



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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RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATIONS IN AUSTRALIA

Adelaide Friends

Contact Patricia Frith
Telephone 08 8556 2604
E-Mail folly8@internode.on.net

Australian Capital Territory

President Beverley Raby
Telephone 02 6299 5719
E-Mail beverleyraby@grapevine.com.au

Ballarat Support Group

President Leo Rennie
Telephone 03 5333 3111
E-Mail leorennie@hotmail.com.

Bendigo Support Group

President Hugh Elphinstone
Telephone 03 5443 1163
E-Mail hugh_elphinstone@hotmail.com

Mt Gambier Home

President Neville Gilbertson
Telephone 08 8725 5510
E-Mail kaynev@harboursat.com.au

New South Wales

President Christine Hannan
Telephone 02 9416 7569
E-Mail c.hannan@optusnet.com.au

Singleton Support Group

President Cheryl Nesbitt
Telephone 02 6573 1487
E-mail cherylnesbitt@bigpond.com.au

South Australia

President Paul Jenner
Telephone (H) 08 8725 9289
E-Mail pje21270@bigpond.net.au

Victoria

President Peter McConnell
Telephone 03 9882 2164
petermac@swiftdsl.com.au

Victorian Homes, Ivanhoe

Telephone (Ivanhoe Home) 03 9254 2400
Secretary Jill Moor Telephone 03 9853 7442
E-Mail pics@bigpond.com

Newsletter

Evelyn Petters (West Australia)
Tel 08 9349 5043
E-Mail petters@iinet.net.au

Volunteers

Susie Mackerras
E-Mail ryder-cheshirevolunteers@gmail.com

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HOMES SUPPORTED

BY RYDER-CHESHIRE AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIA

Homes are located at **Ivanhoe** in Victoria, **Mt Gambier** in SA, and **Singleton** in NSW

www.ryder-cheshire.org

EAST TIMOR

Klibur Domin – in the village of Tibar

www.klibur-domin.east-timor.net

INDIA

Raphael at Dehradun in northern India

www.rafael-ryder-cheshire.org

RYDER-CHESHIRE AUSTRALIA

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RYDER CHESHIRE AUSTRALIA WEBSITE www.ryder-cheshire.org

This Newsletter is edited and produced by Evelyn Petters, Perth, West Australia Tel (08 9349 5043) Email petters@iinet.net.au

Newsletters are issued in May and November. each year

THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE PUBLISHED IN MAY 2011

State Reports and items should be ready to be sent by e-mail to Evelyn Petters (petters@iinet.net.au)

by 1 April 2011

ALL STATES AND CONTACTS 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

antheaswann@bigpond.com

giving the email address to which you would like it sent, saying

'Ryder-Cheshire Newsletter'

plus your name and postal address.

GREETINGS FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Peter Newton

Many of you will know that I took over the role of National President from Dr Don Sinclair in May 2010 at the Biennial Conference held in Mount Gambier. Don had held the position for 8 years and had performed his duties with distinction. His efforts in this role, and in his many other volunteer activities, were recognised when he was awarded an OAM in the Australian Day Honours list in 2009. Everyone with an interest in Ryder-Cheshire will join me in thanking Don for his exceptional contribution to the relief of suffering in India, East Timor and Australia over the past 43 years.

I am privileged to take on the role of National President and I look forward to the challenges of maintaining the high standard set by Don. Some background information on me might be of interest to you. I spent 37 years in the Air Force and retired as an Air Commodore in 1996. I served in Thailand, Singapore, the UK and India as well as most States in Australia, the first of these tours was unaccompanied and the remainder with my wife Helen and family. Our tour in India in 1992 was probably our most interesting year, and we often travelled through Dehra Dun on route from Delhi to the "hill station" of Mussoorie. We were totally unaware of Raphael at that time.

On retiring from the Air Force in 1996, I joined the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation Victoria and took over as the President in 1998. In the meantime, Helen and I had returned to India for three months, including a month working as volunteers at Raphael. We were deeply moved and inspired by what we found at Raphael and, when we returned to Australia, we threw our energies into fund raising and other support for Raphael.

In September 1999, like most Australians, we were horrified at the brutal treatment by the militia and Indonesian Armed Forces of the people of East Timor who had voted for independence at the Referendum of 30 August 1999. We felt that the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation must be able to assist these people in some way.

After gaining the agreement of the National Executive in April 2000, I travelled to East Timor in May and again in July. The East Timorese people were barely surviving in makeshift humpies and they were still traumatised by the events of September 1999. Some 80% of the buildings in East Timor had been torched, and about 2000 people murdered and many others raped and tortured.

Finding a project was easy as there was so much that needed to be done. Making it happen was much harder, but eventually we located a complex and established a home which became known as Klibur Domin, or "sharing love" as it translates in the local dialect.

I have been to Klibur Domin ten times over the last dec-

ade and each time I have been delighted with the improvements since my previous visit. A report on my latest visit is on pages 4 of this Newsletter.

...

Helen and I re-visited Raphael in April 2009 for the 50th Anniversary of that home and we were amazed at the improvements that had taken place in the 11 years since our previous visit in 1998. It is a fantastic facility providing a wonderful service to the people of northern India.

Our homes in Australia at Mount Gambier, Singleton and Ivanhoe (Melbourne) are all providing wonderful facilities and support for the people utilising their services.

Ryder-Cheshire is run by volunteers and we keep our administrative costs to the absolute minimum, so achieving an incredible 98% of all monies donated being available to fund our homes. None of the larger charities can achieve anywhere near this figure and most are lucky to exceed 65-70%.

Helen and I have been blessed with a wonderful family, including three married children and 8 grandchildren who keep us busy. We love to travel and enjoy riding our bicycles, particularly in Europe where we have now cycled more than 8000 km in the past six years.

I look forward to the future as your National President, and I encourage you all to continue the magnificent support you have been providing for the past 50 years since Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder first visited Australia to seek support for Raphael.

I would be delighted to hear any comments or suggestions from any supporter by email

HELPING PROMPT DISTRIBUTION TO HELP RYDER-CHESHIRE

For the past seven years, Prompt Distribution Pty Ltd (of Melbourne) has arranged and paid for the distribution of the Ryder-Cheshire Newsletter to supporters Australia wide and overseas, so saving Ryder-Cheshire Australia around \$14,000 in postage charges, not including the packaging and labour costs. This money has thus been available for Raphael and Klibur Domin to assist with their operating costs.

We are most grateful to David Coath for his valued generosity. In these tight financial times, Prompt Distribution is looking to gain new business. Ryder-Cheshire asks that any supporter who has a need for logistic services, or knows of some other person or company which may have a need these services, visit Prompt Distribution's website www.prompt.com.au to check and consider the services offered by the company. Prompt Distribution is a most efficient and ethical company managed by caring individuals who have given generously to Ryder-Cheshire. Thank you David for your wonderful support.

**VOLUNTEERING AT RAPHAEL, INDIA OR KLIBUR DOMIN, TIMOR LESTE
BY SUSIE MACKERRAS, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR**

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is **SUSIE MACKERRAS** and I am now the Volunteer Co-ordinator for both Raphael and Klibur Domain. I was asked to take over organising the volunteers from Anne Boyd who has spent many years doing the job.

I am very much enjoying it. It is not without its challenges; very recently we had trouble getting volunteers to Raphael as Indian Rail changed their rules and you are now only able to book from an International Country using American Express cards - however, when we tried an American Express card we had no luck either.

I spent a couple of months volunteering in India back in the 1980's, as the Liaison Officer, liaising between the groups here and in England and compiling letters for sponsors. It was great fun and I have wonderful memories of my time there.

WHAT DO I DO AS VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR? Once someone has contacted me with an interest in volunteering, I send them information on the home they are interested in and an application form. I then arrange for interviews, chase up referees, pass all their information onto the home and then help them through their travel and other arrangements. The volunteers I have helped have all been very easy to deal with and even when troubles occur they have kept their wits about them. They have made it easy for me to assist them to get to their chosen home.

WHAT DO THE VOLUNTEERS DO WHEN THEY ARE THERE? Volunteers who have specific training such as physiotherapy, will be placed with the local physiotherapist to help there.

If they are helping out at **Raphael**, they will generally go into classes at Ava Vihar, the school for intellectually disabled children. Last year my daughter spent 3 months in the primary class where she helped the teacher manage the children with various activities. After a day in the classroom, the volunteers are free to join the kids in the Little White House for a game of basketball or help with homework, take the Chronic Ward patients to the local Chai shop, go to a yoga class or go into Dehra Dun. If they are at **Klibur Domin** they may help teach specific skills such as English, sewing, computer use, they may help with growing vegetables and other gardening or they may accompany groups on walks and outings and assist recreational and creative activities. There is plenty to do in both centres and it seems that the more the volunteers get involved the more they enjoy the experience.

THE NEED TO LOOK FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS.

There are times when we are flooded with requests to volunteer but right at the moment we have the opposite situation. **Currently we have volunteers at both Centres until the end of the year, however, after that both Centres will be looking for more volunteers.**

I would be very grateful if States and Support Groups could see if they can think of any outlets they may have to find volunteers. Ballarat has recently put an add in the local paper and this found us two volunteers. Any ideas would be welcome. Please talk to people. Spread the word. We can still accommodate anyone who wants to go before Christmas but after Christmas we really need people. We now have a dedicated email address. If you have any enquiries please pass them on to me.

SUSIE MACKERRAS

**Volunteer Coordinator 02 9880 8094
or e-mail at rydercheshirevolunteersaust@gmail.com**

Sponsors Needed

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

MAKE A COMMITMENT TODAY !

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

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

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

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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

BALLARAT SUPPORT GROUP

Dorothy Carpenter
PO Box 8W BALLARAT WEST VIC 3350
Tel 03 5342 9022 E-mail dcandijm@vic.chariot.net.au

NEW SOUTH WALES

Moira Truskett
67 Dominic Street CRONULLA NSW 2230
Tel 02 9523 7483
E-mail moiratruskett@optusnet.com.au

SOUTH AUSTRALIA/ WEST AUSTRALIA

Judith Bonfiglioli
Unit 2/150 Mt Barker Road STIRLING SA 5152
Tel 08 83391723

VICTORIA

Helen Trueman (*for Klibur Domin*)
26 Heath Street BLACKBURN VIC 3130
Tel 03 9894 4734 E-mail helen@trueman.org

Florence Gough (*for Raphael*)
20 Myrtle Grove Blackburn Victoria 3130
Tel 03 9877 5374
E-mail davidgough@netspace.net.au

REPORT FROM TIMOR-LESTE

From Peter Newton, RCA Project Officer for East Timor



The tenth anniversary of the establishment of Klibur Domin occurred in September. Ten years ago the first Australian volunteers made their way to the complex in Tibar village which had been abandoned by the Indonesians twelve months earlier in the mayhem that followed the

Referendum of 30 August 1999. They found 18 residents and 15 East Timorese staff struggling to survive in buildings that had been ransacked and rendered almost uninhabitable.

A team of Rotary volunteers arrived in October and restored the buildings to a livable standard and the home took in its first new patients in January 2001. **Now Klibur Domin has beds for 60 patients and residents.**

Klibur Domin also runs two outreach programmes. The Mobile TB Team has tested several thousand villagers and successfully treated over 300 cases of TB. This important work will continue indefinitely as TB affects one percent of the population in East Timor.

A Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Programme is supporting 82 children with disabilities in their homes and villages. This is allowing these children to enjoy a far better lifestyle and for 12 of them to attend school – an impossible situation before Klibur Domin began its programme.

NOW THREE NEW FACILITIES ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

- **A new cottage for the six remaining elderly and disabled permanent residents will be completed in November.** This cottage is being funded jointly by the Victorian Foundation from the proceeds of the fundraising Dinner in July 2009 and from the bequest of the late Barbara Lewis. It will provide single rooms, a lounge and a dining room. After the primitive huts they are presently living in, these residents will at long last have pleasant accommodation in their remaining years.
- **Also under construction is a new Multi Drug Resistant TB (MDRTB) ward for four patients.** It is a purpose designed building offering flow through ventilation for minimising the spread of this most virulent and deadly form of TB. Klibur Domin is the only centre in East Timor treating MDRTB. The building is being funded by the Australian arm of Eli Lilly – a drug company. The building should be completed and occupied prior to Christmas.
- **Finally, construction of a Respite Centre** will shortly commence and be completed early in the new year. A very generous donor in Melbourne is covering the cost of this facility which will have five double bedrooms, a living and a dining room, Attached to the living area will be a large room for training patients in skills such as sewing, computing, candle making, paper products and jewellery making. The patients will be able to take these skills back to their villages and hopefully use them to earn some much needed money. With the average earnings of villagers in East Timor being less than one dollar a day, any extra money they can earn will make a huge difference to their lives.

At the Klibur Domin Board of Management meeting held on 22 October, **the Vice Minister of Health asked that Klibur Domin consider setting up what would become East Timor's first Palliative Care Hospice at Klibur Domin.**

Peter Newton told the Board that this would certainly be the type of work that the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation would encourage. He reminded the Board members that the Foundation started in the post

WW II era when Leonard Cheshire took terminally ill patients into his own home and nursed them until they died. The funding for this programme would need to be provided by the Ministry of Health.

WONDERFUL HELP FROM AN UNUSUAL SOURCE

by Peter Newton

On 13th August I received a phone call from **James Sloan**, a keen cyclist from Albury. James and two of his cycling friends had entered the week long Tour de Timor which was being held in mid September. **James, Pat Giddings and Leigh Privett** figured they could take some medical supplies over to Timor Leste with them and it would be useful to help some of the local people. **It so happened that David Taylor, a Physiotherapist who is volunteering at Klibur Domin for 18 months, also comes from Albury.** So James contacted David and asked what he needed. David came up with a long list of rehabilitation aids which could be used by the patients at Klibur Domin.

As the total cost was going to be somewhat more than the three cyclists had expected, they emailed their friends to see if anyone would like to make a donation to help buy the gear. The results were spectacular - over \$6000 was donated by about 30 people, and included several donations of \$1000. Access Health in Blackburn supplied the items at a fraction of the retail price and threw in a lot of extra rehabilitation equipment as well. Consequently David Taylor has obtained all the items he needs and has funds left over to purchase other gear to further improve the services provided at Klibur Domin.

The cyclists visited Klibur Domin before the race and handed over some of the items. However most of the equipment went by Rotary container and has since arrived. They completed the gruelling event of over 400 kilometres which often included climbs of over 2000 metres in a day. The roads were in extremely poor condition, making it necessary to use mountain bikes. It is an event that they will never forget, not just for the ride but because of the amazing generosity of their friends in supporting Klibur Domin.

The photo below shows (from left) Leigh Privett, James Sloan and Pat Giddings handing items to David Taylor (KD Volunteer).



NEWS FROM RAPHAEL

from the July brief by Nita Roy

CEO'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA FOR THE BIENNIAL MEETING IN APRIL

This was a tremendous success. Brig Sinha returned feeling reassured of the solidarity and commitment of all supporters and sponsors of Australia, New Zealand and the UK. We are very grateful to the Board of Ryder-Cheshire Australia for providing an appreciable amount of funding towards major repairs and renovation projects at Raphael. The amount is to be put in the Ryder Cheshire Golden Jubilee Endowment Fund. We deeply appreciate Ryder-Cheshire Australia's generosity and their continuous support to Raphael. .

AVA VIHAR

New admissions to Ava Vihar have settled down well into their routines. 18 legal guardians were appointed for children with intellectual disabilities, a stipulation that has been made by the Government for all children above a certain age. CBR work in the rural sector has been continuing successfully. Raphael Resource teachers and supervisors are working with 140 children in the villages on the Shimla-Bypass Road.

LITTLE WHITE HOUSE

Children have shown improvement with regard to academics as well as discipline. Efforts are being made to persuade the school leavers to pursue other interesting and remunerative career options like the Armed Forces, Computers and mechanical careers other than only nursing and Hotel management.

SHIV SADAN

Residents with leprosy continue to live peacefully and carry on with their occupations in the sheltered workshop and with their daily chores. We are sad that Ganga one of the older residents passed away in February.

THE TB HOSPITAL AND CLINIC

TB patients come from far and near to be treated and the hospital has been active as before. The residents' clinic cares for the chronically ill and the aged regularly and treats the children as and when required.

VOLUNTEERS

The last six months have seen a spate of volunteers from the UK, New Zealand, Denmark, France and Australia. Our Volunteers make all the difference in the world. Raphael look forward to them and their untiring efforts to make the lives of the residents happy by their participation in all activities of Raphael.

FESTIVALS/EVENTS

Holi, the festival of colour, remains one of the most popular festivals especially with Raphael children and residents. Year after year our residents look forward to this day. This year, as always, there was much throwing of coloured dye at each other and celebrating it with music and dancing and then ending the day with a special meal.

We express as always our appreciation and gratitude to all our sponsors, supporters, donors and well wishers for their continued support to Raphael.

From All at Raphael

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF LADY SUE RYDER

2010 marks the 10th Anniversary of the death of one of our Founders, Lady Sue Ryder, Baroness of Warsaw, who died on 2nd November 2000.

Below is the obituary notice from the UK Observer of 3rd November 2000 following her death.

"Sue Ryder, one of the most respected charity workers in post-war Britain, died aged 77 yesterday. Baroness Ryder, widow of Second World War hero Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, had been in the West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St Edmunds, since September.

THE SUE RYDER FOUNDATION was established 47 years ago to help the homeless in the aftermath of the Second World War but it subsequently widened its appeal to include the sick and needy in Britain and had a string of health care homes and 500 charity shops. But in recent months she had become estranged from the organisation, WHICH CHANGED ITS NAME TO SUE RYDER CARE and dropped her traditional logo, a sprig of rosemary for remembrance, in favour of an image of a smiling sun. Lady Ryder was angered and before she went into hospital set up a new organisation to keep faith with her original principles of compassion and the relief of suffering.

She was a devout Catholic and married Leonard Cheshire VC in 1959. The couple had an audience with the Pope to mark their 25th wedding anniversary. **Lady Ryder was a tireless worker for the disadvantaged, especially in Poland, and took the title Lady Ryder of Warsaw to affirm her commitment to the Polish people.** She was a hands-on charity director, often driving lorries of food and clothing to Warsaw to help the needy especially when the country was under Communist rule.

Spokeswoman for the Bouverie Foundation, Halina Kent, said last night: "It is an incredible loss - the news has come as a terrible blow to many hundred of thousands of people who knew, loved and admired Lady Ryder."

And from the Website of Sue Ryder Care:-

"Sue Ryder was an exceptional figure of the 20th Century, a woman who dedicated her life to the relief of suffering. Her legacy lives on in the work of Sue Ryder Care and the services it provides for people living with Multiple Sclerosis, Huntington's Disease, Brain Injury and Cancer across Britain, Europe and in southern Africa. Born in Yorkshire in 1923, Sue Ryder served with the Special Operations Executive (SOE) during the Second World War. SOE was established in 1940, to promote and co-ordinate resistance activity in German occupied Europe.

Her life's mission became clear in the aftermath of the Second World War when she worked as a volunteer amongst displaced and stateless refugees on the continent of Europe. The first home opened by Sue Ryder was St Christopher's in Germany, designed as a haven for the people she met in Europe, many of whom were survivors of concentration camps. The first home to be built by Sue Ryder was in Konstancin in Poland, followed by homes in England. Today Sue Ryder Care still operates on the same principle of providing care where it is needed most.

Sue Ryder was married for many years to war hero and fellow charity founder the late Leonard Cheshire VC, who died in 1992. **Lady Ryder was made a life peer in 1978 and was a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George in 1975. She also received the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1957".**

Fondly remembered



VALE

JOSEPHINE COLLINS

Victoria



JOSEPHINE COLLINS, who died in July 2010, was a fervent admirer of Leonard Cheshire & Sue Ryder - so much so that she, together with Barbara Lewis, set up The Foundation as we know it in Australia. This took place in the fifties and Josephine was unstinting in her generosity - both with her time and effort, particularly in Victoria. She not only set up the Mel-

bourne Support Group but travelled widely with Leonard in and outside the state of Victoria - resulting in the establishment of groups in Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Morwell & Pentridge Prison - her contacts were wide & her tenacity enduring.

The Ryder Cheshire was not Josephine's only humanitarian interest. Jose was a loyal supporter of the Jesuit Order and particularly their Mission at Hazaribagh in India; her brother Jim went there in 1952, was ordained as priest in Hazaribagh in 1963 (Jose & her parents being present). Sadly he was killed in a car accident the following year not far from where he was ordained

In support of that Mission, Jose established in the middle sixties an Opportunity Shop in Richmond & called it The Blue Door - an enormously successful enterprise. In the early eighties she transferred the shop to Manresa Hall in Burwood Rd Hawthorn where it continued to flourish for some years as "This & That" until the Jesuits required the site for other purposes. Jose was one of the forces behind the establishment in the early fifties of the well known "May Time Fair" which to this very day raises hundreds of thousand dollars each year at Xavier College in Kew for the Jesuit Mission in India. Here she served on the executive & many other positions & latterly was often seen in the background making chicken sandwiches for "Ye Old Tea Shoppe" in the boarders dining room. In her local Toorak Parish she was actively engaged; she was the first to take on the responsibility of running "Food For Friends" an ecumenical fund raiser at Christmas time for the less well off - once again a charity effort still running each Yuletide.

Although health problems dogged her latter years, Josephine maintained a keen interest in the work of the Foundation. She continued to be generous with her time and always purchased the Foundation's Christmas cards. She will be sadly missed.

by Anne Collins



VALE

MALCOLM PETTERS

West Australia



MALCOLM PETTERS, who was born on 7th January 1923 and died on 2nd June 2010, was a dedicated supporter of Ryder-Cheshire, serving on the WA Council for more than twenty years, including terms of President and Vice President. He will be known to many through his attendances at National Biennial Conferences. He worked tirelessly for the Foundation in all of its activities and fundraising,

Malcolm's awareness of the plight of the disadvantaged in India occurred during his childhood, when as a small boy growing up in Dehra Dun he saw the lepers on the streets. Many years later in 1980 he returned to Dehra Dun and by chance met the late General Bakhshi, former Chairman of Raphael, who showed him the work at Raphael. On returning to Perth he met Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder at a Government House reception for them and so began his long commitment to Ryder-Cheshire.

On numerous return visits to India, he visited Raphael. On one of his trips he also visited Calcutta, where he had the honour of meeting with Mother Teresa when she gave him the rosary she was wearing. Malcolm gave the treasured rosary to his daughter Susan Brown, who lives in Kaleen, ACT. Susan has presented the rosary to St Michaels Parish in Kaleen where it is used regularly by worshippers of the Parish.

Malcolm was educated at Bishop Cotton School in Simla, North India and on leaving school joined the Indian Army. At partition, in 1947, he transferred to the British Army and his postings took him to many places in Europe and the Far East. When he left the Army in 1970 he migrated to Perth. Hockey was always his passion and he was awarded the Australian Sports Medal in 2000. He continued to be active in Hockey in WA up until 2004. Malcolm is mentioned as one of the Anglo Indian "Hockey Greats of Yesteryear" in Trevor Vanderputt's book "Hockey's Odyssey":

He passed away at the age of 87 years. He leaves a widow, Evelyn, from his second marriage, and a son and two daughters from his first marriage.

by Evelyn Petters

VICTORIAN HOMES

from Donald A Sinclair, President.

In September the Victorian Homes celebrated its 29th Annual General Meeting. The Homes continue to play a vital role in providing high-quality, low-cost accommodation for patients and carers attending various Melbourne hospitals.

The Homes are open every day of the year and offer 43 en-suite units for residents. **A nominal total of 15,652 room-nights are thus available each year. These 43 units have a total of 92 beds so 33,580 bed-nights are nominally available each year.** Statistics for the financial year from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 indicate that a total of **8,955 room-nights were used** with an average occupancy rate of 57.21 %, and **13,883 bed-nights were utilised**, with an average weekly occupation of **267 beds** (41.34% of available beds). **A total of 2353 individuals arrived at the Homes during the 2009-10 year**

Although the Homes are a not-for-profit organization, and do not seek to maximise income and surpluses, the audited annual financial report indicates that the Homes enjoyed an operational surplus of \$257,815 for the year to 30 June 2010 (\$238,659 in 2008-09). **Accommodation charges have been set at \$35 per person/night in line with the VPTAS rate of \$35 for patients and carers who need to travel more than 100 km from their home to Melbourne.** This means that few patients are 'out of pocket' for their accommodation. Concession rates are available in certain circumstances.

OUR HOMES CAN OPERATE ON THEIR CURRENT MODEL DUE ONLY TO THE MAGNIFICENT SERVICE OF OUR RESIDENT CARER AND HER ARMY OF VOLUNTEERS. Apart from allowing for the financial viability of the Homes, the personal touch of all volunteers in the relief of suffering for many people during a period of great personal crisis is a vital element in our mission, and is frequently remarked on by residents. Our Homes truly are an oasis of calm and peace for many country people being treated in Melbourne hospitals.

Our grateful thanks are extended to every volunteer in whatever capacity they serve. Particular mention is made of the magnificent weekly service of Tony Healy and Keith Hutchins, our two volunteer maintenance men, and Sandra Findlay, our volunteer financial controller, Sue Kelly is also very active in providing linen items and organising a fund-raising buffet lunch. The volunteers' luncheon held in 2009 was such a wonderful success that it was repeated in February this year with equal success. This luncheon is now an annual celebration on our calendar.

During the year the following new or improved facilities were introduced. The computers in the three buildings have been networked and a computer-assisted booking system was introduced in 2009.

The major project of the replacement of the asbestos roofing on Buildings 12 & 14 was recently completed. This project also involved the installation for safe internal roof access from within each building and safety anchorage points for workers on the roof.

The imminent changeover to digital television will necessitate the replacement of TV sets in all units and arrangements are proceeding. The committee reluctantly decided to install a CCTV security system due to the theft of several valuable and attractive items from the Homes. The cameras cover all entries and exits to the three buildings and major public spaces. There are no cameras in individual units.

Publication of "A Safe Haven" We look forward to the imminent publication of 'A Safe Haven', a collection of stories of the experiences of 12 of our residents compiled by Dr Sandra Foster, one of our volunteers, and Jane Gorey.

SINGLETON SUPPORT GROUP

From Cheryl Nesbit

The Singleton Group meets bi-monthly at the Singleton Ryder-Cheshire home, "Locksley". Our Annual General Meeting was held on June 21st, and all Executive were re-nominated to their current positions and re-elected. It is very pleasing to have such a loyal Committee.

We had some recent storm damage to our rear fences and gate, and these have been restored. This took us to have a look at our other fences, and we are currently securing quotes to submit to our adjoining neighbours to renew some of these.

We had an assessment by an Occupational Therapist who advised us that our front access ramp no longer conformed to the existing requirements, and we are reviewing this with a local builder who has experience in these matters.

Unfortunately TAFE were unable to secure sufficient numbers to conduct the Landscaping Project, however the Whitmore group now have a gardening plan, and intend to carry out some of the smaller projects themselves. The Whitmore Group, who occupy our home, now have a new workshop facility in Magpie Street, Singleton, and we were pleased to attend the opening. This gives them more space within our home for conducting programs to suit other disabled clients.

We have booked a booth at the upcoming "Ethical Market" in Singleton to sell Christmas and Correspondence cards and to raise our profile within the community



IN REMEMBRANCE OF MARY WALTA

Victorian Homes

Ryder-Cheshire lost one of its most well-known and endearing supporters of our mission with the passing of Mary Walta on 14 May 2010 at the age of 96 years.

Mary, a post-war Dutch migrant with nine children, and a tenth born in Australia, was a very active supporter of 'Raphael', the Ryder-Cheshire home in Dehradun, India. Mary was widowed in 1972. When the Victorian Home was established in Ivanhoe in 1981 Mary volunteered to be our first house mother and served in this role from January 1981 to December 1987. Her remarkable energy and organising abilities were an inspiration to all involved with the new Home. We remember the dedicated service of Mary Walta for the relief of suffering with gratitude. A fuller tribute to Mary was published in our 'Caring Friends' Winter 2010 newsletter.

*Don Sinclair
President Victorian Homes*

BALLARAT SUPPORT GROUP

From Dianne McGrath, Secretary

VOLUNTEERS

We have been working closely with representatives from both Ballarat businesses and the wider Ballarat community who are engaged in volunteer and leadership programs with a view to increasing the profile of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation in the area.

An unexpected, but pleasant surprise occurred when **Roger Bade**, one of our community contacts, who had planned a visit to East Timor as part of his participation in the recent Tour de Timor cycling event, visited Klibur Domin. He met with some of the local representatives and volunteers. **Roger presented them a generous donation of \$1000 on behalf of the Ballarat and Sebastopol Cycling Club. This money is to be used for furnishings for the Permanent Care Ward at Klibur Domin.**

Using the Ryder-Cheshire volunteer program as a vehicle, we have also been working with Uniting Care Ballarat to advertise for volunteers. As a result a young woman with a Bachelor in the Health Sciences and who is also a qualified Nutritionist and Massage Therapist, left for Raphael on 18th October. A second volunteer is planning to volunteer at Klibur Domin next year.

ARCHIVES

The valuing of the Ballarat Support Group's history has been a priority for the Group this year. Ballarat has a long history and this is reflected by the rich primary source material collected since the Group's beginnings—minutes, scrap books of clippings and letters, reports, photographs, videos, detailed reports and much more. Leo, Carmel, Dorothy and Hazel have been instrumental in sorting through the historical documents in the endeavour of preserving this valuable history. Carmel has undertaken the task of updating the scrapbooks and Dorothy continues the historical time line summary of office bearers, committee members and important events of the Group. This work will continue into next year.

ANITA RANA

Anita was married on April 14th in Dehra Dun, her hometown. She returned to Australia after the wedding ceremony to resume her nursing in Ballarat. She was happy to be back in Ballarat, but very sad to leave her new husband in India. After a wait of several months for immigration clearance, Amit arrived to the joy of Anita and all of us. They are happily settled in Ballarat. Anita's family will be joining them for a visit in December and January.

STORIES FROM BALLARAT SPONSORS

FATHER BRENDAN SMITH

Fr Brendan Smith, who now lives in Lake Boga, was living in Ballarat from 1963 to 1964. During that time he met two nursing sisters, Agnes and Mary McLean. These two ladies, who have now both passed away, are very well known as being some of the early members of the Ballarat Support Group which began in 1964.

These ladies continued working for Ryder-Cheshire for many years, influencing others, including Fr Brendan Smith who on their encouragement joined the Foundation. Fr Brendan continued to support the Group after he moved to Beaufort in the 1970's where he lived until 1985. While he was there, he also 'spread the word' about this worthy organization, encouraging people to support Raphael in India. Two of these people are our friends in Ararat, Ena and Eileen Harrison who you read about in a previous issue. Fr Brendan has been a sponsor of Sunil Bahadur at Raphael since 1977!

We sincerely thank him for his support over many years.

MR GEOFF NOTT

Geoff Nott is a former president of the Ballarat Support Group.

He began his time with Ryder-Cheshire after initial contact with another of our well-known former office bearers the late Cath McLenehan. Cath went to the local Ballarat Radio Station looking for supporters and Geoff, an announcer at the Station, responded. This was around 1970, not long after our Group began.

Geoff was also a member of the Victoria Foundation Committee and regularly drove to Melbourne with Cath for the meetings held in Toorak. Geoff fondly remembers Cath feeding him delicious sandwiches on the journey! Geoff and his late wife, Anne, entertained Leonard and Sue at their home in Haddon on one of their visits to Australia. Geoff remembers Sue being furious because they had to cancel a school visit due to lack of time. They had also organised a trip to Tasmania, and Sue seemed to think that Tasmania was part of Victoria, and that it would only be a short trip!

Geoff has now retired to sunny Maryborough in Victoria, and supports Pulma Dei at Raphael.

Thank you Geoff for your contribution to the success of our group in Ballarat.

WHAT WONDERFUL STORIES WE HAVE TO REMEMBER!

VICTORIA

From Peter McConnell, President

The Victorian Foundation continues its fundraising and is on track to meet its target of \$100,000 once again in 2010. Much of this money comes from our sponsorship schemes for both Raphael and Klibur Domin.

WE ENCOURAGE ALL OUR SUPPORTERS WHO ARE NOT ALREADY SPONSORS TO CONSIDER TAKING OUT A SPONSORSHIP FOR EITHER A RESIDENT, A PATIENT BED OR IN SUPPORT OF ONE OF OUR OUT-REACH PROGRAMMES. Sponsorships allow a very personal involvement with the work being undertaken at the homes, and many of our sponsors have been happy to continue with their sponsorships over many decades. Please contact the relevant Victorian Sponsorship Secretary shown on page 3 of this issue..

Peter Newton has reported progress on the new Residents' Cottage under construction at Klibur Domin. This building was funded jointly by RCF Victoria and from the bequest of Barbara Lewis. The RCF Victoria Committee decided to remit the \$26,000 made at last year's Celebrity Chef Dinner for this purpose and Patrick Lewis provided a further \$15,000 from Barbara's bequest. The building (shown in the photo below right) will be completed before the end of the year and will provide modern and comfortable accommodation for the elderly and disabled residents at Klibur Domin.

Many of our Committee members have spent extensive periods travelling away from Melbourne over the past six months. **This has highlighted the need for additional people to serve on our Committee. Please come along and join us and help us to achieve even more in our fundraising efforts.** It is not hard work or too time consuming, and we know you will enjoy the challenge. Please contact the President, Peter McConnell on 03 9882 2164 or on petermac@swiftdsl.com.au. We will welcome you most warmly into our group.

We are hopeful that a suitable movie will be screening in the late November or early December period and we will organise a film day or evening. Advance notice will be provided.

Our last Opportunity Shop roster for 2010 will be held from 29th November to 4th December at the Mt Waverley Lions Club Op Shop. If anyone has any items that could be sold, please contact Margaret McConnell by phone (9882 2164) or email petermac@swiftdsl.com.au.

RCF Victoria will also be operating a stall at Centro the Glen Shopping Mall at Glen Waverley from 22nd to 28th November. We will be selling Christmas and greeting cards, coffee and handicraft items from East Timor and India. Anyone wishing to assist or to know more about this stall should contact Helen Newton on 9894 3191.

We have a delightful range of Christmas cards this year and they are selling fast. If you have not placed your order or you need more cards, please contact Helen Newton.

With the end of year fast approaching, we wish all our sponsors and supporters a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy new year.

NEW SOUTH WALES

From Christine Hannan, President.

This has been a busy year so far for our small but hard working committee. **In May we held a dinner at MARY MACKILLOP PLACE IN NORTH SYDNEY, which we called 'An Indian Celebration'.** Our aim was to recognize the 50th anniversary of Raphael, which occurred last year, and to celebrate the life and work of Barbara Lewis. We enjoyed an Indian meal and some colourful Bollywood dancing. We had two wonderful speeches from Patrick Lewis and Josh Rathmell with Patrick speaking movingly about Barbara and Josh giving some insights into his time recently as a volunteer at Raphael. A Silent Auction, raffle and some quizzes added a sense of fun to the evening. It was a most successful night.

In early October we held a film night at the Dendy, Opera Quays in the city. Our film was 'Eat Pray Love', the adaptation of the best selling book by Elizabeth Gilbert. A group of over a hundred signed up for the evening and enjoyed the film experience as well as the themed gift bags, which were given to each guest. This is a beautiful venue for a night out because it is right on the harbour and the view as you leave the theatre is quite stunning. We are very grateful to our supporters of both these events for their generosity.

The cards for Christmas 2010 are now ready. The Christmas card brochure has been emailed and mailed to members and we hope you are pleased with the selection of cards available this year. There are also small numbers of cards available from some previous years, which we are selling at a discounted rate. If you log in to our website at the address shown below, you will find details of our cards for this year.

We held our AGM at the end of May and sadly our Secretary and Assistant Secretary, Andrew and Angelica Hannan stood down from their roles, because of family commitments. We are very grateful for the wonderful work they did for two years and are appreciative of the ongoing assistance they are giving in helping with our fundraising efforts. We were not able to fill the role of Secretary, so would love to hear from anyone who might be interested in helping out with this role. We are also looking for a Card Coordinator to manage this important fundraising activity. If you are interested please contact myself at 4 Rawhiti Street, Roseville NSW 2069, or by email at c.hannan@optusnet.com.au

TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH NSW NEWS, REMEMBER TO LOG ON TO OUR WEBSITE. The website can be found at:
<http://www.rydercheshirensw.wordpress.com>



Residents' cottage under construction at Klibur Domin

NEWS FROM THE STATES

SOUTH AUSTRALIA/Mt.GAMBIER

From Di McEwen, Secretary.

The South Australian Council has settled back to normal after hosting the Biennial Conference in May at Mount Gambier. Judging by the feedback of those who attended it was a great success and our members were very pleased with the whole weekend. It was a great opportunity to meet fellow members from far and wide.

Kaye Gilbertson, our Catering co-ordinator, reports that our catering continues to be a steady means of fundraising. This weekend the team will be busy catering for a local wedding.

Johanne Sunnex, our Sponsorship Co-ordinator, has just returned from her third visit to Raphael. Johanne enjoys these visits immensely and this assists her in her sponsorship role.

The Charity Connections shop in Adelaide is once again selling cards for Ryder-Cheshire. With Christmas around the corner, it is hoped many people will support the organisation in this way.

The Ryder-Cheshire home in Mount Gambier has had working bees to remove the weeds from the garden, prune the roses and trim trees and shrubs which are now four years old and looking good. The residents have a vegie garden and this is being prepared for Spring planting. They enjoy this activity immensely. New equipment for the fire alarm is in the process of being installed. This has come about due to Telstra changing technology. Rotary is assisting with part of the cost through their District Grant program.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 11th October.

**Wishing all in the Ryder-Cheshire family
a happy and peaceful year in 2011.**

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

From Beverley Raby, President.

We recently held a Cocktail Party at the newly opened Timor-Leste Embassy, a joint event with Canberra Friends of Dilli, to raise funds for Klibur Domin. The function was most successful with ninety people attending.

In July we welcomed the new ambassador His Excellency Mr Abel Guterres and Mrs Guterres at lunch. Ryder-Cheshire have supported and provided volunteer assistance over the years while the embassy operated from temporary premises.

Ten members toured East Timor in July, covering many areas and of course included a visit to Klibur Domin. **Following the trip RCF member Mr Steve Utick produced a book "Ten Canberrans and the Sleeping Crocodile"** and also extra photographs. Both items are now on sale.

The book contains over one hundred photographs and features the Ryder-Cheshire home, Klibur Domin. **Profits from sales will come to Ryder - Cheshire. For purchases contact Steve whose contact details are shown below.**

Leading up to Christmas we are busy selling cards through the Combined Charities Card Shop for the next two months.

Enquiries and orders for the book, please contact Mr. Steve Utick

Email sutick@iimetro.com.au

Mob 0421 972 287

VALE

DR HELEN REID

South Australia



We were saddened to learn of the passing of Dr Helen Reid, who died on 9th August 2010 after a long, degenerative illness.

Helen came to South Australia from Scotland in 1971 to take up the position of Senior Mistress and later Principal of Walford Anglican School. An impressive building program and innovative plans followed under her inspiring leadership.

Helen has been a strong supporter of Ryder-Cheshire in encouraging the Walford Year 11 and 12 girls who have raised thousands of dollars for our work. The girls gained awareness of life in India and of the need to help those who cannot help themselves. We are grateful for their continuing sponsorship. Although unwell, Helen graciously agreed to speak at our Celebration at Walford in 2009 and again at the fund-raising dinner held later in the year. She will be sadly missed.

*Judith Weston
South Australia*

WE NEED A VISION, A DREAM.

The vision should be the oneness, the essential and organic solidarity of the human family. The dream, that we each in our way make our personal contribution towards building unity and peace among us.

The only question is how.

Leonard Cheshire, The Hidden World.

Donations to Ryder Cheshire Australia

*If you would like to support the work of
Ryder-Cheshire by means of a donation,
please contact*

*The National President, Peter Newton,
50 Myrtle Grove, Blackburn, Victoria 3130
Telephone 03 9894 3191*

DONATIONS OVER \$2.00 ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE