



Ryder-Cheshire News

NEWSLETTER OF RYDER-CHESHIRE AUSTRALIA

"For the Relief of Suffering"

FOUNDERS:- Group Captain Lord Cheshire, VC, OM, DSO, DFC: Lady Ryder of Warsaw, CMG, OBE.
NATIONAL PATRON:- His Excellency Major-General Michael Jeffery, AC CVO MC (Retd)
Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia

ISSUE NUMBER 70 NOVEMBER 2007

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The 2008 BIENNIAL CONFERENCE of "Ryder-Cheshire Australia"

will be held in
Ballarat

Fri April 11 to Sun April 13 2008

Details are included on
Pages 2 and 3 of this issue and further information
can be obtained from

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

RYDER-CHESHIRE AUSTRALIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

National President	Don Sinclair (also Ryder-Cheshire Victorian Homes member)
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FROM OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Don Sinclair

The Committee of the Ballarat Support Group organizing the 2008 Biennial Conference for 11-13 April 2008 is very enthusiastic and displaying considerable initiative in developing the Conference program.

The format will differ from previous Conferences, with most of the meeting sessions being devoted to a series of forums that will include virtually all aspects of our history and current and future activities. Each attendee will have the opportunity to participate in two in-depth forums and there will be a plenary session. It is anticipated that this Conference will provide a firm basis for our future activities as we face the challenges that lie ahead.

The Ballarat Committee will contact all Foundations with details of the program and social functions early in the New Year. There are many visitor attractions in and around Ballarat, so interstate visitors may plan to extend their stay before or following the Conference.

The first Annual General Meeting of Ryder-Cheshire Australia will be held in association with the Biennial Conference and will receive reports from all member foundations, the national financial statements, and appoint or confirm the appointment of various national officers.

It is anticipated that representatives of both 'Raphael' and 'Klibur Domin' will be present at the Biennial Conference.

We continue to receive positive reports from 'Raphael' and there is a lot of action at 'Klibur Domin' with the consolidation of existing activities and facilities and the development of new programs.

We look forward to a strong attendance of members and supporters at the **Biennial Conference in Ballarat next April.**

Best wishes for a blessed Christmas and a Happy 2008.

Don Sinclair

STOP PRESS

**Congratulations to Joaquim and Maria
on the safe arrival of their son
Donaldson Dirmalo Soares on 1st November.**

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 2008 ISSUE should be sent by e-mail to

Chris Lopez cjlopez@tpg.com.au

by 15 February 2008

2008 BIENNIAL CONFERENCE DRAFT PROGRAMME

Fri 11 Apr Civic Reception at
6.00 pm **BALLARAT TOWN HALL**

Sat 12 Apr
**SOVEREIGN PARK MOTOR INN
AT THE RED LION HOTEL**

10.00 am Conference registration & Morning Tea

10.30 am Opening and Welcome
Student Performance
Guest Speaker
Thoughts for the future
from "Leonard Cheshire"
Presentations from:
Raphael
Klibur Domin
New Zealand

12.45 pm Lunch

1:30 pm Forums

2.30 pm Afternoon Tea

2.50 pm Forums

3.30 pm Reports from Forums

4:30 pm Finish

6:30 pm **CONFERENCE DINNER AT THE
NEW YORK BAKERY, SOVEREIGN HILL**

Sun 13 Apr
**SOVEREIGN PARK MOTOR INN
AT THE RED LION HOTEL**

10.00 am Welcome
Morning Tea and Quiz.

10.30 am Presentations from:
Mt. Gambier Home
Singleton Home
Ivanhoe Home

11.30 am Sharing Time for additional discussion,
Evaluation and feed back

12.15 pm Summation and Closing Comments

1:00 pm Lunch

2.00 pm Finish allowing time for participants' travel
commitments.

**If you would prefer to receive your Newsletter by e-mail,
it is now available in PDF format.
Just send an e-mail to iandaswann@bigpond.com
giving the email address to which you would like it sent, saying
'Ryder-Cheshire Newsletter',
plus your name and postal address.
Everyone else will continue to receive
the Newsletter via Australia Post.**

**Biennial Conference
11th to 13th April 2008**

Greetings from THE GOLDEN CITY OF BALLARAT, venue for the 2008 Ryder-Cheshire Australia Biennial Conference. We trust that you will be able to attend and, as well as participate in the Conference, will have time to enjoy some attractions of our beautiful city.

The Conference will be held from **11th to 13th April 2008 at the Sovereign Park Motor Inn, 217-229 Main Road, Ballarat.** Most of the Conference events will be held here, with the Friday and Saturday evening functions at other nearby venues. On Friday evening there will be a Civic Reception at the Ballarat Town Hall and the Conference Dinner, Saturday evening, will be held in the New York Bakery at Sovereign Hill.

Please circulate the accommodation material, which State Foundations will have received, to your members who may like to attend. There is a variety of accommodation on offer at, and in the vicinity of, the Sovereign Park Motor Inn. We ask you to make your own arrangements direct with your preferred establishment or to work with the Ballarat Tourist Information Centre or online. We recommend that you arrange your accommodation early, as Autumn is a busy season for visitors in Ballarat.

Ryder-Cheshire Australia will bear the costs of the all Conference refreshments. Participants will be required to pay for their accommodation and the **Dinner on Saturday evening, which will cost \$50 per person** for canapes and a two course meal with drinks.

The initial draft Program as well as enrolment forms, **which we ask participants to return by 15th February 2008**, has been sent to State Foundations. Names of participants are needed by then so invitations from the City Council can be forwarded for the Civic Reception. **ANY PROGRAM ITEMS AND SUBMISSIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE SENT TO jcook@giant.net.au by 25th January, 2008** to allow time for the final Conference package to be mailed to participants in mid February. The "List of Participants" form will also be sent to you by Email if you prefer to respond in that way.

If there is anything we can do to help you with your arrangements for this Conference, please contact us

Janice Cook
Secretary,
RCA Biennial Conference Organising Committee
(03) 5331 8898; email - jcook@giant.net.au

BALLARAT SUPPORT GROUP

From Dianne McGrath

Conference planning has been our recent highest priority. Presidents of Foundations, Support Groups and Homes as well as the Overseas Co-ordinators will have received the first mail out of the details for the Conference. These will also be followed up by an email version.

As well, we have managed to host a successful Luncheon for our Sponsors, Supporters and Friends. Whilst we enjoyed our lunch we were treated to **Val Sarah's account of her time in India and her visit to Raphael earlier this year with Don's Group. Tom Horniblow gave a report of his time in East Timor and his work as a volunteer at Klibur Domin.** He is going back there in the new year to continue his work. *(See Tom's report on Page 5 of this issue)*

We ran a Jewellery Making Work Shop. It attracted many grandmothers and their grand-daughters. It was a fun way to spend time together on a Saturday afternoon under the guidance of our teacher Rachael from **"Rings On Her Fingers" in Ballarat.**

Our next occasion is our AGM and Christmas Celebrations, along with our annual Christmas raffle. The Christmas cards and card packs are selling very well at the Combined Christmas Cards Charity shop.

Our most exciting news is our visitor from Raphael who is living, working and studying in Ballarat. **Anita Rana, who has only been in Australia for a short time, spoke to us at our July meeting.** She is a most delightful young person and a wonderful ambassador for Raphael. **Anita grew up in Raphael from when she was aged 4 or 5 and left in 2001 to go to New Delhi where she studied nursing and midwifery. Now she is here for further study for her career.** Whilst here, Anita will be happy to attend the local schools, and other meetings to talk about Raphael.

We take this opportunity to thank all our wonderful sponsors, supporters and friends. Do have a happy Christmas and we look forward to your continuing commitments in the New Year.

If anyone is interested in sponsoring a bed at Raphael in India or Klibur Domin in East Timor, please contact your State/local Committee (details shown on page 1 of this publication). Sponsorships of \$365 a year are tax deductible and help to ensure that the valuable work being undertaken at Raphael and Klibur Domin can continue. **Your support would be greatly appreciated.**

NEWS FROM TIMOR-LESTE

From Helen Trueman, Klibur Domin Support Person



Klibur Domin is functioning normally and bed occupancy rate has returned up to near capacity. Patients are treated or assisted with rehabilitation for a range of conditions including, TB, fractures, amputations, hip dislocation, paraplegia and malnutrition. Most of the pa-

tients were referred by clinics or hospitals. **General calmness and a sense of hope for the future has returned to Timor-Leste, and operations at Klibur Domin are full steam ahead.**

The outreach programmes, commenced just before the unrest of last year, have all continued and have proved to be extremely beneficial to the communities that they serve.

The Timor-Leste Government through the Ministry of Health's National TB program has commenced funding Klibur Domin to support the nutrition of the TB patients treated at Klibur Domin.

