



Ryder-Cheshire News

NEWSLETTER OF 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.

NATIONAL PATRON:- His Excellency Major-General Michael Jeffery, AC CVO MC (Retd)

Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia

ISSUE NUMBER 65 MARCH/APRIL 2006

REPORT OF THE 2006 NATIONAL BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

THE 2006 RYDER-CHESHIRE NATIONAL BIENNIAL
CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN IVANHOE IN MELBOURNE
ON 25 & 26 OF FEBRUARY.

The Centre Ivanhoe provided an excellent venue for the Conference at a very reasonable cost to the Foundation. It is the old Heidelberg Town Hall, a wonderfully preserved Art Deco building with many conference and function rooms.

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

We were fortunate to have guests from four overseas countries at the Conference - Air Marshal Brijesh and Mrs Manju Jayal from Raphael, Joaquim Soares from Klibur Domin, Dick and Sue Bird from the UK and Carolyn Tapley from NZ.

The Conference sessions on the Saturday and Sunday provide delegates and observers with a wonderful opportunity to have their say on where the Foundation is heading. Reports from the Foundations and Support Groups, from Raphael, Klibur Domin, Target TB (a sister organisation of Ryder-Cheshire in the UK) and from NZ provided an excellent background to these discussions.

The most important discussions related to the Constitution where agreement was reached to change the name to Ryder-Cheshire Australia Ltd and to become incorporated under Federal law as a company with limited liability. The draft Constitution will be fine tuned and the changes will occur in the next few weeks.

A very sad aspect of the Conference was the reading of the final report from the West Australian Foundation which will be winding up in the near future. Special thanks were recorded to Evelyn and Malcolm Petters and to others who had worked so hard with the WA Foundation over many decades.

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A FAR MORE PLEASING ISSUE WAS THE ADVICE THAT THE NEW RYDER-CHESHIRE HOME WILL OPEN IN MOUNT GAMBIER IN APRIL.

The national accounts showed that Ryder-Cheshire would remain financially viable into the future, especially as we have received a number of very generous bequests. Reports from Foundations revealing that we are more than achieving our target by keeping costs to a minimum with more than 98% of all monies raised going to those who are in need of our care.

Many excellent proposals on ways of improving our efforts were discussed. Our website (www.ryder-cheshire.org) is now active and being constantly improved. New brochures will be produced and the old technology videos of Raphael and Klibur Domin updated on to a DVD. Many ideas on how to improve fundraising were shared by delegates.

The Conference Dinner on Saturday evening was enjoyed by more than 60 people.

THE BALLARAT SUPPORT GROUP HAS OFFERED TO HOST THE NEXT BIENNIAL CONFERENCE IN 2008.

The Conference proved to be a great opportunity for people to refresh their enthusiasm and their commitment to the mission and values left to us by our Founders Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder.



Helen McKendrick of Victoria (left) and Barbara Lewis of New South Wales (right) at the Conference Dinner.

NEWS FROM TIMOR-LESTE

From Helen Trueman, Klibur Domin Support Person



Klibur Domin continues to be a busy home. Occupancy rates have been over 90%. On occasions patients have had to be accommodated in the activities block.

The types of patients that Klibur Domin have received include patients being treated for TB, fracture, cerebral palsy, amputation, mental illness, trauma, epilepsy and burns. **Most patients are referred by Hospital Naçional Guido Valadares (new name for Dili Hospital), Liquisa TB Clinic, Liquisa Hospital, Maliana Hospital and Nuns clinic at Bebonuk Dili.**

As mentioned in the previous edition of the Newsletter, **Isaura Da Silva** continues to be monitored for her cardiac condition. A visiting cardiac surgeon saw Isaura in Dili in early March and reports that her condition is stable at the moment. We will continue to liaise with the doctors about the best way to assist Isaura.

It is with sadness that I report the death of Augusto Soares, a resident of Klibur Domin. Augusto became unwell and was admitted to Dili Hospital, he died on the 4th of March. I was lucky enough to have the opportunity of meeting Augusto during my stay at Klibur Domin (*Dec 2002 to May 2003*). I remember him as a gentle, quiet man who spent long hours caring for his chickens or working in the vegetable garden. I feel confident that Klibur Domin enabled Augusto to lead a safe and happy last few years of his life.

