



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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Newsletter

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RYDER-CHESHIRE AUSTRALIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

National President	Don Sinclair (also Ryder-Cheshire Victorian Homes member)
Treasurer	Peter Colliver
RCF New South Wales member	Jayne Robinson
RCF ACT member	Dennis Sleigh
RCF Victoria member	Peter Newton
RCF South Australia member	Patricia Frith
RCF Mt Gambier Homes member	Neville Gilbertson
Acting National Secretary	Anthea Swann

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2008 Biennial Conference News 11-13 April 2008 hosted by Ballarat Support Group

Friday 11th April 2008 Mayoral Reception
at Ballarat Town Hall, Sturt Street, Ballarat.

**Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th April 2008
Annual General Meeting and Conference**
Sovereign Park Conference Centre, Main Road, Ballarat.
Saturday Evening 12th April 2008 Conference Dinner
Sovereign Hill Historical Park, Bradshaw Street, Ballarat

**State Foundations & Support Groups
will soon receive the initial details**

OVERSEAS CONTACTS

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**The Association gratefully acknowledges David Coath, of
PROMPT DISTRIBUTION PTY LTD, West Heidelberg, Victoria, who
most generously arranges and pays for the distribution
of this Newsletter.**

FROM OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Don Sinclair

As reported in our previous newsletter, **Ryder-Cheshire Australia was incorporated on 12 February 2007 as a not-for-profit public company under the Corporations Act.** The Ryder Cheshire Australia board met at the Ryder-Cheshire Victorian Homes in Ivanhoe on 14 April 2007.

The incorporated status of RCA places our national organization on a very firm legal footing for the future. The members of RCA are the State and Territory Foundations together with the Mt Gambier and Victorian Homes. The ex-officio Directors are the President of each Foundation or their nominee. The Board has the power to appoint additional directors and has appointed Mr Peter Colliver, our National Treasurer, Public Officer and Company Secretary as a Director.

The status of each member foundation is not affected by the incorporation of our former unincorporated Australia Association of Ryder-Cheshire Foundations. Each member foundation is a not-for-profit association incorporated under the relevant state or territory legislation.

The principal function of RCA is to support the mission of our late founders in the relief of suffering, and particularly to co-ordinate our support of 'Raphael' at Dehradun in northern India and 'Klibur Domin' in Timor Leste.

Mrs Melody Symthe has been appointed as our project officer for 'Raphael' and Air Commodore Peter Newton (Retd), Victorian President and a director of 'Klibur Domin', is also our project officer.

There is a substantial capital investment in the facilities at 'Raphael' and many of these buildings have suffered from the ravages of the harsh climate. They now require urgent maintenance to guarantee their future use in providing the physical facilities for our mission. **RCA has agreed to provide funds for these urgent essential maintenance works at 'Raphael'.**

The visit by Joaquim Soares, manager of 'Klibur Domin', to 'Raphael' in 2006 has provided an exciting insight for Joaquim as he works hard in a very difficult political and security environment to develop the various facilities and community outreach projects in Timor Leste.



I was privileged to lead a Ryder-Cheshire program to India in March. Thirteen supporters, and six participants (who had no previous association with Ryder-Cheshire), participated in the 21-day program. The highlight was a three-day visit to Dehradun and 'Raphael'. Participants were briefed on all aspects of 'Raphael' and enjoyed the opportunity to visit all units at 'Raphael' to observe the many activities and therapy programs. Air Marshal Bri-jesh Jayal, Chairman of the 'Raphael' Council, and Mrs Manju Jayal

were generous hosts at a dinner in their home for all our group plus 'Raphael' Council members and their spouses and senior management staff. **There was also an opportunity to visit two 'Raphael' community outreach projects in rural villages** where programs are provided for groups of physically and/or mentally challenged children and their families. These programs in very poor villages are a significant mission for Ryder-Cheshire. Following their visit to 'Raphael' participants were able to enjoy the highlights of Delhi, Jaipur, Agra, Varanasi and Mumbai.

