



Ryder-Cheshire News

NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATIONS

"For the Relief of Suffering"

FOUNDERS:- Group Captain Lord Cheshire, VC, OM, DSO, DFC: Lady Ryder of Warsaw, CMG, OBE.
NATIONAL PATRON:- His Excellency Major-General Michael Jeffery, AC CVO MC (Retd)
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Secretary	Maureen Murphy
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Co-ordinator of Volunteers	Anne Boyd

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FROM RAPHAEL

It is with great sadness that we report the death of
Major General Ranbir Bakhshi, MC,
Chairman Emeritus of Raphael,
who passed away on 25th September 2006
at the age of 94.
Cremation took place at
Prem Nagar Cremation Ground close
to the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun
on 27th September 2006.

His obituary and tributes are on pages 4 and 5.

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

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most generously arranges and pays for the distribution
of this Newsletter.

**FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT
DON SINCLAIR**

We have received both good and sad news in recent times.

We were saddened by the news that MAJOR-GENERAL RANBIR (RUMMY) BAKHSHI, MC, the inspirational Chairman Emeritus of the 'Raphael' Council, passed away on 25 September, following a fall at home a few days earlier. Rummy was a most charismatic individual who distinguished himself in war and peace. He was decorated for his gallantry during the Second World War, and following his retirement from the Indian Army became the Director of 'Raphael' for many years, and later became chairman of the council. Only very recently, aged in his nineties, did Rummy relinquish this role and he was honoured by his colleagues with the creation of the title of Chairman Emeritus. In this role he continued to attend his office at 'Raphael' almost daily until his fall at home. Rummy was instrumental in developing the physical facilities and programs at 'Raphael' to the present level where 'Raphael' has a world-wide reputation for excellence in the relief of suffering. It was an honour to have known Rummy and we extend our sympathy to his widow Shoba and his family.

The very good and encouraging news is that Klibur Domin, despite the recent serious hostilities in Timor Leste, did not suffer any physical damage or looting even though its humanitarian activities were somewhat disrupted at various times. The continued presence of volunteers at Klibur Domin during the period was almost certainly a significant factor in the preservation of the home and its services. The mobile TB eradication program is in operation, as is an outreach program for physically and mentally challenged children in surrounding villages. All this augers well for the future development of Klibur Domin.

I was also delighted to know that a generous donor had sponsored Joaquim Soares, the manager of Klibur Domin, to visit 'Raphael' to see the programs and facilities firsthand.

Best wishes to all supporters for the coming Christmas Season

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



**VALE
FLIGHT LIEUTENANT
ROSS MILTON STANFORD
DFC OAM**

**25 September 1917 – 11 July 2006
World War II Bomber Pilot - Cricketer**



ROSS STANFORD was a personal friend and colleague of Leonard Cheshire, as a Lancaster bomber pilot with the famous 617 (Dambusters) Squadron during World War II. He held the rank of Flight Lieutenant. Through his association with Leonard, Ross inaugurated the South Australian Foundation in 1969, and was the first Secretary, holding this office from 1970-1981. His involvement with the

Foundation continued until he retired from the Executive in 2002.

It was Ross who obtained the Foundation's participation in the Adelaide Charity Card Shop, a participation which continues today. From his home, he organized the purchase, sale and distribution of the Foundation's Christmas cards, and by 1994 the total number of cards handled was over 1 million. As Secretary he was meticulous and sincere, handwriting to sponsors personally, encouraging new members through talks to schools and service clubs. With his wife Joyce, they worked together tirelessly and enthusiastically for the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation. Their contribution to the South Australian Foundation and to the National Association was invaluable.

In his primary school days Ross scored a schoolboy cricket world record of 416 not out, which earned an offer of a scholarship to Prince Alfred College. Selection with West Torrens District Cricket Club followed on leaving school, resulting in Ross playing for the State as a team mate of Sir Donald Bradman. During the Second World War, when off duty, Ross played cricket for the RAAF. At the war's end he was selected in the Australian Services Cricket Team to play Victory Tests against England. On returning from the war, Ross again played for South Australia until 1948, continuing cricket with West Torrens until 1955.

