

Ryder-Cheshire News



THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATIONS

For the Relief of Suffering

Founders:- Group Captain Lord Cheshire, VC, OM, DSO, DFC: Lady Ryder of Warsaw, CMG, OBE

NO. 40

APRIL 1997

ACCOMMODATION FOR COUNTRY/INTERSTATE PATIENTS RELATIVES



THE RYDER-CHESHIRE VICTORIAN HOMES FOUNDATION INC.

10-14 DONALDSON STREET, IVANHOE

THE ROSA LEONARD CHESHIRE

See Special Insert

EXCITING NEWS FROM VICTORIA

'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. Negotiations are now under way regarding the purchase price - and a great deal of thought and effort is going in as to the raising of the necessary amount.

However, the Victorian Homes Committee, headed by Dr. Don Sinclair, is determined to meet the challenge. Helen McKendrick, past President of the Home, has long held the dream of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation owning all the buildings, and she is delighted that the dream is now to be realised.

**AGNES McLEAN
and the
BALLARAT SUPPORT GROUP**

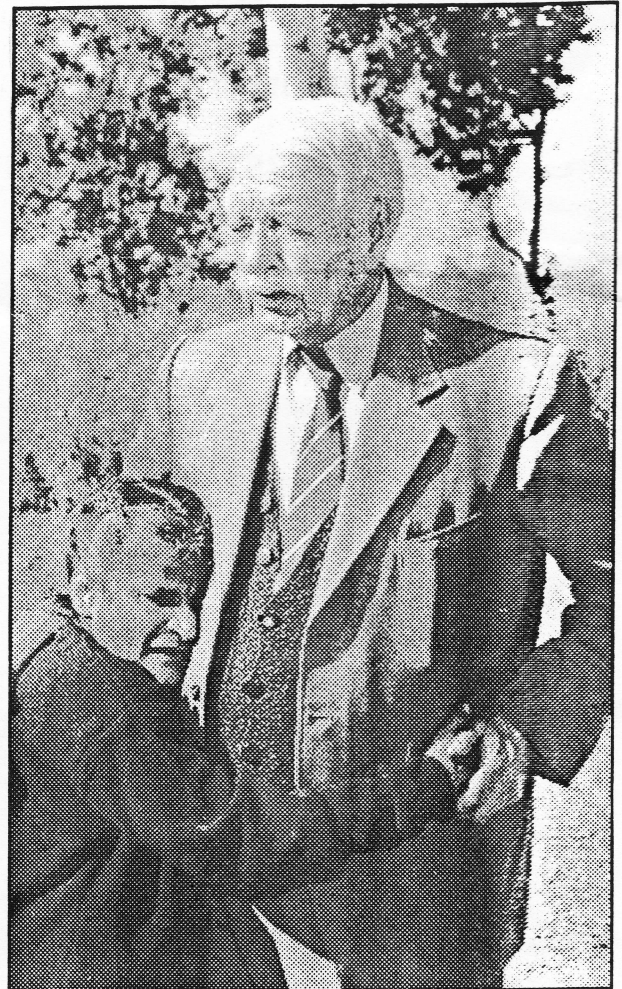
Special Report

RAPHAEL NEWS

CHAIRMAN'S RETURN TO RAPHAEL

It has been said that "Major General Bakhshi is Raphael" for his unfailing and indefatigable ways has not only been a source of inspiration for all, but was considerably missed over the three months he was overseas. Thus his return was an event eagerly awaited by everyone at Raphael.

And so on the morning of 4th November 1996 the entire length of the campus was lined with the staff and residents bearing garlands and bouquets to greet him. He was soon surrounded by the residents welcoming him 'home'.



WELCOME HOME

1996 ANNUAL REPORT

Chairman's Remarks My third visit to Australia and New Zealand to meet with the supporters and sponsors of Raphael which took almost eight weeks was for me most profitable; in fact it gladdened my heart to see that though the strength of Raphael's supporters (in numbers) was on the decline the dedication and the will to help Raphael reach greather heights is still strong; if anything it is a shade greater! Their hospitality, friendship and detail into which each host went to make my visit smooth is hard to describe.

