



'RAPHAEL'

NEWSLETTER OF

THE RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATION

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DECEMBER, 1968

JOTTINGS

Over the past eighteen months, the links between 'RAPHAEL' and supporters in Australia have been forged even stronger by the warmth and friendliness of the letters written by Philippa Mansfield during her time as Adoptions Secretary at 'RAPHAEL'.

Philippa has now flown home to Palmerston North in New Zealand, having completed her two years at 'RAPHAEL'; she signed on originally as a nurse, and did nursing duties for the first six months, but during a staff shortage in the office volunteered to fill in. She has a natural flair for writing and in fact spent much of her free time in India writing a book, which we hope we will be reading one day soon.

Philippa will be very much missed not only by all of us in Australia, but also by the many friends she leaves behind at 'RAPHAEL' and in Dehra Dun. Her place has been taken by Bernadette Keane, from Melbourne, who is a nurse also, and who is now doing her second tour of duty as a volunteer in India. Bernadette returned to Australia in January of this year after two years' nursing at the Anglican Hospital in Hazaribagh, Bihar. We know she will prove a worthy successor to Philippa (especially as she too has literary leanings), and we wish them both every success in their future ventures.

This year has taken Ryder-Cheshire into fresh fields in Australia, with new Support Groups appearing in N. S. W. (Eastern Suburbs, Sydney), and in Victoria, where Bendigo Training Prison and Shepparton have been formally established, whilst Bendigo and Castlemaine are as yet in embryonic stages. A warm welcome is extended to all these Groups and to our new members.

ADOPTIONS - by Anne Young

One aspect of the work of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation which I find particularly appealing is the "Adoption" Scheme. I feel that this really cements the liaison between India and Australia which we, as members of the Foundation are striving towards - in work in which the personal touch of helping a human being as an individual is of the utmost importance.

At 'RAPHAEL' itself, there is now an acute awareness of the interest of friends in Australia - which has also spread into the town of Dehra Dun, especially since little Bachan Das was "adopted" by the Ballarat Lions' Club - through the Lions' Club of Dehra

Dun. The early correspondence regarding Bachan Das's "adoption" urged the visit of a group of notable townspeople to look over 'RAPHAEL' and meet little B.D., an extremely charming 3 year old who relished having his hand shaken by each of the visiting gentlemen, quite solemnly! Letters, postcards, photos and gifts from sponsors are ALWAYS greeted with TREMENDOUS squeals of delight by more voices than one - and shortly after each mail delivery or as soon as news of mail arrival has trickled through to "The Little White House", a sea of eager faces appears to enquire "Mera Auntie ki chitthi"? (Has my Auntie's letter arrived?) The children have come to think of their sponsors as Auntie or Uncle and, as well as receiving letters and postcards, they are extremely anxious to practice their newly-learned English in writing letters back. Recently, I received a very beautiful effort with "lost of love" !

In the Mental Unit unfortunately, appreciation cannot be expressed so clearly, but a gaily coloured post-card can light up a face in a rapturous smile, very easily - and a bright, knitted sweater or hat or socks have a warmth all of their own! Some walls of the quarters in the Leprosy Colony boast Australian calendars, magazine cuttings, postcards and letters - and here, one can spend quite a little while answering questions - endless questions (a little more time-consuming because of the language barrier with which I, for one, had quite a battle !) During my time at 'RAPHAEL' there was a standing joke when, after saying "Namaste" (Indian greeting) the master weaver in the Leprosy Patients' Workshop would add "Jai Hind" (Victory to India) and I would have to come in on cue and say "Jai Australia" ! Once told, the sponsors' names were always remembered and, as with Bachan Singh, Dabi and Surrender - a whole family being helped by a group of prisoners at Pentridge - one realises what a truly double-barrelled situation this has become.

Now, back in Australia, I have been able to meet many of the sponsors with whom I corresponded from 'RAPHAEL', - which has been wonderful for me, and it is easy to see how much more a personalised donation like this can mean. The "Adoption" Scheme was started in 1963, and it is growing to form a good proportion of the \$3,000 per month which we are endeavouring to provide for at least half of each year, in order to maintain the 300 people now living on 'RAPHAEL'. The remaining months' main-tenances are being sent from New Zealand and England. To support a mentally handi-capped child, leprosy patient or hospital patient, it costs \$100 per year and, to support a destitute child, \$70 per year. As well as this, we are offering each child or patient for "endowment" at \$50 per year, because the "adoption" figures were calculated, as I said, in 1963 - since when the cost of living has risen greatly and it was found necessary to supplement the income.