**A great South Australian
and a great humanitarian.**

*(Contributed by
Patricia Frith, President RCF South Australia and
Rod Lange, Australian Cricketer and a personal friend
of Ross for many years).*

News from TIMOR-LESTE

From Helen Trueman, Klibur Domin Support Person.



Readers will be pleased to know that Klibur Domin has been functioning near to normal, despite the difficult past few months. However, Joaquim Soares (Klibur Domin Home Manager) and his family continue to live in a refugee camp at the Dili National Hospital. Joaquim commutes daily to Klibur Domin for work. Another staff member, Alberto, remains in Baucau. **Such is the feeling of uncertainty, and fear for personal safety that these staff are still unable to return to Klibur Domin permanently.** People I have spoken to who have recently been to Timor-Leste say that there is still a very sombre atmosphere in Dili, particularly in the evenings. Whilst the day to day violence has subsided, the emotional and psychological scars remain.

Patient numbers at Klibur Domin have steadily increased over the past few months, occupancy dropped to 33% in July, but increased to 68% in August.

The **two trial projects** that commenced in March this year are continuing. These are the **Mobile TB team** and the **Community Based Rehabilitation Program for Disabled Children (CBR)**. Both projects have been very successful. Jane Shamrock, an Australian occupational therapist is the volunteer co-ordinating these two projects.



The **Mobile TB team** is working in conjunction with the National Tuberculosis Program to identify suspected cases of TB within a subdistrict based close to Klibur Domin. **Five villages, total population approx 11,000, have been targeted.** So far 37 persons have been confirmed to have TB. These persons

have commenced treatment. The success of the program is in ensuring that persons identified with TB continue to take their medication for the prescribed time – about 8 or 9 months. To assist in the timely identification of TB patients a store room has been transformed into a new TB laboratory. A new staff member with experience working in a TB lab has been employed.



The **Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) project** has identified 21 children (between 2 and 18 years) living with various disabilities in a small target area of 5 villages. Klibur Domin has provided some support equipment (wheelchair, walking frames, crutches and standing frames) and are also modifying some of the children's houses to allow for better access. Three of these children are now attending school. Klibur Domin is also providing respite care for the families of these children. Whilst the children are at Klibur Domin they participate in physiotherapy programs.

The Home Manager, Joaquim, recently spent 9 days at Raphael where he was able to observe similar programs to those run at Klibur Domin. This trip was made possible with the generous support of Carolyn Tapley, President of Ryder-Cheshire Canterbury NZ.

During September, **Isaura Da Silva**, a 20 yr East Timorese woman came to Melbourne for tests and a successful cardiac procedure. **Isaura first came to the attention of Ryder-Cheshire in January 2000 when she was brought to Melbourne for open heart surgery.** She has been well up until a year ago when she became intermittently unwell, and on occasions required hospitalisation. **Klibur Domin organised for Isaura to be reviewed by the Australian visiting cardiology team.** It was determined that Isaura would benefit greatly if she could have further procedures/surgery here in Australia. (Cardiac surgery is not possible in Timor-Leste) Isaura came to Melbourne on the 14th September. She had preliminary tests and was admitted to



Monash Medical Centre on 19th September. The procedure was successful and complication free. Isaura was discharged from hospital on the following day. She and Olinda returned to Timor on the 4th October.

Many thanks to Ivanhoe Homes for the warm hospitality shown to Isaura and her mother Olinda throughout their stay. Also many thanks to committee who assisted in medical appointments, social activities, transport and generally making Isaura and Olinda feel welcome. Isaura was able to meet her sponsor, Vicki who visited Isaura in hospital and the following week took Isaura and Olinda shopping. I know that they appreciated this very much. Vicki is a member of the Rotary Club of Albert Park, and through her connection the Rotary Club gave a \$2000 donation toward the cost of flying Isaura and Olinda to Melbourne. **Thank you to Vicki and the Rotary Club of Albert Park.**

I would also like to thank **Dr Lauren Wimetal**, a wonderful young woman who acted as interpreter for Isaura and Olinda during their time in Australia and particularly during the medical procedures. **Dr Noel Bayley** is the Australian cardiologist with whom I have been working very closely in organising this procedure for Isaura. Dr Bayley has identified several other young Timorese persons, not able to be assisted by ROMAC, who need similar procedures to Isaura.

