



# 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:- Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC  
Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia

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## GOLDEN JUBILEE COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

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ALL STATES AND CONTACTS WILL RECEIVE A REMINDER

# Reflections of Our Golden Jubilee 4 - 5 April 2009

By Nita Roy, Raphael.

**O**ur Golden Jubilee was an appropriate time for reflection and paying tribute to two world renowned humanists, **LEONARD CHESHIRE AND SUE RYDER**, and to remember those who had contributed wholeheartedly and selflessly throughout the **FIFTY YEARS** to turn the Founders' concept and dream of providing relief to the suffering and the underprivileged, into a reality.



Many of the overseas visitors, representatives of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundations in Australia, New Zealand and the UK came as our invitees. We were very happy and privileged to have with us **Dr Don Sinclair, Chairman RC Australia, Ms Patsy Wright Warren, Chairman RCF UK, Ms Carolyn Tapley, Chairperson, RCF New Zealand, Peter & Helen Newton, Anne Boyd, Pamela Harrison, Christine & Graeme Hannan and Robert Brookes** from Australia, **Jill Belcher and Vina Outram** from New Zealand, and **Jane Foster, Angela Barrow, Claire Louise & Jon Symonds and family,** from the UK.

For many it was a journey down memory lane and filled with memories of the past. Raphael has seen many changes since their times but the spirit of the Founders still lives on in the hearts of everyone.

Months of hectic preparation were spent to commemorate this historic occasion, in a manner befitting of the memorable day. One of the first things was to bring out a publication of Raphael's past history. This indeed became a Herculean task as it required an enormous amount of relevant historical material. We were very grateful to all our overseas friends for providing us with valuable material and photographs to complete this history.

**THE FESTIVITIES COMMENCED ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> OF APRIL,** welcoming the overseas visitors. The visitors were impressed with the progress made, as a number of them were visiting Raphael after many years. **A community lunch followed** and children of Little White House assisted in serving the meal. **Dinner that evening was hosted by Mr Ranjit Sikand, of the Governing Council,** and his wife, at their residence.

**ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> OF APRIL,** our overseas visitors were taken to see the Outreach Program which helps the disabled in their own villages around Dehradun on the Shimla Bypass. Later that day there was an **entertainment program** by the children and residents of Raphael. **This was followed by a Chapel Service** to pay homage to the Founders and remember the late Barbara Lewis, founder member of Raphael, and the late Olive Lamont, former President of the Ballarat Support Group and a loyal supporter of Raphael. Their presence was missed

greatly especially since Barbara had been so keen to attend the Golden Jubilee. **The entertainment program started with an address by the Chairman of Raphael, Air Marshal B D Jayal followed by an address by Don Sinclair,** President of Ryder Cheshire Australia and also representing the Victorian Homes. Don appreciated the work being done by Raphael and the many good changes brought about for the comfort of the residents. On behalf of RCA he pledged support to Raphael and **presented a plaque to commemorate the Golden Jubilee.** Don also presented a **keyboard synthesizer** to the children and residents of Raphael donated by the Ballarat Support Group in the memory of Olive Lamont. Don also released the publication -- **A NARRATION OF RAPHAEL'S HISTORY.** **Carolyn Tapley NZ** gave an impassioned speech to continue with NZ Foundation's support to Raphael, as did **Patsy Wright Warren the Chairman of the UK Foundation.**

The evening Chapel service was the first of its kind after many years. We all know how much the Cheshires loved praying at the little Chapel on their visits to Raphael. It was therefore very befitting that a service to pay tribute to them was held on this occasion. The service was conducted by Father John Milton, the Parish Priest of St Francis Church In Dehradun. It was indeed a moving service for the many who attended, as the Priest paid homage to the Cheshires and prayed for their departed souls. Hymns were sung by the children of Woodstock School in Mussoorie.

**The 5<sup>th</sup> of April FOUNDERS DAY** – dawned clear and beautiful bringing with it joy and anticipation of the momentous day ahead, and this year it had a special significance. **50 YEARS OF HISTORY AND ALL FROM ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN'S VISION. THEREFORE THE CELEBRATION TOOK ON A DIFFERENT AND SINGULAR IMPORTANCE.**

The chief guest was His Excellency, the Governor of Uttarakhand, Mr B L Joshi. The function commenced with a welcome address by the Chairman of Raphael, Air Marshal Jayal, who lauded the selfless work of the Founders. His Excellency in his speech paid his tributes to the Founders whose establishment of the organization and dedicated work was testimony to their greatness and compassion for the suffering, and the legacy left by them was still continuing due to the efforts all the well wishers and supporters.

The entertainment by the children of Raphael was a pageant depicting the story of Raphael since its inception, and portraying the life and work of the Founders to set up Raphael from its tented accommodation to the various housing units.

**Raphael's 50 years celebration ended well and as we applaud ourselves for its success, we would like to remember all those who could not join us on this very important occasion. We missed them all.**

**Our special thanks go to all these supporters and friends from overseas for their good wishes, kind thoughts and contributions towards making this event memorable.**

**Last, but not the least, our success was completely due to the untiring efforts of all the staff, children and residents of Raphael who for the last few months were totally and wholeheartedly involved in all the activities and preparations to make it such a resounding and unforgettable success.**

## Australian Reflections of the Raphael Golden Jubilee 4 - 5 April 2009

*From Dr Don Sinclair,  
President Ryder-Cheshire Australia*

**Eight Australian supporters were amongst the large number of guests who enjoyed the interesting and moving Golden Jubilee celebrations at 'Raphael' during three days from 3 to 5 April.** *Chris Hannan, NSW RCF President, and Graeme Hannan; Peter Newton, VIC RCF President, and Helen Newton; Anne Boyd (Young) Singleton R-C Group; Pamela Harrison (Breslin) from Sydney and Robert Brookes from Ballarat and myself were also joined by supporters from New Zealand and the UK. Anne, Pamela, Peter & Helen were former volunteers at 'Raphael'.*

**The formal Golden Jubilee celebrations** were spread over two days. On Saturday morning overseas guests visited three Community Rehabilitation Programs in rural villages. These programs train local women in very poor villages to assist mentally and/or physically challenged pre-school and primary age children and their families with basic care. They certainly fulfil the charter of the Ryder-Cheshire Mission for the Relief of Suffering.

