



The Future and the Past, Looking Forward Looking Back.

Congratulations

Congratulations to all the wonderful volunteers who have made it possible for us to reach this amazing milestone, the 100th issue of The Red Feather. Inside you will find a selection of snippets taken from past newsletters. All interesting to read through.

Your RCA Board has made significant gains towards the Refresh and Renew targets we set at the Melbourne Biennial Conference to bring RCA forward so that we can continue to support 'the relief of suffering' at Raphael and Klibur Domin. We are very excited about the actions we are taking to consolidate and streamline some of the administrative functions of our Foundations. RCA now has five Committees, each convened by a Director. They are: Legal and Finance, Marketing and Fundraising, Media and Communications, International Programs, and Secretariat.

The RCA Biennial Conference will be held on Saturday 6 May 2023 at the Royal Australian Air Force Association Ballarat Branch's meeting rooms. It will be a no frills, one-day Conference providing opportunity to meet face to face plus provision for individuals to join the Conference digitally. Ballarat Support Group is the organising body.

The RCA Annual General Meeting will be held prior to the RCA Biennial Conference.

It is with great sadness that we learned that on 8 September Queen Elizabeth II passed away. Condolences have been sent to the Governor General in Canberra to be forwarded onto Buckingham Palace. With best wishes,
Rory McEwen, RCA President.



First Edition of the Newsletter December 1964

This newsletter is intended as a report of what your Committee, with your assistance, has done and hopes to do. I believe you will take away from your perusal of it a deep conviction that you are participating in a most profitable activity.

You will feel you are helping to bring joy and love and freedom from hunger and poverty to many adults and children in India who would otherwise be condemned to misery, disease and under-nourishment.

The inspiration of our founder, Group Captain Cheshire, has helped us to follow his leadership and to support his planning.

We earnestly solicit a continuance of your interest and support.

Arthur Dean Chairman

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Ryder-Cheshire Australia gratefully acknowledges David and Neil Coath of
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who most generously arrange and pay for the distribution of this Newsletter.

Thank you David and Neil.

We so much appreciate your generosity.

The Queen's 1992 Christmas Message

Queen Elizabeth II knew both our Founders, Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder. She had great admiration for both of them as can be demonstrated in her 1992 Christmas Message.



HM Queen, Leonard Cheshire and Sam Sundaram at International conference 1981
© Norman Potter

'Curiously enough, it was a sad event which did as much as anything in 1992 to help me put my own worries into perspective.

Just before he died, Leonard Cheshire came to see us with his fellow members of the Order of Merit. By then, he was suffering from a long, drawn-out and terminal illness. He bore this with all the fortitude and cheerfulness to be expected of a holder of the Victoria Cross.

However, what struck me more forcibly than his physical courage was the fact that he made no reference to his own illness, but only to his hopes and plans to make life better for others.

*He embodied the message in those well-known lines:
'Kindness in another's troubles, courage in one's own.'*

One of his Cheshire Homes for people with disabilities is not far from this house. I have visited others all over the Commonwealth, and I have seen at first-hand the remarkable results of his and his wife's determination to put Christ's teaching to practical effect.

Perhaps this shining example of what a human being can achieve in a lifetime of determination, can inspire in the rest of us a belief in our own capacity to help others. Such talents and indomitable spirit are not given to all of us, but if we can sometimes lift our eyes from our own problems, and focus on those of others, it will be a step in the right direction, and Christmas is a good time to take it.



HM Queen Elizabeth and Elizabeth Cheshire daughter of Leonard and Sue 1992
© Norman Potter

I hope that his example will continue to inspire us all in the years ahead.'

The Queen's Christmas Message 1992 Transcribed by Hugh Elphinstone <https://youtu.be/q1hSNiW3RQs>

Ryder-Cheshire Hall at Campion College, Sydney

The legacy of Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder lives on in a new student residential hall at Australia's first tertiary liberal arts college in Western Sydney, Campion College.

Fr Ted Burns, long-time financial supporter of Ryder-Cheshire Australia and Klibur Domin; Peter Newton AO, former president of Ryder Cheshire-Australia, and Siobhan Reeves, Ryder-Cheshire Foundation Victoria member, have been working with Campion College over the past few years to foster a strong partnership between Ryder-Cheshire Australia and Campion College. The relationship with the College began from 2012 to 2018 when six Campion College alumni volunteered at Klibur Domin. Campion College can continue to be an opportunity to recruit young people with a humanitarian spirit to Ryder Cheshire-Australia's mission *'for the relief of suffering.'*

Campion College prioritises residential campus accommodation for students as an integral part of a liberal arts education. Ryder-Cheshire Hall is one of six residential halls on campus, and is home to 17 female students. The hall features eight twin-share bedrooms and one single room, all with adjoining study areas and ensuites. Ryder-Cheshire Hall also features a communal kitchen, laundry and shared living spaces.

In consultation with Elizabeth Cheshire, daughter of Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder, a portrait of Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder has been commissioned and is being painted by a talented Australian artist and Catholic nun, Sr Josephine Marie of the Sisters of the Morning Star in Brisbane.

The portrait is intended to help Campion students connect with this incredible couple who were given fully to God and to each other in the service of the poor and dying and so ignite students' personal desire for holiness and service in their own lives. The painting will be displayed in a prominent position in the residential hall along with a short summary of their lives and work.



Artist at work on portrait of Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder

The building has been completed and the students are in residence. A formal naming ceremony is tentatively planned for 2023, having been delayed due to COVID restrictions, and further details will be made available in due course.