If you, or your community, would like to contact Dr Noel Bayley directly, his address is PO Box 360 Warrnambool 3280 Vic. His email address is noelbayley@anson.com.au and telephone number 03 5562 9444

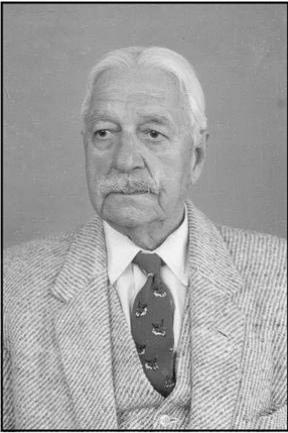
Photos: Top left - The TB Clinic building. Bottom left - Inside the TB Clinic. Above right— Isaura with her mother Olinda.

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OBITUARY

MAJOR GENERAL (RETD) RANBIR BAKHSHI M.C. 1st April 1912 – 25th September 2006



MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) RANBIR BAKHSHI MC was born in Montgomery India on 1st April 1912. He was commissioned in the Indian Army in 1939 and saw action on the Burma Front during the Second World War being personally decorated with the Military Cross by King George VI for gallantry. His wartime exploits included leading a group of Allied soldiers overland and under frequent enemy fire from Rangoon to Assam in India when the Japanese Forces overran Burma in 1942.

After a distinguished career in the Indian Army, he retired as a Major General in 1966. Soon after, the Government of India appointed him as the Administrator of the Maharaja of Jodhpur's properties, as the Maharaja was a minor and studying in England. He completed this assignment with distinction in 1973 and retired to his home in Dehra Dun, a town in northern India where, unknown to him at the time, another full innings of service to humanity awaited him.

IN 1973 HE WAS INVITED TO JOIN THE COUNCIL OF RAPHAEL, A HOME SET UP IN DEHRA DUN BY GROUP CAPTAIN LEONARD CHESHIRE VC, OM, DSO, DFC AND HIS WIFE LADY SUE RYDER CMG, OBE. Raphael accommodates and cares for around 300 residents and patients who are mentally challenged or who are suffering from Leprosy or TB. Leonard Cheshire was Britain's most highly decorated bomber pilot in World War II and after the War became one of the great humanitarians of the twentieth century. Likewise Sue Ryder was a heroine of the War, serving in the British Secret Service. They were married in 1959 and between them established nearly 400 homes for "the relief of suffering" in more than 50 countries throughout the world.

RANBIR BAKHSHI (OR "RUMMY" AS HE WAS AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN) FIRST MET LEONARD CHESHIRE AND SUE RYDER DURING THEIR VISIT TO RAPHAEL IN 1975 and recorded his first impressions as follows.

"Leonard, with his charming way of disarming others and winning their confidence, impressed me very much. Within the first two days of our meeting, I felt as if I had known him for years. I think during those few days I learnt so much from him as to how one can and should deal with different categories of disabled persons".

His friendship with Leonard and Sue continued to grow, as did his personal commitment to provide relief to those who were suffering. In 1975 he took over the administration of Raphael as its Director and he was nominated by the Council to be its Chairman in 1992. In these roles of Director and Chairman, he guided the development of Raphael which has become a premier centre for "the relief of suffering" in India.

In 2004, aged 92 he was elevated to the post of Chairman Emeritus. He still retained his office at Raphael which he attended each morning. Most afternoons he managed nine holes of golf, until well into his nineties. His three decades of service to assist the disabled people of India in general, and those at Raphael in particular, have been recognized both nationally and overseas. He was personally decorated with India's highest award for humanitarian work by the Vice President of India in 2001.

Rummy Bakhshi was well known to many supporters of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation in Australia. He visited Australia on a

number of occasions to tell of the outstanding work being done at Raphael. Ryder-Cheshire Foundations in most states of Australia and also in New Zealand have provided the majority of the funding needed to operate Raphael for the past forty years.

Rummy leaves behind friends and well wishers across many continents and countries, all of whom saw him as being deeply involved in the mission of providing relief and succor to those suffering.

He died at Dehra Dun on 25th September 2006 after a short illness, having continued his humanitarian work at Raphael until a week before his death.

