



## Biennial Conference Issue

### Congratulations Joaquim and the Klibur Domin Team.



Joaquim Soares with President Jose Ramos Horta

On Friday 29 May, Dr Jose Ramos Horta bestowed the honour of the Medal of the Order of Timor-Leste in recognition of Klibur Domin's outstanding contribution towards Timor-Leste's fight to control Tuberculosis and for many other services to relieve suffering in so many communities over the past 23 years.

The Order of Timor-Leste is the highest honour currently awarded by Timor-Leste. The Order recognises the contribution of the East Timorese and foreign nationals who have made a significant contribution to Timor-Leste and the Timorese. Such a well-deserved honour.



Peter Newton and Joaquim

The Medal presentation took place at the Presidential Palacio Nobre at Lahane in the hills above Dili. There were many other Award recipients with their guests also present making it a gala event. Peter Newton, the Founder of Klibur Domin, was able to accompany Joaquim to the Awards ceremony.

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### From the President The Hon Rory McEwen



With the very successful AGM and Biennial Conference behind us it is time to stiffen our resolve and focus firmly on the task of raising funds to support our two overseas homes.

Sponsorships have for many years been the mainstay of our fundraising and the launch of a new RCA Sponsorship Drive, with the enthusiastic support of three Ballarat schools, reinvigorated all those present at the Conference, both in person and on-line.

We are very mindful that previous generous bequests and the consolidation of these reserve funds will ensure that the best possible returns are achieved to underpin our annual grants, but that fundraising, sponsorships and new bequests have greatly dwindled. This year we were in the unfortunate position of not being able to satisfy the funding requests from Klibur Domin, and this impacted on them.

We must turn this around, so along with a new Sponsorship Drive we will look at other fundraising initiatives and opportunities.

Ryder-Cheshire Australia gratefully acknowledges David and Neil Coath

of  
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Somerton Victoria

who most generously arrange and pay for the distribution of this Newsletter.

Thank you David and Neil.

We so much appreciate your generosity.

*Continued on Page 2*

We were very pleased to hear that Sunita Garware has assumed the role of Chair of the Governing Council of Raphael, stepping into shoes once filled by her 'larger than life' father, affectionately known to all as Rummy.



On behalf of Klibur Domin, Joaquim received the Medal of the Order of Timor-Leste, awarded by President Dr Jose Ramos Horta. This is a huge personal achievement for Joaquim and a wonderful public endorsement of the nationally important leadership and work that is delivered by Klibur Domin.

Along with other initiatives it is very important that we continue to grow our membership base and that more of our members look to assist by joining our Committees and consider filling Directorship positions.

Hopefully we will see more volunteers returning over the next year or two so we can slowly hand over roles and responsibilities to the next generation.

In closing, I say a huge thank you to our many long-standing supporters as we open our arms to new faces, new ideas and new dollars. *Rory McEwen*

## Ryder-Cheshire Sponsorship Drive 2023 to 2025



At the Ryder-Cheshire Australia Biennial Conference on 6 May in Ballarat, the RCA Sponsorship Drive was launched by RCA President Rory McEwen. He was assisted by three Ballarat Schools. Two young students from Ballarat Clarendon College used giant golden scissors to cut the ribbon held ably by students from Ballarat Grammar School and the Principal from Mount Blowhard Primary School. Each of these schools has Ryder-Cheshire Sponsorships.

Ryder-Cheshire is unique and there are very few charities like Ryder-Cheshire, which is run 100% by volunteers and 100% of our sponsorship funds goes to Raphael and Klibur Domin.

### Lady Ryder of Warsaw Memorial Trust (LRWMT)



In July the LRWMT will begin a series of posts on their Facebook and Instagram pages all about Sue Ryder's incredible life with photos, stories and numbers.

This is a lead up to celebrating the centenary of her birth in March 2024.

You will be able to also follow this through the Ryder-Cheshire Facebook and Instagram pages.