Preparations are well underway for our next Biennial Conference in April 2008. Our very enthusiastic Ballarat Support Group is organizing this event and a detailed business and social program is being finalized. I look forward to meeting many of our supporters in Ballarat. Keep up the good work.

Don Sinclair

ODYSSEY EXCURSION TO INDIA

from Trish Frith (South Australia)

The Odyssey excursion to India was a one in a million experience. **Don Sinclair the National President**, a calm and organised leader with a great sense of humor helped nineteen of us enjoy a very special adventure. For me the return to Raphael after thirteen years was particularly beneficial for two reasons:

Firstly the progress and stability at the village under very sound leadership, was a joy to experience and partake of generous friendly hospitality. The sun shone after the rain the night previously and everything was fresh. Secondly, **to be reunited with Dhanvir, his wife and their two girls was a very emotional time. The Frith family sponsored Dhanvir, a five year old son of a leprosy couple in 1970 till he went to work in a local company "Tata" as a mechanic. He married Sushilla also from Little White House.** The family live in their home in the Rispanna river bed adjacent to Raphael. Sushilla has also worked as a teacher at Raphael. The girls attend school in the local town outside the village which was not an option for their parents. I continue as an acting Grandmother/Mum.



*Photo above—Trish Frith with her Indian "family".
Photo left, the group tour at Raphael, led by Don Sinclair.*

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
NOVEMBER 2007 ISSUE should be sent by e-mail to
Chris Lopez mlop2429@bigpond.net.au
by 15 October 2007*

NEWS FROM TIMOR-LESTE

From Helen Trueman, Klibur Domin Support Person



Security within Timor seems to be fairly stable at the moment. Presidential elections and Parliamentary elections of 30th June 2007 will hopefully provide the circumstances

for Timor-Leste to once again focus on the task of Nation building. Ryder-Cheshire Australia is committed to assisting the Timorese people for as long as we are welcomed and needed.

Seprosetil Security, a Timorese company, was engaged in December 2006 to assist with compound security at Klibur Domin. Staff, Patients and Volunteers have been happy with this service. A recent decision was made to extend that contract until September 2007.

On the 19th April **Dr Rui Araujo** (Chairman of BoM of Klibur Domin, the Vice-Prime Minister and Minister for Health) made an official visit to Klibur Domin. This visit was covered by the local press and highlighted the work that Ryder Cheshire Australia and Klibur Domin are doing to assist the Hospital, Clinics and community.

Following are some comments made by a volunteer at Klibur Domin.

"Thank you for letting me be part of the Klibur Domin experience. The good things I will take away with me are:

- **Recently two staff began training in allied health roles at the Academy of Health Polytechnic in Surakarta, Indonesia.** One is training as an Occupational Therapist and the other as a Physiotherapist. The training is for three years and the students will be bound to work with Klibur Domin for three years on completion of their training. The total cost is estimated to be \$US 2,000 per student per year. We wish them well in their studies.
- **UK Target TB has funded two Community Health Promoters.** Klibur Domin has employed two nurses to fill these roles. The staff recruit and train community volunteers and forty seven community volunteers from nine villages have shown interest in this program. The role of the volunteer is to support the TB program in their community ".

If anyone is interested in sponsoring a bed at Klibur Domin, please contact your State/Local Sponsorship Secretary. Sponsorships of \$365 a year are tax deductible and help to ensure that the valuable work being undertaken in Timor-Leste can continue.

RAPHAEL

From Melody Smythe, Raphael Project Officer

In January this year, CHRIS HANNAN, A NEW SOUTH WALES COMMITTEE MEMBER AND HER HUSBAND GRAEME, visited Raphael. They spoke about their experiences there at the Annual New South Wales Fundraising Dinner and delivered a glowing report about the many wonderful projects and developments taking place at Raphael to assist its many residents and clients.