(Obituary prepared by Peter Newton
from information provided by Raphael.)

TRIBUTE TO MAJ-GEN BAKHSHI

FROM BARBARA LEWIS, NEW SOUTH WALES

During 1975 while living in Adelaide, I was surprised to receive an anxious phone call from Group-Captain Leonard Cheshire to say a serious problem had arisen at Raphael, the Ryder – Cheshire International Centre in Dehra Dun, India. The Director had left very suddenly and could I possibly make an urgent visit to help sort things out. This request was prompted by the fact that I had previously spent several years working with the Indian Cheshire Homes and at Raphael.

In some trepidation I made my way to India and thence to Dehra Dun. I arrived at the edge of the dry river bed which separates the town from the Raphael complex late in the afternoon. Standing on the pebbly river-bed leaning on a little stone pillar was a distinguished Indian gentleman, silver-haired and sporting a perfectly manicured moustache. He introduced himself as Major General Ranbir Bakhshi, a member of Raphael's advisory Council.

He explained that owing to the untimely departure of the Director he had "stepped in" to hold the fort. Over the next few days of consultation with the General and his colleagues it was resolved that General Bakhshi would temporarily manage Raphael until the expected visit of the Founders, Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder, the following year. To quote the General's own words: *"I found the work so fascinating that when the Founders came to Raphael and before they could even thank me for my services, I offered to stay put as the Director plus as a member of the General Council."*

It proved to be a blessed day for Raphael when Major General Bakhshi MC chose to retire from his illustrious army career to live peacefully – as he thought – in the beautiful town of Dehra Dun.

For the next 30 years he gave himself tirelessly to the relief of suffering, upholding the same respect and compassion for the residents at Raphael as exhibited by the Founders. Both as Director and later as Chairman of the Council he has ceaselessly used his influence and contacts to attract financial assistance, professional services and government awareness to promote Raphael. He has nurtured its development into an outstanding example of care for disadvantaged people whether they be physically, mentally or socially in need.

Just prior to his death in 1992, Leonard Cheshire wrote in response to a letter from General Bakhshi *"your words that Raphael will grow to greater heights are especially meaningful to me: I know too that they are true."*

I think we all recognise that no one could have done more to further the hopes and dreams of Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder for their beloved Raphael than Rummy Bakhshi.

Many of our supporters and well-wishers will share our great sadness at his passing and may he Rest in Peace.

TRIBUTE TO MAJ-GEN BAKHSHI

FROM ANN BOYD NEW SOUTH WALES

I am greatly saddened by the death of General Bakshi - I had planned to go back to Dehra Dun for his 95th birthday next April - even at 94, the death of this lion of a man is a huge loss.

I have known the General and his wife Shobha since 1965/66, when we were still establishing the hospital at Raphael. We had been waiting eighteen months for a telephone connection - and the day after meeting the General, we had one !!. I was hugely impressed with the influence he had used on our behalf.

This was actually the General's introduction to Raphael, where



he continued to be involved - at first on the Council, and then as Director - for the rest of his retirement in Dehra Dun. My time at Raphael totalled 6 years - and the one time I was ill, the Bakshis looked after me like a daughter. At the beginning of the mobile TB program, it was the General who was the big encourager and provider of all the right contacts to make it happen in the hills of Tehri Garhwal. He also encouraged me to eventually hand over the work and return to Australia to marry Phillip. When we took our two boys to see "My

India" in 1989, the Bakshi's hospitality was a highlight, and the General became a hero. It was with much pleasure that I could return some of that hospitality in Singleton. On his last visit to Singleton, he was accompanied by his daughter Sunita, who had us all drinking Maharastrian ginger tea from our saucers at Singleton Ryder-Cheshire Home! That was 1996 and he Singleton Argus headed an article "Generosity and Friendship Travel Across the World". My sons, Tom and Damian, made their own arrangements with the General and volunteered at Raphael together for two months at the beginning of 1997. The consolidation and progress of Raphael with the General at the helm is legendary. He truly embraced the ideals of Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder. Now he has reported to his Commanding Officer with a record par excellence.

May he rest in peace.

