



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 66 JULY 2006

GREETINGS FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

I was delighted to officially open the new Ryder-Cheshire Mount Gambier Home on 20 April 2006. This occasion marked the culmination of efforts by local people over many years to establish this facility in their community, and the new home for five young women is a tribute to all concerned. The cold, wet and very windy day was more than compensated for by the warm and happy atmosphere inside the new building.

As I write this report I am very conscious of the turmoil in Timor Leste and the widespread destruction involved. To the present we are delighted to report that Klibur Domin remains intact and is continuing to operate in very difficult circumstances, including caring for refugees. Our prayers have certainly been answered during the past weeks.

Peter Newton provided a very comprehensive report in the last newsletter on our Biennial Conference in February. The conference was very enjoyable and I am sure that members of all Foundations have been re-invigorated in their commitment to continuing the mission of our Founders.

The members of the new "Ryder-Cheshire Australia", will be the member Foundations and the President of each Foundation will be an ex-officio director of the company. The new structure will not affect the current operations of the individual Foundations, but provides a legal framework necessary to secure our not-for-private charitable status and facilitate future national policy directions.

I was sorry to learn of the imminent winding-up of the Western Australian RCF after many years of wonderful service to our cause and to the people of WA through Barbara Seabrook House. I pay particular tribute to the efforts of Evelyn and Malcolm Petters over many years, and also to all individuals in West Australia who supported our mission

I am delighted that the Ballarat Support Group has offered to host our 2008 Biennial Conference. The combination of the enthusiasm of our Ballarat sup-

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porters and the visitor attractions of Ballarat will guarantee a wonderful event. The Ballarat group have already met with the organising committee of our February Meeting and planning is well underway.

Following my visit to 'Raphael' last year, I investigated the possibility of organising a group visit for Ryder-Cheshire members and friends to 'Raphael' and India. A detailed program and costing is finalised and will be circulated to all Foundations soon. The program is scheduled during late February/early March 2007 and will be around 14 days, *with visits to Delhi, Dehra Dun, Jaipur, Agra, Varanasi and Mumbai.* At Dehra Dun our program will be sponsored by 'Raphael', and in addition to local visits participants will also include an opportunity to visit the new 'Raphael outreach projects' in rural villages. Those interested could extend their visit to India or continue on to further destinations.

In my role as President of the Victorian Homes, I have recently been heavily involved in the project to install an elevator in one of our buildings to improve access for residents with mobility problems.

The Victorian Homes will celebrate their Silver Jubilee with a Garden Party

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 TIMOR-LESTE

From Peter Newton, Project Officer, Klibur Domin.



The period since our last Newsletter has been extremely difficult for the staff, volunteers, patients and residents at Klibur Domin.

Readers will have followed the events in East Timor

since the sacking of 600 Army personnel in March and the subsequent violence, killings, rampaging and arson that have thrown this new nation into chaos not seen since September 1999. The village of Tibar, adjacent to Klibur Domin, was the site of one of the major battles between the "petitioners" or rebel soldiers and the supposedly loyal forces in late May. It is understood that 8 or 9 people were killed in Tibar during this battle.

Jane Shamrock, a volunteer at the home, describes the action in an article on Page 3. Despite being surrounded by gunfire and explosions, Klibur Domin escaped any damage to its infrastructure, vehicles and equipment. More importantly, none of the patients, residents, staff or volunteers were injured, notwithstanding that many will have been seriously traumatised and will need months to fully recover their emotional well being.

The fact that Klibur Domin continued to operate throughout the troubles was a great tribute to the dedication of the staff and volunteers. Not only did they continue their care of the patients and residents, but they also provided assistance to a growing number of refugees who had fled Dili. This activity was still underway at the time of writing of this article.

On one occasion during the height of the two day battle, when I was able to make phone contact with the volunteers at Klibur Domin, I could hear the gunfire in the background. I asked what they were doing at the time and was amazed to hear that they had just finished physiotherapy and other normal duties were being performed.