Thank you very much my generous hosts.

Ranbir Bakhshi. Chairman, Raphael. 20 February 1997

The Report as usual contains detailed information on the activities and progress at Raphael over the 12 months to 31 December 1996. In his remarks the Chairman stated.."One of the projects I had set my heart on recently is to have proper water-supply system in Raphael, which today it is not. This meant laying fresh pipe-line of correct gauges and control boxes to each unit from the main water tank to the taps in each wing of Raphael. One of the greatest well wishers of Raphael, Barbara Lewis, whom I met in Sydney in September, whispered in my ear,

"Rummy, someone has a lump sum of money for you...."

Isn't it wonderful to be able to tell you in the 1996 Report that the funds for the water-supply system I had wished for will be there soon and God willing on the Founders' Day on 5 April 1997, the new system will be in use."

A WEDDING AT RAPHAEL

Ballarat City Councillor Geoff Howard, and Alison Smith had an eventful five-week holiday in India. Geoff proposed to Alison on New Year's Eve while in the South of India and Alison thought "it was the best thing he had ever done". Four days after arriving for their visit to Raphael, the Howards were married on 22nd January 1997 in the Christian Chapel during a simple wedding ceremony officiated by the major-general and chairperson of Raphael.

Supporters of Raphael through the Ballarat Support Group, Geoff, in his words:

"The impulse to propose and have an Indian wedding came on New Year's Eve and I believed the ideal site would be Raphael.....Major General Bakhshi quickly saw to arrangements while the hospital matron advised that she would be my mother and Alison's mother-in-law and would see to our dress, flowers and decoration of the Raphael Chapel.

"On our wedding day it was sunny and the skies were clear, according spectacular views of the snow-covered Himalayas to the north. While I collected rings at the jewellers, Matron dressed Alison in a traditional sari of maroon and gold. Jewellery including ankle bracelets and toe rings, but not the customary nose ring, were added. Alison's finger and toe nails were painted and the standard Indian spot (bindi) was placed on her forehead. I was loaned a modern Indian suit of copious volume and when we were dressed we were garlanded with chains of golden marigolds.

"The staff and overseas volunteers of Raphael attended the brief ceremony where we exchanged our vows and rings. At the conclusion we shared a feast of curries washed down with Indian beer. Afterwards we set off on a deluxe video coach and were entertained by noisy, melodramatic Hindi movies as we returned to New Delhi. This was, as we had expected, a very special day to remember. The only disappointment was that we couldn't share the occasion with family and friends in Australia."

This was overcome when Geoff and Alison celebrated their Australian marriage on Sunday March 9th in the Lydiard Street Uniting Church, Ballarat.

WE WISH GEOFF AND ALISON A LONG AND HAPPY MARRIAGE



Geoff & Alison married 'Raphael' India, January 22nd 1997

IN BRIEF - From Director

4 January 1997

We celebrated Christmas in our usual way with joy, excitement and sanctity. The highlight as always was the enactment of the nativity scenes by the Little White House and Ava Vihar children. In the evening we had a lovely dinner with the volunteers.

On 3rd December, World Disabled Day, we had a small function in which children from other handicapped schools participated with Ava Vihar and RADC handicapped children. We organised races and an on-the-spot painting competition. It is amazing how much talent they displayed.

The Ava Vihar children were also taken for an outing to a park a few kms away from Raphael. They had a picnic there and enjoyed themselves immensely.

15 February 1997

We are all fine at Raphael. We are getting regular flow of volunteers from Australia for these days. Michelle Cochrane will be with us for two months May-June, she is from Adelaide.

With the cold conditions now subsiding and spring in the air, Raphael bears the freshness and blossoms that makes the vast campus proud of the work achieved and planned. General's impressive tour of New Zealand and Australia in 1996 has widened the ever-growing network of friends, well wishers and supporters of Raphael.

