

Ryder-Cheshire News



THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATIONS

For the Relief of Suffering

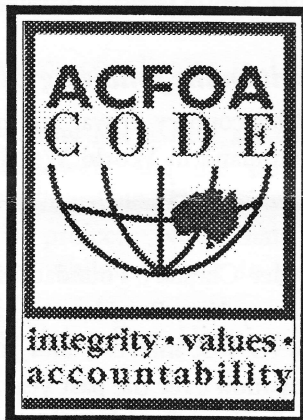
Founders:- Group Captain Lord Cheshire, VC, OM, DSO, DFC: Lady Ryder of Warsaw, CMG, OBE
NO. 47 AUGUST 1999

PATSY WRIGHT-WARREN TO VISIT AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA

As the Projects Officer for the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation (Head Office, U.K.) Patsy visited Australia a few years ago. Sir Peter Ramsbotham, GCMG, GC, the present Chairman of the Foundation, retires on 31 December 1999, and Patsy will take up the position of Chairman on 1 January 2000.

Patsy will visit the Australian Foundations in September/October this year, arriving in Sydney from New Zealand on 22nd September; travelling to Port Moresby on 24 September, then returning to Australia, first stop Brisbane on 26 September, thence to Sydney (30 September); Canberra (6 October); Melbourne (8 October - with visits to Support Groups and Ivanhoe); Mt. Gambier (13 October); Adelaide (17 October); Perth (20 October); leaving for Singapore on 23 October.

*We congratulate Patsy on her appointment as Chairman and
WELCOME HER TO AUSTRALIA*



The Australian Association of Ryder-Cheshire Foundations is a member of the Australian Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA). As such the Association is required to comply with the Code of Conduct.

See article inside this Newsletter.

ALSO: Christine Steers, one of the earlier volunteers at Raphael (1964-66), has written for the Ryder-Cheshire News: "*Indian Memories*" is an account of that experience. It is included as a special insert.

THE EXECUTIVE met in Canberra on 19th June. At this meeting Peter Newton (President Victoria) was appointed as a Vice-President of the national body.

President Jake Newham was unable to be present - however he submitted his report.

MATTERS DISCUSSED relevant to all Foundations and Support Groups:

- 1) Each Foundation/Support Group should forward an updated list of officers to the National Secretary after an A.G.M.
 - 2) **Australian Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA)**: Ryder-Cheshire is a member - see article on page 7.
 - 3) **Special Certificates** for Service, Merit and Life Membership are available on request to the national body.
 - 4) **Special Gifts to Raphael** - any specific monetary gifts should be in addition to maintenance funds. Raphael should be asked to acknowledge such gifts and a P.S. added asking that the Raphael LO send a letter to the donor.
 - 5) **Insurance** has been taken out to cover the whole of Australia. The premium of \$1000 p.a. will be paid directly by the National Executive. Copies of the two policies have been sent to all Foundations. These should be read carefully and any concerns reported to the Executive.
 - 6) **Ryder-Cheshire Web Site** - Margaret Sleight (Treasurer) advised there will be a site on the Internet and matters of interest will be included: e.g. Cards, Videos, Books, Tapes.
 - 7) Patsy Wright-Warren will be in Sydney 30 Sept.-5th October. Patsy will attend the next meeting of the Executive to be held in Sydney on Saturday 2nd October
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IN MEMORIAM

ROBERT RUSSELL LONGMIRE, O.A.M. (b.1911, d. 1 August 1999).

It is with sadness that we learned of the death of Russell. He was involved in the Ryder-Cheshire organisation since its inception, both nationally and in South Australia. Many friends attended the funeral service on August 3rd. Dame Roma Mitchell read the Eulogy at the Service.

National President Jake Newham has written the following tribute.

"Throughout his life Russell Longmire, OAM served his country in war and his fellow man unstintingly. He served as a Navigator in Bomber Command in World War II, perhaps the most dangerous theatre of war at that time, when a crew represented but fourteen operational missions.