Shortly after the height of the crisis, two Australian volunteers were evacuated, but three others decided not to leave the Home as they considered that the situation had improved and that their tasks were too important. Unquestionably this helped the Home to continue running smoothly and probably stopped any possibility of looting by local disaffected youths.

Of great concern were the death threats made to Joaquim, the Home Manager, and Alberto, the Nurse, and to a number of patients. These were no doubt as a result of the friction between those from the east and those from the west of East Timor. Joaquim, Alberto and the threatened patients all came from the east while Tibar village is 15 kilometres west of Dili. Hopefully this divide on geographical lines will settle as the political situation stabilises.

Patricia McDonnell, who has spent more than 30 months at the

Home and who had only returned at the end of December, has made a 10 day visit to assess the situation and advise on what help is needed from the Foundations in Australia. We remain ready to provide whatever assistance is sought, within our resource limitations. Included in this will be food, clothing, household and personal items needed by those who have lost everything in the arson and vandalism. Already, Ryder-Cheshire volunteers in Melbourne have been involved in loading containers with humanitarian aid and more is planned in the near future.

I am sure that many supporters will be extremely disappointed that this crisis has occurred and most will not be able to understand how some small elements of the East Timorese society could be party to such violence. We must all remember however that the majority of East Timorese are peace loving people who were the victims of the violent few. They have suffered and need our help once again.

Many readers will recall that shortly after the problems of September 1999, the Foundation became aware of a 13 year old girl who needed major heart surgery if she was to survive the next 12 months. **Isaura Da Silva** was brought to Melbourne and successfully operated on at the Monash Medical Centre. Isaura is now 19 and will be returning to Melbourne shortly for a follow up operation. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and with all who are suffering as a result of the recent violence.

CONTACT **KLIBUR DOMIN TIBAR**
DETAILS The Ryder-Cheshire Foundation
Klibur Domin Tibar, PO Box 453 Dili
East Timor via Darwin
Home Manager Joaquim Soares
Telephone 0011 670 7233 488
E-Mail kd@east-timor.net

Stop Press!

Future editions of this Newsletter will be available by e-mail (in PDF format) for those who would prefer to receive it that way.

Just send an e-mail to iandaswann@bigpond.com giving the email address to which you would like it sent, saying **'Ryder-Cheshire Newsletter'**, plus your name and postal address.

Everyone else will continue to receive the Newsletter via Australia Post.

KLIBUR DOMIN AND THE TIBAR INCIDENT

Jane Shamrock is an Australian volunteer Occupational Therapist who works at Klibur Domin. Jane was selected by Australian Volunteers International (AVI) to be the Project Coordinator for the Children with Disabilities Outreach Project and the Mobile TB Outreach Project. She commenced work at the end of February 2006 on an 18 month assignment but was evacuated on 29th May. Jane will return to Klibur Domin as soon as the security situation in East Timor allows her safe return.

I was a volunteer at Klibur Domin for the first part of 2006 and left East Timor on 29th May following several weeks of violence in Dili and the surrounding areas.

On the afternoon of **Monday 22nd May** I went to Dili to take an opportunity of a gap in my schedule to complete some banking. As I returned past the usually sleepy intersection at Tibar, (12 kms from Dili where the road divides to either Liquica or Ermera) I was surprised to see groups of youths standing in the road with a large man wielding a pistol in the centre of the group. I wound down my car windows to look as harmless as possible and was waved on.

The following day another volunteer passed through the intersection and was asked to get out of the car and be scrutinised by the now very large group of young men, armed with knives, spears, bows and arrows or guns. She was allowed to continue after an inspection of the vehicle.

The following morning at about 7.30 am all of us at Klibur Domin became aware of gunshots. We heard single shots, rapid fire and later in the morning the thud of heavier weaponry. The sound of gunfire stopped for about 1 1/2 hours at lunch time then started up again and continued until very late into the night. We heard rumours that the gunfight was designed to make an impression so that international forces would come in to help the deteriorating faction disputes between the military and the police in East Timor.

