



RAPHAEL

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATIONS OF AUSTRALIA

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR OVERSEAS AID

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NEW SOLOMON ISLANDS PROJECT

In 1973 the Victorian Foundation received a request for assistance from The Society for Crippled People in the Solomon Islands. After discussion with Group-Captain Cheshire it was decided that the Society's requirements should be examined. In January this year the Secretary of the Victorian Foundation, Peter Bradfield, visited the Society's headquarters in Honiara on Guadalcanal Island.

Honiara is the capital of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate and is accessible by air either from Fiji, Papua New Guinea or more recently by a quick three hour trip from Brisbane. The Islands have a population of 180,000 and Honiara has a population of 15,000.

In the early 1950's the world wide poliomyelitis epidemic cut a swathe through the Islands leaving them with the highest incidence of polio sufferers per head of population in the world. Many of these people are now in their early twenties and it is these polio victims the Society in the Solomons is assisting.

The work of the Society is magnificent and over 150 people have been operated on and have enjoyed remedial treatment for deformities. The budget of the Society is very small, most of the work being carried out by volunteers. The patients themselves assist in the making of wheel-chairs and calipers. Materials are donated by various local businesses and from overseas aid organisations. Calipers are produced at a cost of A\$1.50 each compared with the cost of sophisticated calipers in Australia of A\$80 each.

The Society is well managed by many of the leading government officials and businessmen. The President is currently Mr. J.P. Holloway, the Deputy Commissioner of Police and a leading Council Member is Mr. A.B. Cross, O.B.E., the Surgeon-General at the Honiara Hospital, the largest hospital in the Solomon Islands. Mr. Cross operates on the limb deformities and the patients are then entrusted to the care of Sister Jane Burleigh, an American Catholic Mission nurse who has served in the Islands for some years. Sister Jane runs the Society's remedial

physiotherapal unit adjacent to the hospital. This unit does not form part of the hospital in any way. Also in the Society's grounds are the workshop and a very dangerous and inadequate hostel for patients. The hospital supplies meals to the patients who number approximately 40 at any one time, but the Society is quite independent in every other way. Some patients live in at the Society's hostel, others are billeted out or live within the Honiara area. The average length of treatment is 4 to 6 months but many patients return for further treatment as required.

The Society badly needs a new hostel for patients at an estimated cost of A\$6,000. This sum is quite beyond the resources of the Society to raise. Already the generosity of the small number of people able to contribute in the Solomons is fully taxed. The government gives a grant of \$500 each year and helps in other ways but is severely hampered by its understandably limited budget.

The roof of the hostel leaks, the floor is dangerous, toilet facilities appalling and the foundations completely unsafe. The hostel used at present is in fact a converted U.S. army Second World War stores hut.

The aims of the Society are identical to those of the Ryder-Cheshire Movement. In other words, the Society attempts to relieve suffering and in so doing operates in the "Raphael" manner. With encouragement the Society could develop its headquarters and ambitions to result in perhaps a smaller "Raphael" and extend the type of patient it now treats. Lack of money has been the only inhibiting factor. Apart from support from the New Zealand Leper Trust Fund and the Red Cross Society, this non-denominational Society has stood alone providing a magnificent service to hundreds of physically beleaguered islanders and providing a hope for the future hitherto unknown to any of them.

Group-Captain Cheshire has given his support to the project on the basis that there is room for "Raphael" and other projects closer to home. On this basis and under the provisions of its Memorandum of Association the Victorian Foundation Council approved unanimously the gift of A\$6,000 for the building of a new hostel. The hostel will be called The Ryder-Cheshire Foundation Hostel but the Foundation will not interfere in the management of the Society. The gift is of the once only type, although if support is strong enough further assistance may be able to be given.

The Victorian Foundation will meet the expenditure if no support from the other State Foundations is forthcoming. It is, of course, anticipated that all State Foundations will want to assist but the urgency of the matter required an immediate decision. The Solomon Islands are in a seismically active area and delay to replacement could result in a serious accident.

No endowment monies or monies specifically requested to be set aside for "Raphael" will be used. Special fund raising drives are planned to muster support for the project, and we hope all members will support this exciting new venture.

RYDER-CHESHIRE PENS - With schools in full swing again, students and parents will be interested to know good stocks of pens are available from:- Mrs. E.G. Miles, 10 Hamilton Parade, PYMBLE. N.S.W. 2073.