"Russell was a leading light in the beginning of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundations in Australia, an inspirational member of the Executive, and Honorary Vice-President at the time of his death on August 1st. During his recent illness he never lost interest, and regretted enormously that his immobility prevented his active participation over the past year. He regretted too his inability to continue the production and distribution of cards, which raise so much revenue; he valued his partnership and association with Ross Stanford; they were a formidable team. Nevertheless his spirit sustained so many long after he stepped aside.

"Russell became a great personal friend; Jo and I mourn his passing and will miss him and his cheery 'phone calls. Russell had many friends, and was the friend of many; he valued these friendships and was ever grateful to those who helped him when the going was difficult."

Ryder-Cheshire has lost a stalwart member; we hold his memory in a place of honour.

RAPHAEL NEWS

From the Director

1 April 1999

We are all set for our Founder's Day on 5 April. LWH children will go on summer vacation after their final examination.

It was quite an excitement during night 28-29 March 1999. The earthquake has developed cracks in a few of our buildings and will need repairs.

We have got a good set of visitors/volunteers in Raphael these days. Shirley and Ron Mackenzie from New Zealand and Barbara Stirk from U.K. are with us. Fr. Charles Drennan is coming from New Zealand in May. Doug [Bartram, Ballarat] just went back after one month. Gaynor has brought more books for Patricia Korting Library. She is well settled as a volunteer and very popular with everyone.

Chairman is getting all set for his visit to USA, Canada and UK. He will be away from June to September.

23 April 1999

By now you would have got a copy of the Annual Report.

LWH and Primary School children went on a picnic to a spot about 15km from Raphael, which has a Sulphur Spring. Everyone including staff and volunteers enjoyed the outing immensely. It was great fun.

This year Founder's Day was celebrated with active participation by residents of Ava Vihar, LWH and children from Primary School and Day Centre.

Patsy [Wright-Warren] was with us from 16th to 21st April. She has promised to be with us for Founder's Day in 2001.

Gaynor Tilley from Australia leaves us in May – she has been an extremely good volunteer and has been looking after LWH children apart from her daily routine at Ava Vihar.

Jane [Forster] our volunteer coordinator in UK was with us for 2 weeks.

The LWH children have now got a new set of linen sheets, bed covers and towels and are now very comfortable. Thanks to Ryder-Cheshire Australia for sending funds for this project. Now that living conditions have improved children have to perform better in their examination.

Summer has caught up in Dehra Dun. However, nights are still very pleasant.

31 May 1999

We are happy to know that Gaynor met you on return from Raphael and gave you all the news. She was very sincere and devoted.

We have successfully completed two bridge courses in Raphael for those who deal with mentally retarded and have had no formal training. The duration of this

course is of 4 weeks and Mrs. Pryio Lall, Principal of Ava Vihar is the co-ordinator. These courses are quite successful. The third one which is mainly for mothers of MR children starts on 21 June.

We have also started visiting the rural areas and work on community based rehabilitation. The aim is to reach the unreached and train the mothers how to rehabilitate MR children.

This time senior children have done well in their final examination. There is only one failure in LWH.

During the current year we will take only one new child in LWH. We have at present 72 children which includes *Sumati* and *Geeta*. We hope to create a few vacancies next year.

Bhagirathi one of our senior children who is studying in Class XII and is in National Cadet Corps (NCC) went on a rafting expedition on 27 May.

This year we have decided to shift Day Centre to main location. Efforts are being made to create additional accommodation inside Raphael in Ava Vihar complex.

The weather has been quite pleasant so far and we expect early monsoons this year.

25 June 1999

Congratulations for winning World Cricket Cup. I am sending newspaper cuttings* -you will like them.

The rainy season has set in – so the weather is very pleasant now and I am sure soon political climate too will improve and there will be peace all over. We shall pray for the same.