Everyone is aware of the various occasions that provide the founding structure for the Raphael calendar, no sooner has one event passed then preparation for the next is under way. Of the many tea-time celebrations, the most memorable were the 54th wedding anniversary of General & Mrs. Bakhshi on 25th January and Mrs. Bakhshi's birthday on 9th February.

The Ava Vihar residents are following a very programmed schedule cleverly drawn up by Mrs. Priyo Lall and her team. The residents are being trained in various

vocational skills and their products seek a market during Diwali, Christmas and Founders' Day. The volunteers' deep involvement with the residents has led to the success of these programmes.

Naveen, a young moderately retarded boy, has been recently admitted to Ava Vihar and has assimilated to the routine. Gauri Sabherwal, the Psychologist, has been awarded her Ph.D degree. The residents have been in good health and spirits.

Gauri Sabherwal and Jill Stewart are holding the fort in the Liaison Office while Mrs. Sandhya Mazumdar visits her children abroad.

Raphael is also doing restoration work. The water pipeline is being relaid on the campus to meet the needs of the various units. Two new classrooms for Nursery and KG class have been added to the existing structure of the Primary School. The Rispana submersible bridge is undergoing repairs by the local administration, thereby reducing the inconvenience to the public.

We continue to have a flow of dedicated volunteers.

It is a nice feeling to see children growing up fast in the Little White House and in the Day Centre. We wish them all the best in the coming years and pray for their bright future.

6 March 1997

We started the New Year with our regular tea with the staff. 26 January also saw us again assembled in front of LWH for the unfurling of the National Flag for our Republic Day. Our talented children of LWH, Primary School and residents of Ava Vihar put up a small entertainment programme which was concluded by Inder Singh's poem (new resident of Shiv Sadan).

A new 10 year old boy has been admitted to Ava Vihar. He is in the category of a slow learner and can be educated and also trained in

some vocational skills. We now have 57 residents including 4 day residents in Ava Vihar.

Day Centre is very active. Their strength has gone up to 70. The daily attendance is approximately 70%. They are still in the Doon School premises.

The Primary School has two more classrooms and an enclosed park-cum-playground for the children at the back of the school, so the children will not be sitting on the verandah, in the heat, rains and cold of the various seasons. The swings were donated by Sue Ann Bruhn of the Australian Ballarat Group.

During the last few months we have had a continuous stream of excellent volunteers, very dedicated in the care of residents, full of life and they adjusted well to the new environment. It makes working together a pleasure. The General is fine and so are all at Raphael. Moena has gone to Bombay for a holiday and will be back at end of March.

April 1997

Thanks to the last Principal of Ava Vihar, Ashok Ramesh, who left Raphael for further study in *Special Education for MR*, has managed to get Raphael put on the Internet. In this his younger brother who works in the computer field in the U.S.A. has been of great help. There are some mistakes and omissions so in my next letter to Ashok I will point these out so he can update the information at a convenient time.

22 April 1997

This year winter in Dehra Dun has really lingered on and April has been a very pleasant month with spells of chilly weather.

Holi our festival of colours which heralds the coming of summer was on 24th March and it was rather cold. That however, didn't dampen the enthusiasm, of the residents, staff and volunteers and the festival was celebrated with much gaiety and fun. Our Chairman joined us and by the end of the day everyone was just unrecognisable, of course a good

scrub took care of that and everyone was back to normal.

April started with a bang. Amidst feverish preparations for our Founders' Day function, we celebrated our Chairman's birthday on April 1st. Tea time we had the same small cake which is cut for all the birthdays.

On the same day we got confirmation of Lady Ryder visit to Raphael. We were all delighted that she was going to be present for the Founders' Day function. The Chairman drove to Delhi on the morning of 3rd April to meet Lady Ryder at the airport at 10.30 p.m., and they drove all night to be in Raphael early on the morning of the 4th, in time to receive our chief guests, the High Commissioner of Australia to India, His Excellency Mr. Darren Gribble and his charming wife. They lunched with some of the staff and volunteers, who were able to introduce

themselves and get to know Lady Ryder.

