



# 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

ISSUE NUMBER 77 MAY 2011

## KLIBUR DOMIN, TIMOR LESTE LONG-TERM RESIDENTS MOVE INTO THEIR NEW HOME

For the past three years the six elderly long term residents at Klibur Domin have lived in temporary accommodation, made largely from bamboo and galvanised iron. Imagine their delight when on 9th February 2011, they moved into a brand new, purpose built Residents' Cottage. The new building has six bedrooms, four bathrooms and a lounge/dining room. It is brightly painted inside and out and has ceiling fans and flush toilets. Non-slip floor tiles and new furniture complete the package. The weekend after the staff helped the residents to move in, there was a party atmosphere with inpatients from other cottages visiting and sharing the excitement. The local ducks soon found the new cottage as well, but they have been banned from coming inside.

The six residents are Daubois, Fatima, Joaquim, Maria, Romeu and Clara who, despite being totally blind, keeps her room and bathroom immaculately clean. Apart from Maria and Fatima, the residents have been at Klibur Domin since the 1990s, back in Indonesian times. There are pressures on Klibur Domin to admit other long term residents, and this is being considered. The building cost less than \$35,000 to complete. This amazing price was achieved only because the project was managed by the Director, Joaquim Soares, and the Head of Support Services, Gregorio Mendes, with the assistance of a Philippine engineer, Cesar Ferrer, who oversaw the workers and ensured the structural integrity of the construction. A team of local and Philippine workers completed the work.

Joaquim Soares was keen to point out that the cost would have been twice as much if the project had been put out to contract. However, the efforts and worry of managing the project were too much for the Klibur Domin management team to contend with along with their normal responsibilities. Hence future major building projects will be contracted out.

**The funds for the project came from the Barbara Lewis estate (\$15,000) and the proceeds of the Celebrity Chef Dinner held in Melbourne in July 2009 (\$26,000).** The funds remaining from this project will be used to renovate the Administration Building. Those who attended the Dinner in 2009 can be well pleased that their contributions achieved such a useful outcome. We also thank Patrick Lewis for arranging for the transfer of the funds as a lasting memorial to Barbara, who gave so much to Ryder-Cheshire during her life.

As soon as the Residents' Cottage was completed and occupied, work commenced on another new project, the Respite/ Training Centre. This building will contain six bedrooms for respite patients and their carers. Attached to it will be a large room that will be used for training and skill development for residents, inpatients and those in the Respite Centre. The \$110,000 for this building has been funded by a generous Melbourne based donor. A further project to construct a Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis Ward is being funded by Eli Lilly Australia. It will be completed and occupied by the end of May.



Front view of the new Residents' House



Staff member Carmelita helps Clara to unpack



Staff member Carlos helping Joaquim, Daubais and Fatima to settle in

## Message from our President

Readers will notice the new style of Newsletter in this edition. We are attempting to make the Newsletter more attractive to a wider audience and we ask you to pass it on to family and friends when you have read it.

Included on the last page is a DONATION box . Sponsorships and donations are our life blood and without them we will be unable to continue our support of our homes to the same level. With the end of the financial year fast approaching, you might wish to think about making a tax deductible donation.

The Ryder-Cheshire Australia recently held its AGM and a Strategic Planning Conference where we looked at where we are heading over the next five years. There were no changes to the Board membership or executive positions at the AGM and I thank those who have agreed to serve on. They are an enthusiastic and competent group of people.

No major changes of direction are planned for the immediate future, but many innovations will be progressively introduced to lift the profile of the Foundations and to try to recruit more sponsors, supporters and volunteers.

The new style Newsletter is just one of many improvements planned. Terry Warr from Melbourne is leading a team making major improvements to our Website and these should be completed within the next few months. New DVDs and brochures will also be produced for our overseas homes to spread the word about the wonderful work being done to help the sick and disadvantaged in India and East Timor.

Klibur Domin in East Timor has seen some major improvements over the past few months with the new Residents' Cottage completed and two more buildings under construction.

