

*Tribute to Anne Nott*

# 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. 43

APRIL 1998

## LADY RYDER OF WARSAW, C.M.G., O.B.E. FOUNDER'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

Co-Founder of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation, Sue Ryder was welcomed in Perth on 3rd April by the Western Australian Foundation. At a well attended Reception held in the evening, Sue formally opened the extensions to The Ryder-Cheshire Home (Barbara Seabrook House) adjacent to the Royal Perth Hospital Rehabilitation Centre.

On Saturday 4th April, Sue was present at the all-day Biennial Conference of the Australian Association of Ryder-Cheshire Foundations, giving the Opening Address. Delegates and observers from the State Foundations welcomed the opportunity to meet and talk with Sue.

On this flying visit to Australia, Sue was regrettably unable to visit all the State Foundations, flying to Sydney, and then on to Papua New Guinea, and finally to New Zealand.

## VISIT TO PNG BY LADY RYDER

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 others.

During her short stay within the country, Lady Ryder visited the Home and met with the residents, staff, Board Members and local supporters. The Chairman of the Board, Mr. Stephen Kassman, held open discussions about the current problems that the Home was facing and outlined its plans for the future to Lady Ryder.

Whilst in the country, Lady Ryder gave four press interviews, one TV interview and was guest speaker at a Reception held in her honour at the Port Moresby Travelodge. Lady Ryder called upon the acting Australian High Commissioner, Dr. Stephen Henningham, and lunched with the British High Commissioner, Mr. Charles Drace-Francis. An inspection visit was also made of the Port Moresby General Hospital and an interview with the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Margin, was held. Dr. Margin outlined the concerns he felt for treatment of infectious diseases within PNG.

A good deal of interest was created by the visit of Lady Ryder to Papua New Guinea and a favourable impression was left behind concerning the Cheshire Home, its residents and the role played by Ryder-Cheshire, Australia.

**1998 BIENNIAL CONFERENCE  
PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA. 3 APRIL-SUNDAY 5 APRIL**

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

On the Friday evening (3rd April) the Conference Reception was held at the Ryder-Cheshire Home (Barbara Seabrook House). This well attended function was the occasion for the opening by Sue of the extensions to this Home. Barbara Seabrook House (named after a foundation supporter of Ryder-Cheshire) is an outreach of the WA Foundation, and offers low cost, home-like accommodation for people from the country coming to Perth, for health-related treatment. A carer may also stay with the person having treatment or to support an inpatient. The House offers rooms with one, two or three bed accommodation, and a small kitchenette is provided where guests may cook their own meals. In addition a resident House-Mother offers support and resource information for guests. The new extensions are a valuable and much needed addition to the accommodation provided.

The all-day Conference was held on Saturday (4th April). Lady Ryder, delegates and observers were welcomed by State President, Ron Bodycoat and National President Air Marshal Jake Newman, with the Opening Address by Lady Ryder. Discussions covered the 1998 Budget for Raphael, financial reports, and reports from State Foundations. All officers on the Executive were re-elected.

In his report, President Jake Newham paid tribute to the "*vigorous encouragement of the WA Foundation to hold the meeting in Perth, and especially to Ron Bodycoat and Secretary Evelyn Petters for the excellence of the arrangements. Their outstanding initiative to invite and encourage Lady Ryder to join us this year makes it a double first; well done; indeed!*", and "*Lady Ryder, thank you for making that special effort required for a long journey 'midst a most demanding lifestyle.....we continue to be impressed. Your presence provides us with a special lift and pleasure. We are honoured.*"

Jake thanked all members of the Executive for their input into the Australian Association, and State Foundations for their continuing enthusiastic support for the work of Ryder-Cheshire.

The Conference dinner held in the evening was an enjoyable social occasion, giving the opportunity for delegates and observers to exchange ideas and get to know each other. One final function was the Morning Tea held on the Sunday.

***Congratulations to all in Western Australia for organising such an efficient and enjoyable weekend.***

The next Biennial Conference will be hosted by South Australia in the year 2000. The excellent organisation by Western Australia will be a hard act to follow!

