of those on staff. Then into his office for the specifics about how best to use my time to help him. Over the next two days I met most of the staff. This, between reading lots of notes written by previous volunteers.

My role very much depended on access to information supplied by admin and finance staff. I was very grateful for their input. Early on I came to value the fact that their knowledge of English was vital to success of the job at hand. Key people around the KD site were working on a variety of projects within the compound and it was Joaquim’s desire that some of these projects could do with a helping hand. A new bore and pump needed to be commissioned, a massive 190 metre drain was being constructed along the front to carry the deluge in the monsoons and two new buildings were underway. Add to that a new front fence, entrance and cattle grid and I could see I was going to be spending as much time outside of the office as inside. My role was simply estimating the projects, drawing a few plans and getting the material on site. By the end of my stay I was on first name terms with the guys at the hardware and steel stores.

The new water bore delivered more clean water than ever before much to the delight of all the residents. A few weeks, a few new pipes and plumbing bits and it was working perfectly. The drain was finished and KD tradies started on the new Clinic. A local contractor was hired to do the new front fence and work began. Security for the residents was paramount, patients, young people and some residents are vulnerable, their safety is vital.

The compound sometimes looked like a farmyard, cattle grazing, pigs digging up the ground and goats eating anything and everything. “We need a cattle grid!” After much designing and drawing we were ready to contract out the job. As the construction of the grid drew to a close it was time to get all the animals out before the final stage went ahead, ie “the grid”. Picture 15 people trying to herd sundry animals, never been herded before, through a gate. Somehow grid installed, no more animals.

There were other jobs in the pipeline but my time was up. Finance reporting was now occurring weekly and Richard from Ballarat arrived to take on both the new project and enhance the role in finance and admin. Not everything on the list got done but everything that was done allowed Joaquim to get on with his job.

I met some fabulous people, had the experience of working in what they call a “post conflict” country and from my cosy little home in Ballarat, I can appreciate how a little help can make a difference.

### “ Welcomed with warm East Timorese hospitality ”

*From Louis and Corey*

In January and February 2017, we were given the chance to go and volunteer at Klibur Domin. From the moment we were picked up at the airport we were welcomed with warm East Timorese hospitality from all the staff and locals. Despite supposedly being wet season, we were able to do a considerable amount. Our first project was to re-paint and make some minor improvements to Uma Barbara (Barbara Cottage) both inside and out. After finishing that task (which we had fundraised), we helped Gregorio and the maintenance guys doing activities such as mowing all compounds lawns and fixing windows.

Our highlight however, was our last weekend when we took the children of St Damian’s Respite ward to the beach.



It was lovely to see the smiles on their faces. Our time there, despite being short, was very enjoyable and we loved every second of it!

Not only the volunteering side, but also the things volunteers can see and at weekends. We thank everybody at Ryder Cheshire and Klibur Domin for giving us this opportunity of a lifetime.



*Photos above  
From Louis and  
Corey*



*Photo left  
From  
David*

**VALE**

**JILL MOOR,  
Secretary of Victorian Homes, Ivanhoe, Victoria.**

“Last November, without warning, Ryder-Cheshire Victorian Homes Foundation Inc lost its secretary, Jill Moor. Jill was a wonderful person, hard-working, devoted, committed, efficient, considerate of others, caring and always ready to acknowledge individual efforts.



Jill was a tireless worker for the Ivanhoe Homes and was personally involved in almost all of its developments and growth over the years. She fought cancer for many years but never allowed it to get in her way. She battled the disease with a determined, phlegmatic approach. She seemed to ignore it, almost as if it were a minor annoyance and she wasn't going to let it get in her way.

We all knew the end would come some time, but when it came, it was swift and far too early. I'm sure I speak for all the members of the Ryder-Cheshire family when I say her passing leaves a large hole in our collective hearts. Jill is sorely missed. ”

*Don Hamilton (Chairman Ryder-Cheshire Homes)*

“Jill was a warm and energetic person and made a huge contribution to Ryder-Cheshire over many years, including involvement with numerous conferences as well as the Ivanhoe Homes. Jill had battled with cancer for several years but sadly the end came quickly.

We are all very sad at her passing.

*Anthea Swann, National Secretary RCA.*

**NEWS FROM BALLARAT**



**Ballarat volunteers proudly holding their Certificates of Appreciation after volunteering overseas.**  
*l to r Derek who went to Raphael, Di and Richard who went to Klibur Domin, Absent from the photo are Robert who volunteered at Raphael and David who volunteered at Klibur Domin*

**CURRENT MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD OF RYDER-CHESHIRE AUSTRALIA IS :**

- National President* **Rory McEwen**
- National Project Officer (Timor-Leste)*  
*Peter Newton AO*
- Vice President and RCF NSW President*  
*Christine Hannan*
- Treasurer, Company Secretary & Public Officer*  
*Peter Colliver*
- National Secretary* **Anthea Swann**
- President RCF SA* **Rory McEwen**
- President RCF VIC* **Michael Moignard**
- President Mount Gambier Home* **Neville Gilbertson**
- President Victorian Homes* **Donald Hamilton**
- National Project Officer (India)* **Susie Mackerras**
- President RCFVic Ballarat SG* **Dianne McGrath**

**RECEIVE YOUR “RED FEATHER” BY EMAIL**

You will need Adobe Reader which can be downloaded free from the internet.  
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 or email **Susie Mackerras**  
[rydercheshirevolunteersaust@gmail.com](mailto:rydercheshirevolunteersaust@gmail.com)

**RENEWALS OF SPONSORSHIPS AND OTHER DONATIONS.**

The back page of this Newsletter provides information on how to make payments and donations to Ryder-Cheshire Australia. There are new options available to pay by credit card online.

## HOW YOU CAN SHARE IN RYDER-CHESHIRE'S HUMANITARIAN WORK

Sponsorships and donations are **URGENTLY NEEDED** and essential to allow us to maintain, support and develop much needed programs at Raphael in India and Klibur Domin in Timor-Leste

### ABOUT SPONSORSHIPS

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

#### Raphael

**Sponsor an individual resident.** Regular updates about the sponsored resident's progress are provided from Raphael.

**Or 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 annually.
- \* **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.



## CHOOSE HOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO 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. A receipt will be posted to you.

Please complete this form and post to: **Ryder-Cheshire Australia, PO Box 51, Glen Iris, Victoria 3146.**

- I would like to make a donation of \$ . . . . .
- to be used where most needed ( )
  - to Klibur Domin in Timor-Leste ( ) *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 ( )

If you tick this box, a Sponsorship Secretary will be in touch to arrange details

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

Name . . . . . Address . . . . .

Telephone ( . . . ) . . . . . Email Address . . . . .

## PAYMENT OPTIONS

- My **cheque** for \$ . . . . . is enclosed
- My **credit card** details are:
- Visa/MasterCard No - - - - / - - - - / - - - - / - - - - Expiry Date - - / - - Amount \$ . . . . .
- Name on Card . . . . . Signature . . . . .
- Credit card online:** go to the website **GiveNow** then follow the prompts and pay by your **credit card or direct debit**. A tax deductible receipt will be sent directly from GiveNow.
- Direct deposit:** go to our website - **ryder-cheshire.org**

Complete the details and click 'Send'. Then go to your internet banking site and transfer your donation to Ryder-Cheshire using the BSB and Account Number provided on the RCA website.