A short video of Ryder-Cheshire Hall is available at this link: <https://vimeo.com/701968857/eeca0b781c>

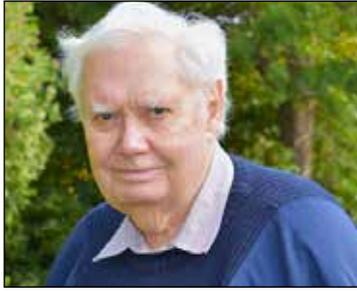
More information about Campion College is available at this link: <https://www.campion.edu.au/>

Siobhan Reeves

Congratulations Dr Jerry Leech

Dr Jerry Leech received an AM in the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours for his significant contribution to community, forestry, and tertiary education.

Dr Leech said he was honoured and surprised to receive the AM.



He has been involved in the community for many years, particularly with the Ryder-Cheshire Mount Gambier Homes in South Australia. He was instrumental in establishing the two facilities, named Cheshire and Ryder, after the Ryder-Cheshire Founders, Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder. He is the Treasurer of the Ryder-Cheshire Mount Gambier Home Foundation Board. He has held this position since 2003.

Dr Leech said he believed in serving the local community and said that it broadened his outlook on life. He has served in many aspects of his community including The Lakes Rotary Club where he was the long standing bulletin editor as well as District Grants Sub Committee for the Rotary District 9780.

'The advantages of helping in the community are great, but the advantages of the friendships that I get through that activity are great too.'

Matthew Dixon



NEW BIOGRAPHY

Sue Ryder: A Life Lived For Others

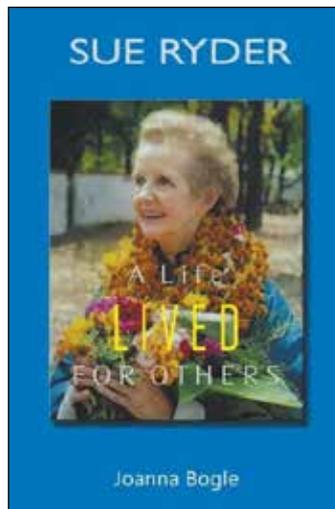
This new Sue Ryder biography written by Joanne Bogle was recently launched by the author at St Katherine's Retreat House, Parmoor, UK.

The biography involves much more about her service with Special Operations in World War II, prison visiting in Germany in the post war years, long-haul relief work in countries around the world plus a life driven by a commitment to care for those in need.

The second section of the book lists the many countries where Sue Ryder worked, describing the various activities undertaken establishing homes, hospitals, settlements and initiatives to support the sick and disabled.

In this new biography the story of Sue Ryder's extraordinary life is told, a story of courage, dedication and as the title says 'A Life Lived For Others.'

Sue Ryder was born in 1924 and died in 2000. 2024 will be the centenary of her birth and this biography is a celebration of all her work.



Generosity from Tenison Woods College, Mount Gambier

The students from Tenison Woods College in Mount Gambier, SA, presented Rory McEwen, RCA Board President, with a cheque for \$1000 to be spent on computers for students at Uma Garton at Klibur Domin and Saint Francis Convent School in Tibar.

The funds were immediately transferred to Klibur Domin enabling RCA representative and volunteer, John Kirby, to acquire three refurbished computers and present them to the intended recipients.

Tenison Woods College participates in an immersion program for their students to go to Timor-Leste in July each year, apart from the last three due to COVID. As the money raised for an anticipated trip this year could not be delivered, Senior Teacher, Bernadette Fisher, was aware of the need for technology resources for the Uma Garton students and suggested the money raised be directed there and also to the female boarding students at Saint Francis Convent School.



John Kirby with students from Uma Garton at KD and Saint Francis Convent in Tibar and their teacher showing the newly acquired computers generously gifted by Tenison Woods College students.

With the help of fellow volunteer and Rotarian, Andrew Seabrook, from Casterton, a great working relationship was established with the local family-owned technology firm Inovar4. They provided three refurbished laptop computers at cost.

The students are most appreciative of their newly acquired computers and hope to develop a digital relationship with the Tenison Woods College students.

John Kirby



NOTE: for more information read the article, Uma Garton, on p 9

Have you ever dreamt of working in an Op Shop?

Then here's your big chance!

Ryder-Cheshire Foundation Victoria will be staffing the Mt Waverley Lions Club Op Shop from Monday 12 – Friday 16 December.

We need volunteers to do a 3½ hour shift, donations of good quality items to sell (with Christmas in mind), and customers!



If you can help please contact Anthea – antheaswann@bigpond.com, or 03 9877 7084 (leave a message), or just turn up to buy something.

Proceeds will go to supporting our overseas homes Klibur Domin in Timor-Leste and Raphael in India.

Raphael Highlights

Busy as always, here are some highlights of Raphael's work from the past six months.

District Support Centres

The two resource persons, Ranjana and Neelam, working in the two villages visited Raphael in July and spent a fortnight refreshing their skills and observing classes. They have completed a survey of 66 villages in Rudraprayag and 30 villages in Uttarkashi districts. Presently 9 children in Rudraprayag and 11 in Uttarkashi are receiving programs at home. The resource persons have fixed days when they visit the families. Ranjana is wanting to learn how to ride a scooter. If and when she does, we will assist in buying her one. Neelam's father-in-law has a scooter and he takes Neelam on her daily visits.



District Support Centre –Rudraprayag

Therapeutic Centre

An 'Early Intervention and School Readiness' program is being implemented in the Therapeutic Centre. The project is being supported by Bajaj Finserv for a year.

The objective of the program is to create awareness in the community about the importance of early identification and intervention, through awareness material and setting up a Helpdesk in 4-5 doctors' clinics.



Therapeutic Centre

John Hunt Mobile Outreach Program (Outreach B)



District Support Centre – Uttarkashi

Disability Certification Camp was organized on 25th June, 1st and 7th July 2022 in Tehri Garhwal. The District Magistrate and the Social Welfare Officer had requested Raphael to send a team to help with the assessment of persons with intellectual disabilities. A total of 264 Disability Certificates were made at the camp.