#### New videos from the Biennial on the website

- Dr Elizabeth Cheshire Address
- Raphael Walkaround - Priyo Lall
- Klibur Domin Walkaround - Joaquim Soares
- Victorian Homes Walkaround - Kathy Oswin
- Mount Gambier Homes Walkaround - Matthew Dixon
- The complete Biennial Conference recording

#### Why a Sponsorship Drive?

This is Ryder-Cheshire Australia's major fundraising event over the next three years, from 2023 to 2025. Sponsorships provide Ryder-Cheshire with a regular, reliable source of income to support Raphael and Klibur Domin for their 'relief of suffering' programs into the future.

#### What is an RCA Sponsorship?

It will be a regular ongoing donation to support the programs at Raphael and Klibur Domin.

It is usually \$365 per year, however, any amount is welcome. This can be paid in regular instalments throughout the year or in full once a year. All sponsorship money goes to Raphael and Klibur Domin with an OAF (Overseas Aid Fund) receipt provided for taxation purposes.

Sponsorships are regular, reliable money, which enable the two Homes to plan better and invest in sustainable and value-adding improvements to their operations.

#### What can I do as part of the RCA Sponsorship Drive?

Consider committing to a sponsorship. Talk to family members, friends, colleagues, business acquaintances about taking out a sponsorship. Approach groups that I belong to making them aware of Ryder Cheshire's important work and the difference a sponsorship will make.

Explain how sponsorships help 'the relief of suffering' and will makes a difference at Raphael and Klibur Domin.

Identify groups such as Lions, Rotary, Probus, Apex, Churches, schools, and seek assistance from Ryder Cheshire Committee and Board members to assist in delivering a talk.

Find out more by going to: [ryder-cheshire.org](http://ryder-cheshire.org)



## The ANZAC Bikkie Tin's Story.

After the RCA Biennial Conference in Ballarat on 6 May, we attended the Ballarat Airforce Association's (BAFA) luncheon. Along with me were Roger and Rachel from the Ballarat Ryder-Cheshire Support Group and Carolyn and Minna from Ryder-Cheshire Foundation New Zealand.

We enjoyed a pleasant lunch, camaraderie and music from the Ballarat U3A Ukulele Club plus a movie about the making of the Dam Busters.

The luncheon was our opportunity to say thank you to BAFA and U3A for allowing Ryder-Cheshire to use their Hut 48 at the Ballarat Airport venue for the Biennial Conference. We presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the President, Peter Dowling.

Sometime back as we were preparing for the Biennial, Peter invited us to give a talk to BAFA about Ryder-Cheshire. Given that Leonard Cheshire was a well-known and highly decorated RAF pilot in WW2, the group was very interested in our work.

We explained that Leonard had visited Ballarat on 5 May 1964 to address a packed public meeting at the Civic Hall, some 900 people. One of the BAFA members, Gordon, put his hand up to ask a question as I thought! He told us that he was at that meeting as a young person, with his father. We continued the presentation, after which I went over to Gordon to talk further about the Civic Hall meeting and here is what Gordon emotionally told me.

He firstly explained that Ryder-Cheshire was like an angel as an answer to something he had been wanting to do for so long. He had a strong need to go to Timor-Leste ever since WW2. He was not sure how to do this until this very day.

Gordon's father was a photographer in WW2. He was strapped into a special harness which hung out the window of the plane flying over what was then Portuguese Timor taking significant photographs for strategic war operations. The plane was a B-25 Mitchell medium bomber which could fly up to 300 miles per hour.

Gordon wanted to visit Timor-Leste to honour his father, but did not know how to go about this until we arrived to talk about Ryder-Cheshire. The work of Klibur Domin gave an answer to his long held wish. We exchanged emails. Sadly, Gordon is unable to visit Timor-Leste due to his health.

Now to the story of the ANZAC bikkie tin.

