



# 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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## OVERSEAS CONTACTS

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**Newsletters are now issued twice each year,  
in MAY AND NOVEMBER.**

**THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE PUBLISHED IN MAY 2009**  
**State Reports and items** should be ready to be sent by e-mail to  
Chris Lopez cjlopez@tpg.com.au by **1st APRIL 2009.**  
**STATES WILL RECEIVE A REMINDER**

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](mailto:iandaswann@bigpond.com) giving the email address to which you would like it sent, and include your name and postal address.

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 Members of the Board of Directors

National President & Victorian Homes Member	Dr Don Sinclair
National Vice-President & RCF Victoria member	Peter Newton
National Treasurer/Company Sec./Public Officer	Peter Colliver
National Secretary	Anthea Swann
RCF ACT Member	Dennis Sleight
RCF Mt Gambier Home President	Neville Gilbertson
RCF New South Wales President	Christine Hannan
RCF South Australia President	Paul Jenner

RYDER CHESHIRE AUSTRALIA WEBSITE [www.ryder-cheshire.org](http://www.ryder-cheshire.org)

## FROM OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT

*Don Sinclair.*

I am pleased to advise that Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce, AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, has accepted our invitation to be Patron of Ryder-Cheshire Australia.

The Ryder-Cheshire Australia board will meet in the near future to review our commitments and resources in relation to the current economic situation.

**The administration of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation in South Australia has been re-located from Adelaide to Mt Gambier**, where an enthusiastic team of office-bearers led by Paul Jenner as President has taken office. Paul was President of the former Mt Gambier Support Group. **Members of the former South Australian Foundation in Adelaide have re-established themselves as an Adelaide Friends Group** led by former RCF SA President Patricia Frith. The Mt Gambier Home Foundation continues to function as a separate entity with Neville Gilbertson as President.

**The next RCA Biennial Meeting will be organized by the Mt Gambier Ryder-Cheshire groups** and will be held from **30 April to 2 May 2010**. Planning is underway for this event so mark these dates in your 2010 diary!

Ryder-Cheshire lost a great supporter with the passing of Olive Lamont on 20 August this year. Olive was a very active supporter of the Ballarat Support Group for many years, and was a past president of this very enthusiastic group who have raised many thousands of dollars over 40 years. Ryder-Cheshire was strongly represented at Olive's funeral, which was attended by a large number of mourners, and reflected her involvement in a large number of local community groups. Our condolences have been extended to Olive's family. Thank you Olive for your enthusiastic support of our mission and your leadership over many years.

Planning is well underway in Dehradun for the celebration of the **Golden Jubilee of the establishment of 'Raphael'** on **5 April 1959**. **Founders' Day 2009** will be a great celebration of the mission of **'Raphael'** as it has developed over the **past 50 years**. A number of our supporters will be attending these celebrations.

It is pleasing to know of the rapid expansion of programs that is occurring at **'Klibur Domin'** at Tibar in Timor Leste.

**SUPPORTERS INTERESTED IN SPONSORING A RESIDENT OR A BED AT RAPHAEL IN INDIA OR KLIBUR DOMIN IN EAST TIMOR**, please contact your State or 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 SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.**

## NEWS FROM RAPHAEL

*From the Raphael Newsletter of July 2008*

*Message from the Chairman of Raphael  
Air Marshal B D Jayal PVSM AVSM VM (Retd)*

**We are grateful to Dr Donald Sinclair and Ryder Cheshire Australia for having invited Raphael to be part of the recent Biennial Conference held at Ballarat.**

Vice Admiral Koppikar has returned with glowing accounts of the depth of discussions and Ballarat Support Group's organizational achievements. But it is Ballarat's school children and their sensitivity towards those suffering that had him bowled over!

It is with considerable satisfaction that we in Raphael have received the news that the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities received its 20th Ratification on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2008, triggering its and the Optional Protocol's entry into force thirty days later. India signed the Conventional on 30th March 2007 and ratified it on 1st October 2007. **This marks a major milestone in the international effort to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedom of persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.**

I do hope that many of Raphael's friends are planning to join us for the **Golden Jubilee Founders Day in 2009**. This will be one way of commemorating the vision of our Founders and the support of all those who made their vision turn to reality.