Parent counselling camps were organized in 3 districts (Bageshwar, Chamoli, Tehri Garhwal) in collaboration with the State Government Inclusive Education Department.

352 resource persons were sensitized; 264 children were assessed in the three blocks and some activities suggested to the families. Some referrals were also made eg, a child from Karnprayag is visually impaired but studying in class 9 in a government school. He has been referred to the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disability (NIEPVD), Dehradun for an audio device if available.

Special Education Program

A Puppet show was organized for the students on 4th August, 2022. The puppeteer Neelu Bhatt has been entertaining the students regularly for many years

Being the festival season, the students enjoyed celebrating Raakhi and Janmashtami. Independence Day was observed on 15 August, 2022. Students from The Doon School visited later in the day and planted some saplings

On 14 September SPIC MACAY, a group that works to promote Indian music, art and culture arranged for a Manipuri dance team to perform at Raphael. It was a spectacular show and the audience was mesmerized.

Sign Language Day was observed on 23 September 22. Students and staff 'signed' the National Anthem at morning assembly.



Vocational Training

While candle making, paper bag making, horticulture, and domestic skills have been a part of the vocational training imparted to the young adults, this quarter hospitality has been a focus. Some of the older girls are learning how to cook and serve. They have mastered a few simple snacks. They take daily orders and are also able to collect the correct payment.

Geriatric Centre

Some of the older male residents have been moved out of the boys' hostel as they now require more care than training. This has created more space in the hostel and we are able to meet the demand for admissions. A similar facility is being planned for the older female residents.

Shiv Sadan – Life-long care

Sadly, Kisni, one of our oldest residents, passed away in May at the age of 85 years. Balma was diagnosed with throat cancer a few months ago. She was undergoing treatment but suddenly took a turn for the worse and passed away on 27 September. She was about 80 years old.

Priyo Lall





A Big Thank you

Thank you to all the helpers from all over Australia who have sent through old newsletters so that our researchers were able to select significant highlights to include in this special issue.

We have hundreds of many wonderful highlights, but unfortunately we could not include them all. We hope you enjoy a walk back in time and that it brings back so many fond memories about our work for over 60 years *'for the relief of suffering.'*

The newsletters were black and white up until November 2010 and then moved to colour in May 2011.

The newsletters have had many names. In May 2014 the title became The Red Feather. The title was a suggestion from our New Zealand Ryder-Cheshire friend, Carolyn Tapley, at the 2012 RCA Biennial Conference held in Canberra.

Past Editors.

Nona Sheehan 1964 – 1967

J Graham 1967 – 1969

Ron Stagg 1969

Fairlie Apperley 1969 – 1972

I Szacinski 1972 – 1973

Josephine Collins 1973 – 1974

Gwen Easton 1974

1974 – 1987 Unable to access these issues

Margaret Blaber SA 1987 – 2001

Anne-Marie Sleigh ACT – 2002

Evelyn Peters WA 2003 – 2016

Terry Warr and Dianne McGrath 2017 – Present

Sydney

The Hon. Secretary, Mrs. E. G. Miles has sent a very detailed report of this very active group, consisting of sixteen members. They promised Group Captain Cheshire to support "Raphael" every June and January. The June maintenance money of £800 presented no problems, but from July the Committee faced the alarming problem of finding £800 by December. 1964 p7

Geelong

Their active businessman Chairman, Mr. Howard Burrowes, keeps his committee alive for the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation. Reports that Mrs. Paula Silverside is visiting the schools and showing films and slides. 1964 p7

Coleraine Committee

Chairman - Mr. H. M. Wettenhall. Committee - Mr. N. Ashbury, Mr. Tunny Baudinette and Mr. R. Bunge. This enthusiastic group recently held a successful Barbecue and Woolshed Dance. 1964 p7

Off to New Zealand

Feeling rather exhausted, we then retired to rest at Mr. Burrowes' beautiful property outside Geelong. Here, the Group Captain enjoyed an hour tramping around the paddocks, alone, but for the dogs and his camera. That night there was a huge subscription Dinner and again we showed the films to about 300 people. It was a most rewarding and successful visit. Next day, the Group Captain flew to New Zealand, tired but happy. To quote his words: "These two weeks have opened up completely new horizons for us." VI 1964 p5

Pentridge Prisoners

A very active member of the Melbourne Sub-Committee arranged for Barbara Coleman and Josephine Collins to visit "A" Division of Pentridge Prison... The meeting of about 100 prisoners was chaired by Kevin - President of La Trobe Prisoners' Debating Club. Also at the table were Wally (the secretary), Albert, and Mr. J. J. F. Ryan, the Education Officer. Barbara talked about the Group Captain and his work, particularly referring to "Raphael" and then showed the film, "Share Thy Bread." Josephine spoke about the Adoption Scheme. After this they were kept busy answering constructive and pertinent questions for nearly an hour. 1964 p6

Lithgow.

Recently held its fourth Fashion Parade with the wonderful result of £150 profit towards their Ryder-Cheshire Foundation effort. 1964 p7

The Adoption Scheme

The Adoption Scheme started in Sydney in 1963. Mrs. Colleen MacLeod - who, with her husband, Malcolm, had lived and worked for a number of years in India - first suggested to interested people that they adopt a particular child at "Raphael" and undertake to either feed or fully provide for that particular child for a year... It costs:-

£50 p.a. to fully support a Mentally Handicapped Patient.

£50 p.a. to fully support a Leprosy Patient.

£35 p.a. to fully support a Destitute Child.