Later that day, the first of the two formal celebrations of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of 'Raphael' was held in the presence of a large audience of local and overseas guests. **Air Marshal Brijesh Jayal, Chairman of the 'Raphael' Council, welcomed all present.**

At this point, on behalf of Ryder-Cheshire Australia, I reflected on some past events of significance to Raphael, and presented a bronze commemorative plaque with our congratulations.

**Carolyn Tapley, President of RCF New Zealand,** spoke and brought greetings from NZ supporters. **Patsy Wright-Warren, Chairman of the Cheshire Foundation UK** spoke of developments regarding the foundation in Britain and in overseas programs. These short speeches were followed by a wonderful program of entertainment by children and adults living at 'Raphael'. The impressive **'Raphael' Golden Jubilee publication** and an accompanying DVD were also released and copies presented to all guests. This book traces the story of 'Raphael' over 50 years and includes interesting personal stories of past and present residents, overseas volunteers and significant local people who have made magnificent contributions to the development of the mission and the care of residents.

Founder's Day was celebrated on Sunday, 5 April, and the Chief Guest was His Excellency Shri B. L. Joshi, Governor of Uttarakhand State. Air Marshal Jayal welcomed His Excellency and other guests. The children and adults of 'Raphael' presented a most entertaining and evocative pageant with 12 scenes depicting the life and events of Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder and 'Raphael'. The pageant began with Shiv Sadan residents speaking about Cheshire, whom they regard as their saviour. The second scene depicted the dropping of the atomic bomb on Nagasaki on 9 August 1945 and the end of the Pacific War. Following scenes illustrated that the end of the war had left many people disabled and Leonard Cheshire opened his first homes.

Cheshire and Sue Ryder visited India in 1957 and founded their first homes. Leonard and Sue married in Bombay on 5 April 1959 and spent their honeymoon at the Cheshire Home in Dehradun. Cheshire met with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the Prime minister of India, and was successful in his request for land in the forestry reserve at Dehradun. 'Raphael' began in tents and these were replaced with the first buildings.

His Excellency Shri Joshi spoke glowingly of the achievements of 'Raphael' over 50 years and congratulated all involved in the development and continuing service to the relief of suffering. ***All those privileged to have attended the Golden Jubilee will treasure the many memories of the wonderful 'Raphael' community.***

*From Anne Boyd, New South Wales*

It has been the most wonderful and privileged experience to return to Raphael for the Golden Jubilee. We witnessed a brilliant achievement, even to reach the 50 Golden Years, and Leonard and Sue must have been looking down in utter delight.

I was accompanied by Pamela Harrison (nee Breslin) who was the first Australian volunteer and who, in two and a half years from 1960, set up the original Ava Vihar School. Pam was there when Faiman arrived and she also remembered Deborah, Punit, Munna and Ramrati. Pam also recalls the arrival of Bhola, who now brought tears to her eyes when he called her "teacher".



*Anne Boyd with Mrs Shoba Bakhshi*

As the longest serving volunteer, I first went to Raphael in 1964, totting up nearly seven years coming and going until 1975. I have always kept in touch and feel quite at home when I visit. It is very humbling to be so warmly remembered and welcomed.

I saw the beginnings of the chronic and TB Wards and it is particularly pleasing to see excellent TB treatment continuing. I now see many of the Little White House children employed at Raphael and elsewhere in Dehra Dun and beyond. Every aspect of Raphael was represented in the Jubilee entertainment and displays and we witnessed especially the success of the mentally handicapped education programs.

Being at the Jubilee was almost surreal, full of nostalgia and memories, and feeling so much part of the woven tapestry. But the brilliant achievement is what is happening now, with Raphael appropriately run by the Indians and (largely thanks to the charisma of Gen Bakhshi) with much increased Indian funding alongside the foreign funding.



## Australian Reflections of the Raphael Golden Jubilee 4 - 5 April 2009

### *From Chris Hannan, President, New South Wales Foundation*

Four representatives from New South Wales were privileged to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations at Raphael. They were Anne Boyd, our Overseas Volunteers' Coordinator and long term volunteer at Raphael, Pam Harrison, the first Australian volunteer at Raphael, myself and husband Graeme.