We also heard that there were two gun-boats in Tibar bay and that these were firing on the surrounding hills. We heard that these boats belonged to the Falintil who were firing on the 'petitioners', the so-called 'rebel' group of the army from the west of the country, where Klibur Domin is situated.

The following day the fighting continued though there seemed to be none of the heavy sounds which we had learnt to associate with the gun-boats. By evening the gun-shots had almost stopped. Over the following days most of the non-essential activities at Klibur Domin had stopped. **By now Dili was burning and the international troops were arriving.** The Hercules aircraft could be heard circling around and around the city. People concentrated on helping Timorese locate missing family members and provide food to various refugees. By Saturday a rhythm was developing to our days and I was able to have a planning meeting with the staff from the Community Based Rehabilitation project in anticipation of a return to more normal activities. During this time there were four volunteer women working at Klibur Domin. **As one of these four volunteers, I was able to see first hand how the Timorese handled this very stressful and demanding situation.**

At the time of the 'Tibar Incident', (which received very little mention in the local press,) the Timorese manager of Klibur Domin and his family had already left as he is from the East of East Timor. He and his family as well as other staff and patients from the east of the country had received death threats two weeks previously.

During the beginning of the gunfight the cooks were rightfully terrified. We foreigners bumbled around with the meal preparation, the cooks reappeared and from then on meals were always prepared on time. As

some of the staff had disappeared the cooks appreciated a bit of extra help at times, especially as obtaining food became a problem. As many patients as possible were sent home and others ran away so that the pressure of care was reduced as much as possible. At the time I left there were only 7 patients in Klibur Domin.

At one stage a group of young men came into the compound, sat on the ground and began chatting about what goods they would take when the foreigners ran away. They were sent away by the staff and their names were given to the village chief.

By about Friday the events known as the "Great Chook Incident" occurred. People coming up the road from the Tibar intersection reported that Tibar itself was full of chooks. The prevailing story was that battery chook sheds in Tibar were owned by a member of the Falintil who definitely would not be reappearing for a long time. Someone released the chooks as they were unable to get food for themselves. Locals began scooping up chooks, loading them into boxes and barrows, hanging them on bicycles, draping them over the backs of trucks, finally people from surrounding districts began appearing to do the same. **That evening there was an atmosphere of contented calm in Tibar as people began cooking and eating their chooks. The following day the last of the chooks could be seen being carried away on bicycles or draped over the front of mini-buses.**

Klibur Domin, as usual seemed to be seen as a sanctuary and a resource. There were requests for help to supply food for the hundreds of refugees in the homes of friends or family or in the hills around Tibar. There were many requests to use the phone to look for family members missing in Dili or to see if homes in Dili had been damaged in the riots.

After the fighting in Dili on 28th April thousands of Timorese had abandoned their homes and fled to the hills, many to the Tibar area. Klibur Domin staff soon began counting and collecting names of refugees in the Tibar valley. The list was constantly being up-dated. This was long before authorities in other districts began attempting head-counting to facilitate food aid in their own areas.

It was a particularly frightening time, however Klibur Domin continued to carry out its core business despite the atmosphere of intense uncertainty. This solidarity was helped by firm leadership from the **Chefe Suco and the Chefe Aldea, the local village chiefs.** It was a frightening experience but heartening to see the solid goodness, strength and dignity of the local staff.

I was unable to leave Klibur Domin on the flights planned by AVI (Australian Volunteers International) who are funding my placement at Klibur Domin. This was because the road to the airport was blocked in several places and there was rioting along a section of road. A week later I was able to take an opportunity to leave and went back to Darwin in one of the Hercules aircraft.

Jane Shamrock, Volunteer Project Coordinator

MEMORIES OF LEONARD CHESHIRE

from Maj Gen Ranbir Bakhshi, Chairman Emeritus, Raphael International Centre, Dehra Dun.