We are all fine at Raphael. Living conditions have improved considerably in all wings so has the training activities in Ava Vihar and the Day Centre. School session will start in July.

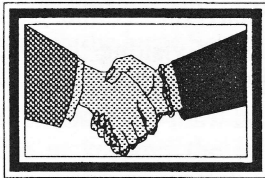
We are keen to shift Day Centre to Raphael location. Let us hope it works out this year.

Rahabilitation of LWH children is a challenging task for us and needs a lot of deliberation on our part.

*Beena Gurung***, one of our elder residents in Little White House has finished her B.Sc. and we are trying to get her admission in Nursing Training in Holy Family Hospital in New Delhi. The duration of her training will be 3 years. The course starts in September 1999. She has to go through selection tests. I am confident she will make the grade. It will motivate other children.

**A copy of one newspaper article is given elsewhere in this Newsletter – this deals with Steve Waugh's interest in and work in India*

***Since receiving the above news from the Director, Di McEwen, of the Mt. Gambier Support Group, has advised that the Group is to take up the responsibility for Beena's nursing training. See the Report from Mt. Gambier.*



NEWS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES - Secretary Jenny Coleman

The 33rd Annual General Meeting was held on 23rd June. All Officers were re-elected with Barbara Lewis continuing as President and Jenny Coleman as Secretary. Peter Coleman has taken on the sponsorship position. Sadly, it was reported that two loyal supporters and sponsors had died - Mrs. Joyce Barker and Mr. Patrick Hanley adopted *Bhagalu*, a leper, and *Shyamawata*, a little girl, for many years and new sponsors are now being sought to take over the care of these two residents. A concerted effort is being made to recruit new sponsors.

The Indian Lunch held last year was a great success and a similar function is planned for 1999, to coincide with Patsy Wright-Warren's visit to Sydney in October.

In her report Barbara Lewis offered 'congratulations and warm thanks to our members and other well-wishers for their steadfast commitment - ...a truly amazing result from a very small dedicated group.'

The mainstay of income has been from individual donations sponsorships, card sales, stalls and social functions.

Anne Boyd, a member of the N.S.W. Executive and also administers the Ryder-Cheshire Home in Singleton, reports that this year the Home has launched a link with the Hunter Area Health Service to offer respite to Carers of disabled people. The Home provides the facility and bookings are made through Hunter Care Respite, who provide the alternative care whilst the regular Carer has a break... There are now no permanent residents, but a young Singleton paraplegic was to be admitted at the end of June for an indefinite period between discharge from the Ryde Rehabilitation Centre and another house being prepared for him. Two Downes Syndrome men and a young quadreiplegic man enjoyed a break at the Home while their parents had holidays. Now the Kurri Kurri Aged Care Team are being in a small nursing home group for a holiday, and Singleton Community Care use one of the bath-

rooms every second day to shower a local lady recovering from car accident injuries. It has been good to extend to different categories of disability and to see the Home more fully utilised.

In closing her report, Barbara paid special tribute to Patrick Hanley who 'never veered from his dedicated service since meeting Leonard Cheshire in 1958... and to Joyce Barker who 'although greatly disabled by polio for most of her adult life, was an inspiring figure to us all... a truly courageous woman.'

ROSES

The plants of the Leonard Cheshire Rose have been received and may be collected from 34 Churchill Avenue, Wahroonga.

Barbara Lewis has been involved with Ryder-Cheshire since its inception and was at Raphael in the very early years. Barbara has promised a 'contribution to Ryder-Cheshire News in the series "*Indian Memories*". We look forward to this.

VICTORIA - President Peter Newton

Peter took over the role of President from Helen McKendrick in August 1998, however, Helen continues to serve both the national and Home committees with her usual energy and enthusiasm. Helen Newton is Adoptions Secretary, and has validated the records against those held at Raphael. The new Liaison Officer, Roma Brinjath has helped enormously and prompt and helpful responses to all correspondence is now being received. A further 12 full sponsorships have been gained since August 1998, with the loss of only two. Victoria is continuing to vigorously seek new sponsors through Service Clubs and other organisations.