Anne Boyd

CLOSURE OF WEST AUSTRALIA FOUNDATION

The WA Foundation has now officially closed and in accordance with the requirements of the Charitable Collections Act (WA) the remaining funds of \$16,400 have been distributed to the Motor Neurone Disease Association of WA. Records of public interest will be placed with the WA Battye Library while other memorabilia will be archived for the use of Australian Ryder-Cheshire Foundations and sent to Ivanhoe for storage with other Foundations' archives.

Grateful thanks to all those who have supported the WA Foundation in its thirty six years of operation.

NEWS FROM THE STATES' SUPPORT GROUPS

MOUNT GAMBIER SOUTH AUSTRALIA

From Paul Jenner, President

The Mt Gambier Support Group has had a fantastic year in both raising money for the Foundation and in building stage one of the Ryder-Cheshire Mount Gambier Home Foundation.

Kerry Probert has led our team wonderfully this year and we will all miss her when she moves with her husband to Port Lincoln in the new year. Another farewell and big thank you is to go to Anne Gayler.

Once again we all say thank you to Kay Gilbertson and her band of helpers in supporting 37 catering efforts this year for the support group. This year the Catering Group did their 'FOODSAFE' training and accreditation with the City of Mount Gambier.

The Annual General Meeting had a good turn out and all Committee positions were filled. We have some new faces on our Committee and we would like to welcome them. There was a terrific report from Neville Gilbertson on the Home Foundation, the residents have settled into their new surroundings and the Home is operating in line with expectations. The Home was a part of State Tidy Town Awards judging and with a great effort the turf and garden were all finished in time.

Our year started off with an address by our Secretary, Mrs Di McEwen, to the Mt Gambier City Lions Club which was much appreciated.

BALLARAT VICTORIA

From Bernard Bradbury, President

Our Support Group has continued to operate actively and with enthusiasm over the past months. Our main activities have centred around a **successful Valuation Day** when the local community was invited to bring personal items such as jewellery and heirlooms and have these items evaluated by an expert. This was interesting to the members of the community and also provided our group with contacts in addition to the money raised.

Currently we are engaged in the sale of Christmas cards through the Christmas Card Shop which operates in Ballarat.

Our Sponsorship members are holding up well. Visits have been made to local schools to provide information on Ryder Cheshire and in this way attract the interest of local students.

We have also begun to investigate venues and other features required for the Biennial Conference to be held in Ballarat in 2008.

617 SQUADRON

*Adapted from an article published in
DAMBUSTER (A Supplement of
the Lincolnshire Echo) on May 12 1997*

No 617 Squadron had been formed as a special unit for the specific task of its Lancasters breaching the giant German Moehne and Eder dams with colossal “blockbuster” bombs. With its original task complete on 17 May 1943, it was decided to retain the Squadron as a precision bombing unit.

The squadron were the first to carry the new 12,000lb bomb, carrying it for the first time on the night of 14-15 September 1943 when eight Lancasters of the Squadron set out to attack the banks of the Dortmund-Ems Canal near Ladbergen. Due to fog in the target area the force were recalled. Sadly one aircraft was lost, that of Flight Lieutenant D J H Maltby DSO DFC who was one of the survivors of the Dams Raid. His aircraft crashed into the sea. The following night, 15-16 Sept, eight aircraft of the squadron set out to carry out the postponed raid from the night before. This proved to be a disastrous night for the Squadron as five of the eight aircraft were lost including Pilot Officer LG Knight DSO, another of the survivors of the Dams raid, and the squadron’s commanding Officer Squadron Leader G Holden flying with Gibson’s crew from the Dams Raid. These losses basically, for the time being, put an end to the use of low level tactics by the Squadron.

THE NEW COMMANDING OFFICER WAS WING COMMANDER LEONARD CHESHIRE DSO AND 2 BARS DFC, A MAN WHO WAS TO BECOME A LEGEND IN HIS OWN RIGHT. At the age of 25, he had been the youngest Group Captain in the RAF and had taken a voluntary drop in rank to command the Squadron. In the four years of war he had gained the highest reputation among crews of Bomber Command.

Cheshire was somewhat disappointed that his first task with the Squadron was to spend the next few weeks carrying out high level training. However, one of its many specialist bombing tasks became the destruction of viaducts.

