

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. 45

DECEMBER 1998

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM SIR PETER RAMSBOTHAM GCMG CGVO

Chairman of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation for the Relief of Suffering

Each year I read the Ryder-Cheshire News with great interest. It gives a vivid picture of your activities in support of Raphael and the development of your own Centres. I am glad to write to you again as we prepare to celebrate Christmas.

Your information from the Chairman and Director and from your volunteers and visitors to Raphael keeps you up to date with what is happening there. I feel sure that the personal experiences that they bring back must help to increase your already great commitment. We in this country have been blessed with an extensive visit by Rummy Bakhshi and his charming wife, which has helped to stimulate our supporters.

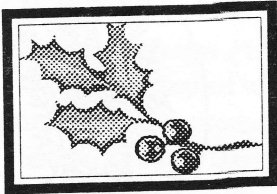
This has been a difficult year as funding, here as elsewhere, becomes increasingly hard to find. We try to encourage fundraising by the Centres within their countries, but their different cultures and circumstances make this difficult. Most of our money comes from the Government, from charitable grant-giving organisations or from groups and foundations such as you have throughout Australia. But everywhere the budgets are getting tighter and the money more difficult to raise.

Nevertheless, good work is being done around our projects. At Katumba we have, for the first time, managed to recruit a Tanzanian administrator, a man of considerable standing and ability. In Nepal the physiotherapy work has markedly increased, thanks to the support of our colleagues in the United Mission to Nepal. At Raphael there has been much needed upgrading of buildings, especially in Shiv Sadan and the Little White House. We are also pleased to have arranged some cross-fertilisation between the projects with the Director and Medical Officer of Seva Nilayam visiting Raphael and Delhi to share experiences and expertise about their TB work. In Port Moresby, thanks to the British Executive Services Overseas, we were able to arrange for a physiotherapist to visit and assess the work, and she has sent a useful report. The fact that her husband, who accompanied her, was a dentist and was able to do a dental assessment on all the residents, was a bonus. I am very grateful to Jake Newham and Jack Thurgar for their oversight of the activities there.

Earlier this year you had a visit from our Founder, Lady Ryder, and though she was disappointed not to be able to see more of the individual Foundations, I know that you found her visits and presence at the Biennial Meeting in Perth stimulating and encouraging. Patsy Wright-Warren is hoping to do more extensive visits around the Foundations in September and October next year. These visits are indeed a measure of our respect and enthusiasm for the splendid work that you do and for which we owe you many thanks.

Peter Ramsbotham

November 1998



RYDER-CHESHIRE NEWS - December 1998.

Our sincere thanks to Sir Peter Ramsbotham for once again sending us a Christmas message and news of Ryder-Cheshire activities world-wide.

Thanks also to our enthusiastic International Projects Officer, Patsy Wright-Warren, for her contribution. Patsy enjoys her work for Ryder-Cheshire - we look forward to seeing her in 1999 - a warm welcome awaits her 'Down Under'.

Thanks to Jack Thurgar of the A.C.T. Foundation for his report on the Cheshire Home at Port Moresby. Jack keeps us informed of what goes on in this part of the Ryder-Cheshire Family

RAPHAEL is on the INTERNET
<http://www.employees.org/~anand/rap.html>
gets you to the Raphael Page.
Founders, History, Location, Volunteering,
Projects, Pictures, etc. etc.
I've looked it up!
This web site is definitely worth a visit.

MY THANKS to all the Foundations and Support Groups for contributions to the Ryder-Cheshire News, and to those who send me letters of appreciation.

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'THE PROJECT OFFICER'S TRIP'
Patsy Wright-Warren



One of the advantages of retirement is having time to travel abroad, and one of the joys of travelling abroad is to be able to do so with a purpose. That is what I do as Projects Officer of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation.

I no longer visit Tanzania so my annual visits are now just to India and Nepal. It takes me about a month to get around the five centres. If I go in March or April I like to start in the south before it gets too hot so I try to fly direct to Madras (now supposed to be known as Chennai, though few people use it!).