Recent fundraisers: The Parade & Sale of tweed cloth and garments; the annual 1998 Concert; the Garage Sale, all attracted large

numbers and proved very successful.

Copies of the new Brochure have been sent to all States who requested them. The cost of each brochure is 15 cents - 20,000 remain after distribution - it would be helpful if States could take additional copies. Sales of Cards were excellent in 1998 and four lovely cards have been selected for 1999.

Sales of the Leonard Cheshire Rose have also been excellent and more plants are on order for 1999.

Regions: As always Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong have contributed magnificently, both financially and in spreading the word. Helen and Peter have visited both the Bendigo and Ballarat Support Groups.

FORTHCOMING FUNCTIONS IN 1999

THE ANNUAL 1999 CONCERT will be held at the **Toorak Uniting Church, 603 Toorak Road, Toorak at 2.00 p.m. on SUNDAY 29TH AUGUST.** This will feature the 30+ members of the Air Force Band presenting a programme of Popular, Jazz and Classical Music with two vocalists. Refreshments included. Tickets for the Concert at \$15.00 are available from Peter Newton, 50 Myrtle Grove, Blackburn, 3130, or phone 9894-3191, and also available at the door.

Please spread the word so that we fill the Church for this Concert!!

THE 1999 LEONARD CHESHIRE MEMORIAL ADDRESS will be given by **PATSY WRIGHT-WARREN**, The Chairman-Elect of the whole Ryder-Cheshire Foundation based in the U.K..

DATE: TUESDAY 12TH OCTOBER

VENUE: Cheshire Room, St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, 585 Toorak Road, Toorak.

TIME: 8.00 P.M. Light Supper served.

RSVP: Peter Newton, 9894-3191.

Please join us together with your friends.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA - Secretary Margaret Blaber

The 29th Annual General Meeting was held on the 19th May. All officers were re-elected. In her report President Christine Lopez stated successful fundraisers had been held through the year and the Foundation maintained its commitment to Raphael. Plans were in hand for the visit of Patsy Wright-Warren later in 1999, and for the hosting of the Biennial Conference in April 2000. Chris thanked all committee members, and a special thanks to Ross Stanford who has now retired from his duties as Card Coordinator.

At the Annual General Meeting it was unanimously agreed that **LIFE MEMBERSHIP** be awarded to **Ross & Joyce Stanford** in recognition of their contribution to the Foundation since its inception in 1970.

Gaynor Tilley was the speaker at the A.G.M. - she had returned from Raphael the previous week, spending three months as a volunteer. This was Gaynor's first visit to India and it was interesting to hear of her mixed reactions to the sub-continent. She worked with the residents of Ava Vihar and also spent some time at the Ashwan Day Centre. Whilst at Raphael, Gaynor was able to purchase an exercise bike for the Physiotherapy Department, with funds donated by the Oswald Raphael Support Group in Adelaide. She was also able to add to the collection in the Patricia Korting Library

Walford Anglican School for Girls

Margaret Blaber spoke to the School Assembly in May and received a generous contribution to funds. This School has been supporting the work of the Foundation since 1979 and over \$20,000 has been received in support over the years.

The Charity Card Shop will be opening in August - 4 new cards have been ordered for the 1999 season.

A BRIDGE & CARD DAY will be held on Friday 10th September at the Toorak Burnside Bowling Club, commencing at 11 a.m. Cost \$8.00 includes refreshments and a light luncheon. Telephone Joan Riggs 8364-6440 for bookings.

Patsy Wright-Warren will be visiting Adelaide in October - 18th-20th, and Patricia Frith is organising a 'Day at Willunga', with lunch at Ross Roses. Enquiries to Margaret Blaber 8363-4584, or to Patricia 08-8556-2604.