On the night of 11-12 November the Squadron resumed operations when 210 aircraft each dropped one 12,000lb bomb on the Antheor viaduct in France. Although the results of the bombing were initially unsuccessful, it paved the way for future operations resulting in more success. All aircraft returned safely. The winter of 1943/44 saw Bomber Commands struggle throughout the Berlin offensive during which time 617 Squadron had moved to nearby Woodhall Spa (where it would remain until the end of the war, followed in the Spring by the preparations for Operation Overlord—the Allied invasion of Europe. Throughout the build up to D Day, the Squadron were involved in spoof raids along the Channel to confuse the Germans about the Allies intended area of attack. Immediately after D Day, the Squadron reverted to precision bombing of vital targets. One such raid was the night of 8-9 June when 25 aircraft took part in a vital raid against a tunnel on the Saumur railway in France.

The raid had been planned in rapid time due to reports that a Panzer unit was rapidly moving by rail to the Normandy battlefield. The success of the bombing resulted in the tunnel being blocked thereby holding up an entire Panzer Division. For the next few months the Squadron was very much involved in Bomber Command’s attacks against V-weapon sites.

During this time, Cheshire flew his 100th operational sortie (6 July 1944) and was immediately rested from operations and AWARDED THE VICTORIA CROSS FOR HIS OUTSTANDING BRAVERY AND LEADERSHIP during his four years of operations. This was the only occasion of the war that a VC was awarded for a sustained period of operations.

2006 MARKS THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VICTORIA CROSS. *A commemoration service, led by Prince Charles, was held at Westminster Abbey earlier this year. 1355 VCs have been awarded and there are just 12 surviving holders of the VC — Britain’s highest gallantry award.*

From the Catholic Herald (UK) July 2006

LEONARD CHESHIRE CHARITY SEEKS NAME CHANGE

Plans to change the name of the charity founded by the war hero and VC winner Leonard Cheshire, the RAF bomber commander who went on to dedicate his life to the care of the disabled, have “disappointed” his family.

The Leonard Cheshire charity which cares for 21,000 disabled people wants to change its image after a survey showed that most young people had never heard of him and did not know what the charity did. Volunteers and residents in the 50 homes were asked for suggestions for a new name after its leaders said “The Leonard Cheshire name can be a barrier to achieving the organization’s goals”. Various new names have been suggested, among them Equability UK, A-BL UK, Disability UK and eQual UK.

Dr Elizabeth Cheshire, the daughter of the legendary RAF pilot who won the Victoria Cross in 1944, said that she feared the change would weaken the link between her father and the charity he founded, if not sever it completely. “I do feel strongly that losing my father’s name would not be to the advantage of the charity” she said. Although the charity’s leaders have reassured her that her father’s name will be incorporated, she added “It could mean his name ends up in tiny print somewhere. There’s no guarantee it won’t be dropped later”.

Dr Cheshire said her father’s charity filled a gap in care for the disabled after the Second World War. “He took an ill man into his own home and looked after him until he died because he had nowhere else to go. He was in hospital and they wanted his bed” said Dr Cheshire, an accident and emergency doctor. “Shortly afterwards someone else arrived and needed somewhere to stay. People kept arriving and word spread. And from that the charity started because he realised there was a need”. By 1970 the organisation ran 50 homes in Britain and five in India and had projects in 21 countries. Last year it had an income of 135 million pounds. Leonard died in 1992.

NEW SOUTH WALES

From Jayne Robinson, President.

At the New South Wales AGM held on 24th July 2006, the resignations of Margaret Hetheron, Judy Purdon and Bernie Duchesne were regrettably accepted. The New South Wales Committee acknowledged with gratitude and appreciation the contribution they had made towards the work of The Ryder Cheshire Foundation.

John Ayliffe resigned as a Director but remained on the New South Wales Committee as the Sponsorship Secretary. We are most grateful to John in being willing to continue in this role. Mention must also go his wife Helen who is a committee member and assists John with the Sponsorship Secretarial work.

Wendy Wijetunge was a new member welcomed on to the Committee. Wendy has previously assisted with the organisation of the New South Wales fundraising dinner held in May every year, so we appreciate her involvement now with the Committee of New South Wales. There were no other changes to Office Bearers or areas of special responsibility, everyone agreed to keep their existing roles for the coming year.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Major General Bakhshi. Many of you know Barbara Lewis and Anne Boyd. They have been involved with The Ryder Cheshire Foundation for many years and were volunteers to Raphael when it was in its initial stages of development. In this report they remember and pay their respects to a wonderful man.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

From Dennis Sleigh, President.