**OBITUARY - ANNE NOTT - Page 3**

**NEWS FROM RAPHAEL Page 4**

**A MONTH AT RAPHAEL - Peter & Helen Newton Pages 5 & 6**

**NATIONAL LAUNCH OF THE LEONARD CHESHIRE ROSE  
ANZAC DAY, CANBERRA Page 7**

**NEWS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA Pages 8-10**

## OBITUARY

### ANNE NOTT

*b. 1930-d. 1998*

*Reprinted Courtesy of the Ballarat Courier, 18/3/98*

"Hey Ducky - You OK?" were words that echoed around the corridors of Sebastopol Secondary College when Anne Nott was around. Although she left school in 1993, Anne was fondly remembered in the school newsletter after her death on February 15.

The wife of radio personality Geoff Nott, she was born in South Wales in 1930 and moved to London during World War II. Anne's family survived the bombing of London and her parents worried about the conflict with Russia and fearing another outbreak of war in Europe, decided to immigrate to Australia. They arrived in 1951 and lived with relatives in Portland.

Anne, having gained her teaching degree at the University of Brighton, resumed teaching in Hamilton. From there she moved to Mildura South Primary School where her involvement in amateur theatre resulted in her acting with, and later marrying, Geoff.

They moved to Ballarat and, as she had to retire from the Education Department because she had married, Anne taught at private schools Clarendon Presbyterian Ladies College and later at St. Paul's Technical College.

The Notts had three children during this period, Deborah, Catherine and Amanda.



*Geoff and Anne Nott*

In 1971, Anne began teaching at Sebastopol Secondary College and after working there for 22 years, it was no surprise her funeral was attended by a large number of staff and former students.

On the Ballarat Theatre scene, Anne held many leading roles for the Ballarat National Theatre, but the demands of teaching forced her early retirement from the stage.

Recently she returned to stage manage a couple of productions while juggling her work as secretary for the Ballarat Support Group of Ryder-Cheshire.

She was also a former school liaison officer with Red Cross.

#### **BALLARAT SUPPORT GROUP**

Farewell Anne.

Our committee is very saddened by the death from cancer of Anne Nott, wife of our President Geoff. Anne was our very competent secretary and much loved by the Ballarat Ryder-Cheshire family as well as people from many different organisations. This was evidenced by the very large attendance at the service conducted so feelingly by Mr. Peter Tobin. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Geoff and the family. Anne will be long remembered.

At Raphael, Rummy and Brigadier Harshpati told Margaret Blaber of their sadness at the passing of Anne Nott and expressed their deep sympathy to the family.

On behalf of the family of Ryder-Cheshire Foundations in Australia, we convey our sympathy to Geoff and his family. Anne will be sadly missed within our organisation.

## **RAPHAEL NEWS**

*From Director*

**28 March 1998**

Dear Maggie,

Trust you had comfortable journey and had no difficulty enroute. Parting is always sad. Thank you for your kind visit. We were looking forward to it very eagerly all these years.

We are getting all set for Founders' Day on 5th April followed by a picnic for Ava Vihar on 15th. The weather is now very pleasant.

"Patricia Korting" Library in LWH has caught on. It is popular with the children. We will build it up. It has been an excellent project.

**14th April 1998**

We celebrated Founders' Day on 5th April. Everyone enjoyed it immensely. There was good participation by the residents. I am enclosing article written by Beena (LWH) on Patricia Korting Library\* and on Founders' Day.\*\*

Trust your conference went off well and you met Lady Ryder and many other supporters who are known to use.

We are getting all set for Chairman's visit to Europe in June-July 98.

*\*Printed below.*

*\*\*Unable to reproduce this article due to lack of space.*

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**Margaret Blaber writes:**

While visiting Raphael in February/March, I learnt with sadness of the death of Colonel Rege in November 1997. Colonel Rege was a former Director of Raphael.

The Australian High Commissioner to India, together with his wife, visited Raphael in March, and we joined them and the Chairman and Director for morning tea.