*Chris Hannan with Jenny from Ava Vihar*

We were treated to three wonderful days of celebrations, culminating in Founders' Day on the 5<sup>th</sup> April which was attended by the Governor of Uttarakhand. The entire complex at Raphael was looking absolutely marvellous and the staff there, led by Brigadier Sinha, were tireless in arranging the many aspects of the celebrations and making all their guests comfortable. **All the residents of Raphael joined in the celebrations and their joy in welcoming us and sharing their lives with us for a few days was truly heart warming. It was an experience that none of us will forget.**

### *Excerpt from the letter accompanying a presentation made by Dr Don Sinclair to Raphael on behalf of the Bendigo Support Group*

"The Bendigo Support Group is delighted to extend their Congratulations to "Raphael" on the occasion of your 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and we enclose a special gift. The enclosed documents were extracted from the National Archives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The file from which they were extracted covers the period from 1955 to 1959. The file contains confidential memos and correspondence between Leonard Cheshire VC, the office of the Prime Minister, the Commonwealth Relations desk at the Foreign Office, and the British High Commissioner to India. The subject of these memos is the efforts by Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder to establish Homes in India. These documents do not attempt to tell the full story of the work of Ryder-Cheshire in India, but they do give an insight into the attitude of British diplomats with regard to Leonard and Sue's efforts to establish their Homes in India, and an independent and critical report on their early efforts. We hope that these documents will give you a better understanding of the struggles that shaped your history. Yours in Celebration,

***Bendigo Support Group. Australia"***

### *Excerpt from the Speech by Dr Don Sinclair OAM National President RCA at the Raphael Jubilee*

I bring greetings and congratulations to all at 'Raphael' from your many friends at Ryder-Cheshire Australia on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the foundation of the Ryder-Cheshire International Mission for the Relief of Suffering.

**This Golden Jubilee** is a time for remembrance and reflection. It is a time for congratulations and celebration. It is a time for challenge. A time to remember the collection of old army tents erected on the edge of a forest reserve beside the banks of the Rispana River on the then outskirts of Dehradun to provide sanctuary for a group of leprosy sufferers and other outcasts from society; to reflect on no running water and the infamous causeway that was inundated during every monsoon, and sometimes washed away; to remember all these things and to contrast them with the wonderful physical facilities that surround us today.

But people are more important than buildings and **we must remember and pay homage to our late Founders, Leonard Cheshire, and his wife, Sue Ryder**, both heroes who served their country valiantly in time of war, and who later served all humanity through their Mission for the Relief of Suffering at 'Raphael', and at several hundred other homes and programs throughout the world.

We must remember the thousands of individuals who were inspired by their mission. May we remember the revered **Major-General Ranbir Bakhshi**, again a war hero and leader, **who devoted so many years of his long life to the welfare of all those at 'Raphael' and beyond.**

We remember too **Barbara Lewis and Olive Lamont**. Barbara Coleman, later to become Barbara Lewis, was then a young social worker whose brother was a Jesuit priest in India. Barbara was to become one of the earliest volunteers at 'Raphael' and secretary of the infant settlement. To many Australians Barbara was the face of Ryder-Cheshire. Olive Lamont was the president of the Ballarat Support Group for many years and played a major role in raising significant funds for 'Raphael'. Sadly, both Barbara and Olive passed away recently.

Today is a time to congratulate all at 'Raphael' on 50 years of devoted service for the relief of suffering, **Our Founders and many of those who joined them in their mission are now gone, but have left behind them footprints on the sands of time.**

### **STATE GOVERNOR ATTENDS RAPHAEL GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS IN ADELAIDE**

**The Celebration was organised by the newly formed Adelaide Friends of Ryder-Cheshire. Walford Anglican School for Girls, which has supported the Foundation for 34 years, hosted the event.**

**The patron of Ryder-Cheshire SA, His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR, Governor of South Australia, and Mrs Scarce attended. His Excellency spoke warmly about the work of the Foundation during his address to the guests. Paul Jenner, the President of Ryder-Cheshire SA also addressed the gathering and thanked the Adelaide members for their past support and the members of the school community for their long association with the Foundation.**

Secretary Di McEwen, who thanked the Governor, presented Golden Celebration roses to Mrs Scarce and the school. Paul Jenner said, *"It was a wonderful event and we are very proud to be associated with this great organisation"*.

## NEWS FROM TIMOR-LESTE

*From Helen Trueman, Klibur Domin Support Person.*



I was fortunate to be able to visit Klibur Domin in December 2008 to do an evaluation of a project Target TB is funding. The project is the training of community volunteers to assist KD mobile TB team with DOTS (directly observed treatment with short-course chemotherapy).

I was very pleased to be able to report that the program is extremely worthwhile and valuable.

**Community volunteers were sourced from across the three sub-districts of Liquica. A total of 148 volunteers were trained. Staff from Timor-Leste National TB program and Klibur Domin conducted the training of these volunteers.**

**The community volunteers then are able to assist the Mobile TB team by doing DOTS with patients. If a patient's condition allows and the patient prefers to stay at home, a community volunteer is selected to assist in DOTS. Typically TB treatment is 8 to 9 months in duration.** Many patients come to Klibur Domin for the Intensive Phase of their treatment but go home for the Continuous Phase of treatment. This is when the community volunteers, working together with the mobile TB team are of great value. The volunteers supervise and encourage patients to continue with their treatment, even when they are starting to feel better. Additional benefits from this program are the increase in TB knowledge within the local communities. This was clearly demonstrated to me when I witnessed a volunteer reporting to the TB team a new suspected TB case. This increased awareness and knowledge about TB means earlier detection and treatment, and consequently better outcomes.

