

## GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT - PETER NEWTON, AO

With the Christmas and New Year fast approaching, Helen joins me in sending our sincere thanks and fondest wishes to all in the wider Ryder-Cheshire family.

For the past six and a half years, it has been my privilege to serve as your National President, and now it is time to hand over the reins to Rory McEwen, the President of Ryder-Cheshire South Australia. Rory is a dynamic individual and totally committed to the ideals and vision of Ryder-Cheshire. As the former independent member for the seats of Gordon (1997 - 2002) and Mount Gambier (2002 – 2010) and a Cabinet Minister from 2002 to 2010, Rory will bring great skills and experience to the role.



*Peter with Jitu on a visit to Klibur Domin*

I would like to thank my fellow Board Members and all Foundation committee members, volunteers, sponsors and supporters for your support since taking over as your President. Could I also record my special thanks to my predecessors, dating back to John Nagle in 1971 and followed by Dame Mary Daly,

Dame Roma Mitchell, Air Marshal Jake Newham and Dr Don Sinclair. Each contributed significantly to the growth of Ryder-Cheshire, making it a relatively easy task for me to continue the momentum.

I have been deeply involved in Ryder-Cheshire since 1996 when I retired from the Air Force after a career of 37 years. Helen joined me on the Victorian Foundation Committee shortly after, and Ryder-Cheshire has been a central focus in our lives ever since. We were both deeply inspired by our founders, Sue Ryder and Leonard Cheshire, and their selfless devotion to improving the lives of many thousands of people who were sick, disabled or destitute. The things that impress us most about Ryder-Cheshire is the fact that we are all volunteers and that, through frugal management, we are able to ensure that every dollar donated gets to those we are

supporting in India, Timor-Leste and Australia. Many other charities only manage 60 or 70 cents in the dollar, so the achievements of Ryder-Cheshire are certainly a huge motivator.

I will remain on the Ryder-Cheshire Australia Board as the Project Officer for Timor-Leste, a role I have enthusiastically undertaken since initiating the establishment of Klibur Domin in 2000. To have watched Klibur Domin grow and develop over the past 16 years has given me great personal satisfaction.

Likewise, to see the developments at our homes in India (Raphael), Ivanhoe and Mount Gambier has been inspirational.

So again I thank you all for your contributions to what is a magnificent organisation which continues to live the dreams of Sue Ryder and Leonard Cheshire. Long may we continue this important work.

**Peter Newton, AO**