From this assistance, the patient receives food, clothing and medical attention and education. The sponsor receives a photo and details of the adoptee. (These are the tangible advantages). A sponsor can be an individual or family, or a joint adoption can be arranged through Clubs, schools, offices and groups of neighbours. If YOU want to be helped to help others in this way, please contact :

Mr. Bruce Hamilton, 49 Stevenson Street, Kew, Victoria, 3101.
Mrs. P. E. Smith, 102 Endeavour Street, Canberra, A. C. T. , 2600
Miss Anne Young, 22 McHatton Street, North Sydney, N. S. W. 2060

FOUNDATION AND GROUP NEWS

Ballarat (Victoria)

The Fourth Annual General Meeting of the Ballarat Group was held at Ballarat College on 5th June at which the guest speaker was Miss Josephine Collins. Miss Collins gave an account of her recent visit to 'RAPHAEL' and during her stay gave addresses to Clarendon College, Loreto Convent and Ballarat East High School, as well as a television interview on BTV6 Ballarat. Her visit gave an added stimulus to the already widespread interest in this area.

At the Annual Meeting, the following officers were elected to the Committee :

President :	John G. Hurley
Vice President :	Brian Colbert, Esq.
Secretary :	Miss Mary Murphy
Treasurer :	Ronald Williams, Esq.
Committee :	Sister A. McLean, Messrs. A. Brandenburg, S. Crawford, R. Dobson, W. Fogarty, R. Horner, E. McLenehan, A. Scuffins.

Mr. Scuffins, who is a member of the staff of Ballarat College replaces Mr. Scott, who resigned during the year to take up duties at Geelong College.

During the year we had a visit from Miss Anne Young, who addressed the students at Mary's Mount, Loreto Abbey, and the Catholic Nurses Guild.

At present, the Branch has a total of 38 adoptions and 5 endowments. During the year the sum of \$3,585 was raised, being \$550 higher than the previous year.

The Group is very active and we have hopes of raising a higher sum for the current year.

Gippsland (Victoria)

Many thanks for the extended coverage of the newsletter.

From the 11th to the 16th October, Moe Trade Fair Week, a local business firm donated our "Support Group" a stall. Two of our members wore saris each evening; the girls attracted a lot of attention, and in consequence, many more people learnt of 'RAPHAEL'. We are busy selling Christmas cards, and planning our next money making event. We hope to have a wine and cheese tasting evening, with a local folk singer entertaining in March, 1969.

To all our fellow workers we extend the compliments of the season.

Clothing (Victoria)

Mrs. Betty Arundell has asked us to convey her and our sincere thanks to all those kind people who have so loyally been supplying her with used clothing for 'RAPHAEL'. She reports that this year, 33 tea chests were packed and despatched to 'RAPHAEL' from Victoria, and this is the largest number for a year so far.

Mrs. Arundell is particularly delighted with the quality of clothing she is receiving and with the care and thought so obviously used in attention to mending and laundering by so many donors.

Mrs. Arundell, as the mother of five, finds that her domestic chores have to take precedence during the Christmas holidays, so she has "requested permission" for leave of absence at this time. For those who are interested, could any deliveries of clothing be postponed until the end of January. But from 1st February on, clothing may again be delivered to :

Mrs. J. Arundell,
409 North Road,
CAULFIELD SOUTH Phone: 58 6706

or sent freight free by Victorian Railways to :

Ryder-Cheshire Foundation,
C/- Ormond Railway Station, Victoria.

A. C. T.

The Canberra Foundation held a Clothing Appeal Day on 26th September, with outstanding success. The people of the A. C. T. responded with overwhelming donations of clothing and money and we were very proud to forward to 'RAPHAEL' a total of 24 tea chests of good quality clothing, all mended, pressed and dry cleaned. These will reach India in time for Christmas. Thanks to Miss Josephine Collins, we were able to incorporate a photographic display of interest to the general public. Our booth was set up in the central shopping mall in Canberra's Civic Centre, which enabled us to attract a large percentage of the Thursday shopping crowd. There were several new members recruited and a profit came from the sale of Christmas cards.

A cake stall held in October, again in Civic Centre, gave a total of \$73.50 plus several additional donations, and an endowment has been received from the Yarralumla Girl Guide Group, who are busy making Christmas gifts for the children of the "Little White House". Following a talk and film screening the girls collected a further donation for 'RAPHAEL'.

5th December will be an exciting evening for our Group. We will be entertaining the High Commissioner for India, Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Thomas at a buffet

dinner at the Sailing Club, and Miss Barbara Coleman will be travelling down from Sydney to join us and our many Ryder-Cheshire supporters. It is hoped that this will develop into an annual event, not only as a fund raiser, but as a social get-together for members who are unable to attend the general meetings throughout the year.

Canberra has an enthusiastic support group amongst the senior students at Campbell High School, and it was with interest we learnt that their Headmaster, Mr. K. J. Smyth has accepted an award to study education in India. One of our former committee members, Miss Jessie Hollingsworth, leaves shortly for a Yoga tour of India, and has included a visit to 'RAPHAEL' in her itinerary.

The First Secretary (Cultural Affairs) from the Indian High Commission, Mrs. Usha Nath, entertained members of the Committee at a Cocktail Party at her home recently. Mrs. Nath is related to the Honorary Welfare Officer at 'RAPHAEL', Mrs. Dot Rawleigh, and on a recent visit home, spent some time with her at Dehra Dun.

A general meeting was held on 21st November, and guest speaker for the evening was Mrs. Subramaniam, an Indian lady who is furthering her studies here at the Menzies Library. Mrs. Subramaniam spoke of the "FESTIVALS OF INDIA", a subject which was very gay and interesting to us all. As a result of the success of our last few fund raising functions, a further cheque should be forwarded to 'RAPHAEL' shortly, but we will be resting on our laurels now until February. Therefore, we take this opportunity to wish all our Ryder-Cheshire friends and supporters, a bright, Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

New South Wales

1. Eastern Suburbs Support Group : A new Sydney Support Group had its first meeting in August, at the home of the President, Miss Margaret Power. It is intended to hold fund-raising activities to cater for Eastern suburbs friends and supporters. The first function, a Theatre Party to the Old Tote Theatre to see "YOU NEVER CAN TELL" was very successful, and combined with a raffle, raised \$30.40.

2. Farewell to Bernadette Keane : In September, the Northside and Eastern Suburbs groups combined their monthly meetings to give all the members the opportunity of meeting Miss Bernadette Keane of Melbourne, who was stopping over in Sydney en route to 'RAPHAEL' where she took over as Secretary from Miss Philippa Mansfield who has returned to New Zealand.

Bernadette, looking very charming in a pink sari and Indian sandals, told us she is very much looking forward to working at Dehra Dun. She is no stranger to India, having completed two years' service with Australian Volunteers Abroad as a Nursing Sister at St. Columba's Anglican Mission Hospital at Hazaribagh in the famine area of Bihar. She has also worked with Mother Theresa in Calcutta. Bernadette has studied Hindi and feels a great empathy with the Indian way of life. During her short stay in Sydney, Bernadette gained us excellent publicity, being interviewed on television and

radio and written up in the morning newspapers.

Having met Bernadette, we felt an even closer bond with 'RAPHAEL' as we read her news bulletins.

3. Christmas Cocktail Party : On the 4th December, our Christmas function, a Cocktail Party to be held at the Air Force Association, will give the N.S.W. Executive Committee and the Sydney Support Groups the opportunity to meet friends and members of the Foundation.

PEOPLE

The Victorian Foundation has recently made two new appointments. They are Mr. Peter Walsh as Assistant Secretary and Mr. Ross Stagg as Publicity Officer. Contributors to this newsletter are particularly asked to note Mr. Stagg's address : 2 Jarrahdale Street, Cheltenham, 3192, as he will be editing future editions.

Would Victorian members please also note that the address of the Victorian Foundation's Secretary is now 5 Bradford Avenue, Kew, 3101, telephone number : 80-1999.

THE AUSTRALIAN FOUNDATIONS

VICTORIA

Patron :	His Excellency, Sir Rohan Delacombe, K. C. M. G. , K. B. E. , C. B. , D. S. O. , K. St. J.
President:	The Hon. Sir Arthur Dean, LL.M.
Vice-President :	Mr. Philip H. N. Opas, Q. C. , LL. B
Hon. Secretary :	Mr. J. Graham, F. F. A.
Hon. Treasurer :	Mr. D. A. Sinclair, B. Com. B. Ed. , M. A. C. E. 21 Moorwatha Street, Macleod, 3085.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Patrons :	His Excellency, Sir Roden Cutler, V. C. , K. C. M. G. , C. B. E. , and Lady Cutler.
Chairman :	The Hon. Mr. Justice J. F. Nagle
Hon. Secretary :	Miss Barbara Coleman Box 3863, G. P. O. SYDNEY
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A. C. T.

President :	Mr. F. Hill
Vice Presidents :	Mr. J. Spencer : Mr. J. Herlighy
Hon. Secretary :	Mrs. P. Smith, 102 Endeavour Street, Red Hill, A. C. T. , 2600
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