ANNE BOYD, RYDER-CHESHIRE'S VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR also visited Raphael earlier this year. She had been a volunteer in the early life of Raphael and had not been back in eighteen years. Anne also was most impressed with the work being carried out there, especially with the focus on Ava Vihar and special education.

At the inaugural Board Meeting of the "Ryder-Cheshire Australia" National Committee in April 2007, a decision was reached to approve two grants for capital works urgently needed at Raphael. This will benefit the many adults and children who use the various buildings and services being provided by Raphael both now and in the long term. **OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT, DON SINCLAIR,** informed Air Marshal Brijesh Jayal of our decision and Brijesh responded by saying how delighted and grateful they were that we are able to provide this much needed financial help.

Raphael has also been asked to identify any Projects that are humanitarian in nature, no matter how small, that may assist those who are suffering or whose quality of life may be improved by enabling these projects to proceed, IF ANY OF THE RYDER CHESHIRE COMMITTEES ARE ABLE TO ASSIST IN ANY WAY WITH FUTURE PROJECTS PLEASE CONTACT ME BY EMAIL ON dsmythe@smythewozniaklegal.com.au



Raphael Team at the Special Olympics in Dehradun March 07

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 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.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

From Margaret Blaber, Secretary.

The SA Foundation is going through a quiet time although the ongoing background work continues, the card shop, the sponsorships, accounts and general administration work. Following the start of the financial year on 1st April, subscriptions and generous donations have been received from members and supporters in both SA and WA. The prompt response is very much appreciated.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 15th May. Nicholas Blunt resigned as the official Treasurer, although he will continue to assist the Secretary with the financial records. All other officers of the committee were re-elected. In her report, Patricia Frith stated that as the SA President, she is now a Director of Ryder-Cheshire Australia Ltd and attended the inaugural meeting of the new Board in April. Patricia and Vice-President Judith Weston took part in the Indian Odyssey tour in March, under the guidance of National President Don Sinclair. It was a first Indian visit for Judith, but a second for Patricia (*see article on Page 2*). The report stated that it was hoped to lodge the records of the SA Foundation of the past 37 years with the Mortlock Library. This proposal is being investigated. The achievements since inauguration in 1970 have enabled the commitments to Raphael and Klibur Domin to be maintained and this has been possible through the dedication of the committee, the supporters and members. In conclusion, Patricia thanked all members of the committee for the support she has received over the last 12 months.

Margaret Blaber and Judith Weston attended the Walford Anglican School for Girls in May, and were presented with a handsome cheque. The Year 12 students at the School have held an annual fundraiser for the Foundation for over 20 years and have contributed significantly to the work of Ryder-Cheshire.

Card Shop. The Shop in the Southern Arcade is now open all-year round. The SA Foundation continues to offer cards for all occasions, as well as craft items. Members who are in the city are encouraged to 'drop in' and browse.

Fundraising. The annual BBQ will be held in November at the popular Sturt Cottage Museum. Notices of this will be sent to all members in due course.

Congratulations Dr Mark Harold Moore, Member and Supporter of the SA Foundation for many years, who was awarded the AM in the June Honours List for service to plastic, reconstructive and rehabilitation surgery, humanitarian specialist surgical services in East Timor and Indonesia, professional development and education. He has travelled to East Timor 20 times since 2000 and also made 12 trips to some of Indonesia's poorest provinces. South

NEW SOUTH WALES

From Jayne Robinson, President.

The annual fund raising dinner was held on 5th May 2007 at Saint Ignatius College, Riverview. We were down on numbers this year due to different reasons but the evening was a success in raising funds. There have been very favourable comments about the evening as the food was excellent and the young Killara High School Chamber orchestra played beautifully. Unfortunately our guest speaker Fr Frank Brennan, fell seriously ill during the week of the dinner. We wish him a full recovery. Chris Hannan, a committee member, kindly stood in at the last minute and spoke about her trip to Raphael in January 2006.