MADRAS - Having arrived at 4 a.m., my first meeting is at 9 a.m. with our local representative. For the next two days I am discussing Gabriel Rehabilitation Centre with the Committee, staff and others concerned.

The night train takes me down to Madurai where the administrator from Seva Nilayam meets me in the jeep for the 60 mile drive to the Centre, calling on various friends and supporters on the way. Then follow five busy days observing all the work, discussing the problems, scrutinising the budget, visiting a TB camp and local health centre, participating in a women's group meeting and attending a street theatre. Sunday is spent meeting with the Executive Committee.

KATHMANDU - After the night train back to Madras and final business there, I fly up to Kathmandu. This is the most problematic journey of my trip and I rarely arrive at the time, or even on the day planned.

This is another five day stay, meeting the long term residents whom I have known for many years and those there for short term rehabilitation, who are new to me. Again I observe all the activities and discuss progress and developments with the staff and committee. My favourite day is spent visiting the homes of residents who have been with us for rehabilitation to see how they are coping and what use they are making of their training. This involves going out into the hills and villages and seeing a very close and intimate picture of how Nepalis live.

DELHI - Flying down to Delhi, I stay at the Delhi Cheshire Home where our TB work is based. A visit to one of the slum areas in the evening with the TB team is an experience it would be difficult to imagine. While the doctor is examining the patients and the TB visitors and lab technicians are collecting sputum specimens, sorting records and giving out drugs, I have the opportunity to look around at the filthy, smelly and impoverished living conditions, and to marvel at the resilience of those who live there and emerge with dignity and grace.

DEHRA DUN - Finally, another night train up to Dehra Dun - back to *Raphael*, my "Indian home". Despite all the work ahead, with so much to see and discuss, I immediately feel I can relax and indeed, I hope during my stay there to have my first day off of the trip. One of the joys is to meet the volunteers in the Mess and talk with them about their impressions of Raphael and their varied experiences of life, coming as they do from so many backgrounds and countries. I always enjoy particularly my day out with the mobile TB team. The very first time I went, nearly nine years ago, I was astonished at what could be achieved by two or three people with a table, a few deck chairs and a tin chest full of drugs, who set up a clinic on the verge at the side of the road. Since then I think I have been to all the centres in schools, playgrounds, fields, village greens farmyards and temples. I have never lost the fascination I felt on that first occasion.

BACK TO LONDON AND HOME - At the end of the week, saying a regretful farewell to Raphael, it is down to Delhi to catch my flight home to London - not to relax but to write reports and follow up on all the ideas discussed and action agreed. I believe there is no substitute for seeing the Centres at first hand and I realise how fortunate I am to have the opportunity to do this.

VISIT DOWN UNDER - In September or October next year I hope to have the opportunity to visit your Foundations and to see your work at first hand. Without that there would be nothing for me to see at Raphael.



STILL THE CANDLE BURNS

June Beslièvre, compiler of the above Anthology, writes to say that the book has received widespread plaudits for its presentation and absorbing content. Gigi [Cheshire] wrote to June thanking her for producing '...such a warm tribute to Dad.....the most lovely book.'

Unfortunately space does not permit the reprinting of the many testimonials received. The book has been purchased by individuals in Australia. Further details on purchase can be obtained from Margaret Blaber, the Coordinator of Ryder-Cheshire News.

June also says how much she enjoyed meeting up with Anne Boyd and Barbara Lewis at the Leonard Cheshire Golden Jubilee World Week Celebrations in July 1998 in London, and also with other friends.

RAPHAEL NEWS

The Director, Brigadier Harshpati, has completed 4 years at Raphael as of August 1998. In his words he says "I feel very happy to be a part of it all."

National President Jake Newham has thanked HARSH for "...your splendid contribution and well done..."

And as Coordinator of the Ryder-Cheshire News, I add my thanks to the Director for his regular contributions and reports on the activities at Raphael.

AND I recommend that all users of the Internet visit the Raphael site.