TARGET TB, THE UK EQUIVALENT OF RCA, is supporting the training of community volunteers to assist in the management of TB, and increase the awareness of hygiene and health issues in the general community.

The **COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION** project has divided the children into smaller groups and invited them to come to Klibur Domin for periods of two weeks for more intensive management and assessment. Of course the CBR staff still do their regular home visits to advise and assist families of disabled children.

Two staff members have recently commenced training in Solo, Indonesia. **Domingos is studying Occupational Therapy** and **Alzira is studying Physiotherapy**. When these students have completed their courses they will come back to Klibur Domin for a period of time and use their skills to assist the patients at Klibur Domin and the outreach programs. RCA believes this is a most valuable way to increase the skills level of the local staff and best equip the Timorese into the future.

KD will continue to take a very important role to contribute to the National development plan. The experiences and the models of care at Klibur Domin enable staff to contribute meaningfully to the development of National health plans.

Currently Joaquim (Manager) is liaising with various potential donors about a number of infrastructure projects. **RCF NSW together with Odd Bods** has agreed to fund the repair of the front drain and fence at Klibur Domin. RCF NSW has also generously agreed to fund the purchase of a second hand vehicle for Joaquim and the Administration staff.

Following is an extract from an article written by Rick Gunn, shortly after visiting Timor-Leste.

The full transcript, including photographs can be found at <http://www.rickgunnphotography.com/project.php#54>

".....Returning to my guesthouse with a new sense of purpose, I picked up my pace, to just short of a run. "Do you know of some way I can help here," I asked the Australian when I returned, "someplace I could volunteer?" He shook his head.

"I just feel like I need to do something." I sagged. "Klibur-Domin." a man offered after overhearing our conversation. "Who?"

I said "Klibur-Domin," he repeated, "It's a charitable organization down in Tibar, about 10 miles from here. They do some good

things down there, you should go check it out." he said.

So the next morning, I cycled into Tibar, found the Klibur-Domin Centre, then parked my bike outside. Moments later I was sitting with the director, **Joaquim Soares**, as he rattled off the seemingly endless list of services the centre provided. There was the centre itself, a fifty-bed facility that cared for children and adults suffering from a wide range of conditions. Conditions that included: malnutrition, mental and physical disabilities, tuberculosis, strokes, as well as pre and post-surgery care. In addition, the centre provides a host of services outside the facility. These include distribution of provisions and medicines, medical equipment, as well as rehabilitation therapy and TB education throughout the province.

"There are certainly a lot of ways you can help," Joaquim said after I'd offered to volunteer, "but to be honest, as a charitable organization we are dependent on donations, so any chance you might have to get our story out might be the best help you could provide." I agreed.

A day later, with camera in hand, I set out with two of Klibur-Domin's field staff. Our first stop: to distribute TB medicines. **The centre estimates that there are 443 people suffering from TB in the region, 139 cases in the Tibar province alone.** Ten minutes later, after I'd crawled in the back of a beat-up Toyota pick-up, we turned down a dirt road, then stopped near a small bamboo hut. An extremely thin woman appeared at the door, and I watched as the two carers hopped-out, then handed her the TB medication. She popped them in her mouth, then threw them back with water. Because TB is usually spread with the poor sanitation conditions associated with poverty, Klibur-Domin not only delivers these life-saving meds, but also educates these patients and their families about how to prevent the disease. This in hopes of eradicating the disease from the province altogether.

Our next stop was the home of **Acacio Ribeiro**, a 7-year-old quadriplegic with Cerebral Palsy. Through Klibur-Domin Acacio receives clothes, provisions, his wheelchair, and physiotherapy, none of which are provided by the East Timorese Government. I watched as one of the men lifted Acacio's withered legs, stretching the joints gently in their full range of motion. When he was done, he put a hand on the boy's shoulder. Though the boy did not speak, the smile on his face spoke louder than words. Moving along quickly we drove up a steep mountainous road, then climbed up an even steeper footpath to a hilltop hut. As we did, a woman recognized the carers and excitedly began shouting, "**Agostinho...Agostinho!**" Suddenly a young toddler bolted from the hut. He was stark naked and blazed around the yard like a child on fire. This energetic 3-year-old--**Agostinho Pereira Araujo**, was born with Downs Syndrome. He was brought to the Klibur-Domin centre when he was two. While there, they improved his nutritional status and helped him with his gait. As I watched the boy jump, laugh, and giggle, it occurred to me that this child's smile was not only a testament to Klibur Domin's success but a smile that could melt the hardest of hearts.