Joaquim Soares (Home Manager) visited Melbourne for the Biennial Conference. This was a great opportunity for Joaquim to network with RCF members and supporters. **Carolyn Tapley, from RCF (Canterbury) New Zealand, offered to personally pay for the airfare for Joaquim to visit Raphael. This offer was received warmly as Joaquim has not been to Raphael before.** Our sincere thanks to Carolyn.

Whilst in Melbourne Joaquim also had a busy schedule with visits to the Rotary DIK Store, Yooralla Specialist School, Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre, Reservoir Rotary Village (aged care facility), the Mobility Centre Kew and the Independent Living Centre at Brooklyn.

Jane Shamrock has been appointed by Australian Volunteers International (AVI) as the project co-

ordinator for the Children Community Based Rehabilitation project, and also for the mobile TB team. Jane has previously worked in Timor-Leste with Timor Aid and she has also volunteered at Klibur Domin. We are pleased to welcome her back as co-ordinator of these two projects.

In March, five new staff commenced employment. Two staff are for the mobile TB program (one nurse and one assistant), two for the children community based rehabilitation project, and one is a carer to replace Gregorio Mendez who is now full time Home Supervisor and assistant to Joaquim Soares.

Three of these new staff will undertake training organised by the Spastic Centre of NSW. The Spastic Centre of NSW has also agreed to fund two of these positions. The funding will cover training for two years, and wages for these two staff for a further two years. We appreciate this very generous offer.



Home Manager Joaquim Soares addresses the Biennial Conference in Melbourne

CONTACT DETAILS **KLIBUR DOMIN TIBAR**
The Ryder-Cheshire Foundation
Klibur Domin Tibar, PO Dili
East Timor via Darwin
Home Manager Joaquim Soares
Telephone 0011 670 7233 488
E-Mail kd@east-timor.net

RYDER-CHESHIRE WEBSITES

Australia www.ryder-cheshire.org
India www.raphaelicare.org
East Timor www.klibur-domin.easttimor.net

MY THREE MONTHS AT KLIBUR DOMIN

By Chanelle Burns, Australian Volunteer.

When I started to tell people that I was planning on spending my summer university holidays volunteering in East Timor I was bombarded with excited, bewildered, shocked and just plain silly questions.

What are you going to do there? Is it dangerous? Why would you want to do that? Are you crazy? I myself did not entirely know the answers to all of these questions but I did know that I had a burning desire to do more than sit around for three months and a keen interest in a country that I only knew very little about.

Now, after three months in East Timor, living and volunteering at Klibur Domin, I can happily tell you that I am certainly not crazy, and that those three months gave me unforgettable smiles, friends, memories, tears, laughs, and lessons!

I arrived at Klibur Domin, not entirely sure of my ability and what I could offer, but more than willing to help in any way I could. It took some time to settle, as it always does in a new a foreign place, yet in no time I was taken into the family that is Klibur Domin and I really felt like I was at home.

My work while I was at Klibur Domin was broad and varied. Given the task of organising diversionary activities for patients and also the many children, I spent a lot of time playing ball games, assisting with physical therapy, going on walks and playing the much loved uno. I could never have predicted how popular one of my childhood favourite games would become, and yet now I am adept at it not only in English but also Tetum, the local language.

Beyond diversionary activities I also found myself helping out with practical and necessary tasks such as treating mosquito nets, utu (head lice) treatment, cleaning the clinic, and even helping out in the garden, which against my better judgment I thoroughly enjoyed. The diverse nature of the tasks I was involved with at Klibur Domin offered me an expansive view of just how much work goes into running a place like Klibur Domin and though I was lucky enough not get utu but unfortunate enough to be stung by a scorpion there wasn't a moment I didn't enjoy or a time that I would change.

My time in East Timor was not only spent working but also scuba diving and sightseeing as much as possible. The scuba diving in East Timor blew me away and if nothing else is worth visiting for. I saw the most phenomenal coral and sea life from simply walking off the shore into the ocean, a true highlight. Another highlight would have to be the trip myself and the other volunteers did to climb Mount Ramelau, the highest peak in East Timor. Not an easy walk but more than rewarding when we reached the top and I felt like I was on the top of the world and was able to see the north and south coast, truly spectacular!

Beyond the work, scuba and travel the thing that stands out

more than anything from my three months at Klibur Domin are the people! From the staff to the patients, to the children to random people I met on the street there wasn't a time where I felt unwelcome, unsafe or anything but at home. The staff and volunteers at Klibur Domin are an amazing bunch of people who I loved being able to work with, but more than anything I loved the friendships that I formed with them.