Bhavani Hannon from Abbotsford in Victoria returned to Adelaide in August, bringing with her the video recently made at Raphael. Copies of this will soon be available to all Foundations and Support Groups.

From the Director

23 August

We are all fine at Raphael. Things have greatly improved in all the fields and our sincere thanks goes to our supporters in Australia and New Zealand. We are in touch with the Chairman. They are doing fine and will return during the second week of September.

31 August

This year we have had delayed monsoons. During last one month there has been frequent very heavy downpour. You may have read in the newspapers about the loss of life and property in the hills (my district).

Alice Fay is with us for 3 weeks in August/September. She is joining Lucknow University in India as a student of India studies. This is her third visit in last four years.

Jon and Claire have got married last month in U.K. and were in Raphael for one week. They are our regular visitors/volunteers.

Recently John Stacey spent a weekend in Raphael. He was on his way to U.K. from South Australia and brought donation from the Oswald Support Group to purchase books for the Patricia Korting Library. A very good photograph of Patricia was brought by him and has been displayed in the Library room.

As on today we have seven volunteers which includes two from SOIR [the Swedish Organisation for International Relief].

5 September

Sandhya Mazumdar of the Liaison Office resigned on 1 October - Sandhya is joining her children in the U.S.A.

Roma Brijnath has taken over from Sandhya.

12th October

The Chairman has just returned after his holiday-cum-meetings with the Founder, Chairman and Director of Ryder-Cheshire Foundation in the U.K. In England he also met with number of volunteers. He attended the XII World Congress Inclusion International at the Hague, from 23 to 28 August. The theme it was under the new name of Movement Inclusion International with equal participation of self advocates. Gen Bakhshi has already sent copies of his report on his visit to members.

During his visit to U.K. and Holland, the Chairman screened the latest video shot on Raphael and also distributed the new leaflet on Raphael which were appreciated by one and all.

Nanda Debi was admitted to Shiv Sadan on 25 September. She is 60 years old.

Sukri Levi, who joined Raphael in 1963 at the age of 36, departed for her heavenly abode on 14 April after a prolonged illness.

Chandermani died at the age of 65 years on 16th July.

Shiv Sadan - work on renovation of the remaining four blocks is in progress.

Little White House Library - Friends of the late Patricia Korting have donated funds to improve the Library, which has become popular with the children.

Two independent study rooms have been created for the senior boys and girls by modification to existing accommodation. The formal inauguration was done on 14 September by Mrs. Bakhshi.

Bimola Rani has successfully completed her Diploma in Mental Retardation and has been absorbed as an Assistant Teacher at the Raphael Day Centre.

Improvements to Accommodation and Facilities
As soon as funds are available the following works will be undertaken:

Built-in cupboards in all dormitories with a locker for each child.

Re-flooring of broken floors.

Replacement of linen and provision of warm coats for children.

Purchase ten cycles for senior students.

Jyoti Jaiswal of Delhi, has been admitted in Ava Vi-har on 30 July. She is 11 years old and moderately mentally retarded. We hope she will improve in 2-3 years.

5 September (continued)

The Carpentry Section has become very popular with the residents. Recently a well wisher from Holland had gifted moulds for which we are most grateful to him. The couple was in Dehra Dun helping in a Leprosy Colony on the bank of Rispana Nadi, where they taught making of coloured candles to Ava Vihar residents.

Mrs. Priyo Lall, Principal, Ava Vihar, has been registered as a Rehabilitation Psychologist with the Rehabilitation Council of India.

ROMA, our new Liaison Officer, is settling down fast. She too has the correct temperament for the job.

During the month of February I am planning to visit Nepal and will be away for 4 weeks. It is going to be a trek with a friend of mine.

17 November

Dr. David Carter, Deputy High Commissioner, U.K. in Delhi, was with us on 14 November. He was accompanied by Mrs. Carter.

Performance of LWH children - Daya Ram participated in Inter School Athletics Meet in Dehra Dun on 14 November and stood first in the 100 Metres, 200 Metres, and the Long Jump.

The following children of the LWH attended the National Cadet Corps Camp: Surendra, Virendra, Ram Babu, Ganesh, Rajendra.