The Annual Report for 1997 was being prepared, copies of which should by now have reached all State Foundations.

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*Beena of LWH has prepared this article for R-C News. Beena is now one of the Senior girls in LWH. She was born on 4th January 1978 and was admitted in 1983. Beena's mother was accepted in Shiv Sadan (the Leprosy Village) in 1974.*

**'PATRICIA KORTING LIBRARY'**

During the month of February, Aunty Margaret came from Australia with a donation from the relations and

friends of late Aunty Patricia Korting with a request to start a project in Little White House in her name. Patricia Aunty was a great supporter of Raphael. It was decided by the Chairman and Director to start a library in LWH with this money in her name.

So one day we went to market and first of all we bought Godrej Almirah [*a steel cupboard*] to keep the books in. We selected a nice Godrej Alimrah. We kept it in our dining hall with the help of senior boys.

After a few days we again went to market to buy books. I went with Aunty Margaret, Jean [volunteer], Sumati Didi, Suresh, Anand and House Father. We went to a few book stalls and selected different types of books for children like stories, general knowledge, animal world and sports. Jean was taking photographs of us. We were all happy and enjoying ourselves.

After some time we were feeling tired and hungry so we went to Luxmi Restaurant to have some food. After having coffee and chowmein we came back to Book Shop and Margaret paid for those books which we had collected and then we went to Rajpur Road to buy some more books from English Book Depot.

We were very happy and thanked Aunty Margaret and Jean. By the grace of Patricia now we have a proper library and we can read books on various subjects and can gain more knowledge.

We have kept these books in the Godrej Almirah and a library has started in the name of "Patricia Korting". Now children are reading these books. We pray God to bless Korting family and keep them happy in every joyful way.

**"THANKS PATRICIA"**

*Beena Gurung - LWH - March 1998*

Thank you Beena - I well remember the shopping trip to the market - I had as much fun as the students in selecting the books. Patricia Korting's Family is thrilled that this Library is now established at LWH in Raphael.

*Margaret B.*



## "A MONTH AT RAPHAEL"

Peter & Helen Newton of Victoria spent a few weeks at Raphael in Feb/March of 1988. This was their first visit (the first of many, hopefully). They are familiar with the Indian scene, having spent a year in 1992 at the Indian National Defence College in Delhi, during Peter's RAAF service.

With his video camera Peter busily recorded some of the many happy moments around Raphael. Hopefully this will result in a new video for showing around Australia.

Peter writes of this first experience

*" I have no doubt that the spirit of Leonard Cheshire is alive and well at Raphael...."*

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Dehra Dun - it has a romantic sound to it, but it is a fairly typical Indian city of about 400,000 people, sitting just below the first range of the Himalayan mountains. Helen and I passed through the city five or six times in 1992 while travelling from Delhi to the hill station of Mussoorie, which sits above Dehra Dun at about 2000 metres. We knew nothing of Raphael at that time and had only vaguely heard of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation.

As my retirement from the Air Force approached, I began searching for some charitable organisation, into which I could channel some of my energies. Some years before Fr Ted Burns, who was a part-time Chaplain in the Air Force, had told me of the wonderful work that Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder were doing, and one day I bumped into Air Marshal Jake Newham, my previous Chief of Air Staff who told me that he was the President of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation in Australia. My offer to become involved was quickly accepted, and when Major General Rummy Bakhshi visited Australia in 1996, I was asked to escort him to the Air Force Base at Laverton, on the outskirts of Melbourne, where he gave a presentation. I was most impressed with this vigorous and charming man who was in his mid-eighties but still thought and acted like someone twenty years younger. Helen and I asked him if we could come to Raphael to do some voluntary work in 1998. "Of course you can" said Rummy, and so in February 1998, we arrived in Dehra Dun for our month's stay.

Raphael immediately struck us as a highly organised, well run place, not dissimilar to many of the Air Force bases I had served on. Unlike much of the town of Dehra Dun, which is crowded and untidy, Raphael is well laid out and spotlessly clean. We were accommodated in a small flat which happened to overlook one of the poorer sections of Dehra Dun, and

we were constantly reminded of the difference in living conditions inside and outside the gates of Raphael.

During the first few days we settled in to Raphael and visited each of its centres. Everywhere we were greeted by the friendly smiling faces of the residents who seemed to be happy and content, notwithstanding the unfortunate circumstances that brought them to Raphael.

At *Shiv Sadan*, the village for burnt out lepers, we found happy and dignified people with a wonderful spirit of acceptance and mutual caring. These people were getting on with their daily lives, with many working in the spinning and weaving workshop or as gardeners, cleaners or tradesmen around Raphael. We could not help but compare their lives with the miserable existence of the lepers who were begging for their next meal on the streets of Calcutta and other Indian cities.

In the *Little White House*, the children of lepers were housed most comfortably, and they were well fed and cared for. Again, the comparison with the children on the streets was very marked.

We were lucky enough to be able to join the lepers and their children in celebrating the festival of HOLI, where everyone anoints everyone else's face and hair with vividly coloured dyes. Holi celebrates the end of winter, and everyone joins in the fun and dancing. The enjoyment of these people was most infectious, and it took us many hours to remove the colour from our faces, hair and clothes after the celebration.



*Study time and bed time at the Little White House*

For most of our month at Raphael, we worked at *Ava Vihar*, the home for mentally and physically handicapped people. We wondered how we would cope with this, but when we started working, we found the response of the residents quickly dispelled any feelings of inadequacy, or repulsion we might have harboured. There was no aggression or discontent evident here. The staff were most capable and supportive, and likewise the residents were loving and caring to each other. We had no skills in nursing or teaching, but this did not matter, and we were able to assist in the day to day activities of the home. The beautiful smiles and affectionate hugs from these people were wonderful rewards for the small contribution we were able to make to improving their lives.

We were also able to see at first hand the excellent work being done in the *T.B. Hospital* and by the *Mobile TB Team*, which travels to fourteen different villages in the foothills of the Himalayas. By detecting and treating this terrible disease, Raphael is able to help thousands of people who otherwise would slowly decline to a painful death.

We returned to Australia with some wonderful memories of Raphael. Memories of the bright, smiling faces of children living in a loving and caring environment. Memories of lepers without hands or feet, who would still smile happily at us and invite us into their small, but clean homes for a cup of "chai" (Indian tea). Memories of TB patients coughing and spitting, but knowing that in most cases they would be cured and return to their villages and families to lead a normal life. Memories of the wonderful management team and staff at Raphael, who have devoted their lives to caring for the residents. And finally, memories of the happy group of volunteers from Australia, New Zealand and the U.K. who shared our experiences.

I have no doubt that the spirit of Leonard Cheshire is alive and well at Raphael, and that Sue and Leonard would be well pleased with the way their vision has been achieved.

**For us, it was a most rewarding experience and one we will remember for the rest of our days. We would certainly recommend the "Experience of Raphael" to any person interested in being a volunteer. One gets back so much more than one gives.**

PETER NEWTON  
APRIL 1998

**Margaret Blaber writes:**

I was fortunate enough to be at Raphael at the same time as Peter and Helen. This was my 3rd visit to Raphael having been there briefly in 1991, and then as a volunteer in 1994. My strongest memory is of being warmly greeted by staff and residents as an old friend. The improvements over the last 8 years are remarkable, lots of water (hooray!); fewer power cuts, the well-kept grounds, the significant upgrading to the TB Hospital. Progress and improvement has been and continues to be made at Raphael.

My leaving was sad, but comforting to know that someday I hope to return.

I cannot thank the people at Raphael enough for making my visit so warm and friendly; Rummy and his wife Shobha; the Director, Brigadier Harshpati and his wife Gita; Matron Massey; the staff of the Mess and the Office; and all those other staff members and residents who gave me such a great welcome.

**THANKS TO ALL.**

*Peter with one of the residents of Ava Vihar.*

*Peter, Helen and Margaret in the "Mess" at the end of the day.*

## NATIONAL LAUNCH OF THE LEONARD CHESHIRE ROSE

ANZAC DAY 1998

On Anzac Day a special rose was launched in Veterans Park, Canberra by the Hon. Sir William Deane, AC, KBE, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.

*The Leonard Cheshire Rose* forms a Memorial Rose Garden dedicated to those Australians who lost their lives serving our country in the elite Special Air Service Regiment. The motto of the Special Air Service Regiment is - *WHO DARES WINS*.

Jack Thurgar, ACT Branch President of the SAS, said the Leonard Cheshire Rose was selected above all others as it befits the spirit of those members of the SAS Regiment who lost their lives "Daring to Win".

As a wartime bomber pilot Leonard Cheshire was legendary. He commanded the famous Dam Busters Squadron and pioneered the marker bomber technique. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order at age 22, for "brilliant leadership and skill" of his first bomber command. He added two bars to that as well as the Distinguished Flying Cross before being awarded the Victoria Cross in September 1944. The Order of Merit was awarded in 1981 for humanitarian services, and he was created Baron Cheshire in 1991.

The Leonard Cheshire Foundation was started in 1948 and from then on Leonard devoted his life to the incurably sick, physically disabled, the mentally distressed - he conceived of "disabled men and women contributing to society - not exiles from it."

Leonard contracted the muscle-wasting disease Motor Neurone Disorder (MND) at the beginning of 1992 and died on 31 July 1992.

The Leonard Cheshire Rose was commissioned by the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation in Australia to remember and celebrate the life of a great humanitarian, and also the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Cheshire Homes.

*The Governor-General is the National Patron of the Association of Ryder-Cheshire Foundations in Australia and Commander-in-Chief of the Australian Defence Force.*

*Jack Thurgar SC, MBE, OAM, RFD, is the President of the ACT Branch of the Australian Special Air Service Association, President of the ACT Ryder-Cheshire Foundation, and Projects Officer for the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation in Australia.*

**THE LEONARD CHESHIRE ROSE** is only available through the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation. This is a 3-year project and the first season has been successfully concluded with plants ordered to be delivered in June 1998.

Plants for the second season (for delivery in mid-Winter 1999) can be ordered through State Foundations.

**GIFT VOUCHERS ARE AVAILABLE.**

**THE VOUCHERS CAN BE GIVEN AS A GIFT FOR A WEDDING, BIRTHDAY,  
OR CHRISTMAS, OR JUST AS A PRESENT FOR A FRIEND.**

Further enquiries to Margaret Blaber, Unit 2/5 Cornish Street,  
Stepney, S.A. 5069  
Telephone (08) 8363-4584.

## NEWS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA

*The following are extracts taken from the Foundation Reports given to the Biennial Conference.*

### **ACT FOUNDATION - President Jack Thurgar**

The passing away of two of our longest serving members, Margaret Murray and Des Gordon have deeply affected us all and they are sorely missed.

We continue to attempt to involve the Indian High Commission in our fundraising endeavours, however to no avail. The British High Commission has however, once again opened its doors to us.

There are twenty-seven financial members, and we have eighteen sponsors. We do not differentiate between a full or part sponsor as each sponsor gives what they can afford.

We continue to send volunteers to India and PNG. Hedonna Morris and Inga McMaster both went to India to work in Raphael and Jack Thurgar went to the Port Moresby Cheshire Home.

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### **NATIONAL PROJECT OFFICER - Jack Thurgar**

**Port Moresby** - The Cheshire Home in Port Moresby continues to function effectively and provides a home for 34 residents and supports 11 disabled day-care children. The Home is controlled by an elected Board of Management and the Chairman is Mr. Stephen Kassman, a well known lawyer in PNG. The day to day operation of the Home is entrusted to an Administrator. Mr. Jeffery Phillips fills that position and he is supported by an employed staff. The Home is self sufficient and calls on Australia from time to time to assist on special projects. We successfully gained \$34,000 in funding for the Home through an AusAid grant.

**Raphael** - Each Foundation receives a copy of the Annual Report which includes an audited financial statement. Through generous donations within NSW, ACT and Victoria all six special projects that were identified by the Director have been met. They centred around water pipes, plumbing, showers and toilet facilities and were worth a total of \$15,400.

This year in the Budget, maintenance and repair items have been costed so that in the future we should not receive any requests outside of the budget process for additional funding.

The National Executive have endorsed the position that any requests for funding which may come direct to State Foundations [from Raphael] should be referred to me so that they can be centrally co-ordinated.

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### **NEW SOUTH WALES - President Barbara Lewis**

*(Barbara was unable to be present at the meeting - her report was presented in her absence.)*

The Foundation has worked steadily to maintain its annual commitment to Raphael of approximately \$30,000.

The new Governor of NSW along with other changes has relinquished patronage of a number of charities. It is heartening that he has agreed to continue his patronage of the Ryder Cheshire Foundation.

In December two young volunteers, Anne Heslop and Shelley Mallam spent 3 months at Raphael. Early in 1997 Anne Boyd's two sons, Tom and Damien, also worked as volunteers for several months. After her own extended time at Raphael Anne is a great ambassador who is happy to meet and answer queries of any would-be volunteers.

**Caring Friends** - Despite an excellent seminar organised with the Motor Neurone Association this project has not really taken off. We believe the idea is a good one but unfortunately the sufferers from Motor Neurone disease referred to us have required a lot more physical assistance than our volunteers are able to provide. We still hope to be able to be of personal assistance to lonely individuals.

**Fund Raising** - We continue to raise funds through sponsorships, donations, card sales, stalls and occasional social functions. We are now focusing on home made edibles on stalls as these are popular and we are gathering a group of "cooks" to assist. In 1997 we sold approximately 4,000 plain and 8,500 Christmas cards.

**Further News from Jenny Coleman (Secretary)** - Barbara Lewis was unable to attend the Biennial Meeting. Maureen White and Peter Coleman attended as official delegates, with Joyce Ratcliffe and Jenny Coleman attending as observers.

Joan Usher has had a bad fall and will have to move to a nursing home. *[Joan was Matron at Raphael in the early years and is well remembered by staff and residents. We wish her well.]*

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*Victorian Homes Foundation*  
*Donald Sinclair - President*

The Victorian Homes at Ivanhoe continue to function with an average daily occupancy level of more than 90 percent in the 55 rooms. Our nightly rate is \$20 for those residents who receive a rebate of this cost and \$10 for those who don't.

We continue to receive very generous support from the Congregation of St. Brigid and the Sisters of St. Joseph through the ministry of three sisters who together provide a 24-hour service as house-parents. Community support for our work remains very high.

The Foundation is currently in negotiation with the RSL War Widows Trust for the purchase of the two leased buildings and had hoped to have finalised the matter in 1997. Unfortunately the RSL Trust has been very slow in responding to communications and we now hope that a contract can be signed later this year.

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*Ballarat Support Group - Cath McLenehan*  
*Sponsorships in Schools (by Ann Bourke*  
*Sponsorship Secretary)*

In Ballarat we are very fortunate to have strong support from our local schools for sponsorship at Raphael. These schools include Ballarat High School, Ballarat Grammar Junior School, Ballarat and Clarendon College Junior and Senior Schools and Loreto College. These schools all have a long association with Raphael through sponsorship and we, the Ballarat Support Group, are very proud of all the schools' contributions. The schools are very committed to the sponsorships and often contribute extra towards their sponsored person. The combined efforts of staff and students alike at our Ballarat schools deserve a big THANK YOU.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Ann and John Bourke on the birth of their third child, *Sean Gregory Alfred*.

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**SOUTH AUSTRALIA**  
*President Christine Lopez*

1997 proved to be a satisfactory year with several highlights. Ross Stanford, a founder member, reached his 80th birthday, and was awarded a Certificate by the National Executive for the significant contribution he has made, not least in the area of the Christmas Cards. Russell

Longmire, who has been a tower of strength, received an AOM for his services to Ryder-Cheshire.