Barrels are red, blue, olive, white/blue and black. All write blue, excepting black which writes black. All have "Ryder Cheshire Foundation Thanks You 20¢" in gold lettering.

Be a Ryder Cheshire PEN FRIEND and tell your school friends, family and business colleagues. So useful for little Easter presents too.

Mrs. Miles will post 25 on receipt of \$5, 50 for \$10.

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CHRISTMAS CARDS 1973 - Gross receipts amounted to approximately \$1,000. The design was very greatly appreciated by all and our sincere gratitude goes to the prisoner at Long Bay who submitted the design.

Grateful thanks are expressed to all who supported the card appeal, no matter how small the order. It all adds up! And to the small band of loyal Ryder Cheshire friends who have bought R/C Christmas Cards every year for 10 years.....A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU.

Hon. Director: Rolande Miles
N.S.W. Ryder-Cheshire Foundation

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FOUNDATION AND GROUP NEWS

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FOUNDATION

The last three months have been most satisfactory for our Foundation. Over \$2,000 has been received from many sources - Clare Support Group sent \$600, Mount Gambier Support Group sent \$500 and Sacred Heart College \$400.

The staff and students of Sacred Heart organized a Walkathon for various charities. Our share of the proceeds was used for one adoption, and to complete the balance of our projects for 1973. Our sincere thanks to Sacred Heart for a magnificent donation.

Our President, Justice Mitchell, spoke at the Christmas meeting of the Soroptimist Club of Adelaide, and this resulted in Her Honour receiving \$134 which has been used for an adoption of a leprosy patient. Many thanks to the Soroptimists of the Adelaide Club for their support.

Thelma and Grant Perry, of Christies Beach, ran a trading table for Ryder-Cheshire and raised \$20 for the Foundation. This is their second effort for a total of over \$50. Thanks, Thelma and Grant. Grant is ex 617.

The Christmas cards sold well again this year and realized a profit of \$250.

Hon. Secretary: Ross M. Stanford

Mt. Gambier Support Group

Our Group has been in recess over the Christmas and school holidays, but a Committee Meeting will be held shortly to plan our activities for the New Year.

Since our last report we were pleased to receive a donation from St. Paul's Pastoral Council for \$100 for an adoption at "Raphael".

Generous donations of \$50 each were also received from our Committee member Mrs. Jean Cameron and her mother Mrs. D. Davidson, for special projects at "Raphael", and another from the Action for World Development Committee for \$10 through Mrs. Jean Yule.

Fund-raising activities in December included an Old Time Dance at Mil Lel which netted \$84 and a competition for crayfish generously donated by Fishbrook through the courtesy of our genial Committeeman Mr. Sandy Marshall. This also netted \$84.

The Mil Lel function was the brain-child of Committeeman Tom Preece who lives in the area and it proved to be an outstanding success. Special mention must be made of the very generous action of the Wilson family whose orchestra provided the music without charge. We were also very grateful to the Mil Lel ladies who assisted so capably with the supper arrangements.

The remaining activity concerned selling Christmas cards with other organisations in the "Charity Card Shop".

Hon. Secretary: Alex Stewart,
11 Eustace Street, Mt. Gambier.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FOUNDATION

We unfortunately missed the closing date for the last number of "Raphael" and these notes therefore cover the news of the W.A. Foundation over the last six months.

We felt very privileged to have Major General Virendra Singh with us in September and his charm, understanding and warmth of personality were an inspiration to the many who met him and heard him speak.

An enjoyable and financially successful "Musical Evening" was held in November in the Dalkeith Hall and as usual Mrs. Kath French and her willing band of helpers excelled themselves in the provision of entertainment, food and wine. We look forward to Mrs. French's next function on March 1st, entitled "A Glass of Wine".

The Op-Shop had another outstanding successful year and the Council again wishes to thank Mrs. Elaine Paxton and her colleagues who worked so selflessly and enthusiastically in the shop throughout 1973.

At the request of many supporters of the Foundation, we have for some months been searching for a local cause to support in addition to our continuing contributions to "Raphael". The Council has now recommended that financial assistance be given to the Catharine McCauley Children's Home in Perth and Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder have agreed in principle to this recommendation. The Council is aware of the additional responsibility that this places on its members and on the friends of the Foundation, but feels that it represents a wonderful new challenge in spreading the message of the Ryder-Cheshire movement.