The Mount Gambier Homes Foundation is looking at ways of raising funds to construct a second home for young men with disabilities adjacent to the present home for young women. This is some years away but is a firm vision.

Everyone will be very aware of the horrific earthquake that hit Christchurch, but most will be unaware that there is a very active Ryder-Cheshire Foundation based there. When we learned of the earthquake, we were naturally concerned to track down the President, Carolyn Tapley, to find out how she and the other members were.

It took some days, but eventually we were delighted to learn that Carolyn was physically fine but her workplace had been rendered uninhabitable and her home had suffered some damage. Unfortunately Bruce and Margaret Moon were not so lucky and both ended up in hospital with serious injuries. Bruce remains in hospital with spinal injuries.

Our thoughts are with our Kiwi friends as they recover from this disaster. They are showing great strength of character in very difficult times.

*Peter Newton*

## A Christmas Story from Singleton

The Singleton Ryder-Cheshire Home "Locksley" was recently vacated by the Whitmore Group for whom we were providing a facility for respite care for young disabled for the past nine years. Just before Christmas, our ever-alert Committee noticed an editorial in the local newspaper requiring urgent accommodation for a family with a disabled child. Follow up revealed a young family who had been involved in a vehicle accident last year, resulting in their eight year old son being hospitalized and subsequently wheelchair bound. The family is from Singleton and have two other young sons and a baby due just after Christmas. The parents had searched unsuccessfully for a house able to be modified and their plight had been known to our local newspaper editor, who came to their aid with the story. They had been accommodated in Ronald McDonald House in Newcastle for several months whilst their son had several operations. We are delighted to have been able to offer them our House, to now also accommodate a new baby daughter and with the added excitement for them that their father is now well enough to return to full time work. A very happy outcome for all.

*Cheryl Nesbit, Singleton Support Group*

## What a surprise !

I had always thought I was not very good at fund raising probably because I had never raised much money during my involvement with RCA, so when I rang Peter Newton with news of a five thousand dollar donation, I am sure he was as surprised as I was !

The strictly anonymous donation is for a specific purpose. It will pay for the refurbishment of the Volunteers Cottage at Raphael to bring it up to a modern standard for all of our valued volunteers. Peter was understandably curious to know how I obtained this donation. "How did I do it?". I hope the answer will help you with your fund raising activities.

I can't tell you how many times our former National President, Don Sinclair, reminded us that "ninety eight cents in every dollar donated to RCA will be spent on the upkeep of our Homes, and 100 cents of every dollar of Special Purpose Grants will be spent on the Project for which it is donated. And all our Executive are volunteers and nobody receives payment for their services unless they work in one of our Homes".

That is the "gospel" I have preached for years. It has taken a few years for this message to bear fruit for me. You can be persistent in promoting the work of RCA but you must also be patient for people to judge their own situation and make their decision at the time right for them.

*Hugh Elphinstone, Bendigo Support Group.*

## VICTORIAN HOMES

The Homes continue to be open on every day of the year and provide accommodation for patients and carers attending any Melbourne hospital.

'A Safe Haven', a book edited by Dr Sandra Foster, one of our volunteers, and Sister Jane Gorey, our resident carer, providing the personal stories of 12 of our residents, was published in October 2010. The book provides a wonderful insight into the ethos of the Homes in providing relief from suffering. 'A Safe Haven' is available from the Homes at a cost of \$10 plus postage.

The third annual volunteers' luncheon was held on 6 March 2011. The weather was magnificent and the occasion was a great success. This luncheon is an acknowledgement of the service of more than 50 volunteers in operating the Homes.

The imminent shut-down of the existing analog television system and its replacement with digital television will necessitate the replacement of the TV sets in all units. Negotiations are proceeding regarding the best receivers and costs, etc. This project is our next fund-raising priority.

*Donald A Sinclair*

## YOUR LETTERS

" I recently enjoyed the hospitality of the Ryder Cheshire House in Ivanhoe for 2 nights. The stay was organized through the Austin Hospital.