VI No2 1965

Yolandi at Raphael

I was really amazed to meet two charming young Australian girls, both of them nurses, and a 22-year-old Englishman, who are working at ... "Raphael," in India. They have come all the way from their own countries to lend a hand with our incurables...

The girls are Anne Young and Christine Steers, both in their twenties. Group Captain Leonard Cheshire has assigned them to help at "Raphael," the International Centre at Dehra Dun. This centre houses leprosy patients, mentally handicapped patients and destitute children.

By Yolandi NCI 1965 p5-6

Cooma Group

In July, Mrs. J. Harrison held a series of film screenings and gave talks on "Raphael". Mrs. Harrison, now a resident of Cooma, is better known to us as Pamela Breslin in the film "Share Thy Bread". Formerly of the School for Deaf Children, Darlington, Mrs. Harrison went to "Raphael" for two years in 1960 and founded the school for the mentally backward children there. To quote Mrs. Ava Dhar: "So attached have the children become to the school, it is the one thing they look forward to most every day ... it has brought peace and harmony into these unfortunate lives."

Mrs. Harrison has spoken to schools, the Red Cross, Graziers' Association, Church groups, etc., and we hope her efforts will be successful in forming an interested group in this new area. VI No4 1965 p7

Templestowe

Through the devoted work of Mrs. Margaret Jackson, a small group in Templestowe has distributed collection boxes in the district, and at their first Annual Meeting in September an Executive Committee was formed, and a cheque for £107 presented to the Foundation. This, at their special request and on the advice of Mrs. Dhar, will be transferred to India to provide fans for the mental unit. This is in addition to £107 given us in March for the adoption of two mental children. VI No4 1965 p 7

Cheshire Address

And there, I think, lies the key to it. That so long as we look on it as one vast problem, we will never be moved to do anything. But from the moment that we see it, not as a problem, but just as one person, never mind the three million others; just one person, and we say to ourselves: "Can we do something for him?". Which obviously we can, because it's within the means of anybody to do something just for one person. Then we have started. Leonard Cheshire V2 No5 1966



Leonard at Ability Press 1966

At Moe - A New Group is Formed

Sponsored by Moe Apex Club, a public meeting attended by 470 people was addressed by Group Captain Cheshire. That night a Support Group was formed, and the following have accepted office: President, Rev. E. E. Horth; Vice-President, Dr. Aldous; Secretary, Mr. J. T. Synan; Treasurer, Mr. R. Garratt. V5 No5 1966

Ballarat Group Fourth Annual General Meeting

The Fourth Annual General Meeting of the Ballarat Group was held at Ballarat College on 5th June at which the guest speaker was Miss Josephine Collins. Miss Collins gave an account of her recent visit to 'RAPHAEL' and during her stay gave addresses to Clarendon College, Loreto Convent and Ballarat East High School, as well as a television interview on BTV6 Ballarat. Her visit gave an added stimulus to the already widespread interest in this area. VI3 No3 1969

A. C. T.

Our aim this year is to promote the name of the Ryder - Cheshire Foundation in the A.C.T., to swell its numbers and to be able to present Group Captain Cheshire with a healthy membership when he visits in 1970. Our first fund-raising activity for the year was an Indian & Ice Cream Stall at the Canberra Day Fair. We were lucky that after some showers, the sun shone in its true Autumn - sunshine fashion and provided a great Fair Day atmosphere. An Indian friend from the High Commission put a variety of Indian Goods at our disposal, to be sold for the Foundation, and these attracted a great deal of attention. It was a most successful morning and Canberra people showed a lively interest in the jewellery, slippers, ornaments and materials displayed... VI No1 1969

Gippsland

Gippsland Support Group Committee are very busy organising their Annual Dinner Dance, June 21st. As this is our main fund raising function, to be held this year in Moe on Saturday we hope it will again, be a success. We have raised so far this financial year, the sum of \$1715.89. We feel a big thank you is due to a loyal band of supporters, the Hazelwood Construction Group, and especially, to Mr Swainson. These men, who work at the Hazelwood Power Station have adopted Puran Singh, and give generously from their wages every week, totaling \$200 annually. The gift of \$300.00 we had from the Kelly family came as a result of this Group. Mr. Kelly was employed at Hazelwood, and, when his family found the contents of his money box was devoted to the children of 'Raphael' they sent the \$300.00 to Mr. Swainson, to help continue the good work. Maybe there is an idea here for other work Groups to be formed. VI No1 1969

South Australia

Although we have had a Support Group in Clare since 1966, it has always been affiliated with Victoria, as there has been no official Foundation in this State. Now, however, we have high hopes of launching a Foundation in Adelaide during the visit of the Group Captain and Sue Ryder in November. Mrs. Pat Brooks and Miss Josephine Collins will be spending two weeks here in June and will attend an inaugural meeting. V5 No2 1970

Solomon Islands

In 1973 the Victorian Foundation received a request for assistance from The Society for Crippled People in the Solomon Islands. After discussion with Group-Captain Cheshire it was decided that the Society's requirements should be examined. In January this year the Secretary of the Victorian Foundation, Peter Bradfield, visited the Society's headquarters in Honiara on Guadalcanal Island. VII No1 1974 p1

Clothing for Raphael

The inflow of clean used woollen and cotton clothing for the February shipment is at its lowest level for 10 years.

We Need

For Men:- Overcoats, sports coats, trousers; shorts, jumpers, cardigans, pyjamas, dressing gowns, shirts and underwear.

Ladies:- Overcoats, short coats, jumpers, cardigans, nightwear, dressing gowns, blouses and singlets.

Children:- All children's clothing accepted.

At the moment there is a special need for blankets, linen, knitted rugs and cotton clothing.