The children at Klibur Domin brightened every second of my day and I miss their smiling faces and crazy chatter above all else. My words don't do justice to how special the Timorese and most importantly those at Klibur Domin are, or how much it meant to me to be taken in and to be a part of their lives for a short time. **All I can really say is that my time in East Timor was made truly special and unforgettable because of those individuals and I thank them from the bottom of my heart.**

Being back in Australia and given the value of hindsight it's amazing to think back over the past months and realise how much one can learn and gain in such a short time. My three months at Klibur Domin not only gave me beautiful memories, new friends and crazy stories, but I feel that I've personally grown and learnt so much, lessons that are only gained in taking risks and can never ever be lost, and for that I'm eternally grateful.

So in conclusion all that I feel can be said is **obrigada barak**...thank you very much to those who made it possible for me to go to East Timor and to each and every individual who made my time so very special.



Chanelle, pictured above, with members of the team and residents at Klibur Domin

The Association gratefully acknowledges David Coath, of PROMPT DISTRIBUTION PTY LTD, West Heidelberg, Victoria, who most generously arranges and pays for the distribution of this Newsletter.

NEWS FROM RAPHAEL

from Meera Handa, Liaison Officer

Christmas was celebrated at Raphael – a picnic was organised in the grounds and a DJ was hired to provide music. All the residents attended and enjoyed themselves thoroughly, especially the children from LWH and Ava Vihar who could be seen dancing vigorously to the latest beats of Bollywood.

World Mental Day was observed on 8th December 2005. A special function was arranged at Ava Vihar. Children from special schools around Dehradun were invited along with friends and supporters of Raphael. Games such as 'Pin the Tail', 'Blow the Candle' and 'Break the Pot' were organized for the children. Prizes were awarded to the best performers. Not to be left out, the adults queued up in large numbers to try their luck at 'Hoopla' and 'Feed the Monster'.

On 1st March 2006, a seminar cum workshop entitled 'Trends in Disability Management' was held at Raphael. The purpose of the event was to bring together experts to discuss the current status of disability issues in India. **The chairperson of the Rehabilitation Council of India, Maj Gen Ian Cardozo, the Chief Secretary of Uttaranchal, Mr M Ramchandran and our own Maj Gen Ranbir Bakshi, Chairman Emeritus, all attended and gave the opening speeches.** The event was attended by almost 100 professionals and educators. Some of the topics that were discussed included 'The Role of Technology in the Education of Children', 'Inclusive Education in Uttaranchal' and 'Current Trends in Intervention'.

The vocational workshop at Ava Vihar and the Sheltered Workshop at Shiv Sadan were recently given a boost. A prominent Indian company that sells ethnic Indianwear, furniture, furnishings, etc has agreed to provide us with their technical expertise and advice to help improve the quality of our products namely our paper bags, gift wrapping paper and the fabric woven on our looms. The organisation will buy these products from us for sale in their shops all across India. This will be a wonderful opportunity for us market our products and help raise funds to further expand our workshops.

The festival of colour 'Holi', was celebrated at Raphael on 15th March 2006. This national holiday marks the end of winter and the advent of spring. It is celebrated with songs and dance and with everyone drenching each other with coloured water and powder – a messy, but fun affair.

The children of LWH are busy with the exams. This is the end of the academic year and all the children will be moving to higher classes in April. Our class 10 and

12 children are currently sitting for their State Board exams. This is a very tense period for these children. We have 6 children in Class 12 and if they all pass their exams, the next step will be vocational training. Of the six, the girls seem keen on Nursing while the boys are interested in Hotel Management and joining the Army.

Our Chairman Emeritus, Maj Gen Bakhshi is set to receive yet another accolade, this time from the Postmaster General's Office. **On 5th April 2005, Raphael's Founders Day, a 1st Day Cover will be issued commemorating General Bakhshi's 30 years of service to the 'Relief of Suffering'. This is another feather in the cap for the General in what is probably one of the most impressive records of service to humanity.**

Haik Sookias from the U.S. visited Raphael on 11th January 2006. Mr Sookias has a long association with India and we were very pleased that he took time out to visit us. He was very impressed with the work we are doing and has very kindly donated a substantial sum of money to Raphael. We are very grateful to Mr Sookias as this money comes at a very opportune time given the increasing activities of Raphael.