Founders' Day on 5th April was bright and sunny. Lady Ryder had a special Mass conducted in the Chapel. Rains-unusual for this time of the year-dampened spirits for a while, but we quickly shifted the venue from the Ava Vihar grounds to the Ava Vihar hall, and residents, guests, staff, volunteers, Lady Ryder and our two esteemed guests piled into the hall, and in spite of the tight squeeze, enjoyed the programme organised by residents, LWH children, Primary School and RADC. The stalls of handicrafts made by Ava Vihar and RADC children did brisk business.

Lady Ryder's stay at Raphael has been very good for all of us. Her constant prayers and blessings for us all, her visits to Ava Vihar, LWH, TB Hospital, Shiv Sadan and TB team, RADC, and

Primary School, gave us new ideas for improvement and maintenance. I thanked her for her personal interest in the comfort and care of residents and in guiding us in our work. I got a lot of inspiration working besides her, as she has this marvelous amount of energy and zest for work. She looked her usual energetic self and stood till the train left when I saw her off at the station on the evening of the 14th April.

On the 17th, Patsy [*Wright-Warren*] arrived for her annual visit and she too visited all the areas of Raphael and went out with the TB team. It is always a great pleasure to have Patsy visiting us. She is familiar with staff and residents and understands our problems. Being a regular visitor she has a very good rapport with all. She leaves us today 22nd April.

You will have received the Annual Report for 1996.

CHESHIRE HOME : PORT MORESBY

AUSTRALIA GIVES K42,747 AID TO CHESHIRE HOME

Report from Jack Thurgar, National Projects Officer

The Cheshire Home for the disabled has boosted facilities for its residents, thanks to the Australian High Commission. The High Commission provided K42,747 worth of aid under its PNG-Australia Small Grants Scheme to help the Cheshire Home upgrade its facilities and Services.

The aid included 13 specially designed wheelchairs where were presented to the charity organisation.

Cheshire Home chairman Stephen Kassman thanked the High Commission for its generous support. He said the Cheshire Home was a charitable organisation committed to helping disabled people achieve integration within the community.

This donation was made in response to a request for funding in 1995.

The money has been used to upgrade inpatient and outpatient physiotherapy equipment, renovation of bathrooms and toilet facilities besides the wheelchairs.

AND Jack advises:

The Australian Lions Foundation donated A\$8,000 for special assistance this year as well. Their donation was spent on a new lawnmower, photocopy machine, and maintenance contract (to reproduce the lesson plans for the disabled at the small school we run), and for repair of the young Ladies' Hostel bathroom.

The Lions Club of Waigani administered the purchase of items and the supervision of the works.

NEWS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA

EXECUTIVE met in Adelaide on 8th March. National President Jake Newham chaired the meeting and representatives from Victoria, New South Wales, ACT, and South Australia were in attendance as also was Vice-President Russell Longmire. Matters discussed covered finances, insurance, the Rose Project, and Projects Officer Jack Thurgar reported on the Port Moresby Cheshire Home. Secretary Patricia McDonell and Treasurer Margaret Sleigh once again showed how fortunate we are in having such able and enthusiastic people on the National Executive.

NEW SOUTH WALES

(Jenny Coleman, Secretary)

Through a misunderstanding news from NSW was not included in the last R-C News. My sincere apologies to the Foundation for this omission.

The Foundation has continued to be active:

Donation: A generous gift of \$10,000 from Kath Solomon was sent to Raphael to replace old water pipes.

A donation of \$1000 was received from the Singleton Home.

\$5000 was also sent to Raphael as the normal maintenance contribution.

