



# 'RAPHAEL'

NEWSLETTER OF

## THE RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATION

Vol. 5 No. 2

JUNE, 1970

Price 10c.

### APPEAL FOR CLOTHING

Further donations of good quality woollen clothing are urgently needed at 'Raphael'. Woollen jumpers and cardigans for men, women and children are in greatest demand, and overcoats, sportscoats, pyjamas, children's clothing, knitted rugs and blankets, are also vitally needed.

As we are sending a gift, and the work involved is considerable, each donor is asked to be responsible for the cleanliness of each individual item. Please sew on a button, or darn a hole and fold the pressed garments neatly. Many leprosy victims have lost the use of their hands, and a little thoughtfulness from us can give great happiness in offering a gift that is needed, and worthy of acceptance. The Group Captain once wrote that our clothing had done much to lift the morale of the leprosy patients, as important to them as the warmth of the clothing provided.

Goods should be firmly packed and clearly marked. Boxes travel freight-free on Victorian Railways, and should be addressed :

Mrs. J. W. Arundell,  
Ryder-Cheshire Foundation Clothing Appeal,  
C/- Railway Station  
ORMOND

or it may be left at 409 North Road, South Caulfield.

Clothing collection in New South Wales is handled by :

Miss Monica Bethel,  
136 Woodland Street,  
BALGOWLAH. 2093.

## FROM THE APRIL REPORT, 'RAPHAEL'

"An important event this month was the selection of a new Administrator, Colonel D. P. Puri, who is a retired Army Doctor. Mutual confidence has already been established between Colonel Puri and the staff, he having been a Committee member for the past three months. Colonel has agreed to undertake the Administrative responsibilities for an interim period of six months, thereby allowing the Committee time to find a permanent Administrator. Matron Usher, at present is handing over to Colonel Puri. At the April Committee Meeting, Group Captain stressed the gratitude of the Founders for all Matron had done, while realising that she must now go and make her future elsewhere".

## FOUR WEEKS AT 'RAPHAEL'

In our last Newsletter, mention was made that Mrs. Pat Brooks was currently spending several weeks at 'Raphael' to experience conditions there and enable her to gather first-hand information for her talks on the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation. For many years, Mrs. Brooks has voluntarily given her time and energy into giving such talks and has won many friends for 'Raphael'.

Mrs. Brooks spent about four weeks at 'Raphael' with Mrs. Lorna Millane, - another loyal supporter of the Foundation - and the time became a memorable time for both. In particular Mrs. Brooks, noted the atmosphere of affectionate goodwill within the compound from the smiling greeting of a leprosy patient, to the eagerly outstretched arms of a tiny spastic child in the chronic hospital. Help is so readily given to those in need by less afflicted patients, staff and volunteers. A group of children from The Little White Housetook "Auntie" on a guided tour of their domain, anxious for her approval of their paintings, their vegetable patch and "their" baby Rohit. From the verandah of the T. B. ward where the convalescent patients sit in the sun, an interested tab was kept on the comings and goings of the visitors, and gesticulated conversations created a rapport, even though neither party ever quite got the hang of the other's 'double Dutch'.

In the "Ava Vihar" unit for the mentally retarded, Mrs. Brooks found herself literally taken in hand every time she walked past, by the lovable group of children who crave and give affection so readily. Mrs. Beckett showed Mrs. Brooks the workings of the Leprosy Colony, where married couples are housed in small cottages and encouraged to live as independently as possible.

Matron Joan Usher - who, after four years selfless and devoted service - has since retired from 'Raphael, somehow found time to look after Mrs. Brooks and Mrs. Millane in her typically warm-hearted way. They agreed that a lesser person would retreat in horror from the day-to-day problems that surrounded Matron, but that this capable and sincere woman had tremendous capacity to deal with them.

Mrs. Brooks not only gained information - she gave it. People everywhere showed interest in Australia and Mrs. Brooks gave talks at the Rotary Club of Dehra Dun, the Military Hospital there, and finally gave a geography lesson to the boys at St. Joseph's College. She mixed with the local people and warmly praised their hospitality in taking her and Mrs. Millane for drives and picnics to nearby beauty spots.

True, she faced a few frustrations, but that was a necessary and expected part of the picture, she said, philosophically. Lack of a good water supply, occasional electrical power failures, and the colly-wobbling results of eating unusual food, were a few lesser features of her stay. Indian comforts are not home comforts!

Clothing, she said, is urgently needed for the bitterly cold winter at the end of the year. (Mrs. Arrundell has endorsed this elsewhere in this Newsletter).

Mrs. Brooks gratefully thanks the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation (Victoria) and the many support groups and individuals whose contributions enabled her to make the visit. On the spot experience, rather than the gleanings of someone else's facts and figures have provided her with lively data for the years to come.

Between now and the Group Captain's visit in November, Mrs. Brooks has stressed her willingness to give as many talks as possible. If you belong to, or know of any interested groups or clubs who would welcome such an address, please contact Mrs. Brooks - Telephone : 81 2257. You are assured of a rewarding hour. She will be in Adelaide early in June and in Sydney at the end of July, so I suggest those wishing to contact her do so between those times. Her address is Flat 3, 20 Riversdale Road, Hawthorn, 3122.

#### FOUNDATION AND GROUP NEWS

##### A. C. T. FOUNDATION

Already, we are planning a "Red Feather Ball" on the 27th October, at the Park Royal Motel in honour of Group Captain Cheshire and his wife, Sue Ryder, during their Canberra stay. We aim to have over 350 guests, including many from inter-State. A Ball Committee has been formed under the direction of Group Captain Ted Pickerd to publicise the event, and we welcome enquiries from anyone interested in attending.

A successful stall was conducted by Committee members in a mass display at the Civic Centre on Saturday, 14th March. Proceeds will be used towards our activities.

A Junior Fashion Parade was staged at the home of Mr. F. Watters on April 18, and drew many interested participants and spectators. Mrs. Margaret Moore

generously donated a lucky door prize of \$10 open order, and a raffle resulted in further revenue. Proceeds will go towards maintenance and other costs of the tuberculosis ward at 'Raphael'.

On 1st May, our President and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hill entertained Committee members of our Group at a Cocktail party. The guest of honour was Usha Nath of the Indian High Commission, who is returning to India after several years in Canberra. Mrs. Nath has been closely associated with our Foundation during this time. Among the guests were the Indian High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr. A. M. Thomas and his daughter, Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Manucha, Mrs. Bhandari, Mr. and Mrs. K. C. Lalvunga, Mr. and Mrs. Lal and Mr. and Mrs. Rai.

We are pleased to announce an increase in membership over the last quarter.

Publicity Officer : Mrs. S. M. Bashford,  
28 Clianthus Street,  
O'CONNOR 2601 A. C. T.

#### TEMPLESTOWE SUPPORT GROUP

Donations to our Group have fallen over the past twelve months. We plan now to have our first function since we came into existence 5 years ago. This will take the form of a Morning Coffee Party, along with a sale of pottery. Mrs. Pat Brooks will be Guest Speaker.

Mrs. Margaret Jackson,  
187 Foote Street,  
TEMPLESTOWE.

#### RISPANA SUPPORT GROUP

Since late in 1968, the Group has been more or less dormant, due mainly to ill-health amongst the officer-bearers. However, a meeting was held on 23rd April, at which it was decided to renew our efforts in raising money for 'Raphael', and too, in spreading the knowledge of and interest in the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation and its work.

Office bearers were elected for the coming year, and the books will be closed on May 31st.

A cheque for \$1,660 was sent to the Treasurer of the Foundation in January last, and since then, some money has been received from Adoptions.

Our aim is to increase our membership, and to seek new Adoptions.

It was with regret that the meeting accepted the resignation, because of ill-health of our first and only Chairman, Mr. Bruce Hamilton. The Rispana Group was



founded through the inspiration and hard work of Bruce and his wife, Alene. We are happy that they have both agreed to remain as Committee Members.

Secretary : Mrs. Wilma McCoy,  
29 Davis Street,  
KEW 3101.

#### GIPPSLAND SUPPORT GROUP

The Gippsland Support Group - as is usual at this time of the year - has one large absorbing interest, our Annual Dinner Dance, on June 20th. We are hopeful of showing a higher profit this year, mainly through the generosity of Carlton and United Breweries. We are hoping that the High Commissioner for India and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Thomas, will be included among our guests.

Through the efforts of our President, Mr. Terry Synan, we are trying to arrange a public meeting following a Rotary dinner at Sale, for Group Captain Cheshire. This would mean the commencement of a new Support Group in that fast growing community.

We send greetings to all other Ryder-Cheshire workers.

Secretary : Mrs. Peggy McPhee,  
3 Brian Street,  
MOE. 3825.

#### BALLARAT SUPPORT GROUP

The Ballarat Ryder-Cheshire Support Group welcomed three new and enthusiastic members :

M/s H. McD. Ross, a teacher at Sebastapol Technical School and already responsible for an adoption there.

Mr. D. McKinnon, Manager of the State Savings Bank.

Mr. F. Ridley, whose brother is Secretary of a Cheshire home in Lancashire.

So far, this financial year, \$4,631.33 has been forwarded to Melbourne. We were helped greatly to reach this total by our share of \$1,500 from the combined walk on Want.

We are delighted to report a further three adoptions and two endowments during the last three months - a tribute to the generosity of the people of Ballarat.

Secretary : Mrs. Cath McLenehan  
310 Ligar Street,  
BALLARAT 3350

GOULBURN VALLEY SUPPORT GROUP

From the Annual Report, 1970:

President : Brian FitzGerald. Secretary: Isabel FitzGerald, 20 Collet St. Shepparton, Telephone: 21.2233. Treasurer and Adoptions Secretary: Patricia Fry, 144 Welsford Street, Shepparton. Clothing : Peg Conibear.

The Group will hold monthly meetings at 8 p. m. on the 4th Monday of each month during 1970, in view of the importance of the Cheshire visit. The Group is undergoing some difficulty in progressing to a more ambitious organisation, as the body of organisers is small and we have to compete with many other active concerns in the city of Shepparton. Emphasis on adoptions and on a series of specific commitments like paying boarding school fees for a child at The Little White House, or medical, educational or therapeutic equipment, would seem to be the best way of developing enduring support.

There seems no difficulty in arranging a worthwhile itinerary for the Cheshire visit. We hope this will result in a large scale interest and whole-hearted support of our group. However, one cannot be too sanguine, as both CAA and the Retirement Village project came before 'Raphael' and naturally absorb a large proportion of potential support.

We are very grateful to Mrs. Brooks for her dynamic approach as Talks Officer, and we are able to trace such gains as the following to her busy week here : an active new committee member, Mrs. Joy Young, who has worked for the Foundation in England; offers to host functions and to assist with clothing and stalls; awakening interest in adoptions and in the Foundation in general.

We wish to thank those members of the Foundation - in particular Miss Josephine Collins and Mrs. Pat Brooks for their ready assistance in all matters - who have been concerned with the administration of our Group.

MELBOURNE SUPPORT GROUP

Invitations to sip, sup, swing and be serenaded at "Sammelan", The Gallery, in Prahran, have been sent to friends of the Group for Friday, June 5th. So far, there has been an enthusiastic response and we are hopeful that the work put in by the Committee in organizing this swinging evening will be well rewarded. The Secretary, Miss Mary Hill, Telephone 81 7666, has given much time and energy to this end and our thanks go to her.

Our tea towel venture is progressing well, and we think the printed towels will be available in August.

The two Gilbert and Sullivan nights proved to be markedly successful. A profit of \$125 was shown, and a generous individual donation of \$100 was made.

The Group will miss the presence of one of its most staunch and loyal supporters - temporarily - in Miss Anne Rose, who left for overseas on 3rd April. We wish her "Bon Voyage".

One of the Group's members writes monthly to 'Raphael' following the lines of a custom introduced some time ago.

The next meeting - the Group's Annual General Meeting - will be on 11th June, NOT 4th June, because of the "Sammelan" preparations.

The new address of the President, Mr. Joe Quigley, is :

52 Wheatland Road,  
MALVERN

#### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Although we have had a Support Group in Clare since 1966, it has always been affiliated with Victoria, as there has been no official Foundation in this State. Now, however, we have high hopes of launching a Foundation in Adelaide during the visit of the Group Captain and Sue Ryder in November. Mrs. Pat Brooks and Miss Josephine Collins will be spending two weeks here in June and will attend an inaugural meeting. Any enquiries may be made to

Mr. Ross Stanford,  
14 Debney Street,  
FULHAM GARDENS. S. A. 5024  
Phone : 56 2306.

#### SOME EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER FROM A PATIENT.

Mr. B. K. Grover is a courageous, cheerful and intelligent patient in the hospital for the Chronic Sick. Evidence of his lively spirit in spite of extreme disabilities, is apparent in the following account; incidentally, anyone who could spare time to write to Mr. Grover would find his letter received with great enthusiasm.

"It is heartening to note that a happy atmosphere prevails in the 6-bedded ward where I am a patient, despite the fact that all the inmates are chronically sick and live with disabilities and sufferings. They have become used to their handicaps and, on the whole, remain cheerful. Satnam and Om Prakash, the other two children in the ward, are completely helpless and dependent on the nurses for their every need. Satnam has cerebral palsy and Om Prakash has a mental condition called gargoyalism, and he has been transferred from "Ava Vihar" where his sister is also an inmate."

## THE AUSTRALIAN FOUNDATIONS

Victoria

Patron: His Excellency Sir Rohan Delacombe  
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78 Mayona Road,  
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Donations To :

Acting Treasurer : Mr. D. A. Sinclair, B. Com. B. Ed. MACE  
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A. C. T.

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N. S. W.

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Assistant Secretary : Miss J. Mooney,  
6/471 Glenmore Road,  
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Donations To :

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

COPY FOR NEWSLETTER : Please send all copy to Miss P. Apperly,  
52 Canterbury Rd. Toorak, Vic.3142, by 15th February, May, August and  
November.