On 23rd March 2006, a group of IAS (Indian Administrative Services) officers paid us a visit to see first hand the different wings of Raphael. Disability issues form part of their course curriculum and we regularly receive visits from these officers who train at the **Lal-Bahadur Shastri National Academy in Mussoorie.**

Raphael's 47th Founders' Day will be observed on 5th April 2006. The day will be commemorated with a special programme featuring skits and musical performances by the children from LWH and Ava Vihar. The children are currently busy rehearsing for the day. **Friends and supporters of Raphael will of course be present and we hope this year to have Hon N D Tiwari, Chief Minister of Uttaranchal as our Chief Guest. The Chief Postmaster General of Uttaranchal Circle, Mrs Suneeta Trivedi will also be attending.**



Air-Marshall Brijesh Jayal at the Biennial Conference in Melbourne with Mr John Landy, Governor of Victoria and Patron of Ryder-Cheshire, Victoria

Our Chairman, Air Marshal Brijesh Jayal and Mrs Jayal attended the Biennial Conference in Melbourne held during 24-26 February 2006. Prior to the conference they visited Sydney, Auckland and Christchurch. In each of these cities and during the conference in Melbourne, they were very warmly received by Ryder Cheshire and Raphael supporters and had the opportunity to share views and ideas. They return with glowing tributes to the warm hospitality and affection that they received throughout their visit and enriched by the many friendships made.

RAPHAEL RYDER-CHESHIRE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

CHAIRMAN: Air Marshal BD Jayal PVSM AVSM VM (Retd)

Postal address: PO Box 157, Dehradun, Uttaranchal, India 248 001

CHAIRMAN EMERITUS: Maj-Gen R Bakhshi MC (Retd)

DIRECTOR: Brigadier AA Sinha SM (Retd)

E-Mail raphael_ddn@sancharnet.in **Tel** 0091-135-2674901

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

From Margaret Blaber – Secretary

THE BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

President Patricia Frith and **Adoptions Secretary Judith Bonfiglioli** represented South Australia at the Biennial Conference in Melbourne in February. *Patricia reported -*

"It was my first visit to the Ivanhoe home. Carers, Margaret and Jane gave me a warm welcome, as did the Melbourne weather. The garden and grounds were in tranquil shape and a Leonard Cheshire Rose bloom in the room. **Caring Friends** indeed! At the Conference opening, **Governor John Landy** was introduced by National President, Don Sinclair. I was interested in the Governor's working life, in agriculture and literary work "Close to Nature". I only knew his sporting story. **The Conference opened with Don Sinclair reading a letter from Maj-Gen Rummy Bakhshi with greetings and gratitude to all and blessings and good wishes for the future.** The venue had excellent facilities and staff for a smooth harmonious gathering. Many thanks for the work of Victorian Homes and the Victorian committee. **Highlights for me included Hugh Elphinstone (Ballarat)** with fresh energy and new ideas for fundraising and targeting the younger generation; **Joaquim Soares' maturity as Manager at Klibur Domin and the sad closure of the WA Foundation.** All of these reinforcing the bonds of our Founders as we worked through a new Constitution. **There was good interaction with overseas guests: Carolyn Tapley (New Zealand); Air Marshal Jayal (Chairman, Raphael); Dick Bird (U.K. Target TB); and Joaquim Soares (Timor Leste).** **CONGRATULATIONS TO MT. GAMBIER** in the devoted effort of preparing the "House" for the official opening on April 20th and still continuing with generous financial support for the SA Foundation".

OTHER NEWS

The scheduled BBQ on 22nd January, sponsored by the Lions Club of the City of Adelaide had to be cancelled – it was felt it was TOO HOT (40 degree plus). However, it is hoped to reschedule this function for later in the year.

OUR REGULAR FILM/AFTERNOON TEA TAKES PLACE ON SUNDAY 23RD APRIL. The film chosen is "Millions", one of those quirky British Films; flyers with more details are being sent out to all members.

Our hardworking Barbara Phillips will once again be organising her **AFTERNOON QUIZ in September.** Further details will be provided in the July Newsletter.

AT THE BIENNIAL (l to r) Bernard Bradbury, Dorothy Carpenter and Olive Lamont from Ballarat Support Group and Hugh Elphinstone from Bendigo Support Group.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

from Dennis Sleigh

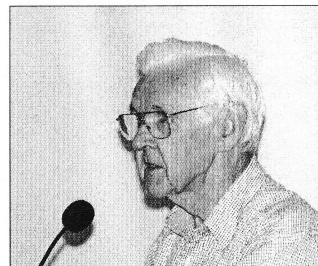
At the March meeting of the ACT Ryder-Cheshire Foundation, an election was held to fill the vacancy created by the recent departure of former President, Shirley Williams, who has returned to the United States. Dennis Sleigh agreed to stand in as Acting President until the completion of the Annual General meeting in May.