Fundraising: As with other organisations, overall fundraising in NSW has been less over the last 12 months, with adoptions, membership and income from cards being down. It is hoped to hold a street stall in Lane Cove in the near future.

Constitution: The Articles of Association of the Foundation are being finalised in order to make these comply with the NSW Corporation Law.

Newcastle Support Group: After many years the Group has ceased to function as an independent body -- however some of the members will continue to support Ryder-Cheshire NSW.

Cards: NSW continues to be a major seller of both Christmas and plain cards, although total sales were down on the previous 12 months. 9000 Christmas and 8000 plain cards were sold.

Barbara Lewis attended the national meeting in Adelaide on 8th March.

Caring Friends: This group is continuing and contact is being made with two men with motor neurone disease needing a Caring Friend.

Volunteers: Anne Boyd has agreed to meet with prospective volunteers for Raphael and assist with advice.

VICTORIA

(Helen McKendrick, President)

Exciting news from Ivanhoe - we wish the Homes Foundation every success in its plans for the development of the Home and await further news with interest.

BALLARAT SUPPORT GROUP

(Cath McLenehan - Publicity Officer)

At our first meeting for the year we welcomed Councillor Geoff Howard and his bride Alison, who were married in the Chapel at Raphael in January, and we celebrated the event with champagne. Since then, an Australian marriage has been celebrated. Guests were requested not to bring gifts (champagne or wine excepted!) but a donation for Raphael would be appreciated. We thank Geoff and Alison for their great gesture. By the way Geoff was defeated by one vote in the recent election for Mayor of Ballarat.

Our group's first fundraiser for the year will be held on May 18th when we attend the matinee performance of "Hello Dolly".

QUEENSLAND

(Leslie A. Nordon, President)

Queensland Secretary returned from Raphael on 27th March after spending 3 months there.

The Ladies Committee held a Street Stall on 11th April at Ashgrove.

The AGM of the Foundation was held on 19th April at the home of Judge & Mrs. McLoughlin.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

(Evelyn Petters, Secretary)

At the recent Annual General Meeting Evelyn Petters was elected to the office of Secretary.

Western Australia have produced a most attractive lapel brooch - oval shaped, with the Ryder-Cheshire logo, the dark background showing the colours very well. At a cost of \$6 this is an excellent purchase. AND it was designed and made in Western Australia. One brooch has been sent to each Foundation and Support Group and those interested should be able to order from their local branch.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

(Margaret Blaber, Secretary)

The 27th AGM of the Foundation was held on 15th April with all officers and members of the committee re-elected, except former Treasurer Lihini Haysman who has moved to Sydney. Two new committee members were elected, Major Alan Murray and Barry Lugg.

President Christine Lopez presented her report highlighting the visit of General Bakhshi as a particular highlight of the previous year's activities.

Chris also advised of plans for the release of the Leonard Cheshire Rose [see special insert].

Volunteer to Raphael Michelle Cochrane was wished Bon Voyage and good wishes for her time at Raphael in May/June. Michelle will give us a report on her return.

A very interesting talk on "The Changing Face of Poverty" was given by Brother Andrew. He has had a remarkable life living and working with the poor in Calcutta and Saigaon and many other places. It was a privilege to hear this humble yet inspiring man.

Fundraising: The Bridge Day on 14th May has attracted several bookings for tables.

The Foundation is participating in a **COMBINED FILM MORNING** to be held at the Chelsea Cinema on Monday 18th August 1997. Morning Tea is served at 10 a.m. and the film will commence at 10.45 a.m. As yet the organising committee has not chosen a film - options are being looked at. Enquiries can be made through Les Blaber -- telephone 8363-4584.

Cards: In his report to the A.G.M. Ross Stanford reported that sales were down in the Charity Card Shop. Russell Longmire again was responsible for selling significant numbers of cards and arranging free interstate transport. Ross also thanked the Interstate Foundations for their support, with special thanks to New South Wales.