**Joaquim Soares has been selected to attend The University of Sydney's The Office of Global health, Timor-Leste Health Leadership Program.** Joaquim is one of five people to participate in this program. The program was established with the aim of building health capacity in a country which has some of the worst health statistics in the world. The Office of Global Health secured funding this year for the program through AusAID's Australian Leadership Award (ALAF). The goal of the Timor-Leste Health Leadership Program is to identify and train current and future leaders in health care, health management, health policy, and health education. Joaquim has 2 six week programs at 2 rehabilitation facilities. Programs have been developed individually, with emphasis on exposing participants to methods, theories, techniques and approaches that they can implement and use to train and lead others when they return to Timor-Leste. **RCA congratulates Joaquim on his selection into this course.**

**Whilst Joaquim is attending his Leadership Program in NSW, Judy Chesney has volunteered to assist Gregorio Mendez (KD Home Supervisor) to manage Klibur Domin. Judy was the Klibur Domin Home Manager for a period during 2003. Judy recruited Joaquim to Klibur Domin and assisted Joaquim settle into Klibur Domin in his first days. Thank you Judy for assisting Gregorio during these next three months, I am sure he will appreciate your gentle guidance and support.**

The CBR (community based rehabilitation) program continues to grow. There are now more than 50 disabled children and young adults on this program. Klibur Domin has been very fortunate to have Alice Thomas (AVI volunteer) lead this program. Alice recently attended a CBR conference in Thailand. Other NGO's from Timor-Leste had representatives at the conference as well. It is great to know

that Klibur Domin and other NGO's within Timor-Leste are keeping abreast with CBR practice. **In August 2008 Alice arranged for the first meeting of organisations dealing with disabilities in Timor-Leste to gather and discuss various cases. It is planned that case conferences like this will continue every 1-2 months, being held at different venues with different presenters.** Sessions like this are an invaluable educational tool. They are not only valuable in the form of staff education, but also assist with increasing self confidence of the presenters, facilitation of information sharing between partner organisations, and net-working.

**CBR staff have also been assisting the Laclolema community bring water to the local school where two CBR patients are attendees.** There has been a steady increase in the number of CBR patients now attending school. Twenty CBR children attended their local schools as at Dec 2008.

Klibur Domin is supporting the training of a physiotherapist and an occupational therapist. Aljira Soares is studying Physiotherapy and Domingos Pereira is studying Occupational Therapy. They study in Indonesia and are now in semester four. They have a further two semesters of study, and are expected to complete their courses in mid 2010. They will add greatly to the CBR program and also to the inpatient care offered at Klibur Domin.

Thank you to all the supporters of Ryder-Cheshire. Your valued support enables Klibur Domin grow and provide much needed assistance in Timor-Leste.

### **KLIBUR DOMIN MINI PARALYMPICS**

*From Alice Thomas, AVI Volunteer Physiotherapist.*

On the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2008, Klibur Domin (KD) held a mini Paralympics to celebrate the 2008 Paralympic Games in China. In total 32 CBR clients were able to attend. It was a very special day for all the children to get together and participate in new activities. Staff, patients and local children were all involved, as well as community members. Much to the delight of the children, members of the Australian Federal Police and Australian Defence Force attended the event to assist children in activities and provide shade tents.

Speeches from KD Director, Joaquim Soares, and Mateus da Silva (representative from the Ministry of Social Solidarity), were followed by a torch relay, in which all CBR children passed around a well supervised flaming torch. **The main flame was lit by Armindo Assuncao (13 year old CBR client) and the event was declared open by Robin Scott Charlton (Counsellor for AusAID Timor Leste).**

Events included wheelchair races, sit down shot put and sit down volleyball. Children were also participated in group relays comprising egg and spoon, sack races and three legged (or in some cases three armed) races. The group activities allowed CBR children, local/staff children, patients and adults to participate together. This was a great example of social inclusion for all.

A former Timor Leste Paralympian (for weight lifting), Mateus Lucas, gave a very inspiring speech at the presentation. Awards were presented to the place getters by Joaquim Soares, with the assistance of members from Australian Volunteers International, the AFP and ADF. Rosario Ferreira (KD CBR co-ordinator), then presented all the CBR children with prizes in recognition of their participation in the event.

**A lovely dinner was prepared by the KD kitchen staff, and a BBQ provided by the AFP. The day concluded with a festa (party) with lots of dancing until late in the evening. Staff members from all teams worked very hard to make the event such a success. Congratulations to all the Klibur Domin staff.**

**Congratulations also to the KD staff who managed to beat both the AFP and the ADF in a tug-of-war competition, although the team numbers may have been a little uneven!**

## EVENTS FROM HISTORY - TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO

Pilgrimage on the Silver Wedding Anniversary  
of our Founders — 5th April 1984

*By Michalina Szustakiewicz of Konstancin, Poland.*

Reading recently about arrangements for a plaque at Cavendish, dedicated to Sue Ryder and Leonard Cheshire, combined with some preparations for the celebration of their Golden Jubilee Anniversary, made me wish to share with you how they celebrated their Silver Anniversary in Italy. As residents of the Sue Ryder Home in Konstancin, we were privileged to witness this and enjoyed the opportunity of celebrating that festive time together with our dearest couple. When Lady Ryder, with Group Captain Cheshire, were going to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary they decided to invite the patients from both their Foundations, to spend a week in Italy.

Lady Ryder told us about a pilgrimage to Rome that we would be going on and our joy was great, however we were unsure if this would really happen and who would get to go. Yet Lady Ryder did not forget about anyone and we, the residents at the Sue Ryder Home in Konstancin, were taken on this special journey from Poland to Italy and we had the great honour of meeting the Pope, Pope John Paul II.

A special train was organized from Warsaw to Rome and our group included the sick along with doctors, nurses and helpers. We were also joined by Polish combatants from World War II. In Italy we all experienced a lot of wonderful moments such as trips organized to Monte Cassino, Assisi, and Tivoli and we got to know Rome by day and night. **The most important event of the whole week was the private Audience with the Pope which was on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April 1984 at 12.30 pm.**

At 10 am the coaches carrying the patients and helpers left the hotel for the Vatican. These were escorted by the Italian Police. **The whole international group of the sick, from the Ryder-Cheshire Foundations, with their helpers totalled some eight hundred people !**

To enter the Vatican we went through the Main Gate because it was very close to the Paul VI Hall. Our devoted helpers looked after us and helped us from the coaches.