As it turned out, we were fortunate to have a second speaker on the evening. One of our dinner committee members had been to a talk regarding Timor Leste, held on the Thursday before the dinner. A very interesting gentleman, **Mr Jay Maheswaran, who had worked for Caritas in Timor Leste** spoke at that meeting. We asked Mr Maheswaran if he could possibly speak at the fund raising event we were holding and he kindly accepted. It was a most informative and educational presentation on the situation in Timor Leste. Grateful thanks go to both our guest speakers and to Graeme Hannan for being the MC on the night.

Other fund raising events during the year are a Hickory Stick Golf Day held in June and a Card Day being organised later in the year. Both these events are due to the inspiration of our committee members Helen and John Ayliffe.

Helen and John have held the sponsorship role over a number of years now. Due to personal reasons they have had to resign from the committee and as sponsorship secretary. They will be missed amongst our committee but as you can see they are both continuing their support of The Ryder Cheshire Foundation in a very positive way. Many thanks must go to John and Helen for their dedication and commitment as supporters in so many ways over the past thirty years.

Moira Truskett has kindly volunteered to be the Sponsorship Secretary, so any correspondence in regards to your sponsorships should now be directed to her. **The contact details are: Moira Truskett, Tel 02 9523 7483. Postal address: 67 Dominic St, Cronulla, NSW, 2230**

VICTORIA

From Peter McConnell, Vice President.

The year 2007 commenced rather quietly, with more than half of our members away from Melbourne for varying periods of time. Four committee members joined the Odyssey Tour of India, 26th February to 11th March, under the leadership of the President of Ryder-Cheshire Australia, Dr Don Sinclair. The tour included a two-day visit to Raphael.

Odyssey Tour of India

A total of twenty persons were on the tour, thirteen from Victoria, with eleven having some prior involvement with Ryder-Cheshire. The tour commenced in Delhi, going on from there to Raphael by train. After our return to Delhi, we travelled the Delhi-Jaipur-Agra, 'golden triangle' by bus. We flew to Varanasi, then to Mumbai to conclude our tour.

To observe the history, culture and heritage of India is a most incredible experience. It is a populous country with much harmony amongst the people, in spite of their different levels in society, and the poverty that is evident.

The highlight of the tour was undoubtedly our two day visit to Raphael. For those of us visiting for the first time, all that we had read and heard about Raphael had not equipped us to witness such a positive and dynamic organisation.

All residents, staff and the Board were on hand to greet us, and proudly show us all aspects of the complex which is spread over twenty four acres, and indeed there was genuine excitement from the residents and staff about our visit. **Highlights included a concert by the residents, the quality of care provided to residents by the staff, the happiness that pervaded Raphael, and the Community Based Rehabilitation outreach program to disabled children living in remote villages.** We had the opportunity to visit a rural village, and to witness the programs, acceptance by the elders, and the gratitude of the parents and families for what Raphael is doing for their children.

The hospitality extended to our group, from Mrs Shobha Bakhshi and her daughter Sunita, Air Marshall Jayal, Brigadier Sinha, Directors and staff, was a genuine thank you for Australia's support over many years, and our continuing involvement with Raphael.

Activities

A number of **presentations to community groups** about Ryder-Cheshire have already been given this year, with a further four planned in July and August to the Uniting Church Women's Fellowship, and Rotary and Probus groups. A successful **Bridge Day** was held on 18th April, enjoyed by all who participated. We will be manning the Mt Waverley **Lions Club Op Shop** in August and December.

BALLARAT SUPPORT GROUP

A Bead Workshop with Jewellery making

(Under the guidance of Rachel from "Rings on her Fingers")

Will be held on Saturday 25th August 2007

at the RSL Memorial Hall,
Birdwood Ave. & Beverin St.

Sebastopol **from 1.30 – 4.30 pm**

For further Information please contact
03 5331 9517 Dianne • 03 5331 8898 Janice •

or 03 5335 7136 Dorothy
Refreshments Available