Gauri Sabherwal, our Principal in the Day Centre is getting married and will be leaving for the U.S.A. in February 1999. We will miss her.

Due to financial crunch we have to be very careful about our budget in the coming year.

The weather has been very kind these days. It is very pleasant here.



THE CHESHIRE HOME - PORT MORESBY
How Australia is involved

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

JACK THURGAR (Australian National Projects Officer) reports on the **UK Volunteers from BESO**.

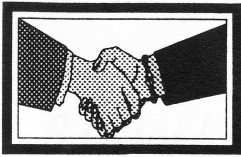
After the good work done by Peta Cambridge and her husband Keith White at the Port Moresby Home there is also good follow-up news. The Australian Lions Foundation (ALF) has been trying to send a Dentist to PNG, who is experienced at working with disabled patients, for a period of six months, and things came together just after Dr. White left. The dental examinations conducted by Dr. White were able to be acted upon by **Dr. Ken Parker from Perth, Australia**.

Ken has a dental practice in Perth and volunteered his services to assist the residents of the Cheshire Home with their dental needs. Ken has a mobile clinic which is transportable and he first had to relocate it to the Home in order to 'set up practice'. He was ably assisted in Port Moresby by Brother Damian Keane who has had a long standing relationship with the Cheshire Home. Members of the Waigani Lions Club also supported this excellent initiative.

The UK Foundation's role in the first part of the program was to provide air tickets for Peta Cambridge and Keith White to work as volunteers for one month. The Australian Foundation's part in this endeavour was to act as a point of contact in relation to the BESO volunteers and to provide advice and assistance with local transport, accommodation and support to Dr. Parker for the dental program.

JACK also reports on the **AITAPE TSUNAMI FOLLOW-UP**:

Many in Australia would not know that the Brothers of St John of God who have been involved with the Cheshire Home in Port Moresby have a hospital in *Aitape*. It was at this hospital that the first survivors of the Tsunami disaster were brought. The hospital was at the fringe of the disaster area and was in the best geographic position to provide help and assistance. The Brothers worked round the clock providing medical support and after the first week were seconded to help the retrieval teams gathering the dead for burial. The Australian press concentrated on the Australian Army medical teams and did not report on the exceptional work done by members of the local community during this disaster. **WELL DONE ST JOHN OF GOD BROTHERS.**



NEWS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA

EXECUTIVE met in Melbourne on 31st October and reaffirmed its commitment to Raphael by maintenance funds for nine months of each year [New Zealand undertakes funding for three months].

President Jake Newham confirmed that the Raphael video has been received and all States and Support Groups will be given an opportunity to obtain copies. Raphael now has a **WEB PAGE** on the Internet.

Peter Newton, President, Victoria, has produced a short video on Raphael - the film was taken while Peter and Helen were in Raphael earlier this year, voice-over by Geoff Nott of Ballarat. The video is of ten minutes duration and copies will be available as requested - a good promotional video.

New National Brochure - Victoria has produced a new brochure for Australia-wide use. This is general enough for all States with space for inserting Foundation/Support Group details. Costs are reasonable and copies available on request to Peter Newton.

Christmas Cards - Four cards have been chosen for 1999 - costs will be between 28 and 31 cents (with envelopes) and if sufficient orders are received nationally, these cards will be exclusive to the Ryder-Cheshire organisation. Details will be made available to Foundations/Support Groups.

President Jake has paid tribute to **Leslie Nordon** who took over as President of Queensland from Bernie McLoughlin - Bernie was full of praise for the job Leslie had done in Queensland.

Biennial 2000 - The date for the next Biennial meeting (to be hosted by South Australia) was agreed as the weekend of 8th April 2000.

NEW SOUTH WALES - Secretary Jenny Coleman

Through Barbara Lewis, NSW has ordered ten copies of the book *Crossing the Finishing Line* - the final thoughts of Leonard Cheshire.

ROSES - 62 plants were sold and orders will be placed for the 1995 season. Wendy Flynn was thanked for her coordination of this project in N.S.W.