Finally this occasion should not pass without mention of the recent departure from Western Australia of our Patron His Excellency Major General Sir Douglas Kendrew. Sir Douglas and Lady Kendrew were unfailing in their support for the Foundation and its activities and we shall miss them both. We wish them well in their retirement.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. P. Cribb

A.C.T. FOUNDATION

In December, a morning coffee party with a difference was held at the home of Mrs. L. Poyser, of Campbell. Mrs. Dawn O'Dea, the very talented artist, gave a demonstration, and later paintings were sold, the commission being given to our Foundation. Supported by committee members, Mrs. Hill organized this rewarding function.

Thursday, 21st February - A stall was held at the Fyshwick market. Mrs. Alice Jones and Mrs. L. Hill, assisted by committee members and ladies from the Indian High Commission, organized the stall and sold cakes, preserves, clothing and white elephant articles.

Friday, 26th April - Another such stall is planned, and we appeal for donations of clothing, foodstuffs, ornaments - in fact anything saleable will be welcome. Mrs. Pixie Bashford, phone: 95 6379, and pick up if necessary.

Hon. Secretary: Miss I. Fleming
Telephone: 46 6795

NEW SOUTH WALES FOUNDATION

The Annual General Meeting of the Foundation will be held in April. As we go to press, Sydney Support Group has held its first meeting - news of the planned activities will be reported in the next Newsletter.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. P. Stanmore

VICTORIAN FOUNDATION

Despite all our efforts, progress on the Local Home Project has been

slower than expected. However the Moe home site is expected to be purchased in the next few weeks and progress thereafter should be rapid. In the meantime the Solomon Island Project (see Page 1) has given further impetus to the Foundation and an added incentive for active fund raising.

Miss Anne Young is returning to "Raphael" for an anticipated further period of 2 years. We wish her well and note that she has suggested an interesting new project for "Raphael" involving the provision of a mobile T.B. unit. The Founders have already given their support to the project and it is hoped that the Foundation will be able to assist.

The Annual Dinner of the Pentridge Support Group in December was a great success and the Foundation was presented with a cheque for \$500 from this most active group. After several years of wonderful service to the Foundation Wally has relinquished his duties as leader of the group. Thank you, Wally for a magnificent job. We wish his successor, Bob, the best of luck.

We take this opportunity to sincerely thank all those people who are generously supporting our friends at "Raphael". At the moment we have 92 adoptions, 54 endowments and 14 educational endowments. But, as always there are still others at "Raphael" who need your help. Please tell your friends and anyone else who might be interested.

Pat and Dick Brooks are leaving Australia to live in England at the end of April. They plan to open a coffee house/artifacts venture and will give some of the profits to the Cheshire organisation.

Although Pat and Dick will not be lost to the world-wide organisation, Pat will never be able to be replaced in Victoria. Her tireless devotion to the Foundation demanded a great deal of time and travel in her position as Australian Talks Officer. Pat has given countless talks to clubs and schools and the value of her work is beyond measure. Most importantly, all who know her will greatly miss her kind, warmhearted personality. We wish Dick and Pat the very best of luck in the future.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. P.J. Bradfield
Telephone: 29 1549

CAN YOU SPEAK OUT?

The number of talks required to be given to clubs and schools in Victoria will require an influx of speakers into active Foundation activities. The Victorian Council would welcome enquiries from anyone at all who is interested in our work. In particular we have a need for speakers who could meet school appointments. Perhaps there are some housewives or retired gentlemen or ladies who could help. No experience is necessary and training will be provided by the Victorian Council. Little training is involved.

IF YOU CAN HELP PLEASE CALL MRS. P.R. BROOKS - 81 2257

West Gippsland Support Group

West Gippsland Support Group successfully completed 1973 by sending a cheque for \$1,000 to Melbourne, and by realizing \$39 from a Christmas raffle.

We regret that Mrs. Chris Dawson, our secretary, had to resign for family reasons, and we thank her for the work she did whilst in office. The committee is at present sharing secretarial chores. Planning for our annual Dinner Dance, June 22nd, is under way.

Our former president, Mr. T. Synan, has become a member of the planning committee for the local home; we hope that steady progress will be made towards its completion.

President: Mrs. M. Howlett

Telephone: 27 3310

Ballarat Support Group

A well attended committee meeting opened what promises to be a busy year ahead.

Arrangements are well in hand for the Charity Night of "Lady In Danger" at the Ballarat National Theatre on Friday, March 29th. Tickets are available from the secretary. Two of our committee, Mrs. Val Sarah and Mr. Geoff Nott, are in the cast. Congratulations to Val, winner of the two best acting awards for 1973.