Patricia McDonell, recently returned from Klibur Domin, attended the meeting and spoke about her two years at our Home. She also showed a power point presentation of life in Timor Leste. Patricia has been lined up to deliver a number of talks to local Service Clubs and other groups. Her enthusiasm for the work, her knowledge of the conditions under which the Home operates, and her easy communication style all ensure that she will be winning supporters for the program.

A decision has been made to augment the work of the Canberra Charity Christmas Card shop with sales in various Government departments this year. It is hoped last year's massive efforts, led by Beth Stone and resulting in the sale of all our cards, will be repeated.

Margaret, Dennis and Anne-Maree Sleigh reported on the recent Biennial Conference, sharing with our members some of the enthusiasm and creativity experienced there.

We are continuing our informal relationship with Canberra Friends of Dili and we anticipate that there will be further benefits from this interaction.



AT THE BIENNIAL
(left) National President Don Sinclair and (below) Carolyn Tapley of RCF (Canterbury) NZ.



NEWS FROM THE STATES

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

In the November 2005 Newsletter, we reported the closure of Barbara Seabrook House. The WA Foundation had struggled through the previous twelve months to continue operating but other facilities could offer more than a small charity could manage. Occupancy was dwindling which made costs begin to overtake income, as more medical and hospital procedures are now available in country hospitals. The House closed on 31st October 2005.

We had enjoyed a very fruitful and harmonious relationship with the owners of the property, (the Royal Perth Hospital) and when the House closed the furniture and effects were donated to the Hospital for continued use at the House. The House will retain the name of "Barbara Seabrook House" and the hospital intend to use it to assist rehabilitating country patients who are being treated at the nearby hospital.

At the **Annual General Meeting in April 2005, Malcolm Petters**, for health reasons, resigned as President and had written to members seeking their help in keeping the Foundation operating. **Professor Desmond O'Connor**, a previous President, took up the challenge and as elected President sought to revive the Foundation. But despite recruiting several new members to Council, 2005 saw no fund raising functions held due to lack of helpers and after the closure of the House in October 2005, it seemed inevitable that the Foundation would follow.

At the Council Meeting held on 24th January 2006, Councillors voted to recommend to members the winding up of the Foundation in Western Australia and to seek legal assistance in following the correct protocols. This was done with great regret and nostalgia, but the reality was that it could not continue to operate unless a new committee came forward.

In February a letter was sent to all members and supporters advising them of the situation and inviting anyone who objected to the winding up to specifically put themselves forward for election to a position on the Committee. Unfortunately there was no response to this request.

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the Foundation has now been called for 7th May 2006 to consider a Special Resolution to wind up the WA Foundation. This Special Meeting will be preceded by the Annual General Meeting.

Over its 36 years of operation, the WA Foundation has been very active, but many of its members are now quite elderly and not able to continue in an active role or attend meetings and functions. There is no-one to replace retiring office bearers and for the past several years it has not been possible to maintain a full quota of Council Members. In the past many social functions had been held, of which Film Mornings and Bridge Days were a regular feature. Also the Foundation operated a number of Opportunity Shops throughout the Perth Metro area for many years. Sales of cards were a lucrative form of fund raising, but in latter years selling outlets have not been available due to changes in business operations of Banks and Medical practices.

Visits from Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder over the years hold a special place in the hearts of many and our Founders were always received with great affection. These visits included social gatherings, radio interviews and visits to schools. It was a great privilege to

have Lady Sue Ryder open the Barbara Seabrook House in 1991 and for her to return again in 1998 to open the extensions to the House and also to attend the Biennial Conference, that year hosted by WA. Likewise a visit from Maj General Bakhshi in 1996 is well remembered by many and also the visits from Patsy Wright Warren of Ryder-Cheshire UK.

WA played a pivotal role in the setting up of Klibur Domin in 1999 when the first volunteers to go to East Timor were from West Australia. Since then a number of WA Volunteers have spent time there and we thank them all for their contribution and commitment. We are pleased to have contributed to the formation of what is now a great success and congratulate those who have so tirelessly carried it forward.