When we returned to the centre, I traded my camera for a pick and a shovel, then spent the afternoon preparing a small plot of dirt in the centre's vegetable garden. It wasn't much, but I took some comfort knowing that this small effort might eventually help nourish a few of those in need. Two days later I said my goodbyes to East Timor, then climbed-aboard a plane bound for Darwin, Australia. In the moments just after the plane left the runway, I took a minute to look out over the tiny town of Tibar. Suddenly within my mind, I remembered 7-year-old Acacio Rebeira; the hands of his carer gently stretching his legs. For as I remembered that small gesture, I recognized that something larger than myself: the sacred act of one human being caring for another. The truth of life being, that this is really all there is. I think Joaquim tried to convey this to me that first morning we met. **He asked "Do you know what the words Klibur-Domin means?" I shook my head. "It's an East Timorese term... it means sharing with love."**

"MEETING THE NEEDS AT KLIBUR DOMIN"

*From Tom Horniblow, of Ballarat,
Volunteer at Klibur Domin*

Over three visits to Timor Leste since 2005 I have developed a strong affinity with the country and its people.

During my most recent visit I volunteered at Klibur Domin for three months from early November 2006 to late January 2007. My roles at Klibur Domin were varied, and included supporting young people with physical disabilities in areas such as woodwork, computing, recreation, and registering one young man for training opportunities with vocational schools.

While there are many people in need at Klibur Domin, I would like to focus upon Klibur Domin's young people with physical disabilities. In particular, I would like to discuss their circumstances, and the difficulties they experience in the transition from Klibur Domin back to their villages. The names of the young people in the following stories have been changed for privacy.

Young men are disproportionately represented amongst those with physical disabilities at Klibur Domin. The prevalence of congenital disability is high in Timor Leste. However, many of the young men to which I am referring have not been born with a disability. Typically, individuals in this particular cohort have had an accident or been a victim of violence. In addition to providing physical therapy, Klibur Domin is faced with the challenge of engaging these young men in purposeful activities that will increase their self esteem, give them the opportunity to contribute to their communities, and ultimately assist them in making the transition back to village life.

OCTAVIO is one of these young men; he is 19 years old. Octavio lost a leg after he was attacked by a crocodile while bathing in a river near his village. He lived at Klibur Domin for over a year while awaiting a prosthetic leg, and receiving physiotherapy. While Octavio was at Klibur Domin he had opportunities to learn some woodworking and maintenance skills. After Octavio left Klibur Domin I visited him in his village. It is a difficult transition back to village life for any person with a disability, and this was certainly the case for Octavio. When I visited him he was looking for employment; unfortunately, he had not yet had the opportunity to use the skills gained at Klibur Domin.

MIGUEL is another young man at Klibur Domin. He is in his early twenties. He is restricted to a wheelchair due to paraplegia. Miguel was the victim of a violent attack that arose from a conflict with a neighbour over some land. Miguel's mobility difficulties have made it particularly difficult for him to make the transition back to his village where wheel chair access to houses and facilities is very limited. At this stage he is a long term resident at Klibur Domin and has been registered with the Department of Labour and Solidarity for training courses offered by vocational schools. I am unsure if Miguel has commenced a training course yet, however, he is very interested in computing and very capable in this area. In light of Miguel's interests, **we linked Miguel with another disability service in Dili called Ahisaun.** At Ahisaun he is able to receive support in learning about computers in the hope of gaining entry into a formal training course at some stage.

VALENTINO is recovering from a gunshot injury to his femur which was sustained in the violence in Tibar in May 2006. I really appreciated getting to know Valentino as he was a young man with direct experience of the recent fighting in Timor Leste. Like many other young Timorese men, he was unemployed, frustrated, and in the wrong place at the wrong time when he got involved. I sensed that despite his involvement in the fighting, he did not have strong convictions about the political situation in Timor Leste. Valentino is a young man with a tremendous amount of positive energy, who was enthusiastic about any activities that were available at Klibur Domin. Media reports that portray young men like Valentino as villains are quite misleading; they fail to acknowledge the difficult circumstances and frustration that many young Timorese people face.

In summary, meeting the needs of young people with disabilities is a significant challenge for Klibur Domin. Part of this challenge is to engage young people with disabilities in purposeful activities that teach them skills. In doing so, we give young people with disabilities the opportunity to contribute to their communities, thus allowing them to be valued by others through the contributions that they can make.

These stories of three young men indicate that some progress has been made in meeting this challenge; however, it is a constant challenge that must be continually addressed.