Inside the Audience Hall there were ten rows of wheelchairs of the sick with our helpers in front of the steps. Others more mobile were sitting on the chairs between us. On the stage, Sue Ryder and Leonard Cheshire sat with some Bishops and the Pope. **The moment we entered that spacious hall it made a great impression on us. We felt as if we had passed through a magic threshold into another world. The magnificence of the modern sculpture representing the Resurrection of Jesus Christ made us reflect on our lives and shortened the waiting time for the Pope to enter.**

At 12:30 sharp the Holy Father, with his arms widely outstretched, appeared among a group of clergy. The tune of Gounod accompanied them. The Pope in the bright light seemed as if he wanted to embrace all of us. The audience welcomed the Pope with a loud, joyful cheering, clapping and singing Polish songs. The people were wiping their tears, so were we, which we weren't ashamed of. We remember following each movement and gesture from His Holiness. His friendly smile, kindness and caring qualities were evident on his face.

After a while John Paul II asked Sue Ryder and Leonard Cheshire to come nearer to him as he wanted to welcome them. First, he spoke to them for a moment and then blessed the couple for their silver wedding anniversary and wished them all the best for their future life and work with those in need. It was very moving.

Later the Holy Father turned his welcoming words to all the sick and the helpers. He made a speech in English, French and Polish. After returning home to Poland we started analyzing the text to understand more. We still discover in it thoughts and messages which strengthen us and help to overcome our difficult moments. This has helped us to understand the meaning of suffering and to show how to approach Jesus Christ and to love Him, despite being severely ill.

**Pope John Paul II had finished his speech and was applauded by the audience for a long time. To our amazement, he then stepped down accompanied by Sue Ryder and Leonard Cheshire, and made his way towards the rows of patients. No-one expected him to come close to each of us. He blessed each person personally, making a sign of cross on our foreheads. He talked to some of us and sometimes embraced us in a fatherly gesture. All these moments were photographed by the papal photographer (Arturo Mari), so we were delighted to have a photo with the Pope as an everlasting memory of our unforgettable experience.**

Some patients had brought a small gift to offer to the Pope as a gift of love and gratitude to him. We had made him three beautiful dolls, dressed in traditional folk Polish costumes. I was privileged to hand His Holiness a doll in a Kurpie dress. **Sue Ryder accompanied the Pope when he approached us telling him something about our illness and life. Her face expressed a great joy and happiness. Soon after the audience, she was interviewed by Vatican Radio and she said it had been the happiest day of her life.**

It was also an unforgettable time for us and we have kept it in our hearts and have memories which we will never forget.

**In the afternoon that day there was an International Mass in Saint Peter's Basilica. It gathered all the members of the Ryder-Cheshire Pilgrimage and was said by the accompanied priests from different countries, who had also participated in the Family Week. It was a remarkable service in Latin, Polish and English with eleven celebrating priests. Taking part in the Nuptial Mass, while Sue Ryder and Leonard Cheshire renewed their wedding vows made us feel very honored.**

All the members of the International Family Week had a piece of silver wedding cake, a glass of wine and we were given a souvenir mat. We enjoyed that time very much. The atmosphere during all of the celebrations was solemn yet festive.

**Receiving the Holy Father's Blessing, being the witnesses to the renewal of the Ryder-Cheshire marriage vows, visiting the Eternal City and experiencing all of these brilliant moments are still vivid in our minds and hearts and we value and appreciate these immensely.**



**That particular visit will remain with us residents of the Sue Ryder Home at Konstancin as one of the most touching and unforgettable experiences of our lifetime.**

*Michalina pictured on  
5th April 1984  
handing His Holiness  
Pope John Paul II a  
doll dressed in Polish  
Kurpie dress.*

## DEDICATION AT CAVENDISH

On 5th April 2009, a service was held in St Mary's Church, Cavendish at which a plaque was dedicated in memory of Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder.

*The following is a report from  
The Right Reverend Nigel Stock  
Bishop of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich  
who officiated at the service.*

It was a great privilege to be part of the service at which a plaque was dedicated to the memory of Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder in St Mary's Church, Cavendish, Suffolk. The service of dedication occurred on 5th April 2009, fifty years to the day after Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder married in Bombay Roman Catholic Cathedral.

Leonard and Sue lived for the whole of their married life and brought up their children, Jeromy and Elizabeth, in Cavendish at the Old Rectory, which had been Sue Ryder's mother's house and which became the first Sue Ryder Home in the United Kingdom. It is very fitting therefore that a permanent memorial exists to this remarkable couple in the village which was their home.

The service brought together many people who had known them both in the village and others who had worked with them through their Foundations.

The address at the service was given by Canon Robert Clifton who at one time was Chairman of the Cheshire Home in Norwich and then worked for many years as Sue Ryder's Personal Assistant leaving only to become Ordained in the Anglican Church. Subsequently he was a Trustee of the Sue Ryder Foundation and for a time served as its Chairman.

His address highlighted the remarkable dedication of the couple and how through their Foundations they had transformed the lives of thousands of people throughout the world. Of course their drive and determination meant that they ruffled many feathers, but their wonderful humanity and humour and Christian faith shone through the service.

Both Leonard Cheshire's and Sue Ryder's Christian faith was nourished in the Roman Catholic Church, however shared Christian service was something they valued with people of all denominations. **It was very fitting therefore that the memorial plaque should be in the Anglican church of the village in which they lived, and the words of dedication pronounced by the Roman Catholic Bishop of East Anglia, the Rt Revd Michael Evans. He and the Anglican Bishop of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich jointly pronounced the blessing at the end of the service.**

Many groups enabled the fulfilment of this project. This included members of Ryder-Cheshire Australia. There was also a significant contribution from a Polish Choir who raised funds for the plaque and performed in the United Kingdom. It was wonderful that two members of the choir were able to be present for the dedication.

