

# Ryder-Cheshire News

## National Association of Ryder-Cheshire Foundations



### National President's Report

by Don Sinclair

I was privileged to be elected National President at our Biennial Meeting held at Mt Gambier in April. I thank my predecessor, Air Marshall Jake Newham for his leadership of the Foundation over many years.

I must remark on the tremendous enthusiasm displayed at the Mt Gambier meeting. The Mt Gambier Support Group lead by Jose Simsa were gracious hosts and organised a very productive meeting. I thank everyone involved for their generous country hospitality.

The enthusiasm of the various State Foundations was also evident, with many ideas for the future of our association. There was a happy blend of individuals who have been associated with our mission over many decades and those who have recently become involved with our work. Fresh ideas are essential to advance our cause and can be matched with our long experience of what is successful and what is less so.

A number of issues and ideas were discussed, among which was the need to revise our national constitution, correct accounting procedures for the GST and the future direction of our work.

With the passing of our founders and the passage of time, we must reassess our achievements and future directions as our support base is changing. The fame of Leonard Cheshire gave him a high public profile and his post-war dedication to the relief of human suffering attracted loyal community support.

The war-time role of Sue Ryder, who Leonard married in 1959, and her establishment of the Forgotten Allies Trust in Eastern Europe was important in obtaining credibility for our cause. However, succeeding generations do not have this knowledge and must be inspired to support their continuing mission through our endeavors.

*Raphael*, the Ryder-Cheshire International Centre in northern India has been the focus of Australian efforts for nearly four decades. The recent establishment of Klibur Domin Tibar in East Timor through the inspirational work of Peter and Helen Newton has added a new and challenging dimension to our mission. It has attracted considerable publicity, gained new supporters and forged valuable links with our community service groups.

The task of generating community support and fund raising remains in the hands of the individuals forming the state foundations and their support groups. I wish them well in their endeavours and offer any personal support that I can provide.

Don Sinclair  
President

# Biennial Meeting Report

Mt Gambier, April 2002

**Some 25 people from the State Foundations and support groups and those interested in our work attended the biennial meeting. Patsy Wright-Warren, International President of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation in the UK was a guest and she spoke of changing focus of the work of the Foundation in Britain and overseas.**

The reports of the National President, State Foundations and the National Projects Officer were tabled and discussed and national office bearers were elected. Our missions at *Raphael* and *Klibur Domin Tibar* provided a focus for discussions.

A major review of *Raphael* carried out by the Defence Management College of India resulted in the appointment of a Chief Executive Officer and the introduction of Quality Management Systems. Wing Commander Barney Fernandes, our national projects officer and generous financial donor to *Raphael* has taken a close interest in this review and subsequent developments. With his frequent visits to India, he is able to keep us fully informed.

The reputation of the work at *Raphael* is regarded highly in India and *Raphael* has been granted national accreditation for the training of staff in the field of

physical and mental disabilities.

Our annual funding commitments of \$126,000 to *Raphael* and \$74,000 to *Klibur Domin Tibar* were confirmed.

The need to update our national brochure to include the establishment of *Klibur Domin Tibar* was recognized. A web-site is also needed. Coloured brochures have increased our card sales significantly and they are now sold in several community card shops.

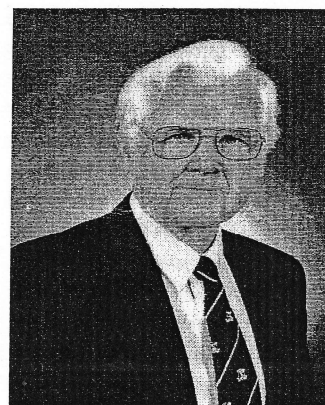
The generous bequest provide by the late Dame Roma Mitchell, our former National President, is a major contribution to our national funding and its distribution will be carefully considered.

The liability insurance crisis which has attracted considerable attention since the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001, has implications for our organisation. The protection of our international volunteers and our local events is under review. It was necessary to withdraw all our overseas volunteers from *Raphael* during the recent military tension between India and Pakistan.