The usual annual end-of-year Barbecue will be held in November. Details will be sent to members and supporters.

MT. GAMBIER SUPPORT GROUP

Secretary Di McEwen

We have had our meeting and planned the year's activities - probably a Film Night in August and a bus trip to an old mansion and garden in November - we find this is very popular with garden lovers.

Peter and Helen Newton paid us a brief visit and it was great to meet them. Peter brought a further supply of brochures - we acquired another sponsorship through one and feel it is worthwhile to

give them out fairly freely. Another sponsorship is possible through the local Soroptimist Club.

We are very pleased that Patsy is returning - we will organise a program of activities. We find these visits are valuable in keeping the interest alive. We will organise our AGM to coincide with her visit so that she can address our supporters.

Success Story - Beena (Resident at Raphael).

We received a letter from the Director with news that one of our sponsorships (**Beena**) was coming to a close. Beena has been a success story in that she was born at Raphael, the daughter of lepers. She has done well at school and wants to do her nursing training which requires financing of \$40 monthly. I put it to my nursing colleagues and they have decided to see that Beena is supported. We look forward to frequent letters regarding her progress.

QUEENSLAND - President Leslie Nordon

We are waiting on the visit of Patsy Wright-Warren to give us some up to date news from India, and also the home in New Guinea.

The Brisbane Card Shop will open on Monday 25th October until Friday 17th December in the Adelaide Street Foyer of the City Hall.

Thanks to all Sponsors who have maintained their commitment and thanks to all who have sent donations to the Foundation.

Just Arrived - from Miss Molly Brennan of BENDIGO

I enclose a report for the Newsletter. Since the death of my sister, Loretto Brennan, we have been neglecting this matter - I hope to be more regular in the future.

Although the Bendigo Support Group has not reported for some years, we have been active throughout the period, making annual contributions towards Raphael and the Ivanhoe Home. The money has been raised by an annual Luncheon in the homes of members, by an annual Cocktail Party during the Racing Carnival of Bendigo Cup Week, and by Morning Coffee Parties, for which we have an excellent venue thanks to the generosity of the owner of the Limerick Tavern, an enthusiastic new member.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA - Secretary Evelyn Petters - through the Newsletter of the W.A. Foundation.

At the Annual General Meeting held on 7 March, the Hon. John Toohey AC QC was elected the new President of the Foundation. Retiring President Professor Desmond O'Connor, paid tribute to the work of Council members and in particular to Barbara Seabrook who retired as vice-President and who has held an office continuously for over 25 years.

THE LEONARD CHESHIRE MEMORIAL AWARDS

These Awards, up to \$1000 each, were introduced in 1992 to commemorate the life's work of Leonard Cheshire, who died in 1992. They aim to provide opportunities for young persons who are disadvantaged by circumstances and to recognise their special gifts or talents. Five awards were granted late in 1998.

BARBARA SEABROOK HOUSE - "A Thank You from New Zealand"

Fred Dyer, from a small country town in New Zealand made an unexpected and unprepared visit to Perth. His daughter-in-law had fallen from a horse in Albany and broken her back: she was rushed by Flying Doctor to Royal Perth Hospital. Fred was contacted by his son (in Albany) at 4 a.m. on a Monday and was in Perth by Wednesday - his son still in Albany with 4 children. By Saturday his son was in Perth with the two youngest children (6 years and 20 months respectively) - they were referred to Barbara Seabrook House. "What a wonderful place", said Fred, "...I spent 3 weeks here helping with the children whilst my son spent the days with his wife ...I will never forget Barbara Seabrook House and the friends I made...or to thank God for Anne, Jeanette and all the many people who help run it."

THE LEONARD CHESHIRE ROSE

This project is now finalised. Final orders for the plants have been received and dispatched. Members of the SA Foundation spent a day at Ross Roses 'bagging' and packing the plants. The SA Foundation is gratified at the success of this unique project and thanks all those who have participated. This rose will now be included in the Ross Roses Catalogue and will be available for purchase commercially from the year 2000.



AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR OVERSEAS AID (ACFOA)

Many organisations raise money for overseas aid. Ryder-Cheshire is one such organisation. ACFOA has been established to guarantee the integrity of these organisations. The Code is a benchmark against which charities can measure themselves. Those charities that are members of ACFOA (Ryder-Cheshire is a member) are showing the public they are legitimate organisations and they do this by showing the ACFOA logo on their letterhead and other publications.

The Code provides a Standard Financial Reporting Format, which provides unity for the various charities involved. There is also a Self Assessment Checklist, a 78-point checklist which helps charities ensure, point by point, that they are in compliance and can identify remedial action where necessary.

A Code of Conduct committee monitors ACFOA. National Treasurer Margaret Sleigh's business partner, Bob Cox (also a member of the ACT Foundation) is a member of this committee. The Committee receives annual reports from each participating organisation. It also receives complaints and allegations from the public who believe a participating agency may be in breach of the standards they have committed to uphold.

Ryder-Cheshire is planning on running a workshop for all interested parties about ACFOA and the Code of Conduct. The most likely date for this is the Friday before the next Biennial meeting in Adelaide (Friday April 7th 2000). Margaret Sleigh is also planning on running a workshop on the same day or at some other stage during the conference, about the implications of the GST for charities.

If you wish to contact ACFOA or want to see a copy of the Code, contact: The Chair, ACFOA Code of Conduct Committee, Private Bag 3, Deakin, ACT 2600. Fax 02-6285-1720.

CHESHIRE HOME, PORT MORESBY, PNG.

Readers will be aware that the Australian Foundations, from time to time, give support to the Cheshire Home in Port Moresby, through occasional financial contributions, materials, and sometimes a volunteer. One such volunteer is Ashley Brown, who arrived in November 1998 to take up a position for two years. Ashley has extensive experience in the disability field and has assisted in setting up training programs for both staff and residents. He is also assisting the Editor with the production of the Home's Newsletter.

In March of this year, a local Port Moresby businessman, car trade executive Simon Goh, donated a specially modified ambulance for disabled children. The bus has easy access and can take up to 8 children at a time. Simon included a 12-month free service. The vehicle is being used to take the children to school and also for taking the children and their families to activities and other community rehabilitation programs.

Jack Thurgar, the Australian National Projects Officer, keeps in touch with the Home in Port Moresby, visiting when he can, and generally liaising with the administration.

NEW ZEALAND 'RYDER-CHESHIRE CHRONICLE'

The July 1999 issue contains an article by Moena Roy "*Raphael Recollections*". Many volunteers have got to know Moena well. The article is too long to reprint here - however copies can be made available on request.

The Raphael Gateway Arch - Bruce Moon - Editor of the "*Chronicle*" is pursuing an interesting line of research: when was the Arch erected? General Bakhshi says "I would like to know too".

Another answer: It's photo is in a 1996 brochure.

Daulat Singh of Shiv Sadan says "It was here when I arrived in 1965...."

Can anyone provide any information?



INDIAN MEMORIES

***Christine Steers, Brighton, South Australia
July 1999***

*Christine spent two years in India in the mid 1960's.
This is her account of those years.*

After a four year working holiday in England, Europe and Israel, I travelled on a Penn Tour bus to India, intending to stay for six months. The Cheshire Homes Office in London said that the Group Captain would see me in Bombay and decide where I should work. Barbara Lewis was also in Bombay, and we all met at the Cheshire Home there in December 1964.

Barbara travelled on the train with me to Delhi, and I continued on to Dehra Dun. Anne Boyd had just settled in, and we both lived upstairs in the Pritam Road Cheshire Home with dear Ava Dhar to mother us.

I hand stitched cotton tunics to wear over sweaters and leggings for the cold north Indian winter. We had bicycles to pedal over to Raphael, where the home for eighty mentally and physically handicapped adults and children was my domain. Anne was in the Little White House.