On behalf of Raphael my good wishes to all.

## GOLDEN JUBILEE FOUNDERS DAY

**5TH APRIL 2009**

To commence celebrating the Golden Jubilee, we have planned a series of in house events throughout the coming months culminating on the actual day.

One of the significant things we have undertaken to do is to bring out a brochure of Raphael since its inception to the present day. We greatly appreciate the contributions and inputs of many towards this effort. Our special thanks to Barbara Lewis, Anne Boyd and Pamela Harrison for the valuable information and photographs provided for the souvenir brochure. Every bit has been useful and an eye opener to the past.

Any other suggestions or information would be most welcome. We hope that many of you will be able to attend the celebrations.

**E-Mail to Nita Roy at [raphael\\_ddn@bsnl.in](mailto:raphael_ddn@bsnl.in)**

## NEWS FROM TIMOR-LESTE

From Peter Newton, Klibur Domin Project Officer.



One of the most rewarding aspects of humanitarian work is to see a dream become a reality.

That is exactly what has happened at Klibur Domin - from the dream of late 1999 when the Foundation knew that

somehow it wanted to assist the people of East Timor, to the mature home of today helping hundreds of sick and disabled people every year.

My first visit to East Timor in May 2000 revealed a totally demoralized population, traumatized by the events of September 1999 following the Referendum of 30 August. Most people were only surviving because of food handouts from the UN and other Non Government Organisations. They were sheltering under primitive circumstances, often with just a few sheets of burnt galvanized iron to keep them dry during the wet season. With more than 80% of all buildings in the country torched by the retreating militia forces and Indonesian Armed Forces, the infrastructure was largely destroyed.

The buildings at Klibur Domin were not torched in 1999 but they were ransacked and looted and they needed a lot of work to make them habitable. The 18 residents and 15 staff who remained at the home from Indonesian days were living in deplorable conditions and on meagre food handouts. The job in front of the Foundation was huge.



Mobile TB Team testing a suspected TB patient.

So what a delight it was on my most recent visit in August this year to find a totally different picture. Most of the buildings had been largely restored and now there are nearly sixty residents and patients living in comfortable circumstances and receiving excellent care from a staff of 23 dedicated East Timorese plus several Australian volunteers. Along the way, some 120 volunteers mostly from Australia have contributed to the development and the operation of the home – a truly remarkable effort when you consider that these volunteers have received no remuneration, allowances or travel cost reimbursement from Ryder-Cheshire.

During my week in East Timor I saw several new programs. Driving by 4WD to a remote village, I met Jito a 15 year old with paraplegia who has been under the care of the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) team from Klibur Domin for more than a year. Jito is now able to attend school using a new wheelchair provided by the team. A ramp constructed at his house means that he is far more mobile and independent. He has been transformed from an unhappy young man lying around his home to a confident and happy student with a future.

Several hundred metres away, I met Jacinta, an 11 year old girl with

Cerebral Palsy who was also receiving support and physiotherapy from the team.

Jacinta will probably never go to school but her life has been made far more comfortable through the support of the team for her and her family.



Jito receiving a new wheelchair at his home

Jito and Jacinta's village of about 400 people had been without water for more than six months when a 500 metre section of pipe was washed away. Families were carrying water for several hours a day, just to survive. This problem will soon be fixed with a grant of about \$3000 from the Foundation.

On another day, I went on a two hour drive up into the mountains to watch the Mobile TB Team at work. I was most impressed with the professional and thorough approach of the Team which has checked more than 24,000 people in surrounding villages for Tuberculosis over the past two years. These checks found 235 confirmed cases which have been treated or are under treatment.

With a TB rate of around 1% of the population, East Timor has a major problem controlling this life threatening disease. Klibur Domin is leading the way with its Mobile TB Team and with its new isolation ward to treat Multi Drug Resistant TB, the most virulent form of the disease. While the ward had started with just two patients at the time, many more cases will be detected and Klibur Domin is the only facility providing long term treatment of MDRTB.

In January 2000, the Foundation brought the 13 year old Isaura da Silva to Melbourne for life saving heart surgery. She returned to Melbourne in 2006 for further surgery. I visited the 21 year old Isaura at her home in Dili and found a delightful young lady, still with a beautiful smile. We will continue to monitor her health and assist her when needed.