STALLS - Several stalls were held in September, October and November, and one planned for December. The Foundation raises significant funds through these stalls.

FILM MORNING - planned for October.

CARDS - NSW circulated through its members an attractive order form depicting 13 of the cards available - an idea that is well worth copying by other Foundations.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY -

Jack Thurgar President

The ACT Branch continues to function and at this time of the year, like all of you, concentrating on the sale of Christmas cards. ACT is a member of a consortium of twenty charities within Canberra and each year set up for two months a Charity Card shop in an inner city location. It works well and gives an outlet which otherwise would not be available, and also lets people know of the Ryder-Cheshire work.

An exciting new initiative for the next two years - in conjunction with two other charities, at the behest of Mrs. Katie Allen, wife of the UK High Commissioner to Australia, 'Prom Concerts' will be organised. Katie is a dynamo - she went to school in Australia with Jill Upton (the daughter of our esteemed members Gordon and Elizabeth Upton - former Australian High Commissioner to India).

The Prom Concerts will be held in the grounds of the Allens' home, Westminster House in Empire Circuit. The ground is sloping and lends itself well to this type of activity. The British Council is being contacted with a view to using overseas performers from the UK as well as local talent. Each concert will have a theme and people will be encouraged to bring a hamper and make an evening of the event. An entrance fee will be charged and each participating charity will have the opportunity to run a concession and be able to advertise and to fundraise separately from the concert.

THE FIRST PROM CONCERT will be held on 30 JANUARY 1999. Keep these dates clear should you be in Canberra.

Inga McMaster - It is with regret that we are losing the services of one of our hardest working volunteers, Inga is moving from Canberra and will be missed by us all.

Best Wishes Inga.

[Inga has been a dedicated and highly respected volunteer at Raphael on more than one occasion.]

VICTORIA - President Peter Newton

Committee Positions - Peter is the new President taking over from Helen McKendrick who held the position for over ten years, doing a magnificent job and with her strong role with the Victorian Home Committee, she has been the backbone of Ryder-Cheshire activities in Victoria. Helen continues to serve both committees with her usual energy and enthusiasm. Helen Newton has taken over the role of Adoptions Secretary.

Sponsorships - Helen Newton spent some time while at Raphael earlier this year working with the then Liaison Officer, Sandhya Mazumdar, sorting out the Victorian records. We await feedback from Raphael to confirm the existing status of sponsorships., and also await details and photographs of new residents available for sponsorship.

We have lost some of our old and faithful sponsors. Some have died and others find that they are no longer able to keep up the commitment. I suspect this trend will accelerate as the generation that was inspired by Leonard and Sue passes on. We have had some success with new sponsorships, and are targeting schools, churches and service clubs as well as individuals.

Functions - The Leonard Cheshire Memorial Address generated a lot of interest, and we picked up several new sponsorships. The Concert was excellent and added significantly to funds.

A recent **Garage Sale** proved very successful in raising funds.

Cards - The sale of Christmas and other cards has been excellent this year, and a second order had to be placed.

The **Barbara Storer** painting of the **Leonard Cheshire Rose** was presented to the Foundation and will be placed in the **Ryder-Cheshire Home at Ivanhoe**.

Conclusion - The Foundation remains enthusiastic and committed to the aims and aspirations of Leonard and Sue. We will increase our efforts in 1999.

Our best wishes to all Foundations and Support Groups for the Christmas Season and for 1999

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Secretary Margaret Blaber

S.A. has concluded 1998 with the annual barbecue again held in the spacious grounds of Loreto College. The first function in 1999 will be the Film Morning in March. 1999 will be a busy year for S.A. planning for the Biennial Meeting in April 2000.

Cards - The sale of cards through the Charity Card Shop is proving successful this year and sales are up on the 1997 season.

Good Wishes to Ross Stanford - recovering from an operation - all the best for a speedy return to good health. We need you Ross!!

We look forward to the return from Raphael of **Jane Waters** and **Di McEwen** of Mt. Gambier. Hopefully Jane will give us her impressions of Raphael today as compared with those early years she spent there.