The Charity Card Shop has had many problems but now, thanks to the efforts of an excellent organising committee, it is now likely that the new Card Shop will be located in the Da Costa Arcade, and will open for trading in early August of 1997.

RYDER-CHESHIRE SUPPORT GROUP SINGLETON/HUNTER VALLEY

(Anne Boyd)

Anne Young, a nursing sister from Melbourne first went to Raphael as a volunteer in 1964 and has been back as a visitor. And now some 30 years later, Anne's sons have been to Raphael as volunteers.

20th February 1997

Dear Margaret,

I always enjoy reading the R/C News.

Much nostalgia for "Raphael" has been generated for me with our two sons, Tom and Damian, currently doing a volunteer stint there - they've obviously been too busy to send much in the way of postcards or letters, but it seems that they are both greatly enjoying the experience. Evidently, Tom has been 'tutoring' in English, Maths and Chemistry at Little White House - and Damian has been working on a carpentry project with Douglas [Bartram, Ballarat Support Group] at Ava Vihar. Both are playing cricket (coaching? learning?) with LWH boys. I shall try to extract something from them** personally for you at a later date, as they will be straight back to Uni on their return.

[** A contribution from the boys would be very welcome for Ryder-Cheshire News.]

The Singleton Home has had a change of caretakers, our Colombian family having moved to Queensland, sadly for us. However, we now have Ruth and Eduardo Chavez from Peru, who are keeping the home beautifully according to the standard set by Beatriz, despite the havoc created by a cricket-ball sized hailstorm the week before their departure. Skylight, windows, gauze screens, lights and fans had to be replaced, to say nothing of mopping up and cleaning of carpets, etc. The house and garage roof have yet to be replaced, and one back wall. The garden is now showing recovery and there was, last but certainly not least, no personal injury. Many people in the town suffered property losses. Jim remains our permanent resident, now needing a little more care as his muscular dystrophy is progressing. He is very content and finds life with the Chavez's very interesting.

The Singleton committee have 'adopted' Bachan Singh (Leprosy Colony).

Sincerely, Anne

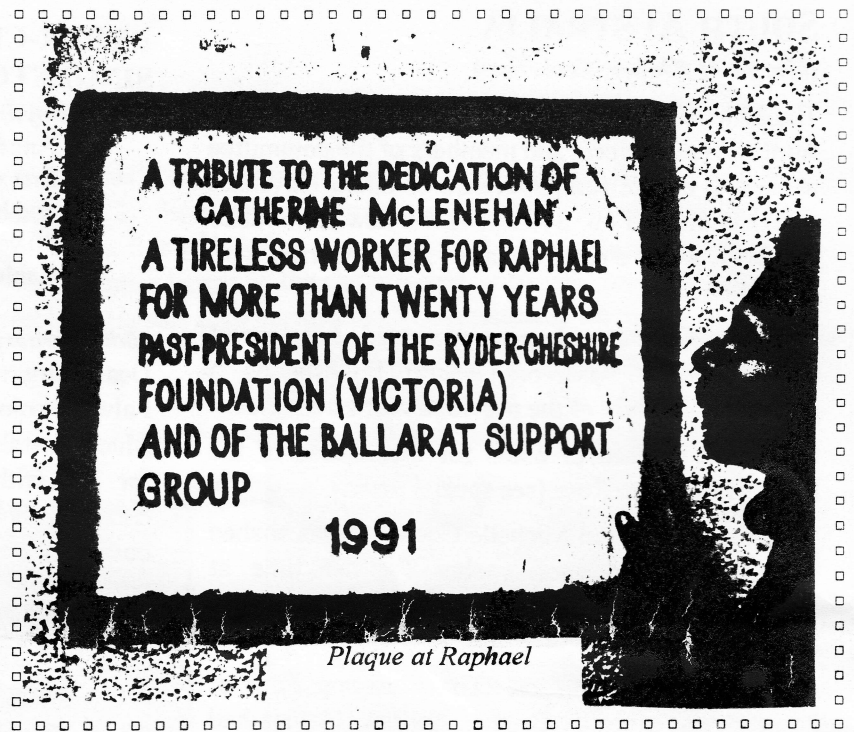
THIS N' THAT

From Geoff Nott, of the Ballarat Support Group.

