

Lead Article HAS



# 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. 49

APRIL 2000

## LADY RYDER

*Just before Christmas 1999, Lady Ryder was admitted to Hospital where for some time she was in intensive care. At the Biennial Conference, Alistair Burt, Director, Ryder-Cheshire U.K. advised that Lady Ryder's condition had improved and she was in a stable condition.*

*We in Australia send Sue our prayers and best wishes for a speedy recovery.*

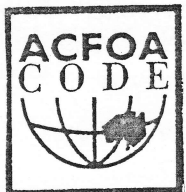
## The Silver Cross of St. George

An article in the Winter 1999 issue of *This England* magazine pays tribute to Sue Ryder and the "humane and compassionate empire" which she founded and from which she has now "relaxed her strong personal presence at its heart" – the Sue Ryder Foundation. In conclusion it "proudly awards the *Silver Cross of St. George* to a lady whose love enfolds the whole world."

TRIBUTE TO DAME ROMA MITCHELL

BIENNIAL – APRIL 2000 REPORT

THE STORY OF ISAURA DA SILVA



Integrity • values • accountability

## EAST TIMOR INITIATIVES

Peter Newton, President, Victoria, presented a paper to the Biennial Conference on the involvement of Ryder-Cheshire Australia in humanitarian activity in East Timor. This proposal was generally accepted. It has become obvious that the needs are enormous. Peter has been very active in exploring ways and means by which Ryder-Cheshire can help, without in any way lessening the commitment to Raphael. Peter has made some useful contacts both within Australia and East Timor and will be visiting East Timor to discuss ways and means with those organisations aware of what is needed.

**TRIBUTE TO DAME ROMA MITCHELL AC DBE CVO**  
**b. 2 October 1913 - d. 5 March 2000**

Dame Roma was associated with the Ryder-Cheshire organisation from 1970 when she accepted the position of the first President of the S.A. Foundation, a position she held until 1980. In 1981 she became the President of the National Association and continued to hold this office until her appointment as Governor of South Australia in 1991. She held a special place in the hearts of the Founders, Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder. Though seriously ill herself, Sue Ryder sent a short message about her sadness at the passing of a great lady. Chairman of the Raphael Council, Major General Ranbir Bakhshi, emphasised the profound honour and respect in which Dame Roma was held.

The State Funeral in Adelaide was attended by President Jake Newham and representatives of the S.A. Foundation. His Excellency, Sir William Deane, Governor-General of Australia spoke about Dame Roma's distinguished career, her unique achievements liberally dotted with "firsts"; he said that Dame Roma was not only the first lady to be appointed Governor, but the "greatest Governor in Australia's history."

At the Biennial Conference held in Adelaide on 8th April, President Jake Newham paid tribute Dame Roma.

*"At the outset I wish to recognise the great foundational work and ongoing encouragement and support given to Ryder-Cheshire Australia by Dame Roma: we could not have had a more dedicated and effective founding member, National President, and Patron. Following her retirement as Governor of South Australia, Dame Roma continued her interest and spontaneous support; her last wishes included material assistance to Ryder-Cheshire.*

*For my part, I was honoured to become a friend, and to be treated with the respect Dame Roma accorded to everyone. We of Ryder-Cheshire Australia mourn the loss of a great friend and mentor and pay tribute to her special warmth and sincerity.*

*"She walked with Kings and never lost her bearings".*

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## BIENNIAL CONFERENCE - 2000

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The first Biennial of the new century was held in Adelaide from 7-9 April. His Excellency, Sir Eric Neal, AC, CVO, Governor of South Australia, and Patron of the S.A. Foundation, officially opened Conference proceedings.

Thirty delegates and observers were present, including Alistair Burt, Director, Ryder-Cheshire U.K., Stephen Kassman, Chairman of the Board of the Cheshire Home in P.N.G., and representatives from the Foundations in ACT, VIC, NSW, WA, SA. The Ballarat and Mt. Gambier Support Groups were represented by Geoff Nott, and Di McEwen and Kerry Probert respectively.

National President Jake Newham warmly welcomed Alistair Burt and Stephen Kassman to Australia, and extended a special welcome to the many observers who have chosen to show their support.