After we thanked BAFA at the luncheon, Peter asked me to remain at the front. Gordon took centre stage holding an ANZAC bikkie tin.

*This is for you. I hope you like ANZAC bikkies?*

*Yes, of course. They are my favourites.*

*Well, these are extra special ANZAC bikkies. Open the lid and look inside.*

I did as he said. I looked in the tin and to my absolute surprise there were no bikkies in the tin, instead sitting on the bottom was a stack of \$100 notes!!! Special, really special ANZAC bikkies!

*These are for Klibur Domin. I cannot get to Timor-Leste so I want Klibur Domin to have these special ANZAC bikkies to help their people. Ryder-Cheshire is the angel who answered my wish and here is a photo of the angel. She is one of the statues in the Ballarat Botanic Gardens. She is the one who answered me.*

*Tears welled in my eyes and I needed to compose myself to be able to gratefully accept this amazing gift.*

There was \$3000.00. This such a beautiful gift so kindly donated by Gordon to assist the people in Timor-Leste through the work at Klibur Domin. We were delightfully shocked, but ever so appreciative of such compassion for others in memory of a special person.

Here we were at the luncheon to say thank you.

And that dear readers is the story of the ANZAC bikkie tin, such a beautiful gift on so many levels 'for the relief of suffering.'

Thank-you Gordon.

As we told the group, every cent will go to Klibur Domin in Timor-Leste.

Dianne McGrath

*EDITORS' Note: We have permission from Gordon to tell this story in memory of his dear father.*



Off to school Uma Garton students



AVP Volunteer Martin sorting donated KD medical supplies



Helen, Peter, Joaquim, Alfiana (Director of Leprosy Mission T-L), Martin



## Schools

### Hi Ho! Hi Ho! It's Up the Mountain We Go!

December last year, Dorothy Carpenter and I joined the Mount Blowhard Primary School for their annual walk-a-thon. All the students, their teachers and some parents undertook their walk-a-thon to raise money for their sponsored student at Raphael in India.

There was lots of excitement and chatter as the Grade Sixes helped the Preps, with the promise of icy poles when they reached the top of the mountain.

The walk takes them from their school to the top of Mount Hollowback, about three kilometres. This small school of around 82 students raised the wonderful amount of \$700

CONGRATULATIONS!

*Trish Twaits*



### The Gift of Water

How fortunate we are to have received an extremely generous donation from Ballarat Grammar Junior School in support of a project of considerable significance at Klibur Domin!

On learning of the particular difficulties experienced by residents at the Uma Garton Cottage, we found it was not difficult to decide on the appropriate project to support.

To obtain filtered water for use in the Cottage, the students have regularly needed to fill containers from the nearby water source and carry them back to their home over rough ground, a distance of some 80 metres. Given that water is particularly heavy, and that some of the residents are wheelchair-bound, this was a task that could not be shared amongst all the students.

The generous donation from Ballarat Grammar Junior School will enable fresh water to be connected directly to the Cottage.

There will be many smiles on the faces of residents, as the completion of this project will surely enhance the lives of all the residents and carers of Uma Garton.

Thank you to all the staff, students, and parents of Ballarat Grammar for their wonderful kindness.

*Dorothy Carpenter*



### Tenison Woods College Will Visit Timor-Leste

It is with great excitement that we will be having two Timor-Leste immersion programs this year in July and September.

Our students are holding fundraising activities such as our Junior School's Stationery Drive and the Timor-Leste Charity Ball. All the money raised will be distributed to the communities we visit – Bakhita Centre, Dominican Orphanage and our Sister School in Hatolia San Francisco Xavier College.

We are also looking forward to meeting Joaquim when we visit Klibur Domin at Tibar.

*From the Tenison Woods Newsletter*



### BINA Day

Rachel McKay and I were thrilled and honoured to represent Ryder-Cheshire at Ballarat Grammar's Bina Day on Friday 19 May 2023.