Despite being some seventeen years after from the death of Leonard Cheshire and nearly nine years from the death of Sue Ryder, the church was packed with people who came to re-

member the remarkable effect of two human lives on so many. It was a beautiful Spring day and there was a real sense of thanksgiving and pride in all that had been achieved. It was excellent that Jeromy Cheshire was able to come and read the lesson at the service and that other members of the family were able to attend.

The living legacy of course was also remembered in all this, in that the Foundations that they started flourish in so many parts of the world. The key to the whole event was of course the local Anglican incumbent, Canon John Rankin who did so much to help this come about. Once again a great thank you goes out to all those **who contributed to the very fine plaque and not least of course to the members of Ryder-Cheshire Australia.**

### INSCRIPTION ON THE PLAQUE

REMEMBER BEFORE GOD  
GROUP CAPTAIN LEONARD BARON CHESHIRE  
VC O M D S O D F C  
1917-1992  
FOUNDER OF THE CHESHIRE HOMES  
AND HIS WIFE  
SUE, BARONESS RYDER OF WARSAW & CAVENDISH  
CMG OBE  
1924-2000  
FOUNDER OF THE SUE RYDER HOMES

THEY LIVED AND WORKED IN THIS VILLAGE AND  
DEDICATED THEIR LIVES TO THE  
RELIEF OF SUFFERING

*Thou hast called us, O Lord, and we have found Thee  
In the poor, the unwanted, and the suffering  
And there we will serve Thee*

Congratulations to  
**Dr Donald Sinclair OAM,**  
**National President of**  
**Ryder-Cheshire Australia,**  
on being awarded a  
Medal of the Order of Australia  
in the  
Australia Day Honours 2009.

The award was made for "service to the community, particularly through the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation, to education and to a range of professional associations".

### **Donations to Ryder-Cheshire Australia**

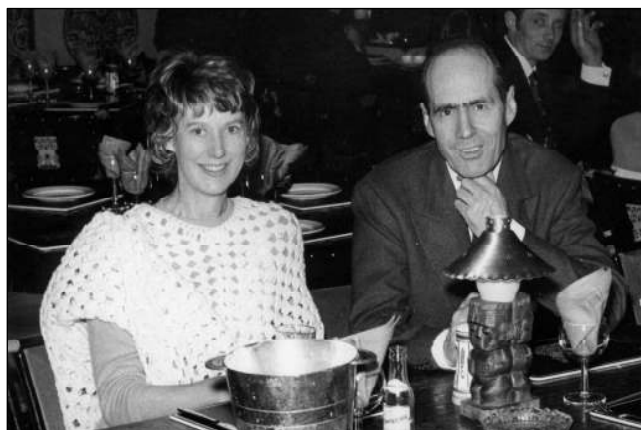
*If you would like to support the work of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation by means of a donation, please contact the National President, Dr Don Sinclair, 21 Moorwatha Street, Macleod, Victoria 3085. Telephone 03 9458 1007 or email donsinaclair@optusnet.com.au*

**DONATIONS OVER \$2.00 ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

## VALE

Barbara Anne Lewis

1931 - 4th January 2009



Ryder-Cheshire members throughout Australia will remember her as Leonard Cheshire's personal representative and the embodiment of all that was true, loving and compassionate in the Ryder-Cheshire spirit. She was the last surviving member of the Raphael's original board of directors.

Following a visit to India in 1959 as a single young woman of independent means, Barbara wrote to Leonard and offered herself as a volunteer to work at Raphael. The warm, trusting relationship that developed between the two of them led to her paving the way for Leonard to visit Australia on a fund-raising mission for Raphael. As a result of that visit Leonard developed a deep affection for Australia and its people. He made a point of returning at regular intervals with his wife, Sue, until his death in 1992.

Barbara was deeply committed to her work for Ryder-Cheshire and passionately convinced that providing a caring atmosphere of home and family for those in need was an essential ingredient for their welfare. During her years in India she monitored the management of Cheshire Homes in Delhi, Bombay and South India. She also travelled to Pakistan and South East Asia.

After her marriage in 1971 she adopted two babies from Indonesia and a young child from Sri Lanka. Although marriage limited her ability to travel overseas Barbara devoted her spare time to working for the South Australian Foundation in Adelaide. When she moved to Sydney with her family she took over the presidency of the N.S.W. Foundation for several years.

Barbara inspired enthusiasm in all those who met her. She was bright, happy and fun-loving. No one would ever have guessed that she had been diagnosed on her birthday with a serious illness and given just six months to live. For fifty years of her life she breathed Ryder-Cheshire and maintained her interest until the last.

*It is no exaggeration to say that she made a unique contribution to the Ryder-Cheshire International Mission for the Relief of Suffering.  
She will be sorely missed.*

*Peter Coleman*

## NEWS FROM THE STATES

### NEW SOUTH WALES

*From Christine Hannan, President*

Our new committee has been working hard to develop an understanding of the tasks we need to undertake in order to continue the fine work of our predecessors. The change of several of our key office bearers has presented us with a number of challenges, but we are slowly making headway and thank all our supporters for their patience with the changes.