Our Need Is Urgent Please Help V10 No4 1974 p10

The Opportunity to Buy Ivanhoe,

After some years of holding a verbal "Option to Purchase" from the R.S.L., we have finally been given the opportunity to buy Nos. 12 and 14 Donaldson Street, Ivanhoe, on the condition that our purchase is completed within the next five years. 40 1997

Lady Ryder visited the Cheshire Home in Papua New Guinea

Lady Ryder visited the Cheshire Home in Papua New Guinea between 6-8 April 1998 accompanied by Jack Thurgar, the Honorary National Projects Officer of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation in Australia. The Cheshire Home is located in Hohola, a suburb of Port Moresby. The Home is a principal residence for 24 handicapped young people and a part-time home for 12 day [time]others. 40 1997

The Cheshire Home - Port Moresby

How Australia is involved

Residents at the Cheshire Home in Hohola, PNG, have had the helping hands of two volunteers from Great Britain...Peta Cambridge, a pediatric neuro-physiotherapist, and Keith White, a dental surgeon, came to Port Moresby on August 9 under the auspices of the British Executive Service Overseas (BESO). Peta has been working with staff and children at the Home offering training and advice on rehabilitation techniques that will hopefully make life easier for the disabled and their families. Keith has been offering advice on dental care and treatment and has also spent some time teaching staff and students at the Port Moresby General Hospital. 45 1998 p5

Brothers of St John of God in Port Moresby

...Many in Australia would not know that the Brothers of St John of God who have been involved with the Cheshire Home in Port Moresby have a hospital in Aitape. It was at this hospital that the first survivors of the Tsunami disaster were brought. The hospital was at the fringe of the disaster area and was in the best geographic position to provide help and assistance. The Brothers worked round the clock providing medical support and after the first week were seconded to help the retrieval teams gathering the dead for burial... 48 1998 p5

Western Australia Hosts Biennial

The Western Australian Foundation hosted the 1998 3-5 April Conference which was held at John XXIII College, Mount Claremont. Co-Founder of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation, Lady Ryder, was in attendance. 43 1998 p2

Patsy Wright-Warren at Raphael

I have very happy memories of my recent trip to the foundations and Support Groups all over Australia. I was so grateful to you for the trouble you took to make my visit such an interesting and enjoyable one. I really appreciated the hospitality that I received and the arrangements you made for me to meet members and supporters - and to have fun!!

Having been a regular visitor to Raphael over the last ten years makes me realise what an invaluable job you are doing in raising money to keep it going. So many of you have been doing it for so long. Despite the fact that it is becoming more and more difficult, your commitment and enthusiasm is impressive. Patsy Wright-Warren UK 48 1999 p3

Pam Harrison at Raphael

In May 1959, while I was teaching in Sydney I wrote to Group Captain Cheshire to offer my help in some way for the project in Northern India. I was thinking in terms of raffles, dinner parties, social events - I was not thinking of actually going to India. However ...

In February 1960 I left by ship for Bombay having been told of 25 disabled children who were desperately in need of a teacher. The pay, I was told, was negligible but the scenery at the foot of the Himalayas was breathtaking...

I should not have been surprised to find there was no school building. My first days were spent weeping. I had carried a very heavy book by Professor Schonell on teaching the slow learning child. My school of 25 defied any examples Professor Schonell had ever observed. I put the book on a shelf in 1960 and it could still be there.

I have so many memories of those children. School commenced at 9.30 and we introduced ourselves to the class by singing, sometimes accompanied by a 1920's gramophone, in total disharmony but with great enthusiasm. In no time they learned the words and semblance of a tune. When Barbara Lewis arrived later she added to the curriculum with dancing to the music, miming and general joy to this much loved activity.

The children wrote or drew or just scribbled on slates according to their abilities. Bhola sped ahead of the rest in discerning colours and words and he attempted to write with ready enthusiasm.

A school was eventually built by the now notorious Mr Gupta with a room for the books that never really appeared and a room for the teacher... Pam Harrison (Bresin)NSW Foundation spent two years at Raphael. 48 1999 p6

Di McEwen and Jane Waters visited Raphael

Di McEwen and Jane Waters visited Raphael towards the end of 1998. For Jane, it was a return to the place where she had lived and worked for two years in 1980-1981. Di writes: ... I spent a day with the TB outreach team. I appreciated seeing at first hand the positive work being done in this field. TB, along with leprosy, malaria, malnutrition and AIDS, are the major health problems of India. There were six foreign volunteers working during our stay, 4 British and 2 Swedish. They worked mainly with the disabled and I came to admire the patience and conscientiousness of these wonderful young people, all in their late teens and early twenties ... being in Ava Vihar is an absolute delight - watching them go about their simple tasks and lessons with great concentration and diligence one moment, then during leisure time erupting into riotous gaiety. It was a very happy place to be...46 1999 p7

East Timor Initiative

Peter Newton, President, Victoria, presented a paper to the Biennial Conference on the involvement of Ryder-Cheshire Australia in humanitarian activity in East Timor. This proposal was generally accepted. It has become obvious that the needs are enormous. Peter has been very active in exploring ways and means by which Ryder-Cheshire can help without in any way lessening the commitment to Raphael. 49 2000 p1

Malcolm and Evelyn Petters

Malcolm and Evelyn Petters from WA will be visiting India in October. Malcolm was a schoolboy in Dehra Dun and the visit is part of a reunion for old scholars. They will also pay a flying visit to Raphael. 50 2000 p8

Margaret Blaber has retired

...Margaret Blaber has retired from Newsletter duty. After many years of fantastic work keeping all of us in the Australian Ryder Cheshire community connected she has decided to take a well earned break. Thank you, Margaret, for all your wonderful work. You have left large shoes to fill and I hope I am up to the task... Anne-Maree Sleigh 55 2002 p1