Bina Day is named after their first Raphael sponsorship and is their annual fundraising event.

The Junior School students had done the most amazing job of preparing all types of stalls for the event. We couldn't help but be in awe of their imaginative ideas and preparation.

Julian Hopkins, Deputy Head of Junior School, spoke to the children and teachers from the 'Royal Balcony' about Bina Day and the support that the children and families provide to the worthy cause. Rachel officially opened the day from the balcony and hundreds of delighted, squealing children ran off to their various stalls to commence sales. We spent a couple of hours participating in games, buying books and home-made food – all at wonderful prices!!

Once again, it truly was a most wonderful affair and we were delighted to be a part of it.

*Carolyn Byrnes*



## From Raphael

On 23 February the students of the Doon School, Dehra Dun, invited our cricket team to a friendly cricket match. Our students surpassed all expectations. The teams consisted of students from both schools and it was a great experience for all.



Raphael students were then invited by Oasis school to play basketball with their students.



A two days Artificial Limb Camp was organised at Raphael in collaboration with Shree Bhagwan Mahavir Viklang Sahayta Samiti, on 16 -17 March.

A total of 163 appliances were distributed to 94 beneficiaries of which 60 were children.



International Award for Young People (IAYP) - Raphael is the first and perhaps still the only school for children with intellectual disabilities enrolled with IAYP. Twenty-three students completed the residential project and adventure journey on 27-29 March at Maldevta. They undertook activities such as the Burma Bridge river crossing. The students also helped with cooking.

## OBITUARY

We regret to inform the passing away of the following residents of Raphael. May their souls rest in peace:-

Ganju Rai, resident of Shiv Sadan, who had a stroke a couple of years ago and was being looked after in the hospital passed away in March 2023. He was working as a gate keeper at Raphael's main gate.

Kisni, one of our oldest residents was not keeping well for a long time and passed away in May 2022. She would have been about 90 years old.

Balma who was with us since 1959, succumbed to throat cancer in September 2022. She was about 80 years old.

Munna (Gudio) came in Raphael in 1964 died in September 2022.

Sonu, who came to Raphael in 1982 at the age of 7. He was left here by his mother who never came back to see him, passed away in November 2022.

Priyo Lall

**Show your support for the work of  
Ryder-Cheshire!**

Please consider taking out an annual membership, or renew yours if you haven't done so yet.

Application forms are on the website [ryder-cheshire.org](http://ryder-cheshire.org)



These students have achieved gold, silver and bronze medals. The medals were awarded to them on Raphael's Founders' Day





## 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.

## Barbara Cottage

Barbara Cottage was inaugurated by Patrick Lewis, Barbara's husband on the 25th of February in the memory of his wife Barbara Lewis (nee Coleman). The Cottage which was recently renovated and furnished has been befittingly named 'Barbara Cottage'. Brigadier Anil Sinha, CEO Raphael. 75 May 2010

## New Volunteer Co-ordinator

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is SUSIE MACKERRAS and I am now the Volunteer Co-ordinator for both Raphael and Klibur Domin. I was asked to take over organising the volunteers from Anne Boyd who has spent many years doing the job. Susie Mackerras 76 November 2010

## Walford Anglican School for Girls

The students of the Walford Anglican School for Girls in Adelaide contacted us to say that their annual Ryder-Cheshire support event raised \$3000.00. What a magnificent effort!! 78 November 2011

## Victorian Fundraiser Event

Gourmet Supper and Charity Auction FRIDAY 29 JULY 2011 at 8.00 pm. At the Darebin Arts & Entertainment Centre Cnr Bell St & St Georges Road Preston. Leading chefs Andrew & Matt McConnell have once again generously agreed to serve wonderful finger food for our Gourmet Supper. 77 May 2011

## 'BARBARA Committed to Giving'

'BARBARA Committed to Giving' by Patrick Lewis. Patrick has finally achieved his dream of writing the life story of his late deeply loved wife, Barbara Anne Lewis, who sadly passed away in January 2009. 80 November 2012