Our annual get-together with supporters in September was a lovely occasion. Held at Manning Clarke House, a beautiful home in Forrest where Australia's foremost historian lived for many years, it proved to be a lovely occasion where memories were swapped and enthusiasms were rekindled.

Following our annual Charity Dinner and Auction, we heard from **Mary Porter** AM MLA, who had represented the Chief Minister at the event. She reported on the dinner in her regular Porter Report to the electorate, thus spreading news about the Foundation to a very wide audience. Mary also joined the Foundation and signed on as a sponsor.

The sad news of the passing of Major General Bakhshi was greeted in the nation's capital with the same sense of shock and loss that no doubt struck all of our Foundations. It was a time both to thank God of the life of Rummy and to think of the sense of pain experienced by all who knew him. It was also a time to share memories – and among those who called to offer their sympathies were **Gordon and Elizabeth Upton**, who had often visited Raphael and knew Rummy well from Gordon's time as the High Commissioner to India, and **Loraine Marlow** who had got to know Rummy and Shoba well during their visits to Australia.

The ACT Foundation continues its involvement with the ACT Charity Card Shop and Margaret Sleigh reports that our cards are selling well. Retired member, **Beth Stone**, came along to help our members when their rostered turn occurred recently.

Our links with the **Canberra Friends of Dili** continue and our joint concern for the tragic events in Timor Leste are very much on all of our minds. We hope and pray that peace will soon be restored to this land.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

From Margaret Blaber – Secretary

Sadly, since the last Newsletter, we have lost two outstanding Ryder-Cheshire supporters. First, Ross Stanford, who was the founder of the S.A. Foundation, died in July. Secondly, we learned of the passing of Major General Ranbir Bakhshi (Rummy) in September. There are tributes elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Our committee continues to maintain support for both Raphael and Klibur Domin, through sponsorships, donations and fundraising. Thanks to Helen Trueman for keeping us informed of events in East Timor and at Klibur Domin. Through the *Ryder-Cheshire News* our members and supporters are kept well informed of the activities of the Foundation.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA. We now have sponsors and supporters for both Raphael and Klibur Domin who have joined us from Western Australia. We welcome their continuing support for Ryder-Cheshire. We trust they will be with us for many years to come.

CHARITY CARD SHOP. The shop in the SOUTHERN CROSS ARCADE has now been officially opened for the Christmas season where the SA Foundation has a range of attractive Christmas and other cards on sale as well as craft items. Judith Weston is an outstanding coordinator, and keeps the shop well supplied. Committee members will be "manning" the shop on 27th November and 13th December. Please come along, shop till you drop and meet with members of the committee.

FUNDRAISING. Our Picture Trivia Quiz Night on 23rd September was a great success and enjoyed by all attending. Our sincere thanks to Hugh Elphinstone and Bill Murray of Bendigo for designing this unique Quiz, and permitting us its use. It was great fun. Proceeds of the evening are intended for Klibur Domin.

ANNUAL BARBECUE. The last function for 2006 was the annual BBQ sponsored by the Adelaide Lions Club held on Sunday 5th November in the pleasant setting of the gardens of the Charles Sturt Museum at Grange. Hopefully, by the time you read this, the weather will have been kind and we all had a good time!

As we come to the end of 2006, our 37th year, we can look back with pride on the contribution South Australia has made to the Ryder-Cheshire family, and look forward to the coming year(s).

Now our good wishes for health and happiness in 2007 to all our supporters and to the other Foundations in Australia.

VICTORIA

From Anthea Swann, Honorary Secretary.

We were very sad to learn of the recent death of Major General Ranbir Bakhshi (affectionately known as Rummy), Chairman Emeritus of the Raphael Council. He played a huge part in the growth and success of Raphael over three decades, and was held in high esteem and affection by all who knew him. We mourn his passing - a great loss to Raphael.