WA is proud of its achievements spanning its 36 years and feels great sadness at the end of an era. Our work has touched the lives of many, both locally and overseas, and we feel proud that we have done our utmost to carry forward the vision and work of our Founders.

For those of our members who wish to continue their Sponsorships and support for the work of Ryder-Cheshire, arrangements can be made for their memberships to be handled by the South Australian Foundation. Our President will be writing to all members and will provide full details.

RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATION (WA) INC

Notice of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held

at **The Lions Eye Institute**

Verdun Street Nedlands

ON SUNDAY 7TH MAY 2006

commencing at 3.00 pm

To be immediately followed at 3.30 pm

by a

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

called for by

Members of the Foundation

to consider the winding up

of the Foundation in Western Australia

**NOTICES AND DETAILS OF BOTH OF
THESE MEETINGS HAVE BEEN MAILED
TO ALL WA MEMBERS**

Evelyn Petters WA Hon Secretary

Telephone 9349 5043

E-Mail petters@jinet.net.au

NEWS FROM THE STATES

VICTORIA

from Anthea Swann, Honorary Secretary

There have been a few changes to our Committee structure since the November report. Regretfully the Committee has accepted resignations from Robyn Larking and John Aldridge. Robyn has been on the Committee for four years since she returned from three months as Manager of Klibur Domin in 2001. She has brought wisdom to deliberations of the Committee. John's involvement has been shorter but none-the-less valuable, with his accounting and business skills. The Committee extends warm thanks and good wishes to Robyn and John.

2005 concluded as usual with a very relaxing and pleasant evening of Christmas Drinks at Helen McKendrick's home, shared with our Ivanhoe Home counterparts.

The venue for Committee meetings has been transferred to a member's home in Camberwell, which is more central and equitable in terms of travel. In order to spread the work more evenly we now have nominated positions for Public Relations (Peter McConnell), and Event Co-ordination (Penny Connolly), and the streamlining benefits are already evident. Sponsorships have been divided into Raphael and Klibur Domin (Helen Newton and Helen Trueman respectively). As our committee contains a number of regular long distance travellers, this dispersal of responsibility makes things easier when members are away for prolonged periods of time.

The Victorian Foundation and the Victorian Homes Foundation combined to form the Planning Sub-Committee for the recent Biennial Conference. It has been a stimulating, and with the successful conclusion of the Conference, a satisfying process. **Our warm thanks to the Ivanhoe Home members of that team who were a pleasure to work with.** All Victorian Committee members were actively involved with tasks around the Conference, and all those available participated in the working sessions and social functions. It has been a unifying experience for us as a group.

Ballarat and Bendigo Support Groups continue to provide stalwart support in their different but ever-reliable ways. **We congratulate Ballarat on undertaking to host the 2008 Biennial Conference.** It will be a challenging and exciting period for them.

Fundraising continued in spite of distractions and other demands on our resources. A Bridge Day in November netted over \$1,100, and two further weeks in December and January, staffing the Mt Waverley Lions Club Op Shop, each achieved about \$1000. We have another Op Shop week scheduled for late March, and a couple more in coming months.

Supporters please note we greatly need more assistants to work in the Op Shop, as a roster for one week requires twenty people each to do a four hour shift. Please give your serious consideration to doing a session next time we are compiling a

roster. It's not hard, it's interesting, and it's fun! Organisation is best done well in advance,

If you can give some time, please contact Penny Connolly on 9634 5983, NOW!

Goods for sale, and of course customers, are also needed.

Sales of Gift Certificates are improving as more people get to know of them.

Special mention should also be made of Christmas Card sales which have risen steadily since 2000 when 9,000 were sold, to 2005 when we reached sales of 31,000!

A terrific achievement which reflects an extraordinary amount of hard and smart work by **Helen Newton.**

Coming Events for Melbourne Supporters

19 APRIL BRIDGE DAY

Uniting Church Hall,
603 Toorak Road, Toorak.
11.00am to 3.00pm
\$25 per person,
includes lunch, a glass of wine,
and other beverages.
Booking essential.
Contact Helen or Peter Newton
Tel 9894 3191

24 MAY FILM NIGHT

The Da Vinci Code
6.45 pm at the
Palace Cinema, 233 Whitehorse Rd, Balwyn
\$20 per person, all inclusive.
Sparkling wine and nibbles
served from 6.00pm.
Booking essential.
Contact Penny Connolly
Tel 9634 5983

BALLARAT SUPPORT GROUP
meetings are held regularly
every fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

Please contact our Secretary
Mrs Janice Cook {Ph 03-5331 8898}
for further information

NEWS FROM THE STATES

NEW SOUTH WALES

From Jayne Robinson, President.