## 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 Sleight ACT – 2002

Evelyn Peters WA 2003 – 2016

Terry Warr and Dianne McGrath 2017 – Present

## Jamie McCartney from UK

Jamie McCartney from UK Volunteered at Raphael In the evenings I joined the children for sports - the best part of the day. Stepping out of the volunteers' quarters with a plastic bat and ball, and seeing beaming kids run over shouting my name was worth every ounce of energy I gave them. 81 May 2013

## Ascham School NSW

Ascham School (Edgecliff, NSW) joined as sponsors in 1967. Their focus has always been on Raphael. The school has faithfully supported their project for 45 years. 82 November 2013

## Peter Newton at Klibur Domin

Also travelling to Klibur Domin with me this year were Fr. Ted Burns who donated \$110,000 of his own money to build the St Damien's respite Centre in 2011 and another very generous lady, Anne Bergin, who is donating \$60,000 for the purchase of a new bus and some essential repairs to the inpatient wards at the home. 82 November 2013

## Ryder Cheshire Newsletter now 'The Red Feather'

The colour red is a symbol of joy in the East and stands for security, happiness and prosperity and is therefore a good omen. The use of the Red Feather started when the Singapore Cheshire Home wanted to have a flag day. As there were so many flag days in Singapore it was decided to have a feather instead of a flag. The feather was later chosen as an emblem for the worldwide Cheshire Foundation. Feathers fly all over and it was hoped the Cheshire Homes would likewise spring up. The use of this emblem for our Newsletter was adopted at the 2012 Biennial meeting (a suggestion from Ryder-Cheshire NZ Chairman Carolyn Tapley). The oval logo has been retained in the masthead as it contains rosemary, Sue Ryder's symbol of remembrance. 83 May 2014

### **Klibur Domin Sharing with Love**

Klibur Domin is a home built on love, and now Ryder-Cheshire Australia president Peter Newton is sharing his love for the Timor Leste project, with his inspiring book about how this vital and vibrant institution was developed. He tells the story of the establishment, and first few years of operation, of the Ryder-Cheshire home in Timor Leste. 84 May 2014

### **St Joseph's Parish Elsternwick**

St Joseph's Parish Elsternwick and its sister parish Holy Cross at South Caulfield have been generous supporters of Klibur Domin in recent years. But on 12 September, it was the turn of the children of St Joseph's Primary School to support this most worthy cause. Fun Day at St Joseph's Primary School Raises Over \$900 for Klibur Domin. 84 November 2014

### **Karen AVID Program Volunteer**

I have enjoyed working closely with the TB program staff to try and better understand the multiple reasons that contribute to Timor Leste having one of the highest rates of TB in South East Asia. 89 May 2017

### **The Leonard Cheshire Rose**

The Leonard Cheshire Rose is being re-struck to celebrate the Sixty years Anniversary of the Raphael Ryder-Cheshire Home in Dehradun, Northern India and will be ready for purchase from the Ross Rose Nursery, Wilunga, South Australia in June 2018. 90 November 2017

### **Klibur Domin Dental Team**

Our Dental Team of Dentist Dr John Denton, Hygienist Lyn Carman, and Dental Assistant Jodie Billinger, arrived in Dili full of excitement and anticipation. 92 November= 2018

### **Mount Gambier New Home**

Our new \$1.1 Million Across-Disabilities Home has just been completed and is ready to accept its first residents. Neville Gilbertson. 92 November 2018

### **Raphael's Diamond Jubilee**

This year Raphael celebrated its Diamond Jubilee. Founders' Day 2019 was held over two days in beautiful spring weather. Raphael celebrated 60 years since its foundation in 1959. 93 May 2019