Caroline Jones' Opening Address

The Biennial Conference...Sydney...2004, reminded us again of the personal links and shared spirit of Ryder Cheshire members Australia wide. Many...were also able to hear Caroline Jones' opening address. Her reminiscences about interviewing Leonard Cheshire on one of his last visits to Australia, reminded us all of his special charisma and the legacy he has left to us all to continue. The opening also provided the possibility of recognizing the decades of work by Barbara Lewis for Ryder-Cheshire goals - work which began in the 1950s when she represented Leonard Cheshire in India. 60 2004 p1

Joaquim Soares

NSW was pleased to host Joaquim Soares, whose appointment as manager at Klibur Domin was formally announced on July 1. Joaquim attended courses in management, conflict resolution, first aid and driving whilst in Sydney and impressed all at the Biennial Conference with his intelligence, caring manner and tact. It was good to hear from Joaquim first hand of the work in Timor. 60 2004 p1

Don Sinclair

I recently enjoyed visits to both Klibur Domin and Raphael. Both places are an inspiration to all and shine like a lighthouse sending a strong beacon of hope to those in need. They are also wonderful examples of what can be achieved in developing countries when projects are well-managed over the long-term. 63 2005 p1

Mt Gambier Home

The construction of the Mt Gambier Home is nearing completion and we look forward to its opening in 2006. Don Sinclair 64 2005 p1

Ryder-Cheshire Mount Gambier Home Opening

I was delighted to officially open the new Ryder-Cheshire Mount Gambier Home on 20 April 2006. This occasion marked the culmination of efforts by local people over many years to establish this facility in their community, and the new home for five young women is a tribute to all concerned. The cold, wet and very windy day was more than compensated for by the warm and happy atmosphere inside the new building. Don Sinclair 66 2006 p1

Don Sinclair

In my role as President of the Victorian Homes, I have recently been heavily involved in the project to install an elevator in one of our buildings to improve access for residents with mobility problems. The Victorian Homes will celebrate their Silver Jubilee with a Garden Party 66 2006 p1

Patricia McDonell

Patricia McDonell...addressed the meeting on the work of Ryder-Cheshire in both India and Timor-Leste. Her passion for the cause, exemplified by her work in both Homes, was obvious to her audience. We were indeed fortunate to be reminded of the need and the successes in these projects by someone who has worked at the "coal face" Patricia is continuing to spread the word, especially about Klibur Domin, in schools and clubs around Canberra. 66 2006 p6

Governor John Landy

Governor John Landy, who is Patron of Ryder-Cheshire Victoria, officially opened the Conference on Friday 24th February at an evening Reception. He gave an inspiring speech, revealing his deep understanding of the work being done by the Foundation in its Australian and overseas homes. The Governor met many of the guests, including Peter Coleman and Barbara Lewis who had been childhood friends living several doors away from him some 60 years ago. 65 2006 p1

Patricia McDonell

Patricia McDonell, recently returned from Klibur Domin, attended the meeting and spoke about her two years at our Home...Her enthusiasm for the work, her knowledge of the conditions under which the Home operates, and her easy communication style all ensure that she will be winning supporters for the program. 65 2006 p5

Leonard's Last Letter to Raphael

...Like the beautiful blossoms outside the TB Ward, Raphael is a tree whose roots are growing deeper and whose branches will continue spreading to bring shelter and inner joy to those in need and to those who so devotedly and generously come to help meet that need. Leonard Cheshire 24th June 1992. Leonard Cheshire died on 31 July 1992. 66 2006 p4

Our Golden Jubilee

Our Golden Jubilee was an appropriate time for reflection and paying tribute to two world renowned humanists, Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder, and to remember those who had contributed wholeheartedly and selflessly throughout the Fifty Years to turn the Founders' concept and dream of providing relief to the suffering and the underprivileged, into a reality... For many it was a journey down memory lane and filled with memories of the past. Raphael has seen many changes since their times but the spirit of the Founders still lives on in the hearts of everyone. 73 2009 p2

A note from the Editors

Well done reader if you have read this far. Do not think we have left out twenty years of achievements. We will continue the highlights in Issue 101 and subsequent issues.

Issue numbering, in the early issues, volume numbering was used. We have tried to be as critical as possible to maintain consistent numbering.

We are in the process of scanning all the issues in full and they will eventually be available on the RCA website.

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Uma Garton at Klibur Domin

Klibur Domin (KD) is committed to assisting young people with a disability from rural areas to receive educational opportunities. The Garton Program was established in memory of John Garton, a generous supporter from Australia.

In 2017, John Garton, a lifelong friend of Fr Ted Burns, died leaving a bequest of \$50,000 for Klibur Domin. This money was used to modify and extend a cottage near the front gate to accommodate young people with disabilities from remote villages. The cottage is known as Uma Garton – ‘Uma’ meaning ‘house’.

Uma Garton can accommodate ten students. They attend the High School, Immaculate Heart of Mary College, across the road from KD, for six years. Tutoring is also provided outside school hours by the teachers.



Whilst living at Uma Garton the students are provided with support to attend school with uniforms and school supplies as well as a moderate standard of living including household items, food, and recreational activities. Medical and dental care are provided through the KD clinic. Equipment needed for therapy or independence is co-ordinated by KD’s Community Based Rehabilitation team.

Each year KD receives applications from rural students with a disability who would like to enter the program in the following year. Students traditionally come from the nearby Districts of Liquica and Ermera, but current and former young people have also included those from as far as Aileu and Suai, several hours drive into Timor-Leste’s mountain regions. The yearly intake ranges from 2 to 7 new students across different year levels. Three students will be graduating in 2022.