I have no doubt that Klibur Domin, and future volunteers, will endeavour to respond to the needs of this particular cohort. The outcome of such efforts should be improved self-esteem for young Timorese people with disabilities, and a more successful transition back to productive involvement in their villages

NEWS FROM OVERSEAS

*From The Bouverie Foundation Website,
UK*

MEMORIAL TO SUE RYDER AND LEONARD CHESHIRE

As Sue Ryder and Leonard Cheshire lived for many years in the village of Cavendish, a simple stone plaque is being placed in St. Mary's Church, Cavendish, Suffolk, UK

The Bouverie Foundation was founded by Lady Sue Ryder in February 2000 as a registered charity. Sadly she died in November of that year but she wished the charity to continue work in Poland, France and Italy and throughout the world, embracing her ideals of humility and frugality. It is a company limited by guarantee and is a Registered Charity in the United Kingdom. Its registered office is:

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Tel: 01394 420034

Email: info@bouveriefoundation.org
Website: www.bouveriefoundation.org

The Trustees are:

Sir David Miers, KBE, CMG (Chairman)

NEWS FROM RAPHAEL

*From the Raphael Newsletter for Volunteers and Supporters
August 2007 published by Jane Forster UK*

Memories of General Bakhshi

In my emails and letters announcing the General's death in September of 2006, I asked for memories of him. I am grateful for all of those I received. Just some are printed below from -

VIVEK RATTAN

This was a man I have known all my life and always looked up to. He was also my father's boss when I was born in Deolali and also his best friend! He would turn up from Dehra Dun at midnight and wake our whole household up and demand a drink! He was only in his mid 80s then!! I only wish I could live a life like his.

LOUISE McMILLAN

I have known General Bakhshi for 11 years since my first visit in 1995. He was a big father figure to me there and to so many people. I remember staying at Raphael in 2002 when my intention was to work there for 6 months. There was a lot of political tension between India and Pakistan at the time and it was headlining news each day on the world service. By June, the High Commission was asking visitors from other countries to leave the country. This was not in my plan and I was hoping to stay until the autumn. I was called to the office, and the General told me that they could not guarantee my safety now and that he was ordering me to go home. I was genuinely surprised and in my shock burst into tears. The General stood up and gave me a big hug. He told me that I would be able to return very soon in his view. I flew home a few days later. Keeping an eye on the political situation, I was able to review when I could return. In fact I came back to India in August that year and stayed till Christmas. The General had been quite right in his assessment of the situation.

VICKY DERESA

My strongest memory of General Bakhshi was, quite fittingly, my first. It was my first day at Raphael and I was sitting on the front steps of the Volunteers' quarters eating some yellow dhal thinking how amazing it was that I was finally there. The General came striding out of the office area surrounded by an air of confidence, even though I'd only just heard of him, I knew it was him. With a twinkling smile and friendly eyes, he remarked to me how beautiful the sunshine was as well as the lush view. He confidently introduced himself and made me feel welcome in a way that reassured me and immediately made me feel part of Raphael. During my time at Raphael, the General always ensured he made time to see how I was going and answer any questions I had with his full attention, no matter how much work he had or how many demands he was under. That Christmas, the General and his family invited the volunteers for a traditional Christmas dinner at his house which was, needless to say, spectacular. I feel honoured and humbled to have met and known someone so inspiring, true to himself and altruistic.

ALISON PARR

I will remember General Bakhshi for several reasons, the most prominent being his kindness. He and Mrs Bakhshi were good enough to invite me into their home to spend Christmas and New Year of 2002/03 with them, instead of leaving me by myself at Raphael. The crowning moment was coming out of my room on Christmas morning and finding a stocking waiting for me, filled with oranges, chocolates, and nuts. It was such a thoughtful gesture and one that, along with the General's fabulous stories of the Burmese war, will never be forgotten.

BARBARA STIRK

I first met the General over 20 years ago in Rome during the 25th Wedding Anniversary celebrations of Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder. I was living and working in Rome at the time and this chance meeting

led to my long association with Raphael. I have wonderful memories of the General which would fill a book!! He was an extraordinary human being who will be very much missed by us all. As Kahlil Gibran says in *The Prophet* – "Work is Love made Visible". That for me sums up the General.

JUDY HUNT

Our chief memory of him at Raphael is of a commanding presence (of course, every inch a general!) and of a tremendous love of the place and of the individuals within it. Our Gappers loved him - and you will no doubt get some tributes from them. We have a good photo of him dispensing sweets in his office to the children - and it is hard to envisage Raphael without him. A great human being.