### **Korean Tuberculosis project**

In 2019 the Korean International Co-operation Agency (KOICA) announced a major new \$6 million US. Tuberculosis project in Timor-Leste between 2020-2022. The new project will operate in addition to the existing National Tuberculosis Program funded by the Global Fund and will be run in conjunction with the United Nations International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the Timor-Leste Ministry of Health. 94 May 2020

### **John Garton Cottage, Klibur Domin**

The John Garton Cottage was completed in March 2019. It has four bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen and two bathrooms. It is ideally situated near the front gate with the school just a short walk away. With their disabilities, most of the students would not have been able to attend schools had they not come to Klibur Domin. The students live semi-independently in the John Garton Cottage, so enhancing their life skills. 93 May 2019

### **Sue Ryder Remembrance Room**

On Saturday 2nd February 2019, the Sue Ryder Remembrance Room was opened in the old Sue Ryder Home in Cavendish, Suffolk. This is where Sue Ryder, her husband Leonard Cheshire and their children Jeromy and Elizabeth lived; it was also the headquarters of her charity. 95 May 2020

### **Timor-Leste Cyclone**

The 6 April Cyclone and resultant major floods that hit mainly the central and northern side of Timor-Leste caused catastrophic damage to roads, buildings and livelihoods of many in one of the poorest nations. We are VERY PLEASED to report that as at end of May approximately AUD \$32,130.00 has been donated, from all over the country and Ryder-Cheshire New Zealand promptly sent NZD \$10,000 to Klibur Domin. 97 June 2021

### **Ryder-Cheshire New Zealand New Logo**



Jonathan Kieft, has designed our new logo. The rosemary for remembrance is seen as the North Island of New Zealand and the red feather represents our South Island. 98 November 2021

### **New RCA Board Directors**

... Ryder-Cheshire Australia Board Directors. Directors were appointed at the RCA-AGM held on 21 May 2022 and a further appointment at the first RCA Board meeting held on 27 May 2022. Rory McEwen was appointed as the Chairperson. Peter Colliver, Ryder-Cheshire Australia's Company Secretary, was appointed the Treasurer. Work has begun as the new RCA Board moves forward into the new model of operation 'for the relief of suffering.' 99 June 2022

### **Looking Forward Looking Back**

The Future and the Past, Looking Forward Looking Back. 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 from 1964 to 2022.

*This concludes our walk back in time,  
We hope you have enjoyed viewing many of  
Ryder-Cheshire's achievements over the past  
almost sixty years*





# RCA Biennial Conference Pictorial Report

Photography by Rick Youssef



Dorothy and David registration table duties with RCFV Mike, Kathy and Ian



Setting Up - Rory, Terry, Dianne and Stuart online from Mount Gambier



Joe MC, Ballarat Mayor Cr Des Hudson and Dianne BSG President



Betty BSG raffle



Robert Mount Blowhard PS Principal



Graeme NSW listening intently



Biennial Conference in Hut 48 Ballarat Airport



Dr Elizabeth Cheshire UK giving digital address with Siobhan ACT listening



Jeannie Ballarat Clarendon College Principal with her students



Julian Deputy Head of Junior School with Ballarat Grammar students



Joaquim KD digital walk around KD



Priyo Raphael digital walk around Raphael





Carolyn BSG Biennial Bell Ringer



Dianne BSG with Rick BSG photographer



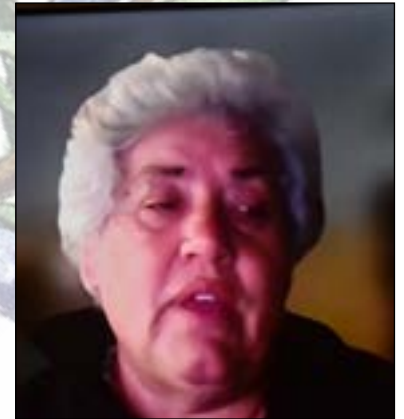
Trish BSG catering manager. 'Lunch is served'