As always Joaquim, the Home Manager, is full of energy and enthusiasm and he has many more projects he wants to implement. On top of the list is a Respite Centre so the likes of Jito and Jacinta and their families can come to Klibur Domin for a few weeks for intensive therapy, healthy nutrition and a relaxing environment. With some 60 children on the CBR program, the Respite Centre will be in strong demand. Joaquim has also been approached to set up a facility for people with mental illness. This is a major project and it will need a lot of planning and funding from the Ministry of Health to reach fruition.

**My message to all our loyal supporters is that Klibur Domin has been transformed into a first class facility where hundreds of people are receiving magnificent care every year. Much can still be done to improve it and to allow it to help even more people who are in desperate need.**

**Your continued support is greatly appreciated.**

### BALLARAT SUPPORT GROUP

*From Dianne McGrath, Vice President.*

#### BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 2008 DVD/CD

The Biennial Conference DVD and CD are almost complete. The conference highlights and presentations have been assembled on DVD. The business items including mail outs, feed back, budget, participants list, school visits and media snippets have been scanned onto the CD. The compilation of the three disks is presented in the one package. The information contained within can be accessed through a normal DVD player. Conference aspects can be viewed by selections being made from the beginning splash screen. The business on the CD can be accessed through the computer. **All Foundations, Support Groups and Homes can expect to receive the package of the three disks during November.**

Special thanks go to Terry Warr and Ian Swann for the many hours they have given to producing a fine piece of recorded history.

*We have some sad news to share with you all at this time. During the last months two wonderful members of our Support Group have passed away. It is with deep regret that we have farewelled **Lou Gigliotti** and **Olive Lamont**. Both will be sadly missed and we pass on our love, prayers and sympathy to their families. We have such fond memories of both Lou and Olive.*

The Ballarat Support Group acknowledges the wonderful work of the Committee, sponsors, supporters and friends. Sales of stationery and cards, raffles and special events have all contributed to our fund raising for Klibur Domin and Raphael. **We extend seasons greetings to all and wish every one all the best for the coming year.**



*L to R. Carmel Morgan-Wall, Cath McLenhan, Ally Rennie, Hazel Luke, Olive Lamont, Lou Gigliotti. Ballarat Committee 2002*



### VALE

#### LOU GIGLIOTTI

Lou passed away after a long illness. Both he and his wife, Lorraine, had a long association with Ryder Cheshire Australia. They were actively involved in the **Ballarat Support Group's events**. Over the years they were sponsors of two children at Raphael.

Lou was a Committee member, having been introduced to the group by Geoff Nott. He took over from Geoff and became the Treasurer. As his career was in banking we benefited from his ability with the finances which was a huge advantage to the Committee. At that time monies that were raised in Ballarat needed to be converted into rupees before sending off to Raphael. We all marvelled at his ability to do this right down to the last cent!

As a great supporter of RCA, he was compassionate and sensitive and with his quiet ways he helped us to accomplish our missions for Raphael and Klibur Domin.

#### OLIVE LAMONT

Olive had been unwell from last year onwards. She would have dearly loved to have been present at the Biennial Conference earlier this year. However, from her bedside she was kept well informed as she too kept us well up to speed with her input to all the conference planning.

Olive was a most energetic, thoughtful and involved member. Up until recently she hosted our monthly meetings at her home. They were always sociable occasions with lots to celebrate with bubbly and goodies to eat. Business always managed to be attended to during these fun and productive evenings.

Olive was a Life Member of the **Ballarat Support Group**. She held a number of positions on the Committee. Being President, Vice President, Secretary and Card and Stationery Secretary over the years. She was our champion at selling raffle tickets for the raffles that we conducted. We will miss her enthusiasm and vigour for all the work that we as a group undertook.

#### CYNTHIA ELPHINSTONE

A generous supporter of Ryder Cheshire and the **Bendigo Support Group**, **Cynthia** passed away in April aged 91. Ryder Cheshire was well represented at her funeral, and Ryder Cheshire extends condolences to members of her family.

*Pictured left Olive Lamont in Ballarat in 2007, proud winner of one of the Christmas Hampers.*

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA/MT.GAMBIER**

*From Diane McEwen, Secretary*

THE MOUNT GAMBIER MEMBERS HAVE RISEN TO THE CHALLENGE TAKING ON THE ROLE AS RYDER-CHESHIRE (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) COUNCIL. It has been a steep learning curve for our members but most rewarding. We have taken on three new committee members making a total of eleven on the committee.

Since the last newsletter our fundraising has included a film afternoon (Mamma Mia) and a two day barbeque at the local Bunnings Hardware Store.

In late July a carer, Joanne Sunnex, who works at the Ryder-Cheshire Home in Mount Gambier, travelled to Raphael to work as a volunteer for five weeks.

From her interaction with the community of Raphael she found it an emotional but very rewarding and worthwhile experience. She took with her \$100 donation from Ryder-Cheshire (SA) Council to purchase gifts for the community. An amplifier plus four speakers were purchased and



an electrician paid to install the system through the boys and girls living quarters at the Little White House and this was received with great excitement. Cricket bats and balls, skipping ropes, board games, hockey sticks and baseballs were also gifted to the children.

Peter Newton, the Victorian President, came to Mount Gambier in early September. During his stay he toured the Ryder-Cheshire Home and also spoke about the organisation to the three Rotary Clubs of Mount Gambier. His informative presentations were well received.



*Children at Raphael*

**The 2010 Biennial Conference, to be held in Mount Gambier, is being planned for late April 2010.**

**BENDIGO SUPPORT GROUP**

*From Hugh Elphinstone, President*

The Bendigo Support Group held its Annual Meeting in September at the President's home. New members Dennis and Leslie Robinson, Judy O'Donoghue, and Graham Brook were welcomed.

**President Hugh Elphinstone, Secretary Betty Keating, and Treasurer Wayne Holman were all re-elected, and Nigel Christie was elected Vice President.**

A long-serving member of our Group, former Vice President Irene Keogh has announced her resignation. Irene's support over many years is sincerely appreciated.

**A highlight of the meeting was the Presentation by Hugh of the DVD "An Indian Summer" which he presented at the Biennial Conference in April. It was the moving story of Leonard Cheshire's last visit to India in 1992, with Sue Ryder.**

Five Bendigo members attended the Biennial Conference in Ballarat, and gained a much better understanding of the work of Ryder Cheshire, plus the opportunity to meet supporters from Australia and overseas. **BALLARAT SUPPORT GROUP IS TO BE CONGRATULATED ON AN EXCELLENT EFFORT.**

Bendigo has again sent donations to Dehra Dun, Ivanhoe and East Timor Homes. Bendigo intends to be more active in fundraising in 2009.

**Members are reminded to support Ryder Cheshire through the Bendigo COMBINED CHARITIES CHRISTMAS CARD SHOP in St Paul's Cathedral hall.**

**Our Founders**

**In this year of 2008, "LEONARD CHESHIRE DISABILITY" is celebrating its DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY.**

It is a time to acknowledge the vision of two very special people who devoted their lives to the care of the suffering and whose work still continues to help thousands of people around the world.

**Sue Ryder** served with the Polish Section of the British Special Operations Executive during World War Two and learned at first hand of the suffering inflicted by that war. After the war she became involved in relief work in Europe and in 1953 established the **Sue Ryder Foundation** to bring help to the broken, the suffering and the dying. She received the OBE in 1957, was appointed CMG in 1976 and in 1978 was created a life peer by Queen Elizabeth the Second, taking the title Baroness Ryder of Warsaw. **Group Captain Leonard Cheshire** was a legendary R.A.F. bomber pilot decorated with the VC OM DSO and DFC. Like Sue Ryder he responded to those in need. He began in his own home in 1948 nursing a man dying of cancer, then became involved in the care of people with disabilities. This was the beginning of the **Foundation of Cheshire Homes**. From England, the Foundation spread throughout the world.

**In 1959 Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder married. They had combined forces in 1958 to establish the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation, undertaking projects which did not fall within the scope of their existing foundations. Leonard Cheshire died in 1992. Sue Ryder died in November 2000.**

## NEWS FROM THE STATES

### NEW SOUTH WALES

*From Christine Hannan, President*

The New South Wales Foundation's Annual General Meeting was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2008. The resignations of **President Jayne Robinson, Secretary Margaret Dobbin and Treasurer Stim Robinson** were regrettably accepted. The NSW Foundation expresses its sincere gratitude to all three directors for their many years of devoted service to Ryder Cheshire. The new **President Christine Hannan, Secretary Andrew Hannan and Treasurer Peter O'Donnell** have replaced them.

The Committee is also grateful for the work of **Mary Orenstein** and **Wendy Wijetunge** who have both contributed significantly to the work of the Foundation and have also tendered their resignations.

Although a fundraising dinner is not being held this year, plans are being made for a film night in late November as well as other fundraising opportunities that will promote the work of Ryder Cheshire to simultaneously create greater awareness and attract potential supporters.

Please note for all future correspondence that, due to the recent change in directors, the registered office address of the New South Wales Foundation is now

**4 Rawhiti St, Roseville, NSW 2069.**

### VICTORIAN HOMES REPORT

The Ryder-Cheshire Victorian Homes at Ivanhoe continue to provide accommodation for hundreds of patients attending various Melbourne hospitals and their carers. The third and final stage of our extensive landscaping program has now been completed and the gardens are in spring bloom. The final stage of the landscaping plan also included a pavilion for smokers well away from accommodation and smoking is now permitted only in this isolated area.

A local group of ladies associated with the Ivanhoe Homes recently organized a buffet luncheon at the Homes to raise funds for 'Klibur Domin'. Peter Newton spoke at this luncheon and the proceeds totalled \$860.

### VICTORIA

*Peter McConnell, Vice President.*

The Victorian Foundation continues its active role in fundraising and supporting Raphael and Klibur Domin.

**We have planned a further Film Event - "Australia" and the date is 29<sup>th</sup> November at the Palace Cinema Balwyn.** It will be at 3.00 in the afternoon - and take a different format to other film events. We find this a good way to publicise the work of the Foundation to a wider and younger audience as well as getting together in a relaxed and social environment. **A flyer with details about the Film Show is enclosed with this Newsletter.**

**We continue to staff the Mount Waverley Lions Club Opportunity Shop in Mount Waverley. We are scheduled to provide staff for the weeks, 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> December and 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> January.** The Op Shop continues to be a regular source of fundraising, and **we are looking for more volunteers** to assist in this activity. It only requires each person to make themselves available for a morning or afternoon session on any day during the weeks of our roster usually four times a year. We also need donated items to sell at the Op Shop thereby boosting our takings. If able to assist please contact Peter Newton on 9894 3191

**THE CHRISTMAS CARDS, UNDER THE CONTROL OF HELEN NEWTON, CONTINUE TO BE A SIGNIFICANT SOURCE OF FUNDING FOR OUR WORK,** and also assist with the spreading of our Foundation's profile. We have a lovely range of cards, which are selling well and are available from approx. 9 card shops in and around Melbourne. See below for how to order.

The Bridge Days that have been a part of our activities have been on hold as we endeavour to locate a new and suitable venue. We are hopeful of re-commencing in 2009.

**Members of our committee will be attending the Golden Jubilee of Raphael on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2009. Odyssey Travel are arranging a 10 day India Tour in March/ April 2009, which can include a 4-day extension for those wishing to attend the celebrations at Raphael.** Information is available on the Odyssey travel website – [odysseytravel.com.au](http://odysseytravel.com.au)

Our President, Peter Newton has recently visited Klibur Domin, and his extensive and detailed report is included in the newsletter, and continues to inspire us to continue with our efforts here in Victoria.

The Committee is planning a major dinner with a guest speaker in May – August 2009. This will follow the very successful dinners held in 2000 and 2001. The planning group will meet in December to look at a suitable date, and commence firming up on details and publicity.

### 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 [donsinclair@optusnet.com.au](mailto:donsinclair@optusnet.com.au)*

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

### CHRISTMAS CARDS NOW ON SALE

A selection of cards can be viewed on the national website [www.ryder-cheshire.org](http://www.ryder-cheshire.org).

**Please contact Helen Newton on 03 9894 3191 for details and to place orders**