



'RAPHAEL'

NEWSLETTER OF

THE RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATION (VICTORIA)

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EDITORIAL NOTE

This is the first issue of a 'new look' newsletter for the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation (Victoria). Unfortunately it is no longer possible for us to continue the more elaborate style in which the first five issues of 'Raphael' were produced, but we sincerely hope that the many friends of the Foundation will find this simple publication of interest to them, and that it will help to sustain the enthusiasm which they feel for the cause we serve.

The success of the earlier issues of 'Raphael' is largely due to the hard work of the Foundation's first Honorary Editor, Miss Nona Sheehan, and we acknowledge the debt we owe her for giving us the benefit of her experience, and for the unselfish way in which she devoted so much of her time to editing and publishing our magazine. We are sorry that Miss Sheehan is unable to continue in the position of Editor, but we appreciate the circumstances which prevent this.

It is our intention to produce four issues of 'Raphael' each year, and we shall be relying mainly on our Support Groups to provide material for these issues. We hope, also, to be able to include news from the International Centre, such as the 'Staff Impressions' in this edition, and we would invite other contributions from interested people, in the form perhaps of short articles or letters to the Editor. Any such contribution should be directed to the Honorary Secretary of the Foundation. We shall particularly welcome notices of functions to be held on behalf of the Foundation or its Support Groups. Here we take the opportunity to give you early notice that the Annual General Meeting of the Foundation will be held on Monday 3 July 1967.

(Raphael is the name given to the International Centre at Dehra Dun, India. We have adopted it as the name of our newsletter).

RAPHAEL STAFF IMPRESSIONS.

Our Mental Unit comprises some 75 retarded children of all degrees of severity. About one-third are so badly affected that they cannot walk. The youngest is only three, there are many teenagers, and some of the older ones are over fifty - but all are, mentally, still children. Mother Angela and her staff of nuns, ayas and orderlies keep them well and happy, but can never hope to cure any one of them.

Apart from the living quarters, the Unit has a little school where the brighter ones sing, chant rhymes, listen to the wireless, and some even manage simple handwork. Every morning when I go to greet them, we all sing 'Ek Chota Kauwa' ('One Little Crow') which is the only Hindi song I know. Our choir would horrify any trained singer, but we all enjoy ourselves. Indeed, any attempt on my part to use Hindi is likely to provoke amusement, though everyone is keen to help and learn. I think my lack of fluent Hindi is less of a drawback here than in any other unit on Raphael because so many of the less capable children, for whom physiotherapy is useful, have no language at all.

But any unit is made up of people. - May I tell you of some of our children?

BADLU is perhaps fourteen - a plump boy with a big grin. He was picked up off the streets, and his begging formula ('Badlu ka hart doh anna') is his whole vocabulary. He will dance if he is asked to, but doesn't get any coins for it these days. I found a cache of his treasures under his mattress today - stones picked up from the yard. Perhaps the hoarding instinct is a relic of his begging days.

NOEL is over thirty now, a well-built man, usually rather morose. He is helpful round the Boys' Home, fetching and carrying, and generally assisting in the care of the more handicapped ones. He has enough Hindi and English to make him a handy interpreter, too, if he is in the mood to be helpful. Some weeks ago, he was given a shirt, sent by some kind Australian - but what a shirt!! Green palm trees with brown beaches splashed with orange and gold. He loved it and, if anyone commented on it, the grin lit up like the orange and gold splashes. It nearly needed major surgery to get the shirt off on washday.

JOLLIE came to us only a few weeks ago. She is perhaps fourteen, and can talk a little. From what she said over a number of days, we think her story is as follows: Her father took her to the bazaar, promising to buy her bangles, but then he disappeared, and she was left alone. She wandered to a village where some kindly folk fed her, but soon she was hunted away. This happened at another village and another, till one day she followed our milkman across the river, and found a home at last - where she was wanted and her limitations were accepted. She has bad burn scars on her scalp and left arm; one wonders how she came by these. She is still shy and retiring, but is improving.