Presidents catching up, Rory RCA and Peter BAFA



RCA Directors' Panel – Mike, Paul, Dianne, Chris and Rory



Susie NSW Digital Report on Volunteering



Betty and Rachel BSG



Anthea and Andrew RCFV



Paul RCFV, Andrew RCFV and John SA catching up



Biennial Dinner with Trish BSG, Dianne BSG and Mrs Rana from Shiv Sadam



Rory SA, Carolyn NZ and Minna NZ catching up over dinner



Dr Fred Cahir 'The Australian War Graves Detachment.'  
Anthea and Ian RCFV listening

## Volunteer Page

### Charlotte at Klibur Domin

My name is Charlotte, and I recently returned from two months staying at Klibur Domin (KD). I was privileged enough to complete my final placement for a Masters of Public Health at KD. Over the course of two months, I was placed alongside the tuberculosis (TB) team and worked specifically with Carlos and Jacinto. I was lucky enough that my time crossed over briefly at the beginning with the Australian dental team. John, Lyn and Matty, along with Marty gave me a very warm welcome to Timor-Leste. Over the eight weeks I was at KD I had some amazing experiences, including joining the TB team in one of



their mass screening programs at a local high school in Liquica, visiting the KD lab in Viqueque, attending a Global Fund meeting

with Joaquim, and attending the International TB Day event in Dili. Another highlight was the opportunity I had to join Gregorio Mendes to visit the homes which KD was helping to rebuild in the aftermath of cyclone Seroja.

While working alongside the TB team I gained an appreciation for the large contribution that the TB program has had towards Timor's progress towards ending TB in the country. Further, it became evident early on in my stay that I was working amongst a team and organization that was very well respected in the county. KD's TB program is regarded highly by others working in a similar space.

The TB team and everyone I encountered while staying at KD was so warm and welcoming. It was great living within the compound and interacting with the KD staff and residents on a daily basis. I particularly enjoyed getting to know the Garton Cottage students and attending church with Carmen. Through my experiences I have gained an insight into the focus both KD and Timorese society in general have on community empowerment, self-determination, and commitment to the long-term growth of Timor-Leste. I learnt so much about the history of Timor-Leste and gained an appreciation for the resilience of such a young nation, I look forward to returning to KD soon.

## Celebrating Volunteers

A question to you all. Why do we volunteer?  
We certainly don't do it for the weekly pay packet!

Nearly 50% of the population in Australia and NZ are volunteers. It has been calculated in NZ, a population of 5 million, that the value of the volunteer dollar contributes over \$4 billion each year to the NZ economy. So, you work out the figures for Australia, pretty impressive numbers hey!

Volunteers are a very impressive and selfless bunch. We are all here for a common cause, we all believe in the Ryder-Cheshire mission, to relieve suffering by restoring dignity to people who are most vulnerable.

We all know how hard it is chasing the charity dollar and that the future of Ryder-Cheshire is in our hands.

We have learnt to be more creative in our thinking and use of social media in attracting membership, donations, and organising fundraising activities.

In NZ we decided that we had to be more current with our branding.

We find having fundraising events that attract all age groups is beneficial. It brings everyone together and unites us supporting all that is Ryder-Cheshire; and being part of our succession plan.

We need to spread the word that anyone can volunteer whether you are young or old, male or female, unemployed or working full-time, rich or poor.

For young people, volunteering can be a way of building new skills and adding to their CV; getting practical experience can boost employment prospects and an opportunity to make new friends.

Retirees also benefit from volunteering, playing an important role in active ageing, as well as reinforcing solidarity between generations. Volunteering helps to put an end to the mentality that being older somehow stops a person from actively participating in or contributing to society – indeed quite the opposite. Retirees are a huge source of potential and experience that can be transferred into the world of volunteering.

For everyone, the skills learnt, and the experiences had through voluntary activities enrich our lives.

Volunteering helps foster greater understanding and tolerance between different groups in society. It plays an important part in breaking ignorance and prejudice of poverty and social exclusion.