Our new Treasurer, Peter O'Donnell, is guiding us with his financial expertise and giving us detailed information on our financial position, which is helping with our planning of fundraising events. We are also grateful to Maureen Murphy, our Card Sales Coordinator, who continues her dedicated and time-consuming work in ordering, promoting and selling cards and raising substantial funds for our Foundation. Also to our Sponsorship Secretary, Moira Truskett, who has been tireless in her efforts to maintain contact with our many sponsors and to keep sponsorship as an important source of funding for both India and East Timor.

We were greatly saddened by the death of our dear friend and mentor, Barbara Lewis (Coleman) in early January. Barbara had a profound influence on the NSW Foundation over many decades right up until the time of her death. We mourn her loss and extend deepest sympathy to Patrick, her husband, and to her children and grandchildren. A tribute to her by her brother Peter, a member of our committee, is included in this Newsletter, opposite.

Our new Secretary and Assistant Secretary, Andrew and Angelica Hannan, have brought some new perspectives to fundraising and organised a bake stall at the Kirribilli Markets last November. Despite the inclement weather on the day, we were pleased with the financial outcome as well as the opportunity to promote the work of the Foundation to a wider audience. Jenny Coleman also organised two street stalls in December at Crows Nest to sell our cards, which proved to be very successful. In December, Andrew and Angelica organised a film night at the Dendy Opera Quays for a screening of 'Australia'. This was a highly successful evening with seats selling out quickly and many disappointed at missing out. Our thanks go to Andrew, Angelica and Jenny for their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment to our fundraising efforts.

In April, four representatives from NSW travelled to India for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations at Raphael. Details of their visit appear on Page 4 of this Newsletter.

**Our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> July at 4 Rawhiti Street Roseville at 7:15pm. All are welcome to attend.**

#### **Contacts:**

President	Christine Hannan	9416 7569
Sponsorship	Moira Truskett	9523 7483
Card Sales	Maureen Murphy	9664 6141
Volunteers	Anne Boyd	6572 1295

**If you would prefer to receive your Newsletter by e-mail, it is now available in PDF format. Just send an e-mail to [antheaswann@bigpond.com](mailto:antheaswann@bigpond.com)**

Give the email address to which you would like it sent, plus your name and postal address.



### SINGLETON SUPPORT GROUP

*From Cheryl Nesbitt, Secretary.*

**The Committee continues to provide our beautiful purpose renovated home at Singleton for the use of training and support for young people with developmental disabilities, under the Atlas program.** We do not have day to day involvement, as the house is totally for their use, but with the understanding that urgent accommodation could be facilitated for a disabled person in need for a short term.

**There are twenty two young persons attending in a user-friendly environment with professional and experienced staff** - their aim is to assist in the transfer from school and to enter the workforce, or participate and become a valued community member. Each participant has an individual plan, and goals that have meaning for them. Included in the program is Art and Music Therapy, self-development workshops incorporating self esteem, communication, hygiene and relationship development. Community access is achieved in a variety of ways by utilising services such as the beautician, gym and swim, movies, coffee shop etc.

Part of the transition to work aspect is to offer work experience. The students have worked in a variety of settings with staff support, such as at Pizza Hut, Motels, teachers aide, and meals on wheels, and serving at a CWA function. The group has regular team meetings, run by students, which encourage dialogue and problem solving, as well as learning about the disability service standards and consumer rights - they have fire drill and Occupational Health and Safety training. The Committee is dedicated to providing the house for such a worthwhile purpose and feel assured of its continued success.

**We continue with our efforts with Christmas card sales, and have provided substantial funds for furnishings at Klibur Domin in the past year.** The Singleton group also sponsors an adoption at Raphael.

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA/Mt.GAMBIER

*From Di McEwen, Secretary.*

**FUNDRAISING** Ryder-Cheshire Catering continues to raise funds at a variety of functions; including morning and afternoon teas, lunches, suppers and most recently providing lunch and dinner for the week of the Limestone Coast Sculpture Symposium, held in Mount Gambier. *The Friends of Ryder-Cheshire, Adelaide* gave a generous donation to the State Council following a successful Lions barbecue.

**THE CHARITY CARD SHOP** in the Southern Cross Arcade, Adelaide continues to be very popular for Christmas and all-occasion cards and craft items. We appreciate this support as it promotes the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation as well as adding to our funds.

**MOUNT GAMBIER RYDER-CHESHIRE HOME** The Board recently purchased patio furniture to be used in the recently constructed pergola. Alongside the pergola is a raised garden bed in which the residents have planted a variety of herbs and vegetables. This has been a welcome addition to the Home and the residents enjoy this immensely. The main garden will continue to be a work in progress.

**THE GOLDEN JUBILEE FOUNDERS DAY** was held on 1st April, 2009 at Walford Anglican College in Adelaide (see report in Newsletter).

#### DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

**The 2010 Biennial Conference is to be held in Mount Gambier 29th April – 2nd May, 2010.**

### BALLARAT SUPPORT GROUP

*From Dianne McGrath, Vice-President.*

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Raphael has been a major highlight for our Support Group. On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April we hosted a luncheon, an Indian buffet, for our members, sponsors, supporters and friends. Anita Rana and her sister Lakshmi Rana, who is visiting, were our guests and **spoke about growing up in Raphael and how much the fifty years of operation had meant to the lives of residents living there.** The girls shared the cutting of the Anniversary cake. We were delighted to have our friends and members from the Victorian Foundation and the Bendigo Support Group with us. Anthea Swann gave a talk about the history of Raphael and Hugh presented some recently "unearthed" Ryder-Cheshire history relevant to the celebration. Mr and Mrs Dyer spoke about the early days of Ryder Cheshire in Ballarat and the sponsoring of young people in Raphael. They explained that at the initial gathering in 1964 there were 1000 people who came along, so many, that a different location for the meeting had to be found. One of our members, Robert Brookes, was at the Anniversary celebrations at Raphael. This is Robert's third visit to Raphael.