My brother-in-law required a procedure which necessitated an overnight stay and I was his carer. The house at Ivanhoe was easy to find - a bonus for country folk - and close to the Austin. The receptionist was helpful and we were quickly allocated a room, and as both of us are pensioners the cost was most reasonable. The rooms are of a good size and well equipped and the beds were comfortable, but the TV reception was poor - terribly poor.

The House is close to shops and public transport and easy driving to the hospital. Our experience was positive, and we are grateful that this facility is available to country people in their time of need."

*Geoff Wild.*

### Editors note

*The TV antennae system at the Ivanhoe Homes has been completely replaced in conjunction with the reroofing project. Now all TV sets are being replaced with flat screen HD digital models. This will be completed shortly.*

### VICTORIAN FUNDRAISER EVENT

## Gourmet Supper and Charity Auction

**FRIDAY 29 JULY 2011 at 8.00 pm**

**At the Darebin Arts & Entertainment Centre**

**Cnr Bell St & St Georges Road Preston**

(Melways ref. map 30 E 1)

It's almost 2 years since we staged our dinner with guest chefs Andrew and Matt McConnell. **In 2009, that night of great food and wine, East Timorese music, guest speaker and charity auction, raised \$26,000 and was memorable for the wonderful ambience and good will enjoyed by all.**

Now we see the results of this effort contributing to the opening of our new residents' centre at Klibur Domin. So much has been able to be done – but there is still much more to accomplish to improve the lives of the East Timorese people and support the continuing efforts of Joaquim and his team at Klibur Domin.

**Leading chefs Andrew & Matt McConnell have once again generously agreed to serve wonderful finger food for our Gourmet Supper.**

A silent auction will happen throughout the evening and a major fundraiser auction will include some excellent items – one of which is a bottle of Grange Hermitage wine from the Governor General's cellar, personally signed by her.

Food & drinks included **the cost is \$60.00 per person which includes a \$30.00 tax deductible donation.**

Please join us and invite your friends along for a fun Evening, including a progress report on Klibur Domin, great music, food and wine!

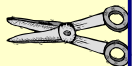
Tickets are available by detaching and sending the coupon below along with your cheque or credit card details.

**Enquiries Peter or Marg McConnell**

[marg.peter@optusnet.com.au](mailto:marg.peter@optusnet.com.au) or call 03 9939 7501

For more information please visit our website

[www.ryder-cheshire.org](http://www.ryder-cheshire.org)



### GOURMET SUPPER & CHARITY AUCTION FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2011

Name	Telephone Number	E-Mail address	No of Tickets @ \$60 ea

**Cheques may be made payable to the "Ryder Cheshire Foundation Victoria" and sent to Ryder Cheshire Victoria, 8 Walbundry Drive, Kew East, Vic 3102**

**Or For Credit Card Payment option:**

Name on Credit Card..... Total Amount .....

**Visa/Master Card:** Card Number ...../...../...../..... Expiry date ...../.....

Address:.....

Signature of Cardholder .....

## From around the States

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA/MT GAMBIER** Greetings to all our fellow Foundation members, from right down here, at the bottom of Australia. Our enthusiasm for our wonderful and unique humanitarian organisation continues.

As usual fund raising is always a challenge as we compete with many others, working to raise money for their particular organisation. Our catering group, co-ordinated by our multi talented Kay Gilbertson to whom we owe a great debt of thanks, has been very busy. In February we catered for a week long high profile event, the Limestone Sculpture Symposium, a biennial national event, this being our third time. It is a very busy time as we provide lunch and dinner for about 40. We also cater for our usual business lunches and other celebrations. We also hold a sausage sizzle at our local Bunnings store whenever we have the opportunity. It is quite competitive to obtain a spot, but we are always in there and this year we have two days when we usually raise about \$600 a day.

Jo Sunnex made her third trip to Raphael last August. We are lucky to have her excellent liaison with Raphael.

Sadly Council has lost two members due to family reasons, but we have already welcomed a new member, Sheila Neill, who saw a press release about Ryder-Cheshire in the local newspaper and responded. Sheila works in the disability field at Miroma Cottage, a respite facility for families caring for a disabled person.