Events unfolding in East Timor are still cause for considerable concern, and it is to his credit that in spite of personal risk Joaquim Soares, Manager of Klibur Domin, continued to fulfil his responsibilities. In a difficult environment the fact that Klibur Domin is able to press on with development of two new projects, the Mobile TB Unit, and the Outreach to Children with Disabilities, is a very positive achievement.

Several members of our Committee provided support for Isaura da Silva's visit to Melbourne for cardiac surgery. Thanks to Helen Truman for an exceptional job in co-ordinating Isaura's treatment and trip to Melbourne.

The annual Founders' Memorial Address was held in early September. George Smith, a former RAAF officer who flew 44 missions over German occupied Europe in WWII, and Founding President of the Odd Bods (UK) Association, and who was featured in an article in the July National Newsletter, was the guest speaker. He gave a graphic and very interesting account of Leonard Cheshire's life and career.

Recent fundraising has included a week staffing the Lions Op Shop in August, with further surprise week in September and a Bridge Day in October. All brought in their usual healthy returns. **We will be staffing the Mount Waverly Lions Op Shop again from 4 - 8 December and are looking for donations of saleable items. Please contact Peter Newton on 9894 3191 to arrange collection.**

The annual supporters' letter, sent out in May, resulted in donations of nearly \$4,500, which is indicative of the wonderful ongoing assistance we receive from loyal supporters. In addition, over \$3,000 came from the winding up of the Australian Society of Educational Technology, which nominated Ryder-Cheshire as its beneficiary. This was very much appreciated.

CHRISTMAS CARD OUTLETS ALL NOW HAVE SUPPLIES IN PLACE AND SALES HAVE COMMENCED. Unfortunately, this will be last year that the Combined Charities Card Shop in Box Hill operates but we have found new outlets and the mail order service for our supporters is proving very successful. **Please contact Helen Newton on 9894 3191 to obtain a flyer or to order your cards.**

Tony Birkett and Marianne Leith have resigned from the Committee but continue to actively support our endeavours. **Ryder-Cheshire recently received a donation from Yooralla Glenroy Specialist School, of thirty two children's wheelchairs for East Timor.** Tony with his excellent bicycle maintenance skills and the purchase of materials by a donor, has converted all the wheels to a solid type suitable for East Timor terrain, and these will go in the next container. A great job!

PROFESSOR DAVID DE KRETZER AC, GOVERNOR OF VICTORIA, has graciously accepted the invitation to be the Patron of Ryder-Cheshire Victoria during his incumbency. Our warm thanks and appreciation go to the previous Patron, the former Governor of Victoria, John Landy AC MBE, for his well informed and generous support for our activities.

FUND RAISING EVENTS FOR MELBOURNE SUPPORTERS

Lions Club Op Shop

4—8 December

55 Wadham Parade Mt Waverley

Donations of saleable items and assistance in staffing the shop are needed.

If you can help, please contact

Peter Newton on 9894 3191

Goods can be picked up

Christmas Cards

Order Form and Flyer available on request

11 lovely designs to choose from.

Place your order with

Helen Newton on 03 9894 3191

Trivia Night

Saturday 28 April 2007

Mark your diaries now!

THE VICTORIAN HOMES

From Don Sinclair, President, Victorian Homes

Life continues to be very hectic in the Victorian Homes at Ivanhoe. On some recent occasions we have regretfully had to turn some applicants for residency away as all 43 rooms were occupied. The elevator installed in building 14 has proved a boon for residents with limited mobility. Our refurbished community lounge has improved the amenity of the Homes significantly.

We celebrated the Silver Jubilee of the opening of the Homes at a garden party on 24 September. The weather was atrocious with strong squalls and rain but the atmosphere was very warm with more than 140 guests present. We look forward to our next 25 years of service.

We were all saddened to learn of the passing of Sister Declan Keeghan, RSJ, a much-loved resident carer for six years from 1995 to 2001. Declan had suffered from motor neurone illness for some years but maintained her lively spirit and steadfast faith during her long illness. All at Ivanhoe recognise Declan's magnificent contribution to the relief of suffering through her love and service to many hundreds of residents.

RYDER-CHESHIRE WEBSITES

Australia

www.ryder-cheshire.org

India

www.raphaelicare.org

East Timor

www.klibur-domin.easttimor.net