MOLLY came to us without even a name - she was picked up off the street, too. She was wild and unapproachable at first and would strip off her clothes when she was upset. Under the influence of that most potent drug, Tender Loving Care, she has settled to the stage where she will ask me, in her own wordless way, for a drink of water, and will walk hand in hand with me round the Unit. She now seeks company. Previously, she was too timid to join the other children, and on all but very rare occasions, she remains respectably clad.

GUIDO is twelve now. He was abandoned when he was one day old. He is bright compared with most of our children, but his energies unfortunately tend to be turned to mischief. How many times, while treating a child, have I had both hands and feet occupied, and have felt either my apron buttons being undone, my shoe-laces untied, or hairpins removed? One feels a fool yelling for protection from a twelve year old retarded boy, but what else can one do? I usually give him his cuddle when I first arrive at the Boys' Home, because I so often don't feel like being so friendly later.

Having worked part-time in the Mental Unit for nearly nine months, I began to think I knew these children. But I am continually being surprised. I thought Ernest's whole vocabulary consisted of his name, 'Good Morning', 'Good Evening', and 'Egg Curry', but a few days ago, I entered the Boys' Home to the strains of 'Ramona', rendered by Ernest! I wonder what other secrets he has!

It is a joy indeed to work with these less well-endowed children, and to discover and re-discover that even the dullest can love and be loved.

Mary Vaughan, Physiotherapist
Australia.

AVA DHAR

We are sad to report that Mrs. Ava Dhar, Honorary Secretary/Administrator of 'Raphael' since its inception in 1959 died after a long illness on 1 February 1967.

Mrs. Dhar, a Bengali widow whose two sons had married, first met Group Captain Cheshire in Jamshedpur in 1957, and wrote to him two years later, asking if he could find a place into which she could fit and give the remainder of her life. Her letter was timely, as Raphael was an infant project in its earliest stages of life, and so the Group Captain sent a telegram asking if she could come at once. Ava Dhar left Jamshedpur the next day, and travelled to Dehra Dun, 1,000 miles away.

When the Cheshires returned after their wedding in Bombay on 7 April 1959, they found Mrs. Dhar already installed as Secretary, Housekeeper and Administrator of Raphael. A gift from Heaven indeed.

Mrs. Dhar became ill in July of last year and entered hospital in Bombay. Her loss will be felt very deeply by all associated with Raphael through the years, as these words of the Group Captain will clearly show :

'It is to Mrs. Dhar above all that we owe Raphael. Her loss is a great one indeed. So long as Raphael remains she will always be remembered.

'As you will know, Ava took charge of Raphael from the very moment of its first beginnings and it was she who carried the whole burden of the administration for the first eight years of its life. We can never express adequately our gratitude and appreciate for what she has done, or our sense of loss at her passing. '

Miss Barbara Coleman from Melbourne, who spent four years in India as Secretary of the Cheshire Homes, and who used Raphael as her headquarters writes :

'Somehow I cannot believe Ava is no longer with us. To me she is a part of Raphael. '

To her sons and their families we offer our deepest sympathy.

PEOPLE

We hear that Group Captain Cheshire is undertaking a quick tour of the Cheshire Homes in India, and we are sorry that he will not be able to come to Australia this time. However, we expect to see him here late in 1968.

Victoria's latest recruit to Raphael is Miss Cay Feely, 24-year old nurse from Burwood, who sailed to India in early January. She will spend two years there. We are deeply grateful to INDIANAID for their generosity in providing Cay's fare.

Anne Young, who stood in for Ava Dhar when she was ill, has been writing the letters to Sponsors in the last six months. Sponsors and her many friends will be interested to hear that she is expected to return here within the next few months.

Stepping into the gap left by Ava Dhar and Anne Young is Matron Usher, well known in the Cooma district because until recently, she was the Matron of the Cooma Hospital. Matron Usher arrived in India in January.