Our Western Australian supporters continue their contact through generous sponsorships.

*Olive Lane*



Above— Members of the Mt Gambier Catering group hard at work  
Below—Kay Gilbertson, Di McEwen, Brian Kermond & Olive Lane



**ADELAIDE FRIENDS** enjoyed High Tea and opened Tom-bola Mystery boxes at the home of Barbara Isaksson in November, raising funds as well.

The Charity Card shop in Adelaide proved worthwhile under Judith Weston coordinating RCF cards. In March we held a successful BBQ in the beautiful grounds of Charles Sturt Cottage, Grange. All meat, salads and sweets were supplied by the Adelaide Lions, who have been very generous to RCA for a number of years and this year they are celebrating 50 years of community service. With great weather adding to the enjoyment, we raised just over \$1,000.

**Good news story.....** My grand-daughter Jessica has developed an email friendship with Sunanda, the daughter of the young man at Raphael my family sponsored in the 1970s.

*Trish Frith.*

### MT GAMBIER LADIES MODEL BEAUTIFUL SCARVES FROM RAPHAEL WORKSHOP *from Jo Sunnex*

The Workshop at Raphael enables young people in the age group of 16-18 years to take part in the vocational training programme. For the more severely disabled, the focus is on daily living and domestic skills. The more able students learn different vocations and may eventually move to the Rehabilitation Workshop or into a service.

This approach provides some basic needs to the intellectually disabled community by giving them a sense of responsibility of doing a job, producing goods for sale for the larger community, working along side their colleagues and earning a portion of their livelihood.

Both **NEHA SHARMA** and **NEEL KARNIKA** work in the block printing workshop producing these unique scarves which I was able to purchase. Both girls put a lot of thought into choosing the colour and design of their scarves, for the ladies of Mt Gambier Ryder Cheshire Council. They are very proud of the work they do, and to have a buyer is so esteem building for them. It was such a pleasure to see the enthusiasm, and pride in doing their work to produce these beautiful scarves.



## HELEN MARGARET MCKENDRICK, AM

Helen McKendrick spent more than forty years working with the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation helping those less fortunate than herself. She suffered a major stroke and died peacefully in the Royal Melbourne Hospital in Melbourne on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2010, aged 90.



Helen served in WW II as a WAAAF officer and, at the end of the War, she married Ian McLachlan, a pilot and senior RAAF officer. They had two children, Diana and Dugald who was tragically killed in an accident when aged just 18. Helen and Ian were divorced in the mid 1960s and later she married and lived happily with Bill McKendrick until his death in 1986.

In 1964, Helen met Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder who were visiting Melbourne to raise funds for Raphael. She offered her enthusiastic support for their mission and joined the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation Victoria committee which was raising funds for Raphael.

In 1981, Helen became an inaugural member of the committee of the Ryder-Cheshire Victorian Homes Foundation, a separate charity created to establish and operate the Ivanhoe Homes. She was elected President in 1985 and remained in that role until September 1992. During that time, a second War Widows' block was added to the one leased in 1981 and a third purpose built block was constructed in 1992, bringing the total number of beds to 90.

In 1990, Helen also became the President of the original Ryder-Cheshire Victoria Foundation which was supporting Raphael in India and later Klibur Domin in East Timor. She held that position until 1998 and then continued as an active committee member and fund raiser for both Foundations until 2005.

For her outstanding contribution to community service, and in particular to the relief of suffering through the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation, Helen was honoured as a Member of the Order of Australia on Australia Day 2001.

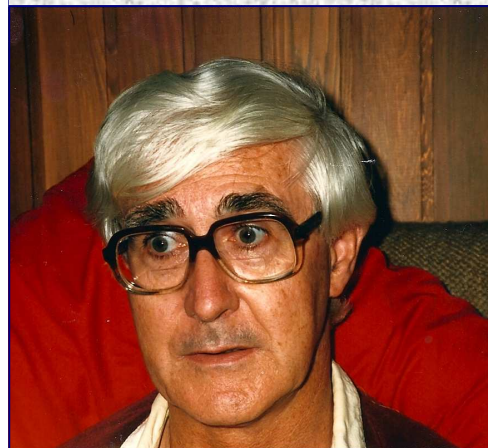
Helen was a lady of great strength and charm and she was a towering figure in the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation for more than 40 years. She is sadly missed by all who knew and loved her.