In recalling events in his 17 years association with "Gods Own Couple" and the achievements at Raphael during his 30 years of service there, Gen Bakhshi reflects on his last poignant meeting with Leonard Cheshire. To support his account he has made use of the last letters which both Sue and Leonard wrote to him in 1992.

In April 1992 Michael Humfrey, Director, Ryder-Cheshire Foundation UK, gave us shocking news that Leonard was diagnosed suffering from Motor Neurone Disease and that he had decided to visit Raphael from 21st to 25th May 1992.

Leonard accompanied by his family and a special nurse, arrived in Dehra Dun on 21st May by helicopter. A special surgical bed for him to sit and sleep on was collected from Delhi. I was shocked to see the state Leonard was in for he could not stand without support.



During his stay, he visited every wing of Raphael mostly in a wheel chair and he even attended a community lunch.

On 25th May while leaving the Helipad, Leonard made me stop the car near to Raphael's main gate and almost fell out of the car to kiss the land and said "Rummy the service this Centre is rendering to disabled made me internationally known!" Those who had gathered there to say good-bye could not hold back tears.

On May 26th I was relieved to receive the following message by fax from Sue which read "Landed punctually at 5.00 a.m. after smooth flight and returned home safely. We both feel deeply moved by the great kindness, warmth of your welcome and

generosity that it is extremely difficult for us to express our gratitude in words to you, and indeed everyone who took such infinite care at Raphael in making the superb arrangements. Neither of us will ever forget the few days we were with you. Please convey to all our friends our deepest love, prayers and thoughts. May God bless you all. Sadly Leonard's health is deteriorating and he feels even weaker" (from Lady Sue Ryder)

Leonard's Last Letter to Raphael

"Of all that I have been privileged to write over the past thirty three years, I don't think any has as much meaning for me as this one. Would only that words could convey the true feelings of one's heart. **To begin with** there was the immense trouble that you all took in making the many complicated arrangements to provide everything I needed in my rather weakened physical condition. I doubt whether even the army with all its resources and training could have done better and you made it all so easy and comfortable for me. I cannot thank you enough. **Then, a mutual hope that I doubted ever would be fulfilled,** we came as a family and have hardly stopped talking about it each time we are all together. **In a very real way this seemed to highlight the remarkable family that, with all its diverse elements, Raphael is.** Also, Jeromy and Gigi will come out in Mum and Dad's place if we cannot ourselves. On each visit you've given us a truly wonderful welcome, whose memory lives on with me in a very personal way, but this one moved all of us more than I can ever say and the experience of being with you those three days has made me feel closer to you than I would ever have believed possible. **Like the beautiful blossoms outside the TB Ward, Raphael is a tree whose roots are growing deeper and whose branches will continue spreading to bring shelter and inner joy to those in need and to those who so devotedly and generously come to help meet that need.**

MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS AND PROTECT YOU AND ALL IN DISTANT LANDS WHO WORK OR SUPPORT YOU IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

*Leonard Cheshire
24th June 1992*

Leonard Cheshire died on 31 July 1992

NEWS FROM RAPHAEL

Excerpts from the Raphael May 2006 Newsletter

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

The inimitable General celebrated his 95th birthday on the 1st April 2006 with the residents and staff of Raphael and distributed sweets to all the wings. He cut his birthday cake with his wife Shobha at his side. On 20th April General Bakhshi had a fall on the golf course. We are happy to advise that after a week at the Military Hospital he is now back home.

AVA VIHAR

We now have a strength of 48 residents and 67 students in the Day Centre. The curriculum for the children is being revised to make it more functional to train them to be more self sufficient and independent. The children are learning domestic skills like cooking, gardening and washing their own clothes, and they all seem to enjoy these new activities. Living arrangements have been made age-wise and efforts are being made to see that the residents become independent and acquire self care skills. At present all can eat and brush their teeth independently.