In his report, Jake paid a moving tribute to the late Hon. Dame Roma Mitchell, a past National President.

He also mentioned the visit of Patsy Wright-Warren to Australia in the Spring of 1999: *"She gave her time unstintingly to meeting members and friends, and to addressing gatherings. It was a pleasure to have her company."*

Each State Foundation presented a report outlining activities over the past two years and aims for the future. Peter Newton, President Victoria, presented a document "The Way Ahead", an in-depth appraisal of the current status of Ryder-Cheshire Australia, and looking ahead to major goals in the future. Peter emphasised the Mission of the international Ryder-Cheshire organisation, of which Australia forms part: *"to relieve suffering among the sick, people with disabilities and the destitute, without regard to age, race or religion."* This document was well received.

Peter also proposed that Ryder-Cheshire Australia consider involvement in humanitarian activity in East Timor. Such involvement would not in any way impinge on the support now given to Raphael but would be a new initiative. This proposal was generally approved. Some steps have already been taken in this direction; enquiries have been made and continuing to be made to see how this involvement could be implemented in an efficient and useful manner.

In presenting his Project Officer's Report, and the Report from the ACT Foundation, Jack Thurgar, indicated his intention to resign from these positions, and from the National Executive. Jack has been outstanding in his role as Projects Officer – during his time many worthwhile projects have been completed at Raphael in India, and in PNG, as well as many self-funded visits to both countries. He will be a great loss to Ryder-Cheshire and hopefully will keep in touch in some way.

The reports from Foundations and Support Groups were positive and encouraging. Since that first visit to Sydney in 1959 by the Founders, Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder, and the beginnings of Ryder-Cheshire in 1964, the organisation has always moved forward and continues to do so, and meets its commitment to Raphael.

Margaret Sleight, National Treasurer, continues to be an invaluable member of the Executive and of Ryder-Cheshire. It is Margaret who sees that funds are transferred to Raphael (there are times when she has to scratch around to find the funds when they are needed, but she comes up trumps). Margaret has also, in her capacity as the head of a prestigious Accountancy business in Canberra, done all the hard work in relation to the GST and how it affects the organisation. Her report on this was most helpful, as was the excellent workshop she conducted on what the new tax system means for all of us and how we implement this.

Except for Jack Thurgar, all Executive members were re-elected. We thank Jake Newham for continuing as National President for yet another term, taking him into his second decade in this office.

In summarising this Biennial, it was a good and productive meeting, with all contributing. In concluding his report, President Jake Newham stated under the heading of "The Important People":

*Once again, I must emphasise my on-going admiration for those who make Ryder-Cheshire work. The fund-raisers, the support groups, the sponsors and private benefactors combine to assure our targets are met. So much dedication and tenacity of purpose deserve better than a few words from me. I trust you understand the full weight of my tribute, because without those attributes Ryder-Cheshire would not exist.*

*My heartfelt thanks to you all.*

It wasn't all hard work – the welcome reception and the formal dinner provided the opportunity to socialise, and allowed the locals from S.A. an opportunity to meet and talk with interstate visitors.

Alistair Burt, sent this message from the U.K.

*Thank you for looking after me in Adelaide, and for taking care of the practical details of what was not only an enjoyable visit but also a very successful meeting. I got back to England after my visit to New Zealand. I thoroughly enjoyed the whole trip.....when I next come to Australia I will come for a longer period and not make such a frantic timetable for myself. Please pass on my thanks to Chris (SA President) and the others involved in the South Australian Foundation."*

We now look forward to the next Biennial in 2002, and hear how Ryder-Cheshire Australia continues to grow. And the good news is this will be hosted by the Mt. Gambier Support Group.

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REPORT TO BIENNIAL BY NATIONAL PROJECTS  
OFFICER JOHN THURGAR

*CHESHIRE HOME PORT MORESBY*

Australia R-C was asked by the Home to support an Australian Volunteer Abroad, Mr. Ashley Brown, for two years, after his arrival and placement in the Home. I wrote a proposal to the International Projects Officer. The conditions in PNG are difficult and I asked UK that the money be sent annually rather than as one lump sum due to the fact that Mr. Brown may not wish to remain for a second year. UK was able to assist us in this project and sent one year's local salary to us to forward on to PNG. I now await a further request from PNG for the second year's funding so that the matter can once again be raised with the UK, subject to Mr. Brown remaining in PNG at the Cheshire Home.

