



# 'RAPHAEL'

NEWSLETTER OF

## THE RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATION

Vol. 4. No. 2

SEPTEMBER 1969

Price 10c.

### WHY DON'T THEY GIVE V.C.s FOR COMPASSION.

Here are some extracts from an article that appeared in the London Daily Mail on 1st July, 1969:

"A breakdown somewhere in communication between people and Palace has led to what is, in the opinion of many, a sad omission from the recent Honors List. Surely the next List must include a high honor to reward the ideals and achievement of Group Captain Leonard Cheshire. When Cheshire got his V.C. his bomb-aimer, an Aussie tough as old boots said: 'Properly dressed at last, Sir'. But he is properly dressed no longer. He has the V.C., the D.S.O. and two Bars and the D.F.C. They are not enough. His courage during the war was rewarded, now it is time the nation took stock of his vision and his unique contribution to humanity in peace and made acknowledgement. The bomber leader who spread death wherever he flew has devoted his life ever since to the care and comfort of the incurable, the sick unto death. He has done it now for 21 years; a great compassion has come of age. With little more than faith and a disturbing way of persuading people to do their duty by others, Leonard Cheshire is now the titular head of 100 Homes for incurables, which include half that number in England and the rest scattered all over the world. The 21 year-old Cheshire Foundation has called its first International Conference this month. It would be difficult to over-rate Cheshire's contribution. Few heroes have spent the remainder of their courage so well. If the Honors are meant, as we are led to believe, to recognise not only the recipient but all those engaged in his work, then Leonard Cheshire is an ideal candidate.

Perhaps it was just as well he wasn't proposed. Well, he is now!"

### NEWS FROM 'RAPHAEL'

In 1959, water was carried in buckets from a pump near the end of the Causeway - at that time not yet constructed.



In 1969, children of the Little White House and 'Ava Vihar' still carry buckets of water morning and evening to fill the tanks. However, the Croydon Presbyterian Church group in Victoria have donated money to purchase and install Booster Pumps, and it is hoped that the present inadequate supply will be much improved when the pumps commence operating.

Another hardship experienced at Raphael involves water again - this time too much of it. The following extract from the August Monthly Report describes their predicament.

"This has been a trying month because of the disruptions caused by the flooding of the Causeway. As you know, 'Raphael' is situated on a forested ridge overlooking what is, for the most part of the year, the dry bed of the Rispana River; the entire property being linked to the outside world by a cement Causeway, which is reinforced every year before the monsoon season begins. This year the rains have been particularly heavy and persistent, causing the Rispana to thunder along in two forceful rivulets which have, in turn, flooded the Causeway for most of this month. Sometimes the water has not been very deep, but still it has been impossible to cross because of its swiftness. Throughout the month, for varying lengths of time, we have been without rations, electricity, telephone or - strangely enough - water, as the water main burst. Only on August 27th, was the pipe able to be mended, thus ending a three week dearth of water. Prior to this we had depended on rain water collected in buckets, cans, jam jars or any available container. A further source of inconvenience, due again to the flooded Causeway, was the problem of absenteeism. Twenty of the older children who usually attend school in Dehra Dun were unable to do so, and conversely, the living-out nursing staff and ayahs were not able to come on duty. We were fortunate, though, that no tragedies occurred as news reached us of 46 people drowned in two separate accidents half a mile from here, when vehicles were swept off another Causeway."

However, the following extract from the same Report describes the arrival of clothing.

"But all was not gloom during the month. The rain did subside for a couple of days, thereby enabling a consignment of Australian used clothing to be brought across, and we have been notified that a New Zealand consignment is awaiting collection. We very much appreciate the time and effort which go into the preparing, packing and despatching of the clothing, and in this regard special thanks are due to Mrs. Betty Arundell and friends from Melbourne, plus the staff of Byron Manufacturing Company in Auckland. Clothing is distributed at 'Raphael' to the servants and patients twice a year - October and March. Presently, Matron is busy sorting the Winter clothes and making preliminary lists for the next distribution, which will take place in early October when Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights, is celebrated."

## EXAMPLES OF CARE AND TREATMENT

Mohan is a 15 year old boy who fell from a train a year ago and who subsequently had a below-knee amputation of his left leg. He was brought to 'Raphael' 5 months ago because the stump had failed to heal. The troublesome tissue was excised and enquiries were made in Delhi about the possibility of having an artificial leg fitted. He is a charming, energetic boy who, despite his disability, is unfailingly pleasant, and at mealtimes he always helps with the feeding of the cerebral palsied children. Money for both the prosthesis and the travel expenses involved has been provided by the Rotary Club of Clifton, a small town in Queensland. He returned from Delhi in June proudly wearing his artificial leg. On 20th July, he was finally discharged from 'Raphael'.

Brijendre is a 14 year old orphaned boy who was brought to 'Raphael' by a Swami, and handed over to our care. At first it looked as though he was suffering from an advanced stage of leprosy, but investigations showed the correct diagnosis as being tuberculosis of the bones and skin. The boy's right eye is badly affected, and so he is to have the necessary operation in Delhi. This boy has been remarkable in the way in which he has responded to an atmosphere of gaiety and love, whereas previously he had been neglected and despised in the Dehra Dun bazaar. Money for his eye operation has been donated by Mrs. Sutherland, who is the mother of the New Zealand volunteer, Shona.

During June he remained at the All India Medical Institute while further skin grafting was done to his face before the corneal graft could be done. Eventually, after two eye operations, he was discharged from the Medical Institute and has returned to 'Raphael' where he appears well.

## A QUICK VISIT TO LONDON - 1969

The first International Conference of the Cheshire Homes opened officially on Friday 4th July. During the previous few days, representatives of Cheshire Homes all over the world were flying in to London and reporting at 5 - 7 Market Mews, the Headquarters of the U.K. Cheshire Homes, the Overseas Homes, and 'Raphael'.

Several social gatherings at Market Mews provided opportunities for delegates to meet informally, and set the pattern for the happy atmosphere that was to prevail throughout the Conference.

It would be hard to visualize the scenes at Market Mews during these first few days. The offices consist of two 3 storey mews cottages, with narrow stairways to the top floors where tiny kitchens and bathrooms are situated. For the staff members, whether full or part-time, paid or voluntary, suddenly D-Day was upon them, after a year of what must have seemed endless reorganisation and planning. The little buildings almost rocked as they were invaded by a horde of visitors from 20 different countries, each with his own request or difficulty to be sorted out by the always courteous and efficient staff. At times we found ourselves being swept into the tide, helping where we could - perhaps meeting non-English speaking delegates at the air terminal, finding last minute accommodation for a late arrival, escorting (not reluctantly) two Indians to Wimbledon, or cooking poppodums in the attic kitchen for a curry luncheon!

The Conference was held at Imperial College in Kensington. Accommodation was arranged for about 100 in the Hall of Residence, and the sessions took place in a very fine Lecture Theatre about 5 minutes walk away. There were in all four sessions, the topics for discussion being:

- (1) The role and nature of the Cheshire Homes Foundations - with sub-headings,
- (2) The Foundation as an International entity and the link between its different members - with sub-headings.

As this was a Cheshire Homes Conference and as 'Raphael' is not part of this Foundation, we as Australians attended as observers. Nevertheless, we found it all intensely interesting. The talks from the platform, as also the ensuing discussion from the floor, gave us a much better insight and a broader understanding of the basic aims and principles of the Cheshire Homes and the allied works for the relief of suffering throughout the world.

One indelible impression was made on at these sessions. This was that people of so many different lands and different cultures, airing sometimes widely differing viewpoints were yet fundamentally united, sharing the same bond of selflessness and concern in their individual endeavours to relieve suffering.

Along with the business side of the Conference, there were several social functions that had been arranged for the delegates - a Reception at Lancaster House one evening, and on another, a memorable visit to the Houses of Parliament, followed by a dinner in the Members' Dining Room.



On the Sunday a coach trip to Le Court was a highlight for all the delegates, whether British or from overseas. Le Court was the first Cheshire Home established 21 years ago. The Le Court we saw was a far cry from the old house where the G. C. brought to his home a man dying of cancer. Since then, due to the generosity of the Carnegie Trust and many other people, the Home has been completely rebuilt. Set in lovely grounds in the Country of Hampshire, it is equipped with all the modern amenities evolved by science to help the disabled. For most of the visitors, especially those from the developing countries, it was an illuminating experience to see how, with these amenities, the residents can be so independent, and lead such full lives.

The warm welcome given by the residents to the visitors on that Sunday was a fitting climax to the first International Conference of the Cheshire Homes.

- - - - -

Many of our readers who remember meeting John Martyn during his 1967 visit to Australia, will be pleased to hear that he was married in London on 14th July to Mrs. Mady Uttam Singh of Dehra Dun. It was very well timed, as many of us who were in London for the Conference were able to attend the reception after the ceremony. As well as being a very happy occasion, it seemed almost like a grand Dehra Dun re-union, with many of John's 'old boys' from the Doon School present, as well as Raphael-ites, who included Matron Joan Usher, and our Irish nurse, Dorothy Huggard, who had just completed her tour of duty there. We take this opportunity on behalf of all the Australian Foundations, of wishing Mady and John every happiness, and extend to them a warm invitation to visit Australia.

Barbara Coleman and Josephine Collins.

#### MATRON JOAN USHER

In April 1969, a Colonel Raj was selected from 136 applicants for the position of Administrator of 'Raphael'. Therefore, after two and a half years' service as Matron and Administrator - rendered on a voluntary basis - Matron Usher prepared to leave 'Raphael'. An indication of her work was the appointment of an Administrator, a Nursing Superintendent and a Typist all to do the work she herself had been doing.

In July, less than three months after leaving, Miss Usher was back at 'Raphael'. Colonel Raj had resigned as Administrator and had left on 7th July. Group Captain Cheshire persuaded Miss Usher to take on her old duties again, at least until a suitable candidate as an Indian Administrator could be found.

Everyone at 'Raphael' is delighted to have her back and we can only echo their appreciation of the selflessness that motivated her return.

## CONDOLENCES

We were sad to hear of the death of Rev. Father H. Lalor, S. J. He was the founder of Indianaid Inc., and as such was responsible for both Miss Marie Maguire and Miss Pamela Holt being sent to 'Raphael'. God rest his soul.

## FOUNDATION AND GROUP NEWS

Goulbourn Valley (Victoria)

So far, after a few setbacks through changes in Committee members, we have been working in small ways. Two tea-chests of clothing have been sent and six more are in preparation. \$100 worth of wool has been knitted into pullovers. Various functions have been held, teenage coffee parties and family barbeques, to spread knowledge of 'Raphael' as much as to raise money. The British Ex-Service Legion (Shepparton Branch) has been a great mainstay.

There will be a coffee party on 6th September to rally all the ladies who help with knitting and clothes, a stall in November, and - we hope - a larger scale family barbeque when the weather is warmer.

Sacred Heart College, Shepparton, has given \$40 from Y. C. S. activities and Shepparton South Technical School have an adoption. We hope that gradually and quietly, 'Raphael' will gain support, especially amongst young people.

Melbourne

The Group now has a new executive -

Chairman: Mr. J. P. Quigley,  
Flat 2, 48 Wilgah Street, East St. Kilda,  
(Telephone 52-1934);

Secretary: Miss Mary Hill, and

Treasurer: Mrs. Margaret Quigley.

Meetings continue to be held at the University Club, 100 Collins Street Melbourne, at 8.00 p. m. on the first Thursday of each month. At the moment, the Group is involved in preparations for a pleasant Sunday morning to be held at Miss Veronica Henderson's home on 14th September. The Group is always looking for pleasant money-raising ideas, so any reader with suggestions is invited to contact the Chairman or to attend a Group meeting.



Pentridge (Victoria)

The Pentridge Support Group, whose activities are supervised by their Education Officer, Mr. Peter Unsworth, so far this year has raised \$585 for an expenditure of \$70. One of their best products is posters. They would appreciate anyone needing posters for advertising in a local play or fete, or even a sales item, to get in touch with them for a quote.

The Pentridge Group is visited on the last Thursday of each month, by members of the Melbourne Support Group. What has been achieved by this small group of prisoners is an inspiration to those who visit them. It is great to see the work of Leonard Cheshire transcending the barrier of prison walls.

At the moment the boys are short of paper for their poster work. It would be a great saving if anyone could give them some advice where they could get poster paper cheap, or even better if someone could donate it!

A. C. T. Foundation

The 'Merry Month of May' lived up to its name for the A. C. T. Foundation. Mrs. Lester O'Brien, Founder and Director of "The Australian Sculpture Gallery" opened her premises to our members and friends who enjoyed Chicken & Champagne, whilst viewing a mixed exhibition of Greek Handicraft, Copper & Enamelled Plaques, Ceramics and New Guinea Artifacts, all offered for sale for the benefit of the Foundation. His Excellency, Mr. A. M. Thomas, High Commissioner for India, opened the Exhibition which was well attended by representatives from many local Charity Organisations.

The Annual General Meeting and Election of Office Bearers held on 26th June resulted in the following members taking Office:

President	Mr. Fred Hill
Vice Presidents	Mr. Peter McMahon Mr. John Spencer
Secretary	Miss Mercia Wilson
Assistant Secretary	Mrs. Ann Amato
Treasurer	Miss Margret McDonald
Adoption Secretary	Mrs. Pauline Smith
Publicity Officer	Mrs. Patricia Druce
Clothing Officer	Mrs. Veronica McMahon,

and a committee of 7 members. The Film "Dar-el-Hanaa" was shown after the Business Session and members found this a truly moving experience.

It was decided to send "Ryder-Cheshire Information" to all Service Clubs in the Territory and this has produced a very heartening response. Our Guest Speaker has attended meetings at Canberra Lakes Apex Club, who took an adoption for "Surrinder", Canberra Lions Club, who gave a donation. The Air Force Association of Canberra became Financial members, and the Apex Club of Canberra, and it is also pleasing to note renewed interest and support from the Girl Guides and Brownies.

The Merchants Association of the Monaro Shopping Mall promote a Charity Day Fair annually and this year some 46 local Charities participated. Our effort was an Indian Curry stall, housed in a miniature Taj, designed and made by Pauline and Ken Smith. With the magnificent support of the Ladies of the Indian High Commission, and instructed by Mrs. Radah Manucha, our Ladies Social Committee cooked Curry and Rice which sold in take-away containers. The Indian ladies attended the stall in their very colourful and beautiful Saris and demonstrated the making and cooking of "Puris!". The day was a rousing success and we won 3rd Prize for the best decorated stall.

Our President, Fred Hill is overseas at present and will be meeting with the Group Captain during his stay in England.

An amount of \$300 has been forwarded to 'Raphael' to help with General Maintenance and another 2 Tea-Chests of warm clothes are on their way.

On behalf of the President and members of the A. C. T. Foundation, I would like to issue a cordial invitation to supporters of Ryder-Cheshire who may be visiting Canberra to attend our Christmas Dinner Dance, to be held at the Y. M. C. A. Sailing Club on Friday 28th November. We hope to make this a Gala night and would welcome our interstate friends.

#### New South Wales Foundation and Support Groups

A Guessing Competition has been organized to raise funds for the Foundation. The first prize, a Television Set has been donated; the second prize is a portable Stereogram Record Player, and the third, an Indian silver Coffee Service. The winning ticket will be announced at Melbourne Cup Luncheon on 4th November, at the home of Mrs. E. G. Miles.



EASTERN SUBURBS held a successful Theatre and Support party at the Old Tote Theatre early in September.

A SUKIYAKI Luncheon held in Springtime Garden on October 12th, is being organized by Mrs. Keith Gale and Miss Barbara Coleman.

MISS COLEMAN just back from the International Conference in London, and Dehra Dun is speaking on the work of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation on radio and television in such programmes as "In a Good Cause", "In Sydney Today", and Maggie Taberer's show.

#### CHRISTMAS CARDS (N. S. W.)

We are pleased to offer a choice of two cards suitable for use overseas as well as at home, which have been designed by prisoners at H. M. Central Industrial Prison (Long Bay), to aid 'Raphael'. The cards are priced at 10 cents each with envelope. For further information and orders, please contact Mrs. E. G. Miles, 10 Hamilton Parade, Pymble, N. S. W. 2073. Cheques should be made payable to - 'Ryder-Cheshire Foundation, N. S. W.'.

#### CHRISTMAS CARDS (VICTORIA)

Miss Geraldine Burrowes - a popular artist whose Christmas Cards have been much sought after by the general public, has kindly presented some of her cards for the benefit of 'Raphael'. These beautiful cards will be available for 15 cents each and, as supplies are limited, an early order will ensure your supply. (Postage will be extra). The cards may be ordered from Mrs. W. M. Calanchini, 23 Douglas Street, Toorak, 3142 (phone 24-1975), or Mr. J. Quigley, Flat 2, 48 Wilgah Street, East St. Kilda, 3182 (phone 52-1934).

#### THE AUSTRALIAN FOUNDATIONS

##### VICTORIA.

Patron:	His Excellency, Sir Rohan Delacombe, KCMG, KBE, CB, DSO, KStJ.
President:	The Hon. Sir Arthur Dean, LL. M.
Vice President:	Mr. Philip H. N. Opas, OBE, QC, LL. B.
Hon. Secretary:	Mr. J. Graham, FFA, 5 Bradford Avenue, Kew, 3101 (phone 80 1999)



Hon. Treasurer: Mr. F. Gilmore, ACIS, AICS,  
78 Mayona Road, Montmorency 3094.

Adoption Secretary: Miss J. Collins, 7c/587 Toorak Road, Toorak  
3142 (phone 24-7682)

NEW SOUTH WALES

Patrons: His Excellency, Sir Roden Cutler,  
VC, KCMG, CBE, and  
Lady Cutler.

Chairman: The Hon. Mr. Justice J.F. Nagle

Hon. Secretary: Miss B. Coleman, GPO Box 3863, Sydney 2001  
(phone 89-0603)

Asst. Secretary: Miss J. Mooney, 6/471 Glenmore Road,  
Edgecliffe 2027, (phone 28-5731)

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. E.N. Millner, C/- Norton & Faviell,  
9 O'Connell Street, Sydney, 2000.

A. C. T.

President: Mr. F. Hill

Vice Presidents: Mr. J. Spencer; Mr. P. McMahon

Hon. Secretary: Miss M. Wilson

Hon. Treasurer: Miss M. McDonald