There is a need to clarify the relationship between the National Executive and the various state foundations and their

support groups. There is some confusion regarding the roles of the National Council and the National Executive. There is also a need to review the national constitution following the passing of both our founders. Taxation issues also must be dealt with and, the name of the organisation might also be reviewed. The UK organisation has dropped the work 'foundation' as it was being confused with a grant-giving entity. Should we do the same in Australia?

A draft for a revised national constitution will be prepared and circulated to all foundations and support groups. The next Biennial Meeting will be held in April 2004. Members of the NSW Foundation have offered to host this meeting.



**Dr Don Sinclair, National President**

## Raphael Update



Raphael launched a slogan, "I Care" to help change attitudes towards the disabled. People are encouraged to become associate members for which there is a minimum cost of Rs 100/- and no upper limit. Members are invited to our events and receive 100 stamp size stickers to be used in writing letters to friends.

Raphael was recognised by the Indian Government and the Rehabilitation Council of India as a training centre for disability. We will conduct training sessions for primary health centres, Diploma Course in Special Education, short courses in Rehabilitation in Education, District Primary Education program and a course for the Bachelor of Education.

Raphael has taken one more stride in the field of "Relief to the Suffering". We are now a Registered Member of the National Trust, an organisation for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities.

Another feather in our cap was the Lifetime Achievement Award bestowed on our Chairman by Thakur Hari Prasad Institute in appreciation of his services in improving the quality of life for the disabled.

And now a brief resume of Raphael:

**Shiv Sadan (Leprosy Burnt Out Cases):** We experimented with the manufacture of woollen shawls and tweed pieces with success.

**Little White House:** Our primary children were admitted to the Feger School in town. This helped remove the social stigma of leprosy parentage and returned the children to the mainstream. Consequently, the Raphael Primary School was closed in July and funds are sufficient to meet the cost of education and their related expenditure.

**TB Hospital :** The occupancy of our 26 bed hospital generally remains 100%.

**TB Control Mobile Team :** This team plays a significant role in control of TB in the rural areas of the Doon Valley, operating once a month in 14 different centres. The team plans to open two new centres, shortly.

Mrs Meena Malhotra joined us as Manager for Finance, Liaison and Public Relations. Our automation program got an impetus when Michael Dureau from Australia helped us with a new computer and all the

accessories. Thank you Michael.

## Klibur Domin Tibar

**Klibur Domin Tibar** continues its amazing progress guided by home managers, Patricia McDonell who returned in June and Robert Potts who will stay until January 2003.

The Home provides care and accommodation for 14 disabled residents and about 35 - 40 patients. The patients include malnourished children, tuberculosis sufferers and pre- and post operative patients. In all we have helped more than 1000 patients since we started in September 2000.

A recent achievement was the graduation in July of 10 East Timorese from the Rehabilitation Aide Course. The course was run by physiotherapists who travelled from Australia as volunteers. Avril Steyl did most of the ground work from January to April and she was followed by Judy Chesney and Lynn Duguid who undertook training until July.

They were replaced by Jane Doepel and Terrell Taylor who completed a mentoring phase, settling the new graduates into positions in clinics around East Timor. Margaret Gillett will continue this process. The project has been a wonderful success,

and our thanks go to these volunteer physiotherapists for their splendid contributions.

Our restoration of the galvanised iron roofing on eleven buildings at the Home was completed before the wet season thanks to a generous donation from the Rotary Club of Canberra-Sunrise.

The water bore completed late last year, continues to supply plentiful clean water much to the relief of everyone. Gone are the days of carting water in 20 litre jerry cans to keep the residents and staff supplied with just enough water to survive.

Power remains a problem with the two small generators working overtime during the frequent blackouts – sometimes days at a time. If some generous persons would like to assist in the purchase of a new and larger generator, this problem could be largely solved.

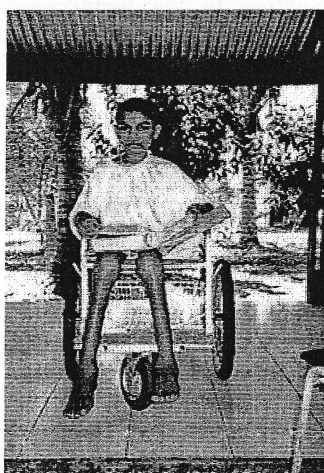
After two years with no communications at the Home, we now have a telephone. Volunteer, Matthew Piening, brought a radio phone with him. Mobile phones have never worked as we are outside the mobile network range, but the radio phone works to the great relief of everyone here and to those in Australia who need to talk to us. Well done Matthew.

The flow of volunteers to the Home continues unabated, so much so that we have had to limit the number travelling to East Timor over Christmas.

In all, more than 60 Australians have volunteered to assist the people at Klibur Domin Tibar. Seven of these have returned a second time and some of those want to return again. Considering that they receive no remuneration, and they pay all their own travel expenses, this is a most generous contribution to the new nation and its people.

To them and to all the people back in Australia who have generously supported this Home, we offer our most sincere thanks.

## Isildu



Isildu (above) is a 15 year old boy from a village in East Timor. At 13, he was diagnosed with juvenile arthritis, a disease that quickly crippled him when his knees and ankles swelled to double their normal size. This was at the time when the Indonesians and militia forces were rampaging through East

Timor and medical facilities were in disarray.

As Isildu received no treatment, his condition quickly deteriorated until he was bed-ridden and he lay on his bed for more than twelve months unable to walk or care for himself.

A year ago, Isildu came to Klibur Domin to see if we could help him. We were lucky to have a physiotherapist on hand and we soon had him in a wheel chair. He responded to his new freedom magnificently and, before long, we witnessed him trying to stand up using a walking frame borrowed from one of the long term residents.

After a few tries, Isildu was shuffling along behind the frame. He was ecstatic and his whole attitude to life changed remarkably. He started taking part in educational pursuits. He is a very bright young man and the added stimulation was all he needed to make great strides forward in his confidence and his ability.

Isildu will never be cured of his disease, but at least he can get about and to participate in normal activities.



## Victorian Update

We were joined by Andrew Connelly, a gifted young man still at University, who is injecting new ideas and enthusiasm into the group. Andrew is designing a web site for the Foundation and also organising an Art Exhibition to be held in a St Kilda gallery with all proceeds to the Foundation.

In September, we held two functions a week apart, raising over \$5000 for *Raphael* and *Klibur Domin Tibar*. The first was a bridge day and the second a fashion parade. The parade was enjoyed by 130 guests who saw our own Committee models "strut their stuff" on the catwalk. Ann Collins, Libby Austin-Dixon, Rae Campbell-Nott and Pat Young modelled outfits from Liz Davenport and One by One to the delight of all present.

The Golden Girls (a group of tap dancers whose ages range from 50 to 70) amazed us with their energy and their talents, and two young musicians, Mia Salsjo and Diane Peters, entertained us on flute and harp.

The annual Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder Memorial Address was held on 15<sup>th</sup> October with Patricia McDonell, our National Secretary, inspiring us all with her experiences as the

Klibur Domin Home Manager earlier this year.

This was Patricia's second tour in East Timor and she also spent time at *Raphael* as a volunteer in the early 1990s. Thank you Patricia, for your magnificent contribution in helping the sick, disabled and destitute people of India and East Timor.

Our next big task is to get Xanana Gusmao, the President of East Timor, to be our Guest of Honour at a major fund raising dinner early next year. More on this when the date is set and the arrangements in place.

Christmas is rapidly approaching and we have recently circulated Christmas card flyers and order forms to our supporters. The cards are great value, and every card you buy from us helps someone in India or East Timor.

Finally, may I say a very warm thank you to everyone who has helped us in any way during 2002. I wish all of our supporters a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a healthy and prosperous new year.

Peter Newton

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## Mt Gambier

Mt Gambier RCF Support Group continued with a relatively quiet year following the successful Biennial Meeting at the end of April. Our Duchess Catering Group, under the co-ordination of Kay Gilbertson, remained our main and regular fundraising activity until October.

Friday, 11 October, was a night of 'Presenting Noel Coward' with prominent actor Frank Caspars, at the Wehl Street Community Theatre. Frank donated his performance to RCF, so our takings reflected this magnificent gesture. Our AGM was held at the property of Kay & Neville Gilbertson. This event brings to a close, our activities for 2002.

Jose Simsa

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## NSW Foundation

This year's AGM saw the retirement of much-loved President, Barbara Lewis (nee Coleman). She left us in good shape, with a large and willing Committee, and a new President, Judy Purdon, who expressed praise and heartfelt thanks for Barbara's many years of service. Barbara is one of the few antipodeans who was there at the birth of Raphael.

Jenny Coleman resigned as Secretary and is very pleased to be replaced by Jayne Robinson who has been on the committee for some years. Barbara's brother and Jenny's husband, Peter, will continue to look after our 60 NSW sponsorships.

These past few months have seen many highlights, and mention must be made of Barbara's brother, Paul, who once again steered a small sub-committee to organise a dinner at the Mary MacKillop Centre. More recently we have benefitted from the generosity of Guillaume Brahni and his wife, who gathered representatives of the corporate world to a "Children of India" fund-raising luncheon at the famous Bennelong Restaurant.

July saw more success, when many of our members got together over some superb curries, and we

drew inspiration from Raphael's latest young volunteers. Trish McDonnell presented a moving report on the Home in East Timor. Together, these events raised over \$44,000 while, on a humbler scale, we were moved by a recent NSW volunteer, who coaxed \$400 from his mates at their 5-year school reunion.

Then there's our willing band of card-sellers (last year over 18,000 sold) who, along with our regular stalls in shopping centres, not only generate funds but are invaluable in publicising our unique Foundation, and urge others to take up the cause "*in the relief of suffering.*"

John Ayliffe

## South Australia

At the AGM in May, Christine Lopez retired as President after 7 years in office. Christine continues to support Ryder-Cheshire as a member of the Committee.

Patricia Frith was unanimously elected as the new President. Patricia is a long standing member of the Foundation and for the past few years has been the sponsorship secretary. Alison Rowney now takes over the task of sponsorships.

Fundraising: Joan Riggs, another of our long serving committee members,

organised a bridge day in August, which contributed a significant amount for Raphael.

Alison Rowney, the dedicated coordinator of the East Timor Support Group, said of a recent fundraiser: "In August we found ourselves with a challenge after consulting Peter Newton for a fundraising project. Peter gave us an invoice for physiotherapy supplies for Klibur Domin Tibar.

The \$2 072 was more than we usually raise at our film-dinner evening, so we decided to have two evenings, a week apart. We chose the 1959 Peter Sellers / Leo McKern film *The Mouse That Roared* which paralleled today's USA politics closely. Matching the four courses of food to the events in the film was hard but great fun – the results were hilarious.

Our projectionist, Vic Hepworth, put together a video presentation of Klibur Domin Tibar and its residents. On both nights the enthusiasm for East Timor was great.

Adelaide Lions Club and the Soroptomists also supported us. We were rewarded with a total of \$4000, and had great fun doing it."

Charity Card Shop:  
Judith Weston, our Card

## News from around Australia

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Coordinator, reports: "This year we have placed five cards in the City Shop in the Southern Cross Arcade, including one new card 'The Christmas Tree', which is the corporate card for this year. The new plain card, 'Monet Flowers', is proving popular. There are now 42 charities participating in the Shop, which is looking very attractive and promises to do well over the Christmas Season. We have decided to place stock all the year round, which will keep us busy, but bring in a better return. We have the Ryder-Cheshire birthday calendars, packs of notelets and attractive craft items such as bottle bags (made by new committee member Barbara Phillips). As more charities are participating the service fee has been reduced. We have also placed plain flower cards, individually wrapped, at Ross Roses, Willunga. One of these is of course 'The Cheshire Rose'. The Rose is still available for purchase through Ross Roses, and is listed in the current catalogue." including one new card *The Christmas Tree*, which is the corporate card for this year. There are now 42 charities participating in the shop. We have decided to place stock all the year round, which will keep us busy, but bring in a better return. We have the Ryder-Cheshire birthday calendars, packs of notelets and attractive craft items such as bottle bags (made by new committee member Barbara Phillips).

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Margaret Blaber

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## Ballarat Support Group

Ballarat's Charity Card Shop opened at 1a Eyre Street, Ballarat, on September 30<sup>th</sup> 2002. Ryder-Cheshire is one of the 40 different charities included. We look forward to our usual good sales, as our designs are very attractive.

We congratulate two members of our committee who have been married recently, Megan (Daly) Keating and Dianne (McGrath) Warr. Both have been volunteers, Megan at Raphael India and Dianne at Klibur Domin, in East Timor. Happily both are remaining on our committee.

This year we welcomed two willing workers in Bernard Bradbury and Robert Brookes. Earlier, Elaine Goulter formerly from

New Zealand, joined our committee.

At our recent film fundraiser, organized by Hazel Luke, we saw the delightful *The Importance of Being Earnest* and followed this with a luncheon, sale of cards and a raffle. Everyone was pleased to see Geoff and Rae Campbell-Nott return for the function, which was a social and financial success and enables us to keep in touch with old and new supporters.

As a previous raffle with four donated prizes produced sufficient funds to purchase a large microwave for Klibur Domin, we have decided to hold a "Special" Christmas raffle.

Our Support Group would like to give special thanks to the students of Ballarat and Clarendon College Senior and Junior schools, Ballarat Grammar Junior school and Loreto College Junior school who sponsor nine people at Raphael and always raise extra funds for special projects. We are most grateful for the support of students and staff.

Cath McLenehan

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## Farewell to Jeff Brisbane

On January 17<sup>th</sup> we were saddened and shocked to learn of the death of Jeff who suffered a massive heart attack while taking an early morning walk in his beloved bush with his wife Joy.

Jeff had a loving association with Raphael, its administrators and those who found shelter there. It began in 1977. By 1983 he was making his fourth visit, this time accompanied by Joy and his stepchildren Tania and Robert. Four more journeys were made before his death while, another was being planned for 2002.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Joy and the family.

Jeff is remembered for his invaluable contributions to the Ballarat Support Group, especially while serving on the Committee as Secretary. Joy Brisbane has recently donated \$5,000 to Raphael, in Jeff's memory. The money will be used in the training of staff nurses.

## Ivanhoe Homes

The Victorian Governor, John Landy officially opened the Ivanhoe Homes on 1st December in front of over 100 guests.

The Governor, who is also a patron of Ryder-Cheshire, rededicated the buildings following the \$1.5 million refurbishment undertaken over the past year.

The Governor spoke very warmly of Ryder-Cheshire, our founders and supporters in providing the Homes as a caring respite for people attending Melbourne hospitals.

The Governor told guests, "These Homes are a splendid example of this commitment and the contribution of individuals like Ken Cullen and Bob O'Hallan and their many supporters in Kerang and Cohuna are representative of wide community support."

The refurbishment project means that the Ryder-Cheshire Ivanhoe Home now has 43 fully self-contained units with full ensuite facilities in operation. The program was fully funded through donations especially those from the estates of Dame Roma Mitchell, Vera Elford and Shiela Leonard, the Hugh DT Williamson

Trust and the National Executive of Ryder-Cheshire.

The Home is also deeply grateful for the tireless efforts of our *Caring Friends* - supporters from throughout country Victoria and Australia who worked enthusiastically to raise money for our upgrade.

The management board is now working on smaller projects to fit out the Ivanhoe Homes. This includes the installation of new mini-fridges in each room, bedside tables and reading lamps, a new kitchen in the common room and the installation of new window furnishings as money becomes available.

A significant contribution to the comfort of residents is the newly landscaped garden giving the residents a peaceful setting in which to rest in between hospital visits.