And we wish **Gaynor Tilley** all the best for her volunteering assignment at Raphael in February. Gaynor was recently the subject of a feature article in the Adelaide **Advertiser** - "**Women at War**". Gaynor was involved in the Royal Australian Air Force nursing service during the Vietnam War as a flight nurse on the Aero Medical Evacuations, and was also on loan secondment to the United States Air Force. We are pleased to have Gaynor associated with the S.A. Foundation.

The Leonard Cheshire Rose - S.A. will continue to coordinate the sale of plants through the second season - 1998/1999. It is expected that this will be the last season for the production of this plant and members are urged to place orders early through Secretary Margaret Blaber. The launching of this special rose was reported in the July 1998 issue of the Cheshire magazine **Smile**.

QUEENSLAND - Leslie Nordon President

1998 has not been a good year for Queensland both financially and with bad conditions.

Thanks to all our Sponsors and those who have sent donations for their support during the year.

Thanks to the Ladies Committee and all those who helped make the Street Stalls a success.

The Brisbane Card Shop closes on 18th December.

A HOLY & BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL

As mentioned in the Executive Report, National President Jake Newham paid tribute to Leslie Nordon since he took over as President of Queensland from Bernie McLoughlin. Les has proved to be a stalwart supporter of the Ryder-Cheshire organisation, and it is a great credit to him that he has kept the Foundation on track in a tough climate. Like so many people in the Ryder-Cheshire family, Leslie is one of those "unsung achievers" - our organisation needs each and every one of them.

On behalf of us all, we thank Leslie and the Queensland Foundation and wish them continuing success in 1999 and in the years to come.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Secretary Evelyn Petters

W.A. has accepted with delight one of the two paintings of the Leonard Cheshire Rose - these paintings from which the cards were produced, were done by S.A. artist Barbara Storer. This painting will be displayed in the Ryder-Cheshire Home, **Barbara Seabrook House**.

A successful film morning was held and a Bridge and Mah Jong Day planned, and later a Christmas Fair at Karinyup Shopping Centre.

A Volunteers Morning Tea was held when Long Service Certificates were presented to ladies who had worked in the Op Shop for over 20 years.

The Leonard Cheshire Memorial Awards will be made to disabled children to assist them to participate in music or other arts and activities. Six awards will be made which will benefit a number of young people who attend a special school for disabled students.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

At the Executive Meeting on 31st October, we were reminded that all requests for special projects should be referred to Jack Thurgar, President of the A.C.T. Foundation and National Projects Officer. Jack coordinates this program and it is important that we comply with this ruling. It does allow for a priority system of allocating funds for these special projects. And, of course, if a Foundation/Support Group is looking to raise funds for something special at Raphael, they can contact Jack for specific details.

POSTSCRIPT

I am always pleasantly surprised to receive letters "out of the blue", such as this one from Doris Boyd of Kadina in South Australia. Doris writes (8th October 1998):

The newspaper I work for, *The Yorke Peninsula Country Times*, aims to run a special Remembrance Day feature, on the birthday of my late Uncle, W.O. Ronald Howard Boyd, who was killed when his Lancaster was shot down over France during a raid on Maily Le Camp, in May 1944. The raid was led by Leonard Cheshire, and I thought it appropriate to mention the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation and the Cheshire Rose.

This very extensive article (centre double spread) appeared in *The Yorke Peninsula Country Times* on Tuesday 10 November 1998. And Doris did indeed mention the Foundation and the Leonard Cheshire Rose, for which we thank her.

Our own Ross Stanford also had some material on this particular raid and was happy to correspond with Keith Bailey, the journalist. I would be happy to provide a copy of this interesting story to anyone interested.



**SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE RYDER-CHESHIRE
FAMILY IN AUSTRALIA
AND MAY 1999 BRING PEACE TO ALL**

The next Newsletter will be issued in April 1999

Contributions in the form of articles and letters are welcome and should be sent to

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by 31st March 1999