On behalf of our group, this brief note is just to say thank you for the work you do to bring the news of Ryder Cheshire to committees and supporters.

It is always interesting to hear what other support groups are doing to further the common goal we all have, the support and betterment of conditions of those at Raphael.

Thank you for sharing our correspondence (per our wonderful Sponsorship Secretary, Anne Bourke) with others Australia wide. (Geoff Nott)



FROM THE 1996 ANNUAL REPORT

Recognition as a Non-Government Organisation

At last the Health Ministry has recognised Raphael's work in controlling the spread of TB in Garwahl Division, specially in rural areas. This recognition means that Raphael will be provided with TB drugs, whenever available, only for domicillary treatment.

Some Visitors to Raphael in 1996

Mr. John Bernard Baker, one of Raphael's oldest and ardent supporters from Auckland, visited from 2nd to 4th February.

Mr. Stefan Holmstrom, Secretary General, Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief (SOIR), called with Ms. Anina Fenneberg, Field Director, SOIR-IM in April.good news that the SOIR-IM would extend its support [TB Mobile Team) by another 2 years, from 1 April 1996 to 31 March 1998.

Mrs. Kumud Kohli, wife of Vice Admiral K.K. Kohli, Vice-Chief of Naval Staff, visited in April.

Mrs. Gauri Chatterji, IAS Joint Secretary, Ministry of Welfare, Central Government - a flying visit in July.

Braving the heat, Jeff and Joy Brisbane from Melbourne, Australia, were with us from April 2nd to 12th. This was Jeff's sixth visit and a third for Joy.

The next Newsletter will be issued in August 1997

**Contributions in the form of articles and letters are welcome and should be sent to
Margaret Blaber, 2/5 Cornish Street, Stepney, South Australia 5069**

**Telephone (08) 8363 4584
by 25th July 1997**

The group has always worked on a personal level. Links to Raphael are established through close links with volunteers before they go to Raphael and reports anxiously awaited on the volunteer's return.

A number of the committee members have visited Raphael or have worked there as volunteers. Always personal notes of thanks are sent to the people of Ballarat and district who give so generously.

It is the personal link and a belief that it is possible to make the world a better place that keeps the light of Sue and Leonard's vision shining.



AGNES MCLEAN
and the
BALLARAT SUPPORT GROUP OF
THE RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATION



*Agnes McLean with Rummy at the junction at the Robert Clarke Centre
in the Ballarat Botanical Gardens on Sunday August 23rd 1996*

Since 1964, the people of Ballarat have provided strong support for Raphael. This most successful support group began through almost a web of coincidences and at its centre a lady who is now in her 91st year, *Agnes McLean*.

In 1925, Agnes, with her family, moved from her birthplace, Minyip, to Ballarat. Soon after, she began her training in Melbourne as a nurse. Before returning to Ballarat in 1946, Agnes had a position as Matron at Xavier College. One of her charges was the brother of **Barbara Coleman** (now Lewis). Another boy was the brother of **Josephine Collins**. The two boys went to India to train as Jesuit priests.

Barbara and Josephine went to visit their brothers. Neither of the girls could forget the poverty and suffering that they encountered.

In 1961, Barbara met Leonard Cheshire and became very aware of his dedication to care for the helpless. Barbara offered her organizational skills to aid Leonard's work. She was appointed the Liaison Officer and Co-ordinator for the Cheshire Homes in India.

In 1953, Agnes became the foundation president of the Ballarat branch of the Catholic Nurses' Guild. In 1963, Barbara Coleman was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Guild and possibly for the first time in Ballarat, the work of Leonard Cheshire was described and the tale told of the founding of Raphael. The seeds were sown for the beginning of a close association between the Catholic Nurses' Guild and what was to be the Ballarat Support Group.