We were pleased to be able to sell the 2,000 Ryder-Cheshire Christmas cards obtained through the N.S.W. Foundation, and hope to repeat the effort this year.

Our clothing officer, Mrs. Aileen White, when reporting that six chests had been consigned to Melbourne expressed her gratitude to the wonderful people who contributed such beautiful clean used and new clothing, especially the large consignment from the Buninyong ladies. We were very pleased to receive a letter from the Port Fairy Apexians who wish to provide clothing for "Raphael" also.

A word of thanks to the Mothers' Union of the Holy Trinity Church, Buninyong and the Bungaree Project Concern for their generous donations to "Raphael" and the New Guinea Cheshire Home.

Sister Agnes McLean recently visited "Mayfield House", a Cheshire Home in Edinburgh, where she was interested to see new extensions fitted with ultra-modern equipment. She also visited "Oaklands" (where committee member Mr. Frank Ridley's brother is Vice-Chairman) and a Cheshire retarded children's home in Chester, where the local high school girls are involved in the work at the home. Sister McLean brought back a tape bearing good wishes from Group Captain Cheshire, whom she met in England.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Cath McLenehan

Telephone: 32 6483

THE AUSTRALIAN FOUNDATIONS

S.A.

President: The Hon. Justice R. Mitchell, C.B.E.
Vice President: Mr. R.R. Longmire.
Hon. Secretary: Mr. R.M. Stanford, 14 Debney St., Fulham Gdns.
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Hon. Treasurer: Mr. F.H. Goldney, 32 Lerwick Ave., Hazelwood Pk.
5066

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Vice President: Mrs. Nizza Omay, O.B.E.
Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Peter Cribb, 193 Lockhart St., Como. 6152
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. Robert French, Snr., 31 Freshwater Pde.,
Claremont 6010

N.S.W.

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C.B.E., and Lady Cutler
Chairman: The Hon. Mr. Justice J.F. Nagle
Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Peter Stanmore, 19 Satterly Ave., Turramurra
2074
Adoptions Sectry: Mrs. K. Gale, 3 Honda Rd., Neutral Bay. 2089
Donations to Ph. 9091705
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. J. Quinn, 1 Nallada Place, Beecroft. 2119

A.C.T.

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Vice Presidents: Mr. P. McMahon, Mrs. A. Jones
Hon. Secretary: Miss I. Fleming, 66/C Currong Flats, Braddon. 2601
Donations to
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. W.R. Ward, 2 Briggs Street, Downer. 2602

VICTORIA

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President: Mr. Phillip H.N. Opas, O.B.E., Q.C., L.L.B.
Vice President: Mr. A.D.P. Dyer, M.A., (Oxon) Dip. Ed., M.A.C.E.
Hon. Secretary: Mr. P.J. Bradfield, L.L.B., 27 Hortense St.,
Donations to Burwood. 3125
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. G. Dougall, 46 Illawarra Rd., Hawthorn. 3122
Adoptions Sectry: Miss Anne Wright-Smith, 162 Kooyong Rd., Caulfield
3162 Telephone: 53 4283
Talks Officer: Mrs. Pat Brooks, 3/20 Riversdale Rd., Hawthorn
3122 Telephone: 81 2257

AUSTRALIAN LIAISON OFFICER: Miss Josephine Collins, 7C, 587 Toorak Rd.
Toorak 3142 Tel. 24 7682

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COPY FOR NEWSLETTER: All copy for next Newsletter due 15th May, please.
Send to: Mrs. F. Szacinski, 33 Soudan Street, Malvern. Vic. 3144

ATTENTION ALL SUPPORTERS

POSTAGE WITHIN AUSTRALIA:

Thanks to all those who have replied to our appeal in the June and September Newsletters. However, we are again still short of the target required to give us a substantial reduction in postage charges within Australia for distribution of "Raphael". If you have not already replied, your reply could mean the saving of the cost of one child or patient at "Raphael" for one year.

This is the third appeal in "Raphael". To those who haven't replied:
- PLEASE HELP NOW! YOUR HELP WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

Please fill in and return the form below to:- Miss Josephine Collins,
7C, 587 Toorak Road, TOORAK. Vic. 3142.

To: Miss J. Collins

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request that you send to me regularly by post a copy of each issue of the publication entitled "Raphael".