*Peter Newton*

## PETER COLEMAN

Members of the NSW Ryder Cheshire Committee and countless other members and friends were deeply saddened to hear of the death of our dear friend Peter Coleman on 15 December.

Peter was a wonderful committeeman for over thirty-five years, having first joined the Foundation in 1972, after marrying Jenny who was already committed to the Ryder Cheshire cause. Over this period of time Peter held a number of key positions in the NSW Foundation including: Chief Accounting Officer from 1978-1982, Chairman of the Committee from 1986-1995, Adoptions Secretary from 1997 until the mid 2000s



During his period of Chairmanship, for a couple of years he held both this position and that of Treasurer, because committee numbers were very small. Peter finally resigned from the Committee in 2009, but maintained a close interest in all its activities until the time of his death.

Peter brought great wisdom and balance as well as a wonderful sense of humour to all that he did. He was very involved in setting up the company structure for the NSW committee and was well versed in the legal requirements that accompanied this. He had a fine mind and was well read and helped others in understanding their responsibilities in managing a charity and accounting for monies raised in the name of that charity.

Peter was meticulous in his record keeping and guided others on the committee in following correct procedures. He was direct in his communications, but also very affirming of the efforts of others. He had the respect of not only the NSW committee members, but also of the other Foundations throughout Australia. He was greatly loved.

We will miss such a beautiful man. He was strong, but gentle, warm and kind - inclusive, caring and extraordinarily generous. His deep spirituality guided all that he did. How fortunate we are to have known him. Peter, may you rest in peace.

*Christine Hannan*

**Ryder-Cheshire gratefully acknowledges David Coath, of PROMPT DISTRIBUTION PTY LTD, West Heidelberg, Victoria, who most generously arranges and pays for the distribution**

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Provide your email address **PLUS** name and postal address so we can delete you from the Mailing List.

## YOU CAN HELP!

Ryder-Cheshire Foundations in Australia are run totally by volunteers. We receive no Government funding, and 100% of donations is used for the operation and development of our Homes. By donating your time or money, you can help make a difference.

If you would like assist with this very rewarding work, please contact the nearest Home, Foundation or Support Group:

### ADELAIDE FRIENDS

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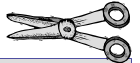
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### WEBSITES

**Australia** www.ryder-cheshire.org  
**East Timor** www.klibur-domin.east-timor.net  
**India** www.raphael-ryder-cheshire.org

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Tel 08 9349 5043 Newsletters are published in May and Nov each year. For the November 2011 issue all articles, reports and photographs should be submitted by email to petters@inet.net.au by 1st October 2011.



## DONATION

Ryder-Cheshire Australian Overseas Aid Fund is a Deductible Gift Recipient (ABN 15 362 991 732) and all donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible. If you would like to make a donation, please nominate which overseas home (Raphael or Klibur Domin) you wish to support and send to the below address. A receipt will be issued by the nearest Foundation or Support Group.

**RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATION PO Box 51 Glen Iris Victoria 3146**

Your Name.....

Amount.....

Address.....

Supporting Raphael or Klibur Domin (delete one or your donation will be shared between these two homes.)

.....Postcode.....

Telephone.....Mobile.....Email.....

Cheque/Money order (payable to Ryder-Cheshire Foundation) enclosed or  Credit Card  Visa  MasterCard

Credit Card Number..... Expiry Date...../...../.....

Cardholder's Name (on card).....

Signature.....

- Please send me information on the Sponsorship Programme at Raphael and/or Klibur Domin  
 Please send me information on Volunteering at Raphael and/or Klibur Domin  
 Please send me information on how to make a Bequest to support Ryder-Cheshire