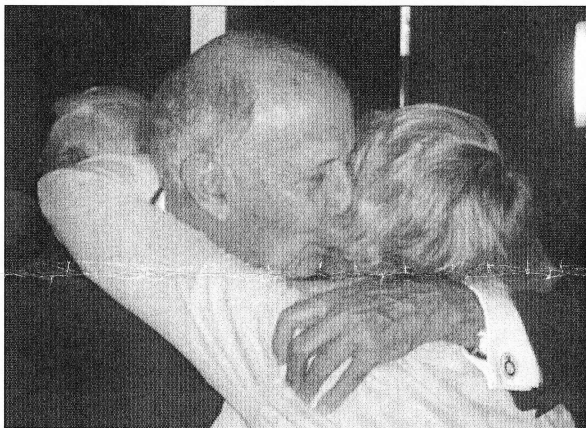
Here we are again well into the year 2006. Thanks to you, our loyal members, who support the sale of our Christmas cards every year, we once again had a very rewarding fund raising effort, ably led by Maureen Murphy and her band of willing helpers. **There is a beautiful selection of Greetings Cards for all occasions available throughout the year at some outlets or on request.**

A number of our NSW volunteer committee members recently attended the Ryder Cheshire Foundation Biennial Meeting held in Melbourne. This meeting gives every State committee an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas and gather enthusiasm for the work that is done. It was a very enjoyable positive meeting and we came away feeling inspired and proud to belong to The Ryder Cheshire Foundation working together to assist those in need.

The volunteer committee of The Ryder Cheshire Foundation NSW hold meetings about every three months and we would welcome anybody to join us in this worthwhile cause. For more information you can contact us at our registered office

THE NEXT FUNDRAISING EVENT WE ARE DUE TO HOLD IS A DINNER ON 6TH MAY 2006. THE VENUE IS ST IGNATIUS COLLEGE, RIVERVIEW, SYDNEY.

If anyone is interested in attending or even bringing your own group of ten people, **please contact Jayne Robinson, Tel 02 9489 5589.**



AT THE BIENNIAL *Barbara Lewis of New South Wales promoting good relationships for Ryder-Cheshire in greeting her childhood neighbour, John Landy, the Governor of Victoria and Patron of the Victoria Ryder-Cheshire Foundation.*

RYDER-CHESHIRE WEBSITES

Australia www.ryder-cheshire.org
India www.raphaelicare.org
East Timor www.klibur-domin.east timor.net

RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATIONS IN AUSTRALIA

Australian Capital Territory

Acting President Dennis Sleigh
Telephone 02 6258 3470
email dwsleigh@tpg.com.au

Ballarat Support Group

President Bernard Bradbury
Telephone 03 5330 1556
E-Mail bradv@netconnect.com.au

Bendigo Support Group

President Hugh Elphinstone
Telephone 03 5443 1163
E-Mail hugh_elphinstone@hotmail.com

Mt Gambier Support Group

Secretary Di McEwen
Telephone 08 8725 2453
E-Mail diane.mce@internode.on.net

New South Wales

President Jayne Robinson
Telephone 02 9489 5589
E-Mail jaynearobinson@hotmail.com

South Australia

Secretary Margaret Blaber
Telephone 08 8363 4584
E-Mail mblaber@adam.com.au

Victoria

President Peter Newton
Telephone 03 9894 3191
E-Mail peter.newton@ryder-cheshire.org

Victoria

Ivanhoe Ryder-Cheshire Home
12-14 Donaldson Street, Ivanhoe, VIC 3079
Telephone (Ivanhoe Home) 03 9254 2400
Secretary Jill Moor
Telephone 03 9853 7442
E-Mail pics@bigpond.com

Western Australia

Hon Secretary Evelyn Petters
Tel 08 9349 5043.
E-Mail petters@inet.net.au

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

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Newsletter coordinated by Chris Lopez, SA. Tel (08 8322 1833)
Edited and produced by Evelyn Petters, WA. Tel (08 9349 5043)

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State reports, photos and other contributions for the

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Chris Lopez mlop2429@bigpond.net.au
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