I encourage you all to plan a visit to Klibur Domin and Raphael, this will give you an understanding as to what is happening at "grass roots" and ignite the passion to support these people.

Thank you to each and every one of you for being a volunteer.

Studies reveal that individuals who volunteer have a lower death rate than the individuals who don't. I wish you all a long and fulfilling life.

Carolyn Tapley, Chairman of Ryder - Cheshire New Zealand

### Watch this Space!

Martin has been volunteering at Klibur Domin for the past two years as part of the Australian Volunteers' Program. He will be completing his time at the end of June.

He is composing a detailed report for The Red Feather November Issue. So watch this space!

### National Volunteers' Week

NVW is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteers. It was held from 15 to 21 May. The week recognises the crucial role of volunteers. Raphael and Klibur Domin welcome volunteers and we encourage you to become a volunteer. Go to the website section on Volunteers to apply. [ryder-cheshire.org](http://ryder-cheshire.org)



## Vale Patricia Prendergast 13.01.1921 to 08.01.2023

Patricia loved Ryder-Cheshire. She would tell us that it was her favourite charity. She would explain to all, that to belong to Ryder-Cheshire you needed to come with a big heart as you needed a big heart to work for the mission 'for the relief of suffering without discrimination.'

She was a Loreto past pupil, having attended Loreto in Adelaide for all of her schooling. Her daughters attended Loreto in Ballarat. She initiated the Loreto College program to support Raphael which in recent years has transferred to Klibur Domin.

Sadly, we said goodbye to our dear friend and loyal supporter on a hot summer's day in Creswick, January this year, three days shy of her 102nd birthday. She would always say that she did not think she would reach 100, but she did! RIP

Dianne McGrath



## Vale Air Marshal John 'Jake' Newham AC, RAAF (Retd)



Air Marshal (AM) Jake Newham (Ret'd) passed away on 27 December 2022.

Jake Newham commenced his Air Force career in 1951 as a pilot trainee. He served with 77SQN in Korea followed by postings to No 1 BFTS, 3SQN, 2OCU, Commanding Officer 3SQN and ARDU, Officer Commanding RAAF Base Laverton and No 82 Wing. AM Newham held a number of Staff Officer and Senior Air Staff Officer appointments before attending the Royal College of Defence Studies, London. He returned as the Director General Operational

Requirements and Chief of Air Force Operations before his appointment as Head, Australian Defence Staff, Washington. On return to Australia, AM Newham was appointed the Deputy Chief of Air Staff before his appointment as Chief of Air Staff in 1985. He retired in July 1987. During this time he had sat alongside Leonard Cheshire at a formal dinner in New Zealand.

He was fascinated when Leonard related the story of his humanitarian work and how the Australian Association of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundations (AARCF) along with RCFNZ was largely responsible for financing Raphael in India. Leonard Cheshire asked Jake if he could visit him in Canberra at which time Leonard asked him if he would take over from Dame Roma Mitchell as President of the AARCF. He readily accepted.

Jake became the National President of (AARCF). He succeeded the late Dame Roma Mitchell as National President in 1990, and was in turn succeeded by the late Don Sinclair in 2002.

Jake officially opened the Ryder-Cheshire Home at Ivanhoe in 1992.

He was an enthusiastic advocate of the concept of Klibur Domin in 1999 and encouraged the AARCF members to accept and support the project in Timor-Leste.

In Peter Newton's words he said, 'Jake was most impressive as the President of AARCF. He promoted a co-operative approach to solving the many issues confronting the organization. His strong support of the Klibur Domin initiative was indicative of his approach.' RIP

Peter Newton and Peter Colliver



Photo of Group Captain Jake Newham (the Officer Commanding 82 Wing) piloting the F111C strike aircraft in 1973. Photo from Air Power Australia's website.

### RYDER-CHESHIRE AUSTRALIA

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His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd)

Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

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