South Australia initiated the *Leonard Cheshire Rose project*, and the first rose was planted at the Sevenhills Winery.

Our Adoptions Secretary, Patricia Frith, continues to look after the sponsorships and to find new avenues for this, including revisiting schools such as Sacred Heart College.

Secretary Margaret Blaber visited Raphael in February and was able to institute the "*Patricia Korting Library*" in the Little White House., in memory of a great supporter of Raphael.

A successful fundraiser in the past has been the Card Day organised by past President Joan Riggs. This will be held again this year on Friday 21st August at the same delightful venue, the Toorak Burnside Bowling Club.

And, once again, we will end the year with the annual barbecue - Loreto College will allow us the use of the school grounds for this event which will be held on Sunday 22nd November.

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**QUEENSLAND - President Leslie Nordon**

Queensland was not represented at the Biennial Conference. President Leslie Nordon forwarded the report.

At the 1996 Conference it was thought that the Foundation would fold, but at a special meeting I was elected as President in place of Bernie McLoughlin. Since then there has been a small drop in sponsorships but the Schools which have sent donations have helped us.

One of our long time supporters, Mrs. V. Marks, passed away - she had been a stalwart of the many street stalls.

It is regrettable that we cannot attend the Conference but would suggest that the Foundation nationally produce new literature for use.

Greetings to all Foundations and we hope that we all could raise more to send to Raphael.

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## **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

### ***President Ronald Bodycoat***

The *Council* of the W.A. Foundation comprises 12 members, some with a long association with the Foundation and others whose interaction has been brief. The issue of attracting fresh, new blood will be a matter of consideration since newer, younger councillors are difficult to attract in the service of the Foundation.

Council keeps a close eye on the activities at *Raphael*, with Malcolm Petters providing direct reporting after his occasional visits to India.

### ***Ryder-Cheshire Home : Barbara Seabrook House, RPRH Campus, Shenton Park***

The House continues to grow from strength to strength. The success of the House over a period of 5 years precipitated the addition of 3 bedrooms, toilet and bathroom with easier access for wheelchair users, and a self-contained private flat for the House Mother. Alterations and refurbishment of the existing House at the same time has resulted in an overall increase of guest capacity to at least 19 beds.

*Shop* : The Foundation's shop staffed by volunteers in North Perth trades with a regular monthly surplus of \$1,000 to \$1,200.

*Volunteers* : Apart from the team which continues to support and to operate the Shop in North Perth, the volunteers who have so sincerely supported the House since its inception in 1991 now form other groups necessary for the well-being of the House. In 1996, it had become increasingly difficult at the Ryder-Cheshire Home

to provide appropriate relief for the House Mother by involving volunteers. A part-time paid reliever was appointed as support for the increased management role of the House Mother.

At Barbara Seabrook House, the Foundation now conducts a small business, and the success of the operation is due largely to the caring skills and commitment of the House Mother, Anne Wakeham, and her reliever, Bika Harrison. The annual count of heads-on-pillows in 1997 was of the order of 2,200 or 380 guests.

*Cards* : Bill Mahoney and his team continue to operate a commendable and highly successful programme of providing and selling Christmas and All-Seasons cards. In 1997, the programme sold 17,000 cards.

*Leonard-Cheshire Memorial Grants* : The annual musical concert continues, but in 1997 no new funding assistance was allocated. The new Council will take up the initiative to disperse the fund - to assist young people, usually with a disability or a learning difficulty, to improve their confidence or self-esteem, to experience a musical activity or other pursuit otherwise not available to them, or to expose them to a cultural activity which will enrich them and provide opportunities for life skills.

*New Initiatives* : Relief for carers, outreach to the lonely and neglected in our own society and not only those with a physical disability, caring concern for anyone in need - there is no place for complacency.

*Where we are true to the charge which Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder gave to us, we will achieve.*

The next Newsletter will be issued in August 1998  
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 18th July 1998