In a letter just received from Raphael, we have the news that Mr. John Martyn, O. B. E., is planning to visit Australia from May until August of this year. In June 1966 Mr. Martyn retired as Headmaster of The Doon School, the famous Indian Public School at Dehra Dun. He has travelled extensively in India, having lived there for 35 years, and is held in high esteem. Mr. Martyn was the first Chairman of the Dehra Dun Cheshire Home, has been a member of the Cheshire Homes Indian Trust for some years, and has been on the Raphael Council since its inception.

Mr. Martyn, a Rotarian, has indicated his willingness to address Rotary, other Service Clubs or organisations, to talk not only on Raphael, but also India, its people and its problems. We hope that he will be able to speak to us at our Annual General Meeting in July.

SUPPORT GROUP NEWS

Ballarat

The last annual meeting of the Ballarat Support Group was addressed by Mr. Arnold Griesdorn who had recently returned from Raphael and who had a most interesting commentary to offer.

Office bearers elected for 1966-67 were:

President	John G. Hurley
Vice President	R. G. Dobson
Secretary	Mary Murphy
Treasurer	Bromley Lloyd
Asst. Treasurer	R. Williams.

Committee - Messrs. A. Brandenburg, B. Colbert, S. Crawford,
W. Fogarty, Sister A. McLean, Messrs. E. McLenehan, A. Scott.

The balance sheet for the year was presented and showed a total of 34 adoptions, a lift of 6 on the previous year. Total income for the year amounted to \$2,741 as against \$1,821 the previous year.

In May a dance and barbecue was held in the Hurley woolshed at Yoothamurra to entertain the members of the Oaklands Hunt Club during their visit to Balarat. A small sum of money was raised as well as a certain amount of noise!

The President gave an address to the Buninyong Presbyterian Church Heather Club and another to the combined Daylesford and Beaufort Apex Club. After the address at Buninyong a sum of \$25 was raised amongst the members and presented to the President. At Daylesford a cheque for \$100 was presented for the adoption of a mentally handicapped child. Both audiences were extremely interested and their generosity is keenly appreciated.

Bi-monthly meetings are held in Ballarat and continue to be well attended by a most active and enthusiastic committee.

Geelong

Mr. Howard Burrowes was pleased to report to the Foundation that the Rotary Clubs of Geelong had decided to support Mary Vaughan, our physiotherapist at Raphael, for twelve months. Mary went out to Raphael in December 1965 for two years and it is interesting to note that she was working in the Spastic Centre at Geelong, and first heard of the Foundation when she met the Group Captain there in 1964. Mary originally came from Wilgul in the Western District.

Mr. P. H. N. Opas, Q.C., our busy Vice-Chairman, took a day off from the Courts to visit Geelong to address a Rotary luncheon on 28 March.

Gippsland

The Gippsland Support Group came into existence at a large public meeting held at Moe on 26 April 1966. Moe Apex Club sponsored the meeting and obtained Group Captain Cheshire, then on his Australian tour, as guest speaker. After an inspiring address, a film on Raphael, and a question time, twelve people were nominated by the audience and these then formed the Committee.

The Committee meets monthly to co-ordinate its activities and each member reports on any publicity, new members joined up or other relevant happenings between meetings. To assist in this work three sets of Raphael slides have been obtained as well as printed information sheets and hand-outs. The Group soon hopes to possess a 16 mm motion picture film on Raphael, information sheets on leprosy and a tape recording made at Raphael suitable to play at meetings. Already the President has addressed interested Gippsland organisations ranging from service and social clubs to church groups. Always the response is most encouraging.

In its first nine months the Group raised \$970.65 through memberships, donations, adoptions and endowments. Interest and membership ranges from Drouin to Sale and Maffra, and all towns in between. The area of interest will be extended to all Gippsland within the coming year.

One method of inter-town contact that is proving very successful is the establishing of liaison officers in towns and areas outside the immediate Moe locality with very fruitful results. Members of the Committee will make themselves available on request to any locality in Gippsland to further such contacts.

Recognising the importance of good publicity the Group entered a 'Raphael Stand' at the Moe Trade Fair and this presented an excellent opportunity to publicise our work. Over the period of five days Raphael was presented to some 9,000 people who saw the photographic display, took hand-outs, and saw a Raphael film in the Trade Fair theatre. A Group representative was continually at hand to answer questions and explain the display. Also Christmas Card orders for the Pentridge Support Group were taken.

The Committee has recently lost its inaugural President, the Rev. E. E. Horth and Mrs. Horth, who have left Moe to take up Mission work. Most of the initial success of this Group resulted from their enthusiasm for Raphael, and their drive and experience. They will be sadly missed.

Plans for the future include a prestige function in 1967 as well as further publicity using radio, press, local television and window displays. It is hoped to involve other organisations also.

Speaking in Copenhagen in 1962, the Secretary of the United Nations, U Thant, declared that a new freedom stares the wealthy nations in the face - the freedom to help or not to help their neighbours. We have chosen to help.

Melbourne

The Melbourne Support Group had an active fund-raising year in 1966. Their chief source of funds is from organised social functions. Four such functions were held during 1966 and these included a supper dance cruise on Port Phillip Bay; a dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. O'Shaughnessy in Barkers Road, Kew; a theatre night to see the musical 'Robert and Elizabeth' at the Princess Theatre; and a combined wine tasting and barbecue at Chateau Tahbilk, Nagambie. All of these functions were socially successful, and the net profit on all functions was \$840, a handsome contribution to the Foundation's funds. In addition a produce stall was started at the Flea Market, South Yarra but at the end of the year it was felt that the returns did not justify the amount of voluntary help and rental expended on it.

At the December meeting Mr. Bill Galbraith declined nomination for a further term as Chairman of the Support Group. Bill, who has been Chairman of the Group since its inception, has contributed much time and energy in the interests of the Group, and newly elected Chairman Nick Byrne and fellow members appreciate his continued assistance.

Ann Watson who has been an excellent Secretary and worker for the Support Group activities had resigned a short time before the meeting to prepare for her wedding to Dr. Fred Tossolini. Ann and Fred are now living in Canberra. Miss Pat Daniel who was Acting Secretary was elected Secretary at the December meeting and Mr. Joe Quigley was re-elected Treasurer.

New members are always welcome to join our Support Group. Should any reader feel that he or she might like to help in some way please contact our Chairman Nick Byrne of 74 Male Street, Brighton (Phone 92.8435 Evenings).

Rispana (Doncaster)

On Monday 1 August 1966 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Hamilton, a meeting of friends took place, which resulted in the formation of a new Support Group for the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation. The meeting was convened on the initiative of Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton who have been admirers of the work of Group Captain Cheshire, and of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation, since the Group Captain's first visit to Australia.

About 40 friends were present, and during the evening a talk on the work of the Foundation, and its history, were given by Miss Josephine Collins, who also showed some slides of staff and patients at Dehra Dun during her talk, and afterwards spent some time answering questions put by many of those present and showed great interest.

After the talk, a proposal was made by Mr. Bruce Hamilton that a new Support Group be formed, whose object would be to raise money in various ways in order to support in a suitable fashion the work being carried on by the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation in Australia. This proposal was unanimously agreed to by those present and it was decided that a Committee be formed in order to commence this work.

The following members were elected:

President	Mr. Bruce Hamilton
Treasurer	Mr. B. M. Wallbridge
Secretary	Mr. P. E. Hewitt
Adoption Officer	Mrs. B. Hamilton
Committee	Mesdames G. Norris, M. S. Jeans, B. G. Walker, Mr. E. O'Brien, Mrs. J. Wallbridge

The young people present decided that they would also like to participate and formed a Younger Set, and have taken out an adoption with the proceeds from a Record night held recently at our home.

It was decided to call the Support Group Rispana, the name of the river by which Raphael is situated.

THE RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATION (VICTORIA)

Hon. Secretary Mr. J. Graham, F.F.A., 3 Hollingsworth Avenue,
Hawthorn.

Donations to the Hon. Treasurer

Mr. D. A. Sinclair, B. Com., B. Ed., M.A.C.E.,
21 Moorwatha Street, Macleod.