When the hospital was ready, Anne and I moved into accommodation there, along with Barbara Cameron, newly arrived from New Zealand for a position in the Leprosy Colony.

Firstly, I attempted to improve the external appearance of my charges, with the help of the servants. We made dozens of bibs to be worn at meal times. The 3/4 dogs that gathered to lick the children's dishes were chased away with a bamboo stick, much to the delight of the children. The older boys were feeding the younger children to earn some pocket money, and eating half their food, so the little ones were shrivelled up. Ears and teeth were neglected, and I worked on those with cotton sticks and charcoal and salt where appropriate, but the layers of plaque were now part of the person.

Dramas, such as Priman falling into the gardener's fire during a fit and burning her face badly, or chicken-pox raging through the Little White House, were problems to contend with. The national crisis during 1965 was war with Pakistan, the nearest bombing being 70 km away. The High Commissioner in New Delhi wrote to tell us to save our own skins!

For relaxation, we were driven up to Mussoorie by the Headmaster of the Doon School, John Martin, to attend Tibetan New Year celebrations, or scootered over to Rishikesh on the Ganges for a picnic, by Captains in the Indian Army.

To quote from my article in the June 1965 edition of "Raphael":-

'Life is very varied and always very interesting in Dehra Dun. Ava Dhar takes good care of us, and the work at Raphael is most absorbing.

It is very encouraging to see the children becoming chubbier and gayer as the weeks go by. Sushil who previously sat vacantly, chewing his clothes, now almost turns somersaults off his charpoy, and likes to splash in the pail of drinking water. His chum, Brinjesh, who had distorted his mouth to a fish shape

by constantly chewing his fist, now calls "Auntiji". Santos gallops around on heels and haunches, loving a game of ball, and chuckling seductively as she rolls her great brown eyes. Three-year-old Prem, our baby, is mentally and physically handicapped, smiles very sweetly, and seems always to be hugging a great secret. They all have odd, individual characteristics – their subtle charm is very appealing.'

The visit of Group Captain Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder during 1966 was a very special occasion. They gave the same attention to those in the leprosy colony and other units as they did to Church hierarchy and the military.

I left Raphael after two years, to work as a theatre sister in Shanta Bhawan Hospital, Kathmandu. After a long absence of 32 years I have returned to India twice in the last nine months, to stay in Sri Sathya Sai Baba's ashrams. It was like going home.

(Contributions to "Indian Memories" will be welcome from past volunteers to Raphael)

REPORT FROM BALLARAT Cath McLenehan, Publicity Officer.

[This report has just been received]

Our committee was pleased to welcome a new member, Hazel Luke. Already, her capacity to work for a function, and her sense of humour, are much appreciated.

The 35th Birthday Luncheon held on Sunday July 18th in Lederman Hall, was a social and financial success. Seven members of the original committee gathered around the Birthday Cake which was cut by 93 years old Agnes McLean.

Our guest speaker was Victorian President, Peter Newton, who spoke with great feeling of his visit to Raphael with his wife Helen. Peter was generous in his praise of the work of the Ballarat supporters and sponsors.

Joy Brisbane, who had her framed poems and books of poetry on Raphael residents and India generally on exhibition and sale, for Raphael, spoke of the "personal connection" with the country and its people. Those who have been to India with open eyes and an open mind, will empathise with her work.

To the National Executive, and to the South Australian Foundation in particular, Ballarat extends its sympathy in the passing of Russell Longmire, a dedicated worker for the Foundation.

AGNES MCLEAN

On Wednesday August 4th at 10 p.m., our Foundation Member, Agnes McLean, aged 93, passed away at Nazareth House, where she had lived for the last three years. Her mind was active to the end, as evidenced two weeks earlier at our Birthday Luncheon.

We thank God for the influence of this great lady of deep faith on a broad range of people, and for her 35 years of dedication to the work of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation.