



# 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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For the past six years, Prompt Distribution Pty Ltd has arranged and paid for the distribution of the Ryder-Cheshire Newsletter to supporters, so saving Ryder-Cheshire around \$12,000 in postage charges, not including the packaging and labour costs. This money has been available for Raphael and Klibur Domin to assist with their operating costs. 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 for these services, visit Prompt Distribution's website [www.prompt.com.au](http://www.prompt.com.au) to check and consider the services offered by the company.

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.

## NEWS FROM TIMOR-LESTE

From Peter Newton, Klibur Domin Project Officer.



**It is now 9 years since Klibur Domin was established in the ransacked complex in Tibar village vacated by the Indonesians in September 1999.** The first Ryder-Cheshire volunteers ar-

rived from Australia in September 2000, after the Foundation had spent 4 months negotiating with the United Nations Administration to take over the complex and establish the home.

**In the latter part of 1999, many members of Ryder-Cheshire had been anxious to assist the people of East Timor following the trauma of the post Referendum mayhem in September 1999, when the Indonesian Armed Forces and East Timorese Militia went on a rampage of murder, rape, looting and arson.** Nearly two thousand people were murdered and 80% of all buildings in East Timor were torched. So ended nearly 25 years of repressive Indonesian occupation. The people had their freedom, but they had paid an enormous price.

**In January 2000, The Age and Sydney Morning Herald carried articles of a 13 year old girl, Isaura da Silva,** who had a major heart condition which would be fatal if not treated within months. Isaura was brought to Melbourne by the Foundation and negotiations were made with the Monash Medical Centre for an operation. Isaura and her mother stayed at the Ryder-Cheshire Home in Ivanhoe in the lead up to the operation which turned out to be even more difficult than expected. Isaura was lucky to survive but she made a good recovery and after several months of recuperation at the Ivanhoe Home she eventually returned to East Timor in late March 2000. Isaura returned to Melbourne for a second heart operation in 2006 and has enjoyed reasonable health as a result of the Foundation's intervention. Our hope was always that she would be able to lead a "normal life".



So it was a great thrill for those who knew Isaura to learn that she become the mother of a delightful, healthy boy, on 18<sup>th</sup> March. Taken in August, **the photo shows Isaura, her partner Nilton and baby son Jyzeus Gabriel Vong Freitas Lay,** Klibur Domin will continue to monitor Isaura's health and well being into the future. We have a special bond with this delightful young lady and now with her family.

Klibur Domin continues to expand its programmes and upgrade its facilities. **Alice Thomas, an Australian volunteer Physiotherapist, who has been at Klibur Domin since March 2008,** has written an article on her work at the Home, working with inpatients and clients of the Community Based Rehabilitation programme which is now supporting more than 80 children with disabilities in their homes and villages. Alice has done a fantastic job at Klibur Domin and is typical of more than 140 volunteers who have now served at the Home.

The Mobile TB Programme has continued its work in the villages of the Ermera and Liquica districts and has now treated more than 350 patients in addition to those referred by the Dili National Hospital and other clinics for inpatient treatment. In 2007, a four bed Multi Drug Resistant TB ward was established at Klibur Domin and now treats patients with this most virulent form of the disease. The treatment takes up to a year for patients who are lucky enough to survive. The Klibur Domin ward is the only such facility in East Timor.

The recently upgraded Activities Room provides much needed improvement to the facilities available for physiotherapy and rehabilitation. Our thanks go to AusAID and the Australian Embassy in Dili for funding this major renovation. Our next major project will be the renovation and extension of two cottages to create a new centre for ten permanent residents at the Home. They are presently living in temporary and sub standard accommodation.

My visit to the Home in August once again revealed to me just how effective the work of Klibur Domin and the Foundation has been over the past 9 years in caring for many hundreds of people who were sick or who have a disability. **I thank each and every one of our supporters who have made this possible. The residents, patients, staff and volunteers at Klibur Domin join me in wishing everyone a happy Christmas and a successful New Year.**



## ONE AND A HALF YEARS ON

By Alice Thomas, Volunteer Physiotherapist at Klibur Domin.

Recruited through Australian Volunteers International (AVI), I accepted a position to work as a Physiotherapist at Klibur Domin, Timor Leste. **In March 2008, I touched down in Dili**, along with three other 'AVI's'. It didn't take us long to realise that the much slower pace of life and past atrocities were going to make an assignment in Timor an extremely challenging one. On arrival at Klibur Domin (KD), I was greeted by extremely friendly and enthusiastic staff. I quickly realised English wasn't going to get me very far, so worked hard at learning the local language, Tetun, and with the patience of my counterparts at KD, we were communicating well in a mixture of both languages after a few months.

My two main counterparts are Carlos and Rosario. Both have social work backgrounds and have worked at KD for a number of years. My main role has been to work with them to help build their capacity, as well as strengthening internal systems and providing management support to both the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) and inpatient physiotherapy programs.



*Picture above : Alice working with patients*

*Picture right : The Activities Centre*

Over 18 months at Klibur Domin I've seen significant changes in both programs. **The CBR program has an increasing number of clients**, which is inevitable due to the lack of disability services in Timor Leste and the increasing awareness of KD's capabilities. Using a greater community focus, **the development of a community volunteer program** earlier this year allowed the CBR team to provide an improved quality of service to clients, and increase program sustainability. The Timorese community volunteers oversee the clients in their own villages and provide assistance on local disability. They regularly liaise with the KD CBR workers and request assistance as required. The community volunteers have identified children with disabilities in their communities and referred them to KD. Recently, two children with club foot were referred and are undergoing treatment in Dili. The volunteers have assisted at advocacy and inclusion activities such as the First Lady Cup (fun run) in Dili, International Children's Day activities in Liquica and local playgroups. Recently following a two day training on Inclusive Education the community volunteers have been identifying children with disabilities who are not attending school and facilitating the process for these children to attend their local schools.

*Picture opposite page, upper right:*

*Alice working with a patient in the Activities Centre*

*Picture opposite page, lower right :*

*Alice working with a child with Cerebral Palsy and her mother as part of the CBR program*

Other projects involving the CBR team include a community water project in Laclolema (supported by Ryder-Cheshire Australia), the installation of wheelchair accessible toilets and ramps in schools and houses, school education activities about causes and prevention of disability and continuing physiotherapy and education for clients and families.

The Timor Leste Government has made CBR one of their priorities for disability services in Timor Leste. This year was the first year the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS) has provided some funding to KD. We are hopeful that this funding will increase in future years.

**On the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2009 the newly renovated Physiotherapy and Training Facility (known to many as the Activities Room) was officially opened by the Australian Ambassador, His Excellency Peter Heyward.** KD received a USD30,000 grant from AUSAid earlier in the year to complete this project. Through this project and other donations, from both the Australian Federal Police and Physiotherapy Timor, KD has a much greater resourced facility from which to provide improved quality of care for patients and clients. KD has attended and held joint training events with other NGOs in the disability sector. It has been great to see improvements in the staff's understanding of disability and particular treatments techniques.



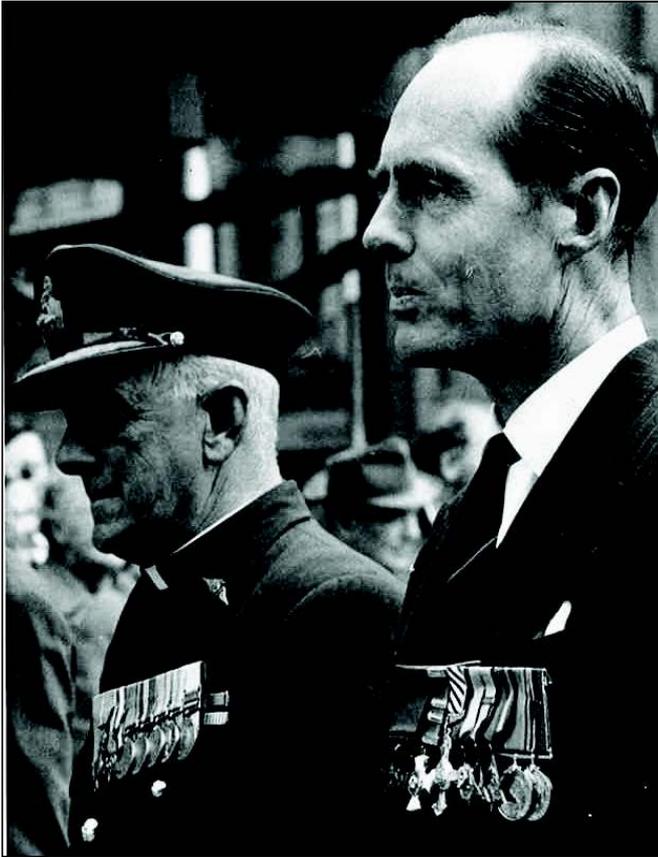
We were lucky enough to have Peter Newton present at the inauguration ceremony of the KD Sportsfield. KD received a grant from the Australian Sports Commission for A\$5000 to renovate the area which now holds both a soccer field and volleyball court. This facility is used on a daily basis by local community members and patients and carers for recreation. Competitive games have also been held here.

**My departure in December will be another challenge for me.** With so many fond memories of the people and the country, KD will be a very difficult place to leave. However the new year brings new opportunities for KD. September, 2010 will see the return of the two Timorese physiotherapy and occupational therapy students from Indonesia to work full time at KD. They will be great assets to both the inpatient physiotherapy program and the CBR teams. **A new AVI physiotherapist will start in March 2010 to continue to provide mentorship and develop both of these programs. at such a crucial time. I am very grateful for the time I have had at KD.**

**I am looking forward to return visits, as the future looks bright for Klibur Domin and its continuing development as a key regional centre for rehabilitation and health care services.**

Editor's Note: Alice has been accepted into Medicine at Wollongong University in 2010. We wish her well.

## LORD CHESHIRE VC



*Leonard Cheshire marching alongside  
Principal Air Chaplain David Beyer in the Anzac Day March  
in the 1960's*

Lord Cheshire VC was the bomber ace who witnessed the second atomic bomb attack on Japan in 1945 and devoted the rest of his life to Christian care of the sick and needy. His Victoria Cross was not awarded, as is more usual, for a specific act of supreme valour. Of 51 airmen VCs he was one of just five, two in the 1914-18 War, thus honoured for an extended period of operational flying and outstanding qualities and courage. He completed 107 bombing sorties.

In 1943 at the age of 25, Cheshire was promoted to Group Captain, the equivalent of a Royal Navy Captain or Army Colonel, and he was the youngest Royal Air Force officer to achieve such high rank.

When he was subsequently appointed to a desk job in command of a Bomber Command station, he had already beaten the actuarial odds of survival by a wide margin. But administration and the constriction of a brass hat palled and he gladly accepted a reduction to Wing Commander when offered command of the legendary Dambusters Squadron No 617. Bomber Harris's "old lags" of No 617 had gone through a bad patch since Wing Commander Guy Gibson VC had handed over to Squadron Leader George Holden. Holden was killed and when Cheshire arrived in September 1943, Squadron Leader Mick Martin was temporarily in command. Tall, thin, dark and sensitive, introspective, cool and calculating in the air, Cheshire had little in common with the outgoing dashing Gibson. **As Cheshire's sorties soared to 100 on his third tour of operations, he was recommended for a VC. It was gazetted on Sept 8 1944 and he was posted to India.**

Soon after arriving there he was ordered to Washington to prepare to fly as an observer of the B29 atomic attack on Nagasaki on August 8 1945. This duty discharged, his health declined. The long and sustained operational career and the trauma of the atomic blast had taken their toll and he left the service at his own request in early 1946.

Three years later Cheshire stumbled into his long and eventually debilitating vocation of caring for the ailing and afflicted, irrespective of race or creed. In 1952 he was admitted to Midhurst Sanatorium with tuberculosis. Two years later he re-emerged, prepared to take on the world.

It is a popular misconception that Nagasaki turned him to Catholicism and good works. As a professional bomber pilot he was more distressed at the time by the inaccuracy of the US air crew who missed the target by two miles.

After the war he returned to a large empty house at Liss, Hampshire, where he took in an old airman, Arthur Dykes, who was dying of cancer. Cheshire watched Arthur, a lapsed Catholic, regain his faith and it made a deep impression on him. On Christmas Eve 1948 he was received into the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1959 he married a fellow Catholic, Sue Ryder (later Baroness Ryder of Warsaw) founder of the renowned UK charity shops and homes in the UK and Europe. In the meantime, the Leonard Cheshire Foundation Homes, established at the prompting of his friend Sir Arthur (later Lord) Denning were steadily multiplying. Cheshire was awarded the Order of Merit in 1981 and created Baron Cheshire in 1991.

*From Leonard Cheshire Obituary, The Weekly Telegraph, UK, 12 Aug 1992.*

### **A WING AND A PRAYER**

He'd come through the war on a wing and a prayer  
But now came the challenge of peace,  
As he counted the scars that could never be healed,  
Compassion demanded release.

He opened his doors on the suffering of one  
And opened his heart to them all,  
Aware there were other intangible gifts  
A wing and a prayer could recall.

A bleak Cornish airfield ignited a dream  
As wide as the glowering skies  
And others gave way to the weight of his words  
And the passion that shined from his eyes.

So, out of the cobwebs and out of the grime  
A caring foundation was laid  
Where the walls echoed loud to the laughter of love  
And the lost were no longer afraid.

And now he would give them the best he could give  
As an image took substance and form.  
With patronage gleaned from humanity's heights  
St Theresa was fashioned and born.

The wing and the prayer had made a concrete of clay  
But who could foretell at its birth,  
That the prayer would transcend distant borders and bonds  
And its wings would encircle the earth?

One man and a vision, one light in the dark,  
One step on a spiralling stair,  
Yet he lifted the shadows on thousands of lives  
And all on a wing and a prayer.

*Written by David Prowse, a gardener at  
St Theresa's Cheshire Home in Long Rock, Penzance.  
It was published in CHESHIRE SMILE in October 1991*

*(St Theresa's was Leonard Cheshire's second home, established in 1951. It had been derelict wartime huts on a Royal Navy airbase in Cornwall).*

### BENDIGO SUPPORT GROUP

*By Hugh Elphinstone.*

#### MY VISIT TO RAPHAEL

In 1959, the Founders of Ryder-Cheshire Australia were married in Bombay's Catholic Cathedral. **Leonard Cheshire V.C.**, was the most decorated pilot in Royal Air Force Bomber Command in World War 2, and **Sue Ryder** spent the War working with the British in support of the Polish underground army. After the War, these two Catholic Christian saints dedicated their lives to the relief of suffering - Sue in Europe and Leonard in England. The results of their efforts are Leonard Cheshire Disability, Sue Ryder Care, The Lady Ryder of Warsaw Memorial Trust, and hundreds of Homes around the world.

**They married in 1959, and their first joint effort after their marriage was the Ryder-Cheshire Home called "Raphael" at Dehradun in India.** Initially, it was a leper colony, but today "Raphael" has several other important responsibilities. **Shortly after their marriage, Leonard and Sue began a fund-raising tour of Australia and New Zealand to raise money and organize support groups for "Raphael".** That support continues to this day. Leonard was a Victoria Cross winner, which meant that he was a military hero, at a time in Australia's history when a large proportion of the population had served in the armed forces in World War 2.

Their arrival triggered considerable favourable press coverage. **They always had something quotable to say to the media, especially about meeting the needs of the disabled, including treating them with love and compassion as fellow human beings.** To their astonishment, the Acting Prime Minister of Australia gave them the use of his car, home, and office in Melbourne for the duration of their stay. This statement may sound surprising, but the Australian National Archives have a photograph which supports this statement. The photo shows **Jack McEwen, the Leader of the Country Party, meeting Leonard and Sue. Prime Minister Robert Menzies was overseas at the time,** and since Jack McEwen was Deputy Prime Minister, he would have moved into The Lodge in Canberra as Acting Prime Minister until Menzies returned - after the Second Cricket Test at Lords. (Menzies loved meeting the Royal Family, but he also loved his Cricket!) **Jack McEwen, as Minister for Overseas Trade, would have had no use for his home, car and office in Melbourne whilst he was in Canberra, so he generously offered them to Leonard and Sue.** They had Charisma. This meant that anyone who came into contact with them was so charmed by the experience that they decided to do whatever they could to support Leonard and Sue in their work "for the relief of suffering". **Fifty years later, in April 2009, "Raphael" Home in Dehradun celebrated its 50th Anniversary**

**I WAS DELIGHTED TO BE ABLE TO VISIT "RAPHAEL" IN JULY. I FOUND THE BUILDINGS SPOTLESSLY CLEAN AND IN GOOD REPAIR, THE GROUNDS NEATLY LANDSCAPED, AND THERE WAS AN ATMOSPHERE OF PEACE.**

**SO WHAT HAS "RAPHAEL" ACHIEVED?** In partnership with the Indian Government and numerous other organizations, including several Christian missions, they have succeeded in eradicating leprosy from Northern India. The disease cannot affect people who have an adequate diet, so improvements in living conditions in India have played an important role in removing the threat of leprosy. **The last leprosy hospital in northern India has just been closed,** but if the disease has been eliminated, the social stigma has not! Former lepers, and the children of lepers, are ostracized in Indian society and it is impossible for the children of lepers to avoid discrimination in the government education system. "Raphael" has always had two programs to assist them. Leonard and Sue began a program to provide decent housing for lepers in the small, peaceful village at "Raphael". The

other leprosy program is The Little White House. It is a Hostel at "Raphael" for the children of lepers from all over Northern India, and it has had great success in educating them, and giving them the vocational skills to earn a good living. **Sponsors from Australia, Britain and New Zealand have provided the money with sponsorships to care for and educate these children ever since "The Little White House" opened. These sponsorships can last up to 15 years, and the sponsors are proud that "their" children have grown up to work in worthwhile jobs, marry, and have families of their own.**

The eradication of Tuberculosis in Northern India is another important program for "Raphael". For many years, mobile teams went into the villages in the foothills of the Himalayan mountain range to detect and treat TB, but these teams have finished their work. This does not mean that the disease has been eradicated. It means that it is being attacked by different methods. To understand the work that "Raphael" does, you need to know how Hospitals work. The large Government hospitals are very good at providing intensive nursing care to those patients who need it, but once the patient no longer needs intensive nursing, the major hospitals want to transfer them to a convalescent hospital as soon as possible. This is where "Raphael" can help. **"Raphael" has the only hospital specifically dedicated to the treatment of TB in Uttaranchal State.** Patients might stay for a month or until they are no longer active TB patients. Then they return to their own villages, and a trained TB aide administers the multi-drug therapy that ensures that TB is eliminated in that patient.

Programs for intellectually disabled young people are another aspect of "Raphael's" work. They have residential facilities for them, and a number also come daily.

**There are over 100 staff employed, and their experience and expertise is vital to ensure that "Raphael's" programs continue to service the needs of its clients. I believe that Raphael's future is in good hands.**

## NEWS FROM RAPHAEL

*Extract from the Chairman's Message.*

"Leonard's last visit to Raphael was in 1992 and Sue's in 1997. On this last visit Leonard wrote ... "Like the blossoms outside the TB ward,. Raphael is a tree whose roots arc growing ever deeper whose branches will continue spreading to bring shelter and inner joy to those who devotedly and generously come to help meet the need. May God continue to bless and protect you and all in distant lands who work or support in one way or another"

With these blessings behind and the continuing support of those in distant lands, with its roots growing ever deeper, Raphael-celebrated its Golden Jubilee on 5th April, 2009. It was a fitting occasion to pause, reflect and pay tribute to our Founders and all those who shared their vision and helped transform it into reality.

It was also the occasion to rededicate ourselves to the 'mission for the relief of suffering', as the challenges are great and the need perennial. This is perhaps best done by dedicating Raphael to be a living memorial to our Founders and to the cause passionately espoused. It is towards this objective and to prepare for the next fifty years that the Governing Council has announced setting up of a corpus fund named **'Ryder Cheshire Jubilee Endowment Fund'**. As it grows, as it surely must, it would provide Raphael and its residents the confidence to plan for and face the challenges the future holds"

### ACT

**ROBERT ALTAMORE** was awarded an OAM in the 2009 Queen's Birthday Honours List, in part because of his work for the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation and East Timor, but primarily because of his efforts to improve the lives and opportunities of people who are blind. Robert is blind himself but does not let this restrict his good work.

*Here is Robert's story:*

I grew up and was educated in Melbourne obtaining the Degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws and then undertaking my Articles with a large Melbourne law firm. In 1981 I moved to Canberra to take up employment in the Australian Public Service. I have worked in various legal and policy and program administration positions and am currently a Senior Legal Officer.

I met my wife Wendy in Canberra in 1982 and we married in 1985. From our first meeting until today, Wendy has shared in all that I have achieved. **We have supported each other in our common interests in blindness organisations and in East Timor.** My main activities have been with Blind Citizens Australia, the National peak organisation for people who are blind and vision impaired, as a member of the ACT Branch Committee since 1983 and at the National level since 1986, serving as National President from 2000 to 2007 and being a member of Australian delegations to international conferences in 1987, 2000, 2003 and 2007.

**Wendy and I share a desire to support the new nation of East Timor and its people. We have worked together on Committees that have raised over \$70,000 for East Timor charities in particular for the Ryder-Cheshire home in Tibar and for Canberra Friends of Dili.**

We were introduced to Ryder-Cheshire in 1999 by our close friend Patricia Woodcroft-Lee and since then have been pleased to be a part of a national organisation based on volunteer effort and which delivers 98% of donations to those in need. I am currently Secretary of the ACT Foundation and Wendy is the Vice-president. **Just recently we combined with Canberra Friends of Dili to hold a joint dinner with our speaker Mr David McAlister AM CEO of the Australian Ballet. This function raised \$3,000 for Ryder-Cheshire.** Speakers at our other dinners in the ACT have included: Michelle Grattan AO, The Honourable Tim Fischer AC, Father Frank Brennan AO and General Peter Cosgrove AC.

**In June 2009, I was most privileged to be awarded an Order of Australia Medal for services to people who are blind and vision impaired in various advocacy roles and for services to organisations supporting East Timor.**

### SINGLETON SUPPORT GROUP

*From Cheryl Nesbit, Chairman.*

Our Committee plan to be involved with the Celebration of the International Day of People with a Disability. The month long campaign is supported by the NSW Government and the Dept of Ageing, Disability and Home Care with various events held throughout the metro and regional areas. **We plan to sell Christmas Cards in Singleton Town Square on the 3rd December, which is the International Day.** Through this we hope to not only raise funds but also promote awareness of the Cheshire Home in Singleton, most especially to the young and to the more transient population this town attracts by nature of the Army Base and the mines. **Christmas Card selling will be our prime activity in the next months,** the designs are particularly beautiful and will sell themselves we are sure!

The occupants of the Singleton House have had a very active year and all is running smoothly.

### BALLARAT SUPPORT GROUP

*From Dianne McGrath, Vice President.*

**ARCHIVES** As our Support Group has been operating for many years we decided that there was a need to systematically store our now historical documents into a more organised manner. We have enjoyed wandering down memory lane and in doing so have stumbled upon some absolute gems of information regarding long time sponsors and supporters. Here is the first of many of the gems that we would like to share with you.

**ENA AND EILEEN HARRISON** Ena and Eileen live in Ararat, Victoria. They sponsor Usha at Raphael. Usha was born in 1951 and has been at Raphael since 1971 when she was 20. Ena and Eileen have been sponsoring Usha for 30 years! They sponsored another person before they became Usha's sponsor. Father Brendan Smith, who now lives at Lake Boga, was the Parish Priest in Beaufort. He knew about the work of Ryder-Cheshire and told the ladies that this organisation was the only group he knew of that all or almost all of the funds collected went directly to the recipients.

The ladies were impressed and set to work to join the cause. They both worked at the Beaufort Branch of the Maryborough Knitting Mill. They organised that the staff sponsor a child at Raphael. This sponsorship continued for ten years. Eileen and Ena would collect 20 cents each week from the women who worked at the factory. The factory closed in 1990. But Eileen and Ena continue their support for Raphael as does Father Smith. **It is people like these women who keep the cause alive and well. Thank you Eileen and Ena.** We will bring you more information about Father Smith in the next issue.

**BALIBO** Our members attended the launch of Jill Joliffe's book Balibo and the movie Balibo in Ballarat. The movie attracted a HUGE response. Yet again, this has demonstrated the depth of support that the Ballarat area extends to the developing nation of Timor Leste. The theatre was "packed to the rafters."

**PUBLICITY** The CWA has a special focus on Timor Leste as the organisation's country of study. We have been able to share our Resource Package with the groups to use at their seminars. Also, Caritas Australia is hosting an exhibition called "The Blue Print for a Better World". It will travel nationally through out 35 centres including Ballarat. **It will be in Ballarat from 4<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November.** We have been invited to exhibit the work of Ryder-Cheshire. The exhibition will extend over two weeks with not only displays but information sessions as well. **The travelling exhibition will conclude in Canberra on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2010 which is the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.**

**THANK YOU** The Support Group wishes all our members, sponsors, supporters and friends Seasons Greetings and hope that Christmas is both a blessed and peaceful time of joy for all.

**VERY BEST WISHES TO THE MT GAMBIER SUPPORT GROUP AND THE MT GAMBIER HOME FOR THEIR PREPARATIONS FOR THE BIENNIAL CONFERENCE NEXT YEAR. WE ARE ALL LOOKING FORWARD TO THE OCCASION.**

### 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**

## NEWS FROM THE STATES

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA/MT. GAMBIER

*From Di McEwen, Secretary.*

**VICE REGAL VISITOR TO THE RYDER-CHESHIRE HOME IN MOUNT GAMBIER** Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, The Governor General of Australia did us the honour of visiting our Ryder-Cheshire home on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August. It was an auspicious occasion and caused great excitement for our residents. Secretary, Di McEwen, had been asked by the organising committee members of the 2009 Rural Women's Gathering being held here on that weekend, to write a letter supporting their invitation to her Excellency to attend the function as their keynote speaker. In her letter, Di took the opportunity to mention the patronage of the Governor General and invited her to visit the home. Much to our surprise and delight she not only accepted the invitation to be the keynote speaker, but also agreed to visit our home. Ms Bryce visited for an hour and was relaxed, warm and gracious, putting us all completely at ease. She spent most of her time chatting to our residents, but also talked to the staff and the 6 RCF members who were present. After a short welcome by board chairman Neville Gilbertson, we shared afternoon tea with her and she made particular reference to the quality of the catering during her speech. She is familiar with our organisation, first hearing about the work of our late founders in her youth. **Leonard Cheshire was associated with several Mount Gambier men during the war; Bill Corey flew with him in the RAF's famous "Dambusters" 617 Squadron; Bill Braithwaite, Charlie Miller and James Hancock knew him during this time.** Their association with Leonard Cheshire led to the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation Support Group being formed in Mount Gambier in 1971. We took full advantage of the local media to help give our profile some prominence and the visit had wide coverage on the local television, the newspaper and radio.

**THE CHARITY CARD SHOP** in The Southern Cross Arcade, Adelaide, is now selling cards for Christmas and all occasions. Your support helps to promote the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation. **VISIT TO RAPHAEL** Recently three people from Mount Gambier, including Johanne Sunnex, who visited Raphael last year, left on a five week volunteer visit to Raphael. Money was donated by members and organisations to be used to purchase gifts for the people at Raphael while they are visiting **THE RYDER CHESHIRE CATERING** in Mount Gambier continues to be a good advertisement for our organisation as well as raising funds. We value the support given by the Friends of Ryder-Cheshire in Adelaide, and thank them for this.



**Picture above: Our National Patron, The Governor General of Australia, Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC** with l to r Kaye McNamara RCF SA Council, Olive Lane Vice Pres SA Council, Kay Gilbertson RCF SA Council, Di Little RCF SA Council & parent, Paul Jenner Pres RCF SA Council, Neville Gilbertson Chairman RCF Home Board, and Di McEwen, Secretary RCF SA Council, during her visit to the Mt Gambier Home.

### NEW SOUTH WALES

*From Christine Hannan, President.*

Since the last newsletter the NSW committee has been hard at work managing our regular activities as well as exploring new opportunities to further our efforts for Raphael and Klibur Domin. **Moira Truskett has worked very hard on sponsorships and we have been gratified by the generosity of our supporters, especially during challenging financial times.**

**Maureen Murphy, along with a band of helpers, has prepared the Christmas cards for this year and sales are already well underway.** If you haven't yet put your order in, it would be wise to contact Maureen on (02) 9664 6141 as some designs are selling very fast. Correspondence cards are also available.

We have two other fundraising projects taking place at the moment. One is a raffle, which will be drawn in early December and the second one is the marketing of address labels. This is a project that we initiated several years ago, which proved very popular at that time, as it is again. A smaller fundraising committee has been formed to arrange a dinner in autumn next year and a film night this December.

In the meantime, a very successful card day was held recently at the home of Helen and John Ayliffe, former committee members. A group of around 50 took part and had a most enjoyable day, which was also very successful for the Foundation. Our gratitude goes to Helen and John for their generosity and hard work in arranging this function.

**At our AGM in July, Peter Coleman tendered his resignation from the committee after decades of involvement in the work of the Foundation. It was received with great regret, but Peter and Jenny are staying in close touch with the activities of the NSW group.** We were very pleased, however, to welcome a new member to the committee, Christine Kassar Williams, who has already brought great enthusiasm to several of our projects.

**CONGRATULATIONS GO TO OUR HARD WORKING SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY, ANDREW AND ANGELICA HANNAN, ON THE RECENT BIRTH OF THEIR FIRST CHILD, A SON NAMED ARCHER JOHN HANNAN.**



**Picture above: Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC with the residents of the Mount Gambier Home.**

### DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

**Plans are well underway for the 2010 National Biennial Conference to be held in Mount Gambier 30th April – 2nd May, 2010.**

## NEWS FROM THE STATES

### VICTORIA

*Peter McConnell, Vice President.*

The Victorian Committee has been active since our last report, with a number of fundraising activities. **The Dinner**, a "Culinary Experience" with guest chefs Andrew & Matt McConnell, was held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2009, with final attendances being 245. The Committee was active in arranging all aspects of the event. These included, decorations, extensive displays of Klibur Domin and Raphael which were prominently displayed and perused by those attending. Our Guest of Honour, Mr Kevin Bailey, Honorary Consul-General for Timor Leste, gave the presentation which was dynamic and inspirational. We also had an excellent DVD on the history, journey and current activities at Klibur Domin. There was PR, in the form of radio interview on RRR with Matt McConnell, talking of the dinner and the role Ryder-Cheshire Foundation plays at Klibur Domin. Music was from Kore-An, a Timorese Band of 6 brothers, adding to the theme and ambience of the night. Many volunteers assisted with kitchen duties and as wait staff. The celebrated chefs, Andrew & Matt McConnell provided us with a superb 4 course dinner, matched with wines which was a highlight of the evening. Another success of the night was the auction with 7 items all offered by the committee and friends. The night was judged a great success, with the total proceeds going towards the renovation/ extension of the Residents' Cottage Accommodation Project at Klibur Domin in East Timor. The Dinner was not only a successful fundraising event, but brought many new faces to Ryder-Cheshire.

#### Film Days

We continue to hold Film Days twice per year, or when a suitable film is released. We were fortunate to have our last film day, Mao's Last Dancer, on 3<sup>rd</sup> October and we sold 191 tickets.

#### OP Shop

Our last week at the Lions Op Shop in Mount Waverly was the week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> August, with Committee and friends staffing the week. We have a week scheduled for December, and 3 weeks booked in for 2010. **Anyone available to work in the Shop on a half day roster should contact Margaret McConnell on 9882 2164.**

#### Web Site

Our web site is continuing to be up-dated with coming events which included the Dinner, our last film day, and the Card order form.

#### Klibur Domin DVD

We are grateful for the expertise of our committee member Terry Warr, who has been able to combine footage of the history of Klibur Domin into a very watchable and inspiring DVD.

#### Publicity

We present the story of Ryder-Cheshire and our homes to interested groups at every opportunity, which extends our reach into the community, and provides another source of funding. Anyone knowing of opportunities for the Committee members to speak on Ryder-Cheshire should contact Peter McConnell on 9882 2164.

#### Archives

The Victorian committee is in the process of assembling important information on our history.

#### Christmas Cards

Ryder-Cheshire Christmas Cards are on sale and anyone who has yet to purchase should contact Helen Newton on 9894 3191 or email [peter.newton@ryder-cheshire.org](mailto:peter.newton@ryder-cheshire.org) to receive a flyer and order form.

**Season's Greetings.** The Victorian Committee take this opportunity to thank all of our supporters and to wish all of our readers a very happy Christmas and a successful New Year.

## 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](mailto:mmsleigh@tpg.com.au)

#### BALLARAT SUPPORT GROUP

Dorothy Carpenter  
PO Box 8W BALLARAT WEST VIC 3350  
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#### NEW SOUTH WALES

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**State Reports and items** should be ready to be sent by e-mail to

Evelyn Petters ([petters@iinet.net.au](mailto:petters@iinet.net.au)) by 1 April 2010

**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](mailto:antheaswann@bigpond.com) giving the email address to which you would like it sent, saying 'Ryder-Cheshire Newsletter' plus your name and postal address.