The criteria for acceptance into the Klibur Domin Garton Program for Students with a Disability are as follows:

- The young person has a significant disability such as vision impairment, cerebral palsy, scoliosis or hip dysplasia, or may need a wheelchair or prosthesis for mobility.
- The family gives permission for their son/daughter to enter the program and are committed to supporting the student at KD during their time of study.
- The young person is unable to attend a high school locally due to distance or problems of access.
- The student’s family cannot afford educational opportunities.
- The student has achieved year 6 with above average school results.
- The young person is independent or has the potential to be independent with their showering, toileting, eating and walking or using a wheelchair for short distances and can independently get to the school across the road.
- If the young person is over 18 and is receiving the disability subsidy, the young person and their family are prepared to contribute to expenses, if at all possible.
- The young person wishes to enter the program and is prepared to follow the Uma Garton code of conduct.

The applicants are interviewed and selected against these criteria. KD is responsible for making the decision regarding which students are best suited to the program.

The young people who are accepted into the program are expected to continue to study hard and to uphold Uma Garton’s reputation for responsibility, community service and academic achievement. They are also expected to contribute to the running of Uma Garton. Cleaning and food services are provided through KD.

Each student has a transition plan. KD staff work with the teachers at the Immaculate Heart of Mary School to identify possible



post-school pathways to further develop their potential at the tertiary or technical level. Staff will also assist these young people to explore possible means of support for further study. A number of the young people have received scholarships to attend university and further skill development, and many have engaged in meaningful employment.

Klibur Domin Garton Program for Students with a Disability is possible because of the generosity of private and institutional donors.

Sr Joaquim Soares and Martin Moignard.



New Zealand

Let’s do it! Let’s volunteer!

It is time to get going.

We have been battling to survive through this pandemic, adjusting to working from home, not being able to be with family and celebrating significant events with loved ones. It is time to



lift our heads above the cloud and focus on volunteering and making a difference to our world. We all know how inflation has hit us all, spare a thought for Raphael and Klibur Domin. Both have fought hard and come through with smiles on their faces, a renewed energy to be better than what they were.

We need to start planning our lives, our new journey and how best we can make a difference to our global partners. Put your hand up and volunteer at Raphael or Klibur Domin or anywhere else in the world. Don’t go with the mindset or intention of changing the world as you will be disappointed. I promise you the good you put into your world will be returned to you in an abundance.

“The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.”

William Shakespeare

Carolyn Tapley



Returning to Raphael in India.

My love of India and wanting to volunteer took me to Calcutta and then to Raphael in 1983.

My arrival at Raphael could not have been happier. I was warmly welcomed by the Chairman of Raphael, staff members and two other volunteers, one Australian and the other a New Zealander, followed several months later by another volunteer.

My accommodation was ample. There was a communal area where we volunteers met, talked and laughed in the evenings. Our cook, George, always made sure we had a variety of food both Western and Indian and we also enjoyed eating out at the local restaurant. The Milky Indian sweets were especially good as was the ice cream.

At Raphael I spent many days in the Chronic Ward and encouraged two of the patients with cerebral palsy to start painting with a brush held in their mouths. They painted beautiful pictures which I outlined. Their Christmas cards made in occupational therapy were bought by many and their pictures hung on the corridor walls.

Helping at meal times and then taking those in wheelchairs outside to enjoy the outdoors was a daily activity. Whilst outside we played games with balls, ropes, balloons and had some fun.

I also helped teaching English through pictures, songs and games to the younger children and the teenagers. They in turn taught me Bollywood songs and dancing which I thoroughly enjoyed.

Some of my afternoons were spent at the Cheshire Home nearby on Pritam Road with the disabled young and old. Spending time with them, knitting, singing songs, dancing, going for walks all of this enlivening our lives.



'Me, my bike and shawl 1983 at Raphael.'

On Christmas Eve with the help of the volunteers and others, games were organised, tea and cake were served and I, dressed as Santa Claus, distributed gifts to the children. We then sang carols and made our way up to the Chronic and TB Ward patients to give them sweets, cake and gifts.

I also had the opportunity to travel at weekends to Mussoorie, a hill station surrounded by low clouds, Haridwar and Rishikesh to see their splendid temples.

I am returning to Raphael in March 2023 for three months as the spirit and kindness of all who live and work there continues to live inside me.

Ann Hastings



Klibur Domin News from an AVP Volunteer

Martin Moignard is Program Management and Operational Mentor at KD. He is a volunteer through the Australian Volunteer Program (AVP) funded by the Australian Government.



The gardens at Klibur Domin in Tibar, Timor-Leste viewed from the entrance to St Damian's

It is great to be back on the ground at Klibur Domin after departing in March 2020 and being limited to remote support from Melbourne during the pandemic. As things continue to regrow, already KD has seen a number of new volunteers and visitors from RCA, Rotary and AVP returning and reviving projects, activities, and relationships. There have also been big developments in the Tibar community where KD is based with the completion of the Tibar Port and road project which has brought KD within 10-15 minutes drive of the city.

Today we live in a world altered by the Covid-19 pandemic and the importance of health sector has never been more significant. KD's steadfast presence in Timor-Leste has strengthened our networks in national health policy and KD's relationships with government and international co-operation organisations. KD plays an important role in the Health Sector in Timor-Leste, both through medical services in physiotherapy, dental, mental health, but also at the front line of the Tuberculosis epidemic and the global goal to end TB. The focus on disability and TB have become important agents of change and it is through the commitment of Ryder-Cheshire Australia supporters that this has been possible.

It has been greatly rewarding to see that the GeneXpert Laboratory project for the Viqueque Health Center with support

of Australian Aid is now achieving 300% of the annual TB case detection target set when the program began, and has not skipped a beat since it was handed over to the Timorese government at the end of 2019. Ryder-Cheshire Australia's support was the foundation of this successful project which now plays an important role in Timor-Leste's national TB program.

The Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program, the first of many KD initiatives in Timor-Leste, continues to provide every kind of mobility equipment to support people with disability; walking frames, wheel chairs, crutches, and the list goes on. With support from individuals and institutional donors like the Australian Catholic University, we are addressing needs of individuals and creating opportunities for their futures. Students from the John Garton Program are regularly entering further education, and Garton's alumni now include graduates from the National University.

Recently, cyclone Seroja swept through Timor-Leste. There was an overwhelming response of emergency relief from KD's supporters in Australia, New Zealand, and the UK allowing us to work quickly to rebuild communities. The rebuilding process and works to protect KD and the local community from natural disasters have reaffirmed the enduring commitment to supporting Timor-Leste and will help to ensure future security.

Every day I see KD making the best efforts at a task that Ryder-Cheshire Australia set in motion in Timor-Leste some 22 years ago. KD is in full swing doing what they set out to do in their charter and with a sense of determination *'For the relief of suffering for people who are sick, disabled, and destitute without discrimination'*. Together let us continue to build this capacity and enable Klibur Domin to continue this important work.



Vale Emeritus Bishop Hilton Deakin 1932 – 2022

Bishop Deakin was a great supporter of Timor-Leste during Indonesian occupation and a strong supporter of Ryder-Cheshire and Klibur Domin. He visited KD on at least three occasions. He delivered the Leonard Cheshire Memorial Address in 2003 speaking passionately about the struggles of the Timorese people and encouraging support for their country.



Words from Xanana Gusmao's statement on the passing of Bishop Deakin,

'At a time when the world was silent, Bishop Hilton's voice rang out demanding justice for the Timorese cause. He was one of our most steadfast defenders and refused to bend to demands to cease his advocacy. While Bishop Hilton was a gentle man, he was fearless and unyielding in his fight for Timor ... After the Restoration of Independence, he continued to advocate for our people ... He was a proud recipient of the Order of Timor and the Order of Dom Martinho Lopes ... Bishop Hilton was a man of great principle and a beloved hero of Timor-Leste.'

Sadly he passed away on 28 September 2022 at the age of 89 years.

Peter Newton



Vale Sheila Meares

Long-time friend of Ryder-Cheshire Foundation Victoria, Sheila Mary Meares died on 16 September 2022, aged 103. Her best friend, Helen McKendrick, was President of RCFV for a number of years in the 1980s and 1990s as well as President of the Ivanhoe Homes Committee. Sheila and Helen attended Ryder-Cheshire fundraising events together for more than thirty years. They were a good team and loved travelling throughout Australia and abroad, taking many cruises in their later years, up until Helen died in 2010.

Andrew Kennon



Helen McKendrick left Sheila Meares Right



APOLOGY

Sincere apologies from the Editors for the misspelling of David Hayter's name in The Red Feather May 2022 Issue No 99.

Dianne and Terry



RYDER-CHESHIRE AUSTRALIA

Patron:

His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd)

Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Founders:

Group Captain Lord Cheshire of Woodhall

VC OM DSO** DFC and

Lady Ryder of Warsaw CMG OBE

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HOW YOU CAN SHARE IN RYDER-CHESHIRE'S HUMANITARIAN WORK

Sponsorships and donations are URGENTLY NEEDED and essential to allow us to maintain, support and develop much needed programs at Raphael in India and Klibur Domin in Timor-Leste.

ABOUT SPONSORSHIPS

The usual cost is \$1 per day, or \$365 per year, but sponsors may contribute less or more, if preferred.

Raphael

Sponsor an individual resident. Regular updates about the sponsored resident's progress are provided from Raphael. Or choose a program to sponsor from the following:

- * TB program. There are 26 beds in the ward, together with an out-patient program treating over 2000 cases annually.
- * Community Based Rehabilitation Program. An outreach team supports children with disabilities in their villages.
- * Day Care Centre Program. Provides education and therapy to 160 children and adults with disabilities.

Klibur Domin

You can sponsor any of the following three programs:

- * Inpatient Services Program. Provides care for patients recovering from illnesses and injuries.
- * TB Program. Includes in-patient and out-patient services, a mobile TB Team, and a Multi Drug Resistant TB Ward
- * Community Based Rehabilitation Program. An outreach team supports children with disabilities in their villages.



CHOOSE HOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP

The Ryder-Cheshire Overseas Aid Fund is a Tax Deductible Gift Recipient (ABN 15 362 991 732) and all donations and sponsorship payments of \$2 and over are tax deductible. A receipt will be posted to you.

Please complete this form and post to: Ryder-Cheshire Australia, PO Box 51, Glen Iris, Victoria 3146.

- I would like to make a donation of \$ - to be used where most needed ()
- to Raphael in Northern India () Tick one
- to Klibur Domin in Timor-Leste ()
- I am interested in becoming a Sponsor for \$365 or \$ (other amount) at
Raphael () Tick one
Klibur Domin ()

- I would like information on how to make a Bequest to support the work of Ryder-Cheshire.
If you tick this box, a Sponsorship Secretary will be in touch to arrange details

Name Address

Telephone (....) Email Address

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- My cheque for \$ is enclosed
- My credit card details are:
Visa/MasterCard No - - - - / - - - - / - - - - / - - - - Expiry Date - - / - - Amount \$
- Name on Card Signature

- Credit card on-line**-Go to our website - ryder-cheshire.org. Click on Donate in the menu, then click on Donate Online with GiveNow, follow the prompts and pay by your credit card. A tax deductible receipt will be sent to you.
- Direct deposit - EFT**-Go to our website - ryder-cheshire.org. Click on Donate, then click on Direct Deposit. Complete the details and click Send. Then go to your internet banking site and transfer your donation to Ryder-Cheshire using the BSB and account number provided on the RCA website.