CAPT DAVID WALTERS

I admire his tireless energy raising support outside India. My sister-in-law who came for a visit to India when we were there, and went for a weekend to stay with the Bakhshis when told of Rummy's death said he was a great man and his boundless energy and enthusiasm for the place filled one with admiration and affection. We loved Shobha too and the support she gave her husband was immense and she never sought to seek the limelight. He and I used to go shooting together near villages near Dehra Dun.

KARAN BILLIMORIA

I was very sorry to hear the sad news about General Bakhshi. He was the most remarkable individual and truly unique in every way. He led life to the full when most others his age are so often barely mobile – he went to work everyday, he exercised and played golf, he kept himself active socially and he was not only interested in everything and everyone but he was always so interesting himself. His sense of humor was also truly wonderful. I remember that when I told him last year that I was going to South Africa to celebrate my grandfather-in-law's 100th birthday, General Bakhshi said that he would drink to his health and then added, "I'm only 94!". General Bakhshi has been a tremendous inspiration to me personally over the years. He was so very close to my family and not only knew my grandparents but also my father when he was an instructor at the IMA and my father was a cadet. Sadly, both instructor and cadet have now left us within one year of each other. Words cannot begin to describe the tireless work that he put in day in and day out at Raphael and the remarkable way in which he gave such hope and opportunity to so many people over the years ... **WE SHOULD THANK GOD FOR GIVING US GENERAL BAKHSHI.**

A CHANCE ENCOUNTER From Evelyn Petters, WA.

When my husband Malcolm and I visited India together in the early eighties, we stayed in Dehra Dun where Malcolm was born. While Malcolm's family had moved away after partition in 1947, there were still friends from the old days who Malcolm visited and one evening we were invited to a dinner party. At this dinner we were impressed by the grandeur of the event and the vacant chair that was kept free for the arrival of (we later learned) a Maharajah. **It was at this dinner that we first met Major General Bakhshi.** He talked about "his place" and invited us to visit the following day, saying he would send a car to collect us. The next afternoon an army jeep and uniformed driver arrived at our Madhubhan Hotel in Rajpur Road and we were driven to Raphael, where Gen Bakhshi showed us around. Being incredibly impressed with the work there, when signing the visitors book it was a coincidence to see the previous visitor was Air Marshal Sir Christopher Foxley Norris who had been the C in C of RAF Germany based at Rheindahlen, West Germany, where Malcolm and I had both been stationed before coming to Australia.

On returning from India, within days of arriving home in Perth we were invited by a friend to attend a cocktail party at Government House in Perth for Sue Ryder and Leonard Cheshire !! So began our long association with Ryder-Cheshire and our long and valued friendship with Gen Bakhshi—a truly remarkable and inspiring gentleman.

VICTORIA

From Anthea Swann, Secretary.

Since our last report in July we have regretfully farewelled Veronica Henderson, a long serving member of the Victorian Committee, who has worked hard for the Foundation in numerous ways. Fortunately she will still be available to help when extra hands are needed. Veronica was one of the few remaining members of the Committee who have actually met both Sue Ryder, and Leonard Cheshire, and her departure reminds us of the challenge we face in recruiting new members, at a time when the Cheshires are less widely remembered.

Although a few of our members have been travelling for extended periods over winter, fund raising has rolled on regardless.

On 16 July we held a successful film night to see "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix", with refreshments served beforehand. The choice of film was a departure from the usual genre of our film nights, and was enjoyed by all - some to their surprise!

A Bridge Day in September attracted a full house. Forty eight players enjoyed the day of social bridge in pleasant surroundings, and generously supported card sales and a raffle. We are also grateful to those who make donations when unable to attend. Not only Bridge Day, but on most occasions when we hold functions many extra donations are forthcoming from supporters. This is greatly appreciated.

Christmas card sales are gathering speed. This year as well as being on sale at a number of outlets, and the flyer being mailed out to supporters, they are also advertised on the Ryder-Cheshire website (www.ryder-cheshire.org), which we hope will give wider exposure. The Box Hill Combined Charities Card Shop that closed last year after a long life has re-opened with a new persona. Auspiced by the Box Hill Lions Club, and subsidised by Whitehorse City Council, we are delighted that this productive outlet will live on in a new location (see below). The number of corporate customers for cards is also increasing.