*PROJECTS AT RAPHAEL*

Over the past two years we have sent \$27,725 to Raphael on special projects. The projects identified by Raphael and funded have been: the purchase of TB vaccines; the purchase of linen and other cloth products; the purchase of mattresses for the volunteers' mess; the purchase of coats and jumpers for residents of Shiv Sadan; the construction of a footpath around Shiv Sadan which joins on to the path leading to the physiotherapy room and Ava Vihar; the construction of a path from Ava Vihar to the Physio room, the construction of a roof over the outdoor physio area; the purchase of TV sets for Ava Vihar and the Little White House; the purchase of books and a suitable bookcase for the Little White House; the purchase of gym equipment for the Little White House; the purchase of hot water geysers for the volunteers' quarters and Ava Vihar; allocation of monies to be held for repairs to shoes/replacement of laces.

During the past two years I have requested the Director to submit all project requests on a simple form which will give the National Executive a better understanding of the requirement prior to making a decision on funding. A form has been devised whereby the project can be summarised and 'signed-off'. The Director has implemented this request at the beginning of the year 2000 and the process is still in the teething stages.

I have sent a one month's supply of medicine for Sumati to be trialled under Dr. Gupta's supervision. It appears that the medicine is available in India and that a separate funding request has now been submitted for its purchase.

I have written to the Director about the possibility of constructing a Memorial Wall as a permanent memorial upon which to place appropriate plaques in memory, or in recognition of, outstanding work for the Foundation. The matter has been referred to the Council for their consideration.

Four new projects in the pipeline for 2000 were listed:

Retaining wall near main gate (under consideration).

Purchase of medicine for Sumati (taken up).

Private tuition for senior students (taken up).

Mattresses/quilts for Shiv Sadan (taken up).

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## **RAPHAEL NEWS**

*From the Director*

*30<sup>th</sup> November 1999*

We have had great honour of having Pope visit India during November 1999 and bless the country. With the blessings from His Holiness I am sure new Millennium will be good for India. Diwali was celebrated very nicely. We had the opportunity of wishing happy Diwali to each resident including everyone in Shiv Sadan. Volunteers accompanied me.

The Cement Path in Shiv Sadan has come out very nicely and it is fully utilised now. A new TV set has been bought for LWH, thanks to RCF Australia. Many other projects are in progress.

MENCAP cycle groups visited Raphael on 17<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November 1999. They make cycle trip from Shimla to Delhi via Mussoorie, Dehra Dun (Raphael) and Haridwar.

At present we have 35 girls and 35 boys in LWH. We might have 5 additional children in LWH next year. We are creating more accommodation in the dormitories specially for the boys.

We are all set to celebrate World Handicapped Day on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Children from other local institutes

Ron Mackenzie from New Zealand will be with us for one week during first week of December. He is in India on a lecture visit.

*24<sup>th</sup> December 1999*

We are all set for Christmas function on 24<sup>th</sup>. A community lunch is also being organised for 1 January for all residents, staff and children, a good way of celebrating new millenium.

Children in the school will have a short winter break. This year winter is not very severe.

I am going on short course on vocational training for the handi-capped.

*3<sup>rd</sup> January 2000*

Greetings for the New Year and the Millenium. We had planned community lunch on New Year's Eve but had to postpone it due to a sudden injury sustained by the Chairman after having a fall in his house on 29 December. He is now under treatment and the injury is not of a very serious nature. The Chairman has already made very good recovery.

We are sorry to inform you that Helen Latif (Sister-in-law of Moeena Roy) went to her heavenly abode on 31 December 1999 after long ailment.

*15<sup>th</sup> January 2000*

We have received \$360.00 (9247.68 Rs.) from Oswald

Raphael Group in Adelaide, which has been used for purchasing shoes for all residents of Ava Vihar.

Lady Ryder has not been keeping well recently. We all pray for her quick recovery. We look forward to her joining us for Easter this year.

Tirath Singh, one of our elderly residents of Shiv Sadan expired on 26 December due to leprosy with severe ulceration. Gauri from Ava Vihar expired on 2 January due to pulmonary TB.

Our effort this year will be to create vacancy for the new admissions to LWH.

We have had snowfall in Mussoorie. The place looks beautiful. The weather is pleasant with bright sunshine.

We have a good lot of volunteers these days. They have taken LWH and Ava Vihar residents for an outing.

*17<sup>th</sup> February 2000*

We have recently had a new admission in Shiv Sadan. A Nepali couple, Rameshwar and Gauri with a baby boy. They joined us on 14 February. Total now in Shiv Sadan is 77.



Jane Forster will be with us on 28 February for a few weeks. Our new Director, Mr. Alistair Burt, will be with us for Founders' Day.

Work on overhead cover and the extension in the Physiotherapy building is in progress.

LWH children are getting all set for their examination. Number of college going children has increased with 35 children attending college.

Correction - the cement path constructed in Shiv Sadan is a memorial for Denise Brooks (not Bill Braithwaite).

Chairman is absolutely fit now and has left for Mumbai to attend his grandson's wedding.

I am enclosing a small write-up on New Year's Day at Raphael.

*8<sup>th</sup> April 2000*

We are fine at Raphael. Summer has caught up in Dehra Dun. However nights are still pleasant. Alistair Burt, Director RCF, U.K. was with us from 31 March to 5<sup>th</sup> April. It was a great pleasure meeting him and taking him around Raphael.

Day Centre building is coming up in Raphael location. Jersey

Overseas Aid Committee in U.K. has provided funds. By Christmas the building will be ready. Foundation was laid on 5<sup>th</sup> April.

We celebrated Founders' Day on 5<sup>th</sup> April, all children took active part and everyone enjoyed.

LWH children are getting all set for their Final Examination. We are looking for employment avenues for senior children so that there is place for new admissions.

Work on retaining wall near the Main Gate of Raphael is in progress. This is being done to stop erosion.

We have good volunteers these days, Taja from New Zealand and Melissa from Canada - Melissa's mother is from Australia.

Father Charles Drennan is coming to us for a few days during his summer vacation from the Vatican City. Jeff and Joy [Brisbane] were with us for Founders' Day. They are regular visitors and always welcome.

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### NEW SOUTH WALES

*Secretary Jenny Coleman*

Seven members of the Foundation attended the Biennial Conference in Adelaide. In her report President Barbara Lewis reviewed the activities of the Foundation over the last two years.

*Singleton Ryder-Cheshire Home.*

In 1999 the Home forged links with the "Hunter Area Health Services in NSW". Hunter Respite Care and the Ryder-Cheshire Home jointly provide respite to carers of disabled. The Home now offers a base and facilities at Singleton while Hunter Respite Care provides the personnel to give alternative care for disabled persons who can stay there while their regular carers enjoy a break.

*Sponsorships.* NSW currently sponsors 44 residents at "Raphael". All correspondence from Raphael is now distributed via our sponsorship secretary. We realise the necessity to revitalise sponsor-ships.

*Cards* – At Christmas 1999 we sold approximately 11,500 cards. Co-operation with Victoria in selection and ordering is working well. We supplement with purchases in Sydney.

*The Leonard Cheshire Roses* – We sold 112 roses and thank South Australia for initiating and organising this tribute to our Founder.

*Stalls* – NSW continues with the stalls and in the period leading up to Christmas over \$1900 was raised from three stalls.

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### VICTORIA

*President Peter Newton*

Five representatives from Victoria attended the Biennial Conference, including Geoff Nott, Victorian Vice-President, and President of the Ballarat Support Group. In his President's report, Peter covered the following:

*Sponsorships* – Helen Newton has validated the records against the Raphael records. We have gained a further 21 full sponsorships since August 1998 while losing only two. We are doing all we can to attract new sponsors, targetting Rotary Clubs, Church groups and personal contacts.

*Fundraising* – We plan concerts, bridge days, fashion parades and a garden party.

*Cards* – The sale of Christmas and other cards in 98-99 was quite successful. Helen McKendrick and Helen Newton

have reviewed the procedures for ordering and distributing cards – six have been selected for 2000.

*The Leonard Cheshire Rose* – Sales have been very good in 98-99. There is still interest in the Rose and we will place another order with Ross Roses in 2000.

*Regions* – As always, Support Groups in Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong contributed magnificently.

*The Future* – The Committee has decided to set up a humanitarian activity in East Timor and is hopeful that other Foundations will support this initiative. We remain committed to supporting Raphael and will continue to meet our financial obligations. This new challenge will hopefully generate more helpers and supporters to keep the Foundation alive and relevant in the future.

*Appreciation* – I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Committee, the Support Groups and all our loyal supporters who have been so generous with their time and money so making the last two years so rewarding and successful. You are all helping to keep the dream of Leonard and

Sue alive and well, and I am confident of your continuing support in the future.

Finally, it is with deep sadness that I record the passing of Terry Donovan and Agnes McLean, both of whom served the Foundation with dedication over many years.

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## ***SOUTH AUSTRALIA***

*Margaret Blaber Secretary*

Delegates and Observers from S.A. were well represented at the Biennial Conference, and it was good to see Di McEwen and Kerry Probert from Mt. Gambier attending.

In her report President Christine Lopez expressed our sadness at the passing of Russell Longmire in August 1999 and that of Dame Roma Mitchell in March this year. Both Russell and Dame Roma indicated that donations be made to Ryder-Cheshire, and generous contributions were received. We owe much to Russell and Dame Roma and they will be long remembered.

*Sponsorships* – three new sponsors signed up in the past year – Patricia Frith, sponsorship

Westminster House, the home of the British High Commissioner in Australia. We were fortunate to have the support of His Excellency Mr. Alex Allen and his wife Katie.

*AGM* – to be held in June. Sadly John Thurgar reported he would not be standing for office.

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### **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

President John Toohey and Secretary Evelyn Petters attended the Biennial Conference. In his report the President states that activities for the last year have focused on Raphael, Barbara Seabrook House, and the Leonard Cheshire Memorial Awards.

The Leonard Cheshire Awards have been made on an ad hoc basis for the purchase of horses for the Riding for the Disabled Association, and to enable disadvantaged children in the South West to pursue musical and artistic studies. We would like to extend the range of these grants.

*Fundraising* – Functions included a Film Morning and a Bridge and Mah Jong Day.

Events for 2000 will be a Film Morning and a Musical Concert by the Gilbert and Sullivan Singers. A local Golf Club has nominated Ryder-Cheshire as a beneficiary of a special Charity "Ladies Day".

*Future Directions* – We have spent much time on this and an important catalyst has been events in East Timor. One avenue we have been pursuing, mindful of the services provided by Raphael, is a mobile TB clinic. The demand is certainly there but the logistics present difficulties.

*The Newsletter* of the WA Foundation continues to report on the activities in the West. The most recent issue (February 2000) contained a report on the sale of Greeting Cards. 7000 cards were sold in the Charity Card Shop in Perth in 1999 and the Ryder-Cheshire Cards were in the 'top ten' bracket. This is a major fundraiser.

The generosity of West Australians continued to sponsor a number of residents at Raphael. In the past few months three new sponsors have joined the ranks.

*The Ryder-Cheshire Op Shop*, despite problems with having

sufficient volunteers, continues to keep up the 'good work', and was able to make a profit of \$7,000. Grateful thanks are extended to all the dedicated shop helpers.

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## **VICTORIAN HOMES FOUNDATION**

*Donald Sinclair President*

So much has happened at Ryder-Cheshire Ivanhoe in recent times, and so much is planned for the future. The Foundation completed the purchase of Nos. 12 and 24 Donaldson Street from the RSL War Widows' Trust (our generous landlord for many years).

We continue to enjoy the wonderful support of the Brigidine Sisters and the Sisters of St. Joseph through the services of our three magnificent house parents, Declan, Jean and Mary.

During 1999 the Peter MacCallum Cancer Hospital opened some modern accommodation for patients and carers which has resulted in some decrease in the numbers seeking our accommodation. We believe the re-development of our faci-

lities with ensuite accommodation will cause an increase in demand, as will the expansion of nearby medical facilities. A very high level of demand remains for much of the year.

In his report Don outlines the story of Isaura from East Timor (as told in another area of this newsletter). He adds that the Foundation is watching with interest the progress of the project to investigate the possibility of a long-term involvement in East Timor.

And....Richard Brooks, our treasurer, has recently completed his very detailed and readable history of the Ryder-Cheshire Victorian Homes. This exciting book was launched on 6<sup>th</sup> May. The book of 150 pp with many photographs and illustrations.....is a very human story told in an easy style. On the back cover it says: "*Ryder-Cheshire Ivanhoe, has rapidly developed as an accommodation base for country, interstate and overseas outpatients and their partners during treatments at Melbourne hospitals. During the 18 year history, more than 13,000 people have stayed at the Homes.*"

## THE STORY OF ISAURA DA SILVA

All of Australia knew of the plight of the thirteen year old East Timorese lass, critically ill with a heart abnormality, yet nothing happened until Helen McKendrick and her Melbourne colleagues set about bringing Isaura to Australia for corrective surgery and convalescence. This was no simple chore, but entailed wending a path through national and international roadblocks. Fortunately, persistence, patience, cooperation, and finally generous benevolence won the day; it was done. Isaura, her mother and an interpreter came to Melbourne and were accommodated at the Ryder-Cheshire Home at Ivanhoe.

The operation at the Monash Medical Centre was successful. Within a few days Isaura was discharged from hospital and returned to Ivanhoe with her mother for the next few weeks. Recuperation succeeded through the hands on care of Dawn and Don Sinclair, Helen and Peter Newton, Helen McKendrick, and Sisters Declan and Mary at the Home. Isaura left for her home, a normal energetic teenager, with a supply of drugs and arrangements made for monitoring her progress. We have heard that military doctors check her condition each week and that she is making a wonderful recovery and is a lively teenager with an excellent life expectancy.

Whilst Isaura was at the MMC the wonderful people at Ronald McDonald House Monash offered her mother accommodation to be close to her. We have formed a close bond with the manager to our mutual benefit.

Other agencies helped, Rotary for example, however, this splendid outcome depended on the initiative of Helen and her Melbourne colleagues who hit the ground running with spontaneous support. We offer generous congratulations.

The experience has encouraged our sister organisation, The Ryder-Cheshire Foundation of Victoria, to investigate the possibility of a long-term involvement in East Timor. I will report future developments as they occur.

## A TRIBUTE TO AGNES MCLEAN 1905-1999

Cath McLenehan, Publicity Officer of the Ballarat Support Group has sent a copy of the Tribute, presented by Richard D. Moore (XC 1939-1947) on the occasion of a Mass celebrated in her honour in the Chapel at Kostka Hall on Wednesday September 1<sup>st</sup> 1999. The conclusion reads:

*We of the Xavier family, particularly those who knew her personally, thank God for the influence that Agnes McLean, this great lady of deep faith, had not only on us and our peers both living and dead, but on such a broad range of people including the early Kostka Ladies, our mothers, with whom she is now reunited.*

*May her dear soul rest in peace.*

### *New Year's Day at Raphael*

1<sup>st</sup> January – beginning of the new millenium – everybody gathered near the office. The Director wished everyone Happy New Year and gave a short speech remembering the Founders and thanked all supporters of Raphael.

Sadly, the 'Big Lunch' had to be postponed because of the Chairman's fall. We all prayed for General Bakhshi's quick recovery.

This was followed by tea and hot samosas.

The book "*Ryder-Cheshire, Ivanhoe*" is available through Dr. D. Sinclair, *Ryder-Cheshire Home, 10-14 Donaldson Street, Ivanhoe, Vic 3079 at the cost of \$20.00.*

Due to lack of space the next in the series "*Indian Memories*", by Alice Jones, is held over for the August issue. Another poem from "*Raphael in India*" by Joy Brisbane will also appear.

The next Newsletter will be issued in August 2000.

Contributions in the form of articles or letters are welcome and should be sent to Margaret Blaber, 2/5 Cornish Street, Stepney, South Australia 5069, by 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

Telephone (08) 8363-4584

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