LITTLE WHITE HOUSE

Girls who have appeared for their board exams are interested in further vocational training. The Armed Forces and Nursing seem to be popular choices although we are trying to motivate them into other fields of vocations. Some of them have shown interest in hotel management, computer training, fashion designing and tailoring. We are hoping that some of our current sponsors, prospective donors and well wishers overseas and in India would be generous and consider supporting them financially.

FOUNDERS DAY

On the 5th April Raphael celebrated its 48th Founders Day with immense pride and joy. At a large gathering comprising of Raphael supporters, friends, well wishers and senior bureaucrats, the Chairman, Air Marshal Brijesh Jayal, marked the occasion by recounting the visionary goal and dedication of our Founders, Group Captain Leonard Cheshire and his wife Sue Ryder, in the service of those suffering from pain, disability and neglect of any kind. He paid warm tributes to these two humanitarians whom we believe to be the Foundations pillar of Raphael along with no less a personage than our Chairman Emeritus, Major General Ranbir Bakhshi in whose hands the two left the helm of Raphael. Without a doubt, the legacy that they left behind has carried on in the able hands of the General.

The General's 33 years of zeal, dedication and selfless service to the "relief of suffering" have not gone unrecognised. To add to the numerous awards and accolades from many organisations and the Government he was honoured once again. The Chief Post Master General of Uttaranchal, Mrs Suneeta Trivedi who came as the chief guest, paid tribute to Raphael and General Bakhshi for his selfless service in the field of disability. As Abraham Lincoln once said - "In the end it is not the

years in your life that count, it is the life in your years". This day was indeed significant for us.

The Chief Guest (Mrs Sureet Trivedi) in her address lauded Raphael for fulfilling the vision of its Founders. She stressed on the importance of compassion and charity and of being able to care for the disabled to alleviate suffering. She hoped that other charitable institutions would look up to Raphael as an example of selfless service to humanity.

PROJECT OFFICER RAPHAEL

During the 13th Biennial Conference of the Australian Association of Ryder-Cheshire Foundations, **Ms Melody Smythe** was elected Project Officer, Raphael. We look forward to working with her on our future projects and welcoming her at Raphael.

We extend our most grateful thanks to her predecessor, **Wing Commander Barney Fernandes** who worked tirelessly during his tenure as Raphael Projects Officer for over five years and for his support of Raphael.

BEQUEST

Ms Kathleen Marion Solomon who passed away in Australia on 30th March 2004 left a generous bequest to Raphael. In her memory, the sum of money has been placed in a Corpus called "**Kathleen Marion Solomon Endowment Fund**".

WELCOME TO THE NEW LIAISON OFFICER

Urvashi Kumari has recently taken up the part time position of Liaison Officer. Urvashi has known General Bakhshi for over twenty years and has been a long time supporter of Raphael. Urvashi will also be assisting Mrs Nita Roy.

RAPHAEL RYDER-CHESHIRE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

Maj-Gen R Bakhshi MC (Retd)

CHAIRMAN

Air Marshal BD Jayal PVSM AVSM VM (Retd)

DIRECTOR

Brigadier AA Sinha SM (Retd)

Head of Special Education Mrs Priyo Lall

Medical Superintendent Col (Dr) J P Gupta

Medical Officer Dr D S Rawat

Manager Finance Mrs Shalini Sabharwal

Manager Admin Mrs Nita Roy

Coordinator Mrs Neeru Ahuja

Liaison/Admin Officer Mrs Urvashi Kumari

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

E-Mail raphael_ddn@sancharnet.in

Tel 0091-135-2674901

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

From Margaret Blaber, Secretary.

The **36th Annual General Meeting** of the Foundation was held in May. All officers were re-elected, as were committee members, except for Bridie Howard. Bridie has been with the Foundation almost since its inception, but is now well over 80, and rather frail. We thank her for her past dedication and wish her well in her nursing home.

In her report President Patricia Frith stated that the Foundation continues to maintain its commitment to Raphael and Klibur Domin, and hopes this will continue well into the future. **Now the South Australia Foundation has willingly undertaken to handle the subscriptions and sponsorships from members of the WA Foundation, which sadly has had to cease operations.**

Patricia also stated that the SA committee were proud to be involved (although in a small way) in the completion of the Mount Gambier Home project. This is now up and running and committee members from the South Australia Foundation were delighted to attend the official opening.

In conclusion, Patricia thanked her committee and all the sponsors and supporters in South Australia who have contributed to the success of the Foundation and gave a warm welcome to supporters from West Australia. Patricia also gave a brief outline of past achievements and future aspirations.

OTHER NEWS As with all supporters of Ryder-Cheshire we were disturbed by recent events in East Timor, and pray that these troubles will end soon. Thanks to Helen Trueman for keeping us informed.

FUNDRAISING IN 2006 - Unfortunately Barbara Phillips will not be able to organise her successful Quiz/Afternoon Tea this year. Barbara has done an outstanding job in past years, but cannot undertake this in 2006. However, we have an exciting alternative, with thanks to Hugh Elphinstone of Bendigo. **This will be a Quiz/Supper evening, to be held in the Oswald Raphael Hall at Parkside, on Friday 22nd September.** More details will be forwarded as plans are finalised.

BBQ MORE GOOD NEWS!

The Adelaide Lions Club will again sponsor the BBQ (the last one was cancelled due to the hot weather). **This will be held at the historic residence of CAPTAIN CHARLES STURT AT GRANGE, on Sunday 5th November, from 4-7 p.m.** Flyers will be sent out in due course.

AND DON'T FORGET the Charity Card Shop will be opening for Christmas business at the end of August.

FINALLY – A fond farewell to **Mary Whitehead** who has now left South Australia to retire to Wodonga, Victoria. **THANK YOU MARY FOR YOUR MANY, MANY YEARS WITH THE SOUTH AUSTRALIA FOUNDATION, AND THE WONDERFUL JOB YOU DID IN THOSE EARLY YEARS AS PRESIDENT.**

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

From Dennis Sleigh, President.

The ACT Foundation held its Annual General Meeting on 31st May 2006 and the following officers were elected:

President	Dennis Sleigh
Vice Pres (Functions)	Wendy Altamore
Vice Pres (Publicity)	Patricia McDonell
Secretary	Anne-Maree Sleigh
Treasurer	Margaret Sleigh
Card Secretary	Margaret Sleigh
Sponsorship Secretary	Margaret Sleigh
Membership Secretary	Patricia McDonell
Public Officer	Robert Altamore
Committee Members	Dierk von Behrens Robert Altamore
Honorary Auditor	Colin Fereday

The meeting extended its heart-felt gratitude to **Beth Stone who was standing down from the committee after many years of dedicated service** in various key roles, including Treasurer, Sponsorship Secretary and Card Secretary. A small gift was given to Beth to mark the occasion.

Beth will continue to act as Secretary of the ACT Charity Card Shop, and so while her wisdom and kindness will be missed at Ryder-Cheshire meetings, we will stay in contact with her in this other capacity.

Patricia McDonell, former National Secretary, addressed the meeting on the work of Ryder-Cheshire in both India and Timor Leste. Her passion for the cause, exemplified by her work in both Homes, was obvious to her audience.

We were indeed fortunate to be reminded of the need and the successes in these projects by someone who has worked at the "coal face". Patricia is continuing to spread the word, especially about Klibur Domin, in schools and clubs around Canberra.

A major event on the ACT Foundation's 2006 calendar was the **Annual Charity Dinner and Auction at the National Press Club held on Friday 23 June.** The guest speaker this year was Fr Frank Brennan SJ AO, eminent civil rights leader and gifted writer and orator. The newly arrived **Ambassador of Timor Leste, His Excellency Hernani Coelho**, was a special guest at the dinner. The function was a joint initiative of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation (ACT) and Canberra friends of Dili, two organisations with very strong commitment to the needs of Timor Leste. Margaret Sleigh has reported that the Dinner was a great success with 214 guests attend-

NOTICE FOR WA SUPPORTERS

Following the closing down of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation in West Australia, **any West Australian supporters who wish to continue their support can do so with the South Australia Foundation.**

Kindly contact
Margaret Blaber, Honorary Secretary,
Ryder-Cheshire Foundation (SA) Inc
Telephone 08 8363 4584 or
email mblaber@ozemail.com.au

NEWS FROM THE STATES

VICTORIA

From Anthea Swann, Honorary Secretary.

We have said farewell and a warm thank you to **Del Gaudry** who is moving interstate with her work, after five years on the Victorian Committee. She has been a very positive member of our group, and will be missed.

At the Victorian Annual General Meeting in early June there were no changes to the Office Bearers or areas of special responsibility, everyone agreeing to keep their existing roles for the coming year

Recent fundraisers include two weeks staffing the Lions Op Shop in March and May respectively, the second at only a few days notice; a successful Bridge Day in April; and our major event so far this year, a Movie Night. Close to 300 people enjoyed, bubbles, nibbles and The Da Vinci Code, resulting in a very satisfactory increase in funds. A big thank you to the international media for fantastic advance publicity!

Events in East Timor have caused great sadness and a good deal of anxiety about the safety of all at Klibur Domin. Peter Newton and Helen Trueman in particular have been monitoring the situation closely and providing support and what assistance they can at this distance. We all hope and pray for calm and rational outcomes. There is no doubt that Ryder-Cheshire and Klibur Domin will have more work than ever to assist in the relief of suffering in the aftermath of the recent violence and dislocation.

“Legion d’ Honneur”

awarded to Ryder-Cheshire Victoria Supporter

George Smith served as a RAAF aircrew officer in Bomber Command in World War II and flew 44 missions over enemy occupied Europe in 1944. On one of these missions his aircraft was badly damaged and the crew was lucky to make it back to Allied occupied territory in France where a forced landing was carried out. On the very next mission, George nursed a wounded crew member back to the UK where the aircraft crash landed.

After the War George was instrumental in establishing the Odd Bods (UK) Association for RAAF airmen who had served in the



UK during the War. He was the founding President and has been the Secretary for many years. Under George’s enthusiastic leadership and inspired by Leonard Cheshire, the Odd Bods have been a proud sponsor of four residents at Raphael for the past 40 years. In addition, the Odd Bods have also been very generous in their support of Klibur Domin and Ivanhoe in recent years.

So it was with great delight that we learnt that George was one of ten Australians who were awarded France’s highest award, the Legion d’ Honneur in November 2005. This was wonderful recognition of the skill, the courage and the determination shown by George more than 60 years ago and re-affirmed by his outstanding efforts to support the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation in the years since the War. **We congratulate George and thank him for his support for the Foundation.**

For internet users, more information and photographs can be viewed at <http://www.iomoon.com.au/gvsmith/>

BALLARAT SUPPORT GROUP

From Dianne McGrath, Vice President.

The Biennial Conference was a wonderful time to meet up with old and new faces and to share experiences and directions. **We are delighted that we are to be the hosts of the 2008 Biennial Conference here in Ballarat. It will be in Ballarat’s beautiful Autumn weather after Easter in April. Please keep a space in your calendar for 2008. MORE TO COME OF COURSE!**

Earlier this year we hosted a luncheon for our supporters and friends. It was a special occasion to let every one know how much we appreciate their support. Don Sinclair gave us an informative address on the most recent happenings at Raphael and Klibur Domin. Since the recent events in Timor Leste, we have all those at Klibur Domin and the people of Timor Leste in our thoughts and prayers, and pray that peace will come to this small nation.

The Valuation Day is becoming a regular feature on Ballarat’s Events calendar and another will be held this year. The day will also include a Book Stall and we have already received a donation of books from **Ballarat Books** to sell. We are most appreciative of this generous gift. Ballarat Books are long time supporters of Ryder-Cheshire. Later this year we are hosting a linen party. We are pleased that our local cinema has opened their books to charity groups to run early release movies for fund raising.

Janice, our Secretary, was able to attend Mt Gambier for the Opening of the Home. She gave us a glowing report. **Our congratulations and best of wishes go to the Mount Gambier Home. It is a wonderful achievement and we congratulate the Home Committee.**

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

COMING EVENT FOR MELBOURNE SUPPORTERS

Lions Club Op Shop 14 – 18 August

55 Wadham Parade Mt Waverley.

Monday to Friday 9.30 – 4.00

Saturday 9 00 12.00

Volunteers to staff the shop, clean clothing and household goods to sell, **and customers, ARE ALL NEEDED.**

If you can help, please contact
Penny Connolly on 03 9634 5983.

RYDER-CHESHIRE WEBSITES

Australia

www.ryder-cheshire.org

India

www.raphaelicare.org

East Timor

www.klibur-domin.easttimor.net

NEWS FROM THE STATES

NEW SOUTH WALES

From Jayne Robinson, President.

On 6th May 2006 the NSW Branch of Ryder Cheshire held a dinner for fund raising towards Klibur Domin. A sub committee, including some friends of our NSW committee, was put together to organise this event in a short time frame and what a wonderful job they did.

The whole evening went exceptionally well. The Killara High School Chamber Orchestra volunteered their skills and played beautifully which added to the enjoyment of the evening. **We were very fortunate to have the President of RCF Victoria, Peter Newton, as the guest speaker and it was inspiring to hear him talk of Klibur Domin and the past history of how The Ryder Cheshire Foundation evolved.** Amongst our guests were some past volunteers of Klibur Domin and Raphael. Approximately two hundred people attended the dinner and it was wonderful to receive a number of new Sponsorships and some very generous donations from this fund raising effort.

The Annual General Meeting for NSW will be held on 24th July 2006 at 7.30 pm at Chris Hannan's home 4, Rawhiti St Roseville 2069. Tel: 02 9416 7569. We would like to invite anyone who may be interested in attending this meeting. A General Meeting will be held directly after the AGM on the same evening.

We have all been very concerned about the safety of our patients, staff and volunteers at Klibur Domin and pray that life will return to normal very soon for all the people of Timor Leste.

WEST AUSTRALIA

From the President, Professor Desmond O'Connor.

This will be the last opportunity I will have of writing on behalf of the Council and the Foundation in Western Australia.

Following a Special General Meeting of Members held on May 7 2006, it was decided unanimously that the Foundation be wound-up and the Solicitor for the Foundation is now handling the closure.

Our Constitution requires that any remaining funds be handed over to an appropriate Charitable Organisation incorporated in Western Australia. and the Special Meeting resolved that remaining funds of about \$16,000 be donated to the Motor Neurone Disease Association of Western Australia in the memory of our Founder, Leonard Cheshire, who died from this disease in 1992.

Members and supporters who wish to continue their sponsorships or their support **may do so through the South Australian branch of the Foundation.** (Contact details are shown on Page 6).

It remains to thank you all for your dedication and support for the Foundation's work during its thirty-six years in Western Australia. You have responded to challenges in Perth and overseas, and you, our benefactors have been good to us. I thank you all on behalf of the Council for a job well done.

RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATIONS IN AUSTRALIA

Australian Capital Territory

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.au

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

Newsletter

Evelyn Petters
Tel 08 9349 5043.
E-Mail petters@iinet.net.au

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

Office Bearers (elected February 2006)

President	Don Sinclair
Vice-President	Margaret Hetherton
Treasurer	Peter Colliver
Secretary	Maureen Murphy
Project Officer (<i>Raphael</i>)	Melody Smythe
Project Officer (<i>Klibur Domin</i>)	Peter Newton
Co-ordinator of Volunteers	Anne Boyd

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
NOVEMBER 2006 ISSUE should be sent by e-mail to
[Chris Lopez_mlop2429@bigpond.net.au](mailto:Chris.Lopez_mlop2429@bigpond.net.au)
by **15 October 2006**