At very short notice we staffed the Mount Waverley Lions Club Op Shop for two days in July, and again in August for a scheduled week. It is disappointing that the ATO has recently decided to take 11% of the profits as GST, thereby reducing our share of the income accordingly. We have further weeks at the Op Shop booked in December, January and March.

Giving talks to groups is a regular activity, and five have been done in the past few months to Rotary and Probus Clubs, and Church groups. This is a good way of reaching a wider audience to elicit new support.

Several of our Committee travelled to Ballarat in July, to attend their Committee's luncheon and hear speakers talk about Raphael and Klibur Domin. It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon, and they came away re-invigorated.

A Communications Sub-Committee has been formed to look at updating and developing print and AV resources. More to report in due course.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all our wonderful supporters who respond so generously to fund raising for the Ryder-Cheshire homes - Raphael and Klibur Domin. The need is great, and the response is heartwarming.

**The Victorian Committee
wishes everyone a joyful and safe
festive season.**

FOR VICTORIAN SUPPORTERS

CHRISTMAS CARDS

*A selection can be seen on the website
www.ryder-cheshire.org, and orders placed with -
Helen Newton. 50 Myrtle Grove Blackburn Vic 3130
Tel 03 9894 3191 Email phnewton@bigpond.com*

Cards are on sale at the Box Hill Lions Club Combined Charities Christmas Card Shop 1022 Whitehorse Road Box Hill (large white municipal building, rear entrance on left side).

Locations of other cards shops can be obtained from Helen, or a flyer posted to you.

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MOUNT WAVERLEY OP SHOP: 3 - 8 December 2007
55 Wadham Parade, Mount Waverley. (Melways ref. 61 D12)
Close to railway station, north side.

**If you can assist with staffing the shop for half a day (or more)
it's interesting and it's fun - please contact
Peter Newton on 03 9894 3191,
or peter.newton@ryder-cheshire.org**

Donations of household goods, clean and in good condition, to be sold in the shop, are also needed. Please contact Peter.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

From Margaret Blaber, Secretary.

The Foundation has not been very active since the last Newsletter. It is difficult with our small committee to organise fundraisers. Fortunately members and sponsors continue their support, which is very much appreciated. The Mt.Gambier Support Group continues to send generous contributions, enabling us to meet our commitment to both Raphael and East Timor.

THE CARD SHOP in the Southern Cross Arcade is in its Christmas Season. The name has been changed to **CHARITY CONNECTIONS**. And as usual committee members will have done a day in the shop as volunteers. The Ryder-Cheshire cards have been selling well.

THE MORTLOCK LIBRARY - As the Foundation is considered an interesting and important part of the history of South Australia, the Library has agreed to register it as part of its historical archives. Various documents have been given to the Library, showing the association of many South Australians with the Foundation, including, of course, the late Dame Roma Mitchell. It also includes references to the Founders, Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder. Many photographs were also included. Access to these archives will be available in approximately two years, for researchers who show an interest.

ANNUAL BBQ By the time this newsletter is issued, we will have held our BBQ, once again generously sponsored by the Adelaide Lions Club. A full report will be given in the next newsletter.

As we come to the end of another year, we have to give some thought to 2008. **As Secretary since 1988 it is time for me to take a back seat. Family commitments and minor health problems mean slowing down. Hopefully someone will come forward to take on the position of Secretary.**

**FROM THE SA FOUNDATION,
GREETINGS TO ALL IN THE RYDER-CHESHIRE FAMILY.
MAY 2008 BE A HAPPY AND PEACEFUL YEAR**

NEW SOUTH WALES

From Jayne Robinson, President.

The NSW Annual General Meeting was held on Monday 23rd July 2007. There were a few resignations at this AGM to take effect from next year at the 2008 AGM. **As the President and a Director of The Ryder Cheshire Foundation in NSW, I have resigned my position as of next year, due to personal commitments.** Other directors and committee members have also indicated their intention to retire as of next year. **This has put the NSW branch of Ryder Cheshire in a state of uncertainty. We have sent a letter out to all the members of NSW Ryder Cheshire Foundation appealing for assistance in finding suitably skilled and enthusiastic people to carry the Foundation into the future.**

You may recollect a very generous bequest left to The Ryder Cheshire homes by **Kathleen Solomon**, a long-time supporter. Recently a further \$28,000 was issued to NSW being the remainder of the estate of Miss Solomon. **This has been directed to both the homes, shared equally. In total the amount bequeathed came to just under \$700,000. We are most grateful to Kathleen Solomon for her kind deed.**

We have mentioned previously that two of our long-standing supporters, Helen and John Ayliffe, had resigned from the committee, but they have been responsible for organising two fund raising events recently. We are most grateful for this. Firstly a fun-filled day was held playing golf with hickory sticks! The second function was a card day that Helen has organised for the past few years that everyone involved with looks forward to.

HICKORY STICK GOLF DAY SPETEMBER 2007 Just 17 intrepid players were game enough to go back in time and play 9 holes of interesting golf - with wooden clubs! This was held at Royal Avalon Golf Course on Sydney's northern beaches. Prizes were given to the Best Dressed as well as for actually playing golf and afterwards were entertained over a light lunch by the President of the Old Golfers Society, Tom Moore. A raffle was held and Paul Orenstein, whose wife Mary is on the NSW Committee, won a refurbished "Mashie", that we were told was made "sometime early in the last century." But the important thing is that the small band of curious golfers donated over \$400 and after hearing about our Founders and the work that is being done in their names, one gentleman immediately presented us with a cheque for \$365, being a sponsorship.

BRIDGE/CARD DAY OCTOBER 2007 Friday 19th October saw a repeat of Helen Ayliffe's Bridge Day when once again Ronda Chisholm opened her magnificent Palm Beach home in the aid of Ryder-Cheshire. This year's event saw 64 people seated at 16 card tables enjoy this activity that is so popular among our supporters. Generously, over \$3000 was raised on the day.

Adding to the proceeds mentioned above, Maureen Murphy sold some \$1050 worth of the beautiful Christmas cards she has to offer this year. During the day many people told us they "had not heard of Ryder-Cheshire". So many know about "Leonard the War Hero" and are truly amazed when they hear about the Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder legacy that continues to help the world's disadvantaged people.

Of course, an event such as we saw on a fine day in late October requires a lot of planning and we thank Helen and her friends, who seemed so pleased to be helping her. And of course we are so grateful to Mrs Chisholm, who has been a long-time supporter of the Variety Club - where she has been known to direct her donation to "that little charity that is doing such good work in East Timor."

OTHER FUND RAISING

Another of our retired committee members still works tirelessly at this time of year. Jenny Coleman has organised a number of street stalls to sell Christmas cards and sweet treats. Every year she has a lot of support from the general public who purchase from the street stalls. A number of enquires regarding the Ryder Cheshire Foundation are generated by Jenny's stalls.

As we approach the end of another year, on behalf of the committee of The Ryder Cheshire Foundation NSW, I would like to express our gratitude for the generous support we receive in our endeavours to provide a more comfortable existence for people less fortunate than we are living here in Australia.

We wish you good health and happiness in the New Year ahead and a blessed Christmas.

"JOSHUA"

Anyone who visited the Sue Ryder Museum at Cavendish will remember seeing 'Joshua' outside. After repairs 'Joshua' has gone to a new home...

My name is "JOSHUA". This is the name I was given by my one and only owner, SUE RYDER – LADY OF WARSAW. We covered thousands of miles in Europe together. She would take the wheel and I drove. Sometimes I wondered if we would make it, but I never whinged. Instead I tried to avoid complications and went wherever she took me. I knew that should I ever need repair, she would fix me. She knew how.

We were carrying precious gifts of medicines and clothing, donated by generous people. I was capable of carrying 2 tons. And I did just that, knowing that it was for a very good cause. I also knew we could not disappoint those who were in such great need of help. Time went by very quickly. When it was time for me to retire, Sue Ryder let me live at home, outside her museum, where I stood under the open sky for 27 years, from 1980 until 2007. But when she died and the museum closed down, I worried about my future, did not know what would become of me. I thought that this was the end, that I would be broken up. I was scared that all we had achieved together would be forgotten. And yet, I need not have worried...I am appreciated for all my hard work.

Some wonderful people saved me from destruction. I am being given a second chance! It pays to be good and help others. These wonderful people want to restore me. Yes – restore me and make me go again. And then I shall go back to our beloved Poland, where I shall have a place in a museum in Warsaw, and where will be able to brag to people about having worked for Sue Ryder. I will be able to brag to people who have benefited, and their children and grandchildren, and the memory of all that we achieved together will not be lost, but will hopefully serve to do my owner that honour she deserves, **as well as inspire others in the future to follow in her footsteps.**

I was rescued by East Sussex couple Halina and Janus Kent. **Mrs Kent, a former assistant to Lady Ryder, rescued the vehicle from her boss's former home and HQ in Suffolk and has now taken me to a Museum in Warsaw at a cost of £7,000.**