



'RAPHAEL'

NEWSLETTER OF THE RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATION

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EDITORIAL

Our readers may already, even before reading this far, have noticed a change in this edition of our newsletter. This is the omission of the word 'Victoria' from our heading. This change marks a change in the scope of the newsletter - from now on we are publishing a newsletter for all Australian friends of Ryder-Cheshire, and the three Foundations, A.C.T., New South Wales and Victoria, have contributed to this edition. We hope you enjoy reading about what our supporters in all these areas are doing.

THANKS FROM 'RAPHAEL'

The following are extracts from a letter addressed to all supporters of the Australian Foundation from Miss Philippa Mansfield, Adoptions Secretary at 'RAPHAEL'.

"We have very few chances to thank you personally, and we should like you to know that we're well aware of the time and effort which you put in on our behalf, and extremely grateful for it. To all of you, a sincere 'thank you'. You're a grand set of practical dreamers, and I don't know what we'd do at 'RAPHAEL' without you."

THE SECOND LITTLE WHITE HOUSE

The second Little White House is build adjacent to the first building and is connected to it by means of a veranda. There are communicating doors both upstairs and down, allowing for quick and easy access from one building to another. This is an important factor when you have so many children to be cared for and when you're never sure what sort of mischief they will be up to next! The two houses look very nice standing next to one another - it's as if they just put their broad shoulders together in an effort to keep out the hunger, disease and lack of education and opportunity, which could easily be our children's lot if they did not find a home at 'Raphael'.

The houses are designed to take approximately 70 children. The first building contains the children's playroom, sleeping accommodation for 32, and a small Chapel. The second building provides a Dining Room (which

is also used as a schoolroom) and sleeping accommodation for 38 children. In addition, in each building there is accommodation for those who live with and look after the children. At the present time, Miss Pamela Holt from Adelaide supervises this large household. She is assisted by Louisa, a Goanese lady who works in a voluntary capacity, and a staff of Ayahs. We all feel that House parents of the right calibre would be a welcome innovation, but until we find the right people this is our staffing position. On the whole the children are very good, but now that the boys in particular are growing up, we feel "a Man around the House" is a must.

The children's day begins at 7.30 a.m. with breakfast for the bigger children, twelve in all who attend a Junior High School in the township of Dehra Dun, and a second sitting at 8.00 a.m. for the littler ones who will attend the school at 'Raphael'. The bigger children are responsible for making their own beds, boys and girls, and for sweeping their own rooms. In addition the girls also help to dress and do the hair of the small ones - what yards and yards of long black hair must be plaited before breakfast! During the morning school goes on for all but the smallest ones, and sometimes even they attend. Pamela has an infant class, which taxes her ingenuity and patience to the utmost I'm sure.

Dinner is at 12.30, and though the children receive milk and Optrose (rose-hip syrup containing Vitamin C) during the morning, there's never any reluctance to form a line and march into the dining room. The bigger children have their lunch when they return from school at about 3.30 p.m. (Because of the numbers of children requiring schooling, most schools in India observe the two shifts-in-one-day system, with separate staffs and separate pupils using the same classrooms). During Summer everyone rests for some hours in the afternoon, during the hottest part of the day. Then there are study periods for homework, and games. Bath time comes after supper, and then it's everyone to bed in preparation for the next day of activity and learning.

At present we have 47 children ranging in age from 14 down to 3. Owing to our water problems (there is no running water except between the hours of 10 or 11 p.m. and 5.00 a.m., just when you don't need it, everyone being asleep), and this means that apart from what can be collected during those hours all else has to be brought by bucket from a tap in the Mental Unit, five minutes walk away), we do not want to admit new children in any great numbers. Perhaps when monsoon comes and water can be stored in the fountain (water storage tank) donated by Australia for this purpose, we shall be able to increase our numbers.

Both Little White Houses have recently been given a face lift in an effort to make them more homely, and also as a part of the necessary maintenance. The doors have been painted fire engine red, and the walls are sparkling with new whitewash. Some metal bunks, recently purchased, have been painted white and assembled and now there are enough individual beds for everyone, even the smallest. Every bed has a brightly coloured "razai", the cotton filled quilt which during the winter is so wonderful for keeping out the cold and the draughts. As the hotter weather is coming though, it will not be long before they go into hiding again.

In the dining room there are little tables and chairs of pink, green and red. There are pictures on the walls, gay curtains at the windows and brightly coloured Indian mats on the floors. In front there is a lawn around which grow trees and shrubs, and on which stand the slide and swing, with which the children have such fun. Behind is the children's garden. Here they grow vegetables and bananas. A wandering cow occasionally munches its way through the protective fence and casts eyes upon the lettuces, but for all that they produce quite a good vegetable crop and the Little White House bananas, though few in number, have a delicious flavour which has led us all to call them "fruit salads".

Thus the Two Little White Houses are truly Homes. They keep out the cold, the heat and the rain. They are the places where the children find security, affection, food and clothing. They house the School which all but the oldest children attend, and where they are offered the priceless advantage of literacy. They watch over the children as they get up and go to sleep. They smile on them as they play around them, they frown on them when they are naughty and have to forfeit afternoon tea for some irresponsible piece of mischief. At Diwali (Hindu festival of lights) they are decorated with hundreds of tiny candles and they twinkle happily on this the biggest Hindu festival of the year. At Christmas time they are decorated with wreaths and gay mobiles, and they shelter the crib which the children make and put in a corner of the Chapel.

So, we hope, are two cultures, religions and ways of thought blended. Our wish is that the children will be able to take from their life at 'Raphael' concepts and ideas which will fit them to be loyal and social minded members of Indian society. If we can achieve this, then our work, and yours, will have been worthwhile.

- Philippa Mansfield

FROM NEW SOUTH WALES

It does not seem long since the first 'Raphael' newsletter appeared in print in December 1964. Glancing through the first issue, one is reminded of the Group Captain's whirlwind visit to Australia in April of that year. It was then that the framework for channelling Australia to help 'Raphael' really took shape and the newsletter reflects the promise and goodwill pervading as we stood rather much on the threshold of our endeavors.

It now seems an appropriate time to look not only back, but forwards. During these past few years there has been a satisfying growth and consolidation of each of the three Foundations and a great deal of hard work has been shared by an increasing number of people. Consequently Australia has been able to assume a vital role in providing both funds and personal service for those at 'Raphael'. It seems fair to say we feel closer to, and more responsible for those under our care. Looking ahead, we may anticipate playing an ever greater part, and striving towards wider expansion if 'Raphael' is to fulfil its promise of hope to those who seek and need relief there.

This national newsletter can only strengthen our sense of common purpose and provide a source of mutual encouragement to all our members and

supporters in Victoria, N.S.W., and A.C.T. who share the wish to make some little contribution towards the work of our Founder for the relief of sufferers.

- Barbara Coleman

Like Victoria, the N.S.W. Foundation is comprised of a Council which meets quarterly, and a number of fund-raising support groups, both in Sydney itself and in country areas. The most recently formed group is in the Eastern Suburbs and will soon be holding its first meeting. Up until now, the Northside Group has been responsible in Sydney for the organization of functions, collection of clothes, and promoting interest in 'Raphael' through talks, film nights and any other ways to hand.

The responsibility for maintaining 'Raphael' for the months of June and January each year since 1964 has been borne by a relatively small group of people. We are very happy to have this opportunity of acknowledging the devoted contribution made by Mrs. E.G. Miles. Mrs. Miles recently retired from the position of Honorary Secretary to the Foundation after four years of constant effort to ensure that the Foundation was firmly established in N.S.W. Added to working full time in an honorary capacity at the secretarial work, Mrs. Miles has held an annual Luncheon at her home for 'Raphael' and has organized the sale of Christmas cards each year for the Foundation. Last year close to 10,000 cards were sold, almost entirely due to her own personal effort. We are glad to say that Mrs. Miles is remaining with us as a director and will continue as honorary organizer of the Christmas card sales and her annual luncheon.

These Christmas cards have been brought out every year since 1964 to aid the homeless children, leprosy patients and other chronically sick at 'Raphael'. This year the beautiful and effective design is the work of a prisoner in Parramatta Prison, N.S.W. It is an etching type picture in a narrow red frame of camels and their riders looking at the Star of Bethlehem, with an oriental city in the background. As in previous years, the card is printed by Westmead Printing - Westmead Boys' Home, for 200 boys from broken homes. The cost of the card is 10 cents, including Croxley envelope. We are always pleased to supply any quantity, large or small. Enquiries to any Committee Member or the Honorary Organizer, Mrs. E. G. Miles, 10 Hamilton Parade, Pymble. N.S.W. 2073.

The Northside Support Group has raised over \$600 by means of functions which have included theatre nights, a barbecue and an Indian curry luncheon and yoga demonstration.

Miss Anne Young, who spent over two years at 'Raphael' has been very active in lecturing to various groups on the work of the Foundation, together with Mrs. Miles and Miss. Power.

The N.S.W. Branch of the Red Cross Society has generously donated two lots of medical supplies to 'Raphael' this year, and the box at Mascot International Airport yielded \$127 since last September.

We would like to thank all our friends for their enthusiastic support of our functions.

- Joan Mooney

FROM A.C.T.

During the year the sum of \$2,510 was dispatched to 'Raphael', for the furnishing and equipping of two wards in the new wing of the Hospital. In addition a further amount of \$200 was contributed towards general maintenance costs.

Throughout the year there has been evidence of growing interest in the Foundation. Mr Peter McMahon has given talks to a number of organisations. The Deakin Brownie Pack are busily making picture books from old Christmas Cards for the Mentally retarded children. Their ultimate aim is a Patchwork Quilt, yet more evidence of interest shown by young people. Forthcoming functions include a clothing appeal day, and a cake stall.

At its last meeting the Committee decided to adopt the "Red Feather" as the insignia of the Canberra Branch. The "Red Feather" is known throughout South-East Asia as a Cheshire Homes symbol and it is with pride that we introduce it to the Australian scene. So be on the look-out for us with our "Red Feather" - may it serve to remind us of the compassion amongst human beings.

- Patricia Druce

FROM GIPPSLAND

The Gippsland support group continues with enthusiasm finishing the 1967-68 year with a dinner dance having the Indian High Commissioner in Australia, Mr Thomas and his wife, Mrs Thomas, as our guests. 250 people enjoyed dinner, dancing, and imbibing with restraint, and also, we hope learnt a little about 'Raphael'.

Our annual meeting was held on July 9th in conjunction with Moe Apex. We were most happy to have Miss Collins, Mr Graham and Mr Hamilton with us. Miss Collins spoke to us of her recent trip to India, making us all able to grasp a little closer the need in India for our continued help. An enthusiastic committee was elected, once more under the popular presidency of Mr Terry Synan.

- Peggy McPhee

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE VICTORIAN ANNUAL REPORT

You will be gratified to learn that the amount raised since the constitution of the Victorian Foundation in 1964 now exceeds \$45,000.

As a result of the expansion at 'Raphael' and of the rising costs which, it seems, cause problems the world over, the monthly maintenance of 'Raphael' has risen to \$3,350, increasing the commitment of the Victorian Foundation by \$1,050 to \$10,050 per year. This is a great responsibility for us and provides a challenge to increase our contribution to the equipping of the International Centre and to the capital works going on there.

We hope that in the coming year we will be able to establish some additional support groups in which to raise the money needed to cope with rising costs.

We are again most thankful for the tremendous work being done for us by our Support Groups, as a large proportion of our funds are raised by their efforts. These Support Groups, with Mr. Hurley at Ballarat, Mr. Wettenhall at Coleraine, Mr. Burrows at Geelong, Mr. Synan at Gippsland, in the Melbourne area the two Groups led by Mr. Byrne and Mr. Hamilton, the Clare Group in South Australia under Dr. Wallace and the Group in Pentridge prison, are our mainstay. I was particularly pleased to learn that our Gippsland Group recently entertained the High Commissioner for India at their annual dinner dance - a wonderful honour for them and a tribute to the work of our Foundation.

The main vehicle for our Fund raising, through the Support Groups or direct to the Foundation, remains the Adoption and Endowment scheme. By these means, groups of people and individuals become personally committed to maintain a patient, destitute child or mentally retarded child at 'Raphael'. We believe that this feeling of personal involvement gives our Foundation its strength; we wish that this feeling could be shared by all people in Australia for all the people in Asia whom we could help so much if we put our minds to it.

It is very gratifying to us that so many Australian girls are willing to volunteer for work at 'Raphael'. At present we have Pamela Holt working with the destitute children, and Marie Maguire, a physio-therapist, while Anne Young and Mary Vaughan, whose names will be familiar to most of you, have recently returned to Australia.

I would also like to refer briefly to the membership of this Foundation with the other Australian Foundations, in the Australian Council for Overseas Aid to overseas countries. Miss Collins and Mr. Graham attended Council Meetings of A.C.F.O.A. during the year. We are optimistic that this organisation will be able to help persuade the Federal Government to increase the amount of its overseas aid, both directly and indirectly by allowing contributions to organisations such as our Foundation to rank for income tax relief.

- Sir Arthur Dean

THE AUSTRALIAN FOUNDATIONS

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102 Endeavour Street,
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