In 1964, Group Captain Leonard Cheshire was to visit Australia for a second time. His first visit with his wife, Sue Ryder, had resulted in a steady stream of volunteers to Raphael, but not a strong financial commitment. For this second visit, Barbara Coleman and Josephine Collins hoped for a stronger financial support.

Because the girls knew Agnes, they contacted her to see if a visit to Ballarat could be arranged. It was in Agnes McLean's home that the first steps were taken to plan the visit of Leonard Cheshire to Ballarat. From this initial meeting, other meetings were arranged with prominent

Ballarat people. Finally, arrangements were made for a public meeting to be held at the Civic Hall. On May 5th, 1964, over 1000 people attended. The Ballarat Support Group was founded on June 25th, 1964.

Agnes was a foundation member of the committee led by the foundation president **John (Spot) Hurly**. The idea of "adopting" residents at Raphael was spreading throughout support groups and Agnes encouraged members of the Catholic Nurses' Guild to commit financial support to Raphael through adoptions. Agnes, with her sister Mary, led the way by jointly sponsoring a resident.

Agnes has never faltered in her support of Raphael. This support has been strengthened by reports from volunteers when they returned to Raphael, and who was not touched by the work of Anne Young, the Mountain Nurse.

Agnes always wrote to those sponsored by Mary and herself and so by the very act of writing, strengthened the links between herself and Raphael. Agnes has acted as hostess and chauffeur to Leonard and Sue when they have visited Ballarat. When overseas Agnes made visits to Cheshire Homes.

Over the years, helped by her late sister, Mary, Agnes has held card parties which raised valuable dollars for Raphael. With the support of other committee members, Agnes has collected clothing for Residents at Raphael and exhorted her friends to support the various functions organised to raise money. If there is a cake to cut to celebrate some special occasion for the Support Group, it is usually Agnes who is asked to 'cut the cake'.

It was so well deserved when in 1979, Agnes was presented with an Honorary Life Membership of the Ballarat Support Group. Even at 90 years of age and with a partially amputated leg, Agnes continues her interest in and support of Raphael.

It is not just Agnes who has been influenced by the work of the Founders of Raphael. Past presidents, **John Hurly**, **Cath McLehane**, **Val Sarah** and now **Geoff Nott**, have led and continue to lead members of the committee to work to help support Raphael.

THE ROSA LEONARD CHESHIRE

The Ryder-Cheshire Foundation in Australia has initiated a project to commemorate Group Captain Lord Cheshire of Woodhall, VC, OM, DSO, DFC, -- **Leonard Cheshire** — who in partnership with his wife **Sue Ryder** — Lady Ryder of Warsaw, CMG, OBE, — in 1959 started the Ryder-Cheshire Mission for the Relief of Suffering and the founding of the RAPHAEL settlement in Dehra Dun, Northern India.

This year, 1997, would have been Leonard's 80th birthday - it is also the 50th anniversary of the Cheshire Foundation - there are now over 300 Cheshire Homes in 50 countries.

A very special red rose from Meilland, the international rose breeders who gave the world the Peace Rose, is now being grown specifically for the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation of Australia.

The Rosa Leonard Cheshire will be nationally launched by our National Patron His Excellency, The Hon. Sir William Deane, AC, KBE, Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Canberra on Anzac Day 1998.

The rose will be ready for ordering from late 1997 for planting in the winter/spring of 1998. A painting of the rose will be produced as a Ryder-Cheshire Card.

Lady Ryder has given her support. The National Executive and State Foundations have endorsed and agreed to make this an Australia-wide project.

A gift voucher will be available as a present for a special friend.

The August Newsletter will contain a leaflet giving details on ordering procedures and costs

**SUPPORTERS OF RYDER-CHESHIRE ARE INVITED
TO 'BUY A ROSE' AND TO GIVE A GIFT VOUCHER AS
A CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR A FRIEND**