It was fitting to honour a long serving member of our Support Group. when **Carmel Morgan-Wall was awarded with a Life Membership.** Carmel has a great sense of history and has a remarkable memory of both people and events over the life of the group. We appreciate her work and congratulate her outstanding contribution to the work of Ryder-Cheshire particularly in Ballarat.

The Support Group has had cause for further celebration as Anita Rana has passed her Degree in Nursing at the University of Ballarat. She has also been successful at obtaining a full time contract at the Ballarat Health Services nursing at the Ballarat Base Hospital.

### AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

*From Margaret Sleigh, Acting Chairperson.*

We have suffered two setbacks in recent times. Patricia McDonell has withdrawn from the Committee for personal reasons. We will certainly miss her sorely. Her wealth of knowledge of Klibur Domin has been extremely beneficial to our organisation. **Margaret Sleigh is acting as stand in chair person until our Annual General Meeting which will probably be held in about June or July.**

Dr Barry Moran who has been a very generous supporter over many many years died of cancer recently. He is survived by his wife, Maureen, four children and several grandchildren. His funeral Mass was held in St. Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla. Ryder-Cheshire was represented by Margaret Sleigh.

**We continue to benefit from a good relationship with Canberra Friends of Dilli. It has been decided that in future our meetings will be held immediately after the CFD meeting each month as there are many new members of Ryder-Cheshire who are members of CFD and it saves them from having to travel to an additional meeting.**

At our meeting held in April, Mrs. Inga McMaster suggested that we curtail our card selling activities to only one charity card shop this year. Last year we attempted to sell cards at two locations. The normal one being Civic and the second being a new charity card shop in Tuggeranong. The Tuggeranong card shop presented difficulties as we did not have sufficient people to man it and Inga had to call on friends to assist her. The return was not worth the effort so this year we will attend only the long running Civic Charity Card shop.

## NEWS FROM THE STATES

### VICTORIA

*Peter McConnell, Vice President.*

After the Christmas break, The Victorian Committee recommenced to meet from February onwards to plan the activities for the year ahead.

#### Don Sinclair OAM

We are delighted to congratulate Don on being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours earlier this year. The award was largely due to his long and distinguished voluntary work with the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation, not only on the Victoria Committee, and as President of the Victorian Homes Foundation, but also with Ryder-Cheshire Australia of which he is currently National President. Terrific news!

#### Film Event

This annual event again was a great success, both socially and financially, for the showing of the film "Australia". The 150 people who attended were a good mix of age groups, which exposed many more to the work of the Foundation.

#### Lions Club Opportunity Shop, Mt Waverley

We have continued our involvement with the Op Shop, and since our last newsletter, have staffed the shop for two weeks, in December and January. This continues to provide a good stream of revenue to the Foundation, and we are scheduled to staff the Op Shop again in May and July. We would appreciate any volunteers who can assist with a half-day to help fill our roster.

#### Golden Jubilee

Peter & Helen Newton and Don Sinclair from our Committee attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary celebrations at Raphael, and reported back on the special events to mark this milestone. Anthea & Ian Swann and Margaret & Peter McConnell attended a luncheon arranged by the Ballarat Support Group on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April, the same day as the celebrations at Raphael.

#### Bridge Days

We are hopeful of re-commencing our Bridge Days from July and supporters will be provided with details nearer to the time.

#### Fund-Raising Dinner

Arrangements are in progress for the Fund-raising Dinner planned for Friday 17 July at the Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre. THIS WILL BE OUR MAJOR FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR THE YEAR.

IT WILL BE A NIGHT SPECIFICALLY TO RAISE FUNDS FOR KLIBUR DOMIN and we have Andrew & Matt McConnell, two of Melbourne's most renowned chefs, as guest chefs, preparing fine food accompanied by excellent wine. Our guest speaker will be Kevin Bailey, Honorary Consul General for East Timor in Victoria. There will also be entertainment.

**PLEASE BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT. SHOULD YOU REQUIRE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL MARGARET MCCONNELL ON 03 9882 2164.**

### VICTORIAN BUSH FIRES

*Our sympathy goes out to the people of Victoria and members and supporters of our Ryder-Cheshire family in Victoria whose lives were touched by the devastating Bush Fires and events of Black Saturday, 7th February 2009.*

*May you be comforted in knowing that others deeply share your sorrow and so much understand the sadness the tragedies have brought to so many.*

## Sponsors Needed . . . .

. . . to support the work of the  
Ryder-Cheshire Foundations in  
India and East Timor

### MAKE A COMMITMENT TODAY !

**For \$365 a year, you can help relieve the suffering and disadvantage of growing up in India or East Timor, with a disability, and in poverty.**

Through the residential and outreach services of Raphael, in Northern India, and Klibur Domin in Timor Leste, many children and adults are being helped to achieve their potential and a life of dignity and fulfilment.



**MARIA is a young person in Timor Leste who has been assisted by the Klibur Domin Community Based Rehabilitation Program, and funding through the Sponsorship Program.**

**Contact your nearest Ryder-Cheshire Sponsorship Secretary for more information about becoming a Sponsor:**

#### AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Margaret Sleigh  
23 View Street TEMORA NSW 2615  
Tel 02 6978 1260 E-mail mmsleigh@tpg.com.au

#### BALLARAT SUPPORT GROUP

Dorothy Carpenter  
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#### NEW SOUTH WALES

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#### SOUTH AUSTRALIA/ WEST AUSTRALIA

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