

# 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. 51 DECEMBER 2000

## VALE

*Sue Ryder, Baroness Ryder of Warsaw  
b. July 23 1923; died November 2, 2000  
Co-Founder with Leonard Cheshire in 1959  
of The Ryder-Cheshire Foundation*

The news of the passing of Sue was received with great sadness by all who knew her. Obituaries have appeared in U.K. newspapers: The Guardian; The Independent; The Times; The News; and in Australia in the Time & Tide section of The Australian. As we know, Sue was a great humanitarian who dedicated her life to the relief of suffering. A private funeral was held at Cavendish, and Sue was buried beside Leonard.

Our sympathy to Elizabeth and Jeromy.

**TRIBUTE** from Air Marshal J.W. Newham, AC (Retd),  
*President, Australian Association of Ryder-Cheshire Foundations,*

### Lady Ryder of Warsaw CMG OBE

Several obituaries from the leading British newspapers have been circulated; so I'll not attempt to repeat what has been said therein. And I am well aware that you have known Sue Ryder better and far longer than I have, so I'll confine my comments.

I first met Lady Ryder in late 1992, having known her by repute, through correspondence, and telephone conversations. Already a strong impression of purpose, moral courage and complete dedication to her work had formed in my mind; there it stays.

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Lady Ryder invited me to Cavendish when I was visiting England, and I drove across from Rugby one beautiful autumn morning. We chatted about Ryder-Cheshire generally, on Raphael and the many details of her eventful life. I was struck by her practicality: this was no person wrapped solely in idealism, but a realist, a very special person one might not meet in a lifetime. I warmed to her insight and commonsense.

The time went quickly; I had thought it might be a short visit – not so. When I asked about Leonard, Sue spoke for some time about his illness and their time together – so softly. It was a touching experience; her compassion for her beloved husband who suffered extreme pain and discomfort in the last phase of his illness, flowed freely. His strength and support had meant so much, and Sue missed him enormously. Nevertheless, as her conversation ranged over the rewarding aspects of their lives together, Sue left no doubt of the direction and pace of her way ahead.

I had so much to ponder as I drove back to Rugby. How could two remarkable people have come together – sheer coincidence? God's will? Whatever the catalyst, the synergy was enormous.

In 1998, Lady Ryder came to Perth to WA to open the Biennial Conference of the Australian Ryder-Cheshire Foundations, and undertake a number of other engagements. I was surprised to find her physically frail, yet she drew on hidden stores of energy, not only completing her scheduled events with characteristic charm and efficiency, but also accepting other requests spontaneously. Sue went on to Papua New Guinea and to New Zealand without missing a beat.

Her last visit to us will remain in our memories. Sue Ryder never took the easy way out, and never lost sight of her aims. Sue Ryder and Leonard Cheshire have touched our lives Down Under in a unique way. We honour them.

J.W. Newham  
10<sup>th</sup> November 2000.

## RYDER-CHESHIRE UK - 2000

*Patsy Wright-Warren, Chairman*

The Millenium Year has been a critical one for Ryder-Cheshire UK. After the changes and retirements at the end of 1999, we have been in a position of building up again with new people, in a new place, with a new focus.

At the beginning of the year we moved our headquarters office from Leicestershire to Brighton, on the south coast. This has proved to be a good move. As well as recruiting Alastair Burt, whom many of you met when he attended your Biennial in Adelaide, as Director, we have also appointed Christine Edwards as Overseas Programme Manager and Zaza Curran as Administrator. Sylvia Wear, who has been leading the Ryder-Cheshire Volunteers (RCV) for 14 years, completes our management team.

Our Trustee group also has a new look. We are very fortunate that the Chairmen of Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder Care, have joined us and we are hoping to recruit others.

Sadly we have had to close down our operations in Tanzania because of lack of financial support. However, in the fifteen years that we have been working there, many thousands of disabled refugee children have been given a new lease of life. In this country, RCV has 12 highly successful schemes matching volunteers and disabled people in pursuit of activities of mutual interest. For the future, we are looking to develop our work against tuberculosis, especially in India. We have been encouraged to hear about the development of the Australian work in East Timor.

The whole year has, inevitably, been overshadowed by Sue Ryder's illness, and her death in early November. We gained incalculable benefit from her as did the thousands of others to whom she devoted her life. We have now lost both our Founders. As the new Chairman, I am determined to guide Ryder-Cheshire forward in the spirit and with the imagination that they have left for us.

*I wish all my friends in Australia a happy Christmas and a very successful year in 2001.*

December 2000

**HONGKONG FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL AWARD  
(INDIVIDUAL)**

**Awarded to MAJOR GENERAL RANBIR BAKHSHI, M.C.**

**In Delhi, India, on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2000**

*From National President Jake Newham to Rummy – 24 October 2000*

We were delighted to learn of yet another prestigious award, recognising the great work you have done over the years – Please accept my personal congratulations and those of the members of all Australian Foundations and the National Executive. We join together in wishing you much satisfaction from this recognition, and every good wish for the future.

*Well done indeed!*

***From the Director***

*21 August 2000*

We celebrated Independence Day on 15 August. All children including residents of Shiv Sadan took active part. Later we had tea with all teaching staff and the volunteers. We are very grateful to RCF Australia for following special funding: (a) Medicine for Sumati; (b) Provision for extra tuition for senior children of the Little White House; (c) Provision of mattresses and quilts for Shiv Sadan residents. Christine (Edward) our Overseas Programme Manager will be visiting us for the first time from 4 to 10 October.

About LWH children: *Sunita* will do training at Chetna Institute, Lucknow next year – she is helping in Day Centre. *Anjali* will now do

NTT (Nursery Teachers Training) – these days she is teaching in Primary School in her spare time. *Bhagirathi* has joined college, she will complete her NCC (National Cadet Corps) training and will also go for training at Chetna Institute next year. *Anita* has joined college and will go for nursing training next year (Holy Family Hospital).

*Anita, Laxmi, Bhupinder, Surendar* and *Beena III* of LWH are going for computer training on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

*Girdhari F/o Pushpa* (teacher in Ava Vihar) is not keeping well.

Chairman has gone on a short trip to Nepal and will return on 24 August.

*9 September 2000*

Everything is fine at Raphael. We have had good rains in this region. Here is the latest about Raphael:



Teachers' Day was celebrated on 5th September in Ava Vihar, Day Centre and Primary School. Painting competition was organised in Ava Vihar and prizes were distributed by Mrs. Shobha Bakshshi. Later on all teachers were entertained to tea in respective wings followed by movie.

On 7 September we celebrated Lord Cheshire's Birthday. Special prayer meeting was held in front of LWH. In the evening we attended Founders Day function in Cheshire Home.

In Shiv Sadan, *Bhaglu* and *Girdhari* have not been keeping well; both of them are in hospital. We have recently admitted one more couple in Shiv Sadan. Now our strength in the colony is 75 (34 men and 41 women).

*Ganesh* (LWH) has joined a technical institute in Punjab to do one year course in diesel mechanic trade. He had passed his 10<sup>th</sup> standard this year. Now we have 64 children in LWH – next year we will have admission for 6 new children.

We are very thin on volunteers these days. As of today we have only one volunteer.

Chairman is fine and active. He keeps himself very busy.

*12 October 2000*

Christine Edwards, Overseas Programme Manager, RCF, UK, was with us on her first visit from 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> October. It was a great pleasure meeting her and taking her round the centre.

New state of UTTARANCHAL will be formed on 1 November. The capital will be Dehra Dun. This place is going to be full of activity. The population will also increase manifold.

We have been very thin on volunteers recently- the number has gone down during the current year. Everything is fine at Raphael. Pryio Lall is joining us back as a co-ordinator for Day Centre and Ava Vihar.

You will be sad to know that *Girdhari* (Shiv Sadan), went to his heavenly abode on 27 September 2000. He was ailing for some time and had peaceful end. His daughter, *Pushpa* is teacher in Ava Vihar.

*27 October*

Thank you for the Ryder Cheshire News of August 2000. It was a great pleasure going through it. Ryder Cheshire Home in East Timor is a big requirement and I am sure with Peter Newton's leadership it will be a great success. It is a challenging task.

Poonam, daughter of Malak Singh, headman in Shiv Sadan, and Sobhni married on 21 October. She was born in Shiv Sadan in 1978 and was in LWH from 1982 to 1998. She was a qualified Nursery Teacher and worked in Primary School from March 1998 to October 2000. The bridegroom *Vijay*, is the son of Mr. Rumal Singh, Manager KKM Nalapani, and is working in offshore drilling rig in an oil company in Bombay. The wedding was a great event for Raphael and there was mass participation by LWH past and present children. We wish the young couple all the happiness in their wedded life. Malcolm and Evelyn Petters were with us recently from Perth. They brought a group of visitors from Perth. It was great meeting them. We celebrated Diwali on 26<sup>th</sup>. Everyone enjoyed immensely.

23 November 2000

It is with a sense of tremendous loss and sadness, that we at Raphael have had to accept that our beloved founder Lady Sue Ryder has passed away from this earth. "Mummy" to all residents of Raphael, she loved each so dearly and was full of compassion and concern for them. To the staff she was a guiding force, one who instilled a sense of dedication and courage in all of us.

Residents and staff are going to miss her a great deal.

Raphael has conveyed to Lady Sue's children that they have a large Raphael family beside them in their hour of grief.

Lady Ryder last visited Raphael in 1997 and this is what she wrote in our Visitors' Book:

*" I am so pleased and delighted to be back with you again – and for a longer time too, enabling me to feel even closer to the lives you lead; I felt Daddy is always with us too.*

*Thank you very much indeed for being yourselves and for sharing as always, your example of courage, good humour, courtesty and happiness.*

*I do indeed realise how hard life is for most of you and you give a splendid example to others who are part of this Foundation's International Family in many countries.*

*Please realise that our prayers are always with you everyday and night. Also that many hundreds of adults and children support you and keep you in their minds.*

*Sadly, now I must leave. With love, heartfelt gratitude always. God bless each of you. "*

All is well with Raphael. More in the next one.

With best wishes and warm regards from all of us at Raphael.



## NEWS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA

### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

*Secretary Jenny Coleman*

**East Timor** – Margaret Dobbin attended the Fund & Awareness Raiser Dinner in Melbourne and reported to the Committee. Chief of Army Lieutenant-General Peter Cosgrove, AC, MC, was the keynote speaker and he was laudatory about the Ryder-Cheshire involvement. The Foundation has agreed to give financial support and will continue to do so with funding for Raphael continuing to be the first priority.

**Fundraising** – Stalls are a useful way to raise funds and several were held through September-December. A *Shopping Spree* tour was held in November. The *Annual Dinner* will again be held in March or April 2001. A *Bridge Day* is planned for 2001.

**Cards** – sales have been good in the current season and a selection will be made for 2001.

**Sponsorships** – NSW will be handling adoptions from Queensland until further notice.

**Volunteers** – Committee Member John Ayliffe's son, Tim, will be working as a volunteer at Raphael for six weeks from mid-December.

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### **VICTORIA**

*President Peter Newton*

As we enter another year, it is time to reflect on the previous twelve months and to thank all the Foundation members and supporters for their outstanding support.

**The year started** with the arrival of Isaura Da Silva from East Timor who was looked after so magnificently by the Victorian Home Committee and the staff at the Ivanhoe Home. We were all inspired by the recovery made by Isaura from her life threatening heart defect after her operation at the Monash Medical Centre. We knew that if the Foundation could help Isaura, then we could extend our efforts and help many more sick and disabled people in East Timor. And so we have with the opening of the new Home just West of Dili. We are calling it *Klibar Domin Tibar*, which means love and sharing at Tibar, the village where the Home is located.

We have had a total of ten volunteers spend time at *Klibar Domin Tibar*, working extremely hard to restore and establish the Home. In addition, a team of nine Rotary Volunteers spent two weeks at the Home and did a magnificent job with the restoration. We also conducted a major appeal for

building materials, household and personal items and we quickly filled a container donated by the Lions Club of Nunawading. There are already 21 disabled residents at the Home, and shortly we plan to take the first of other patients from the Dili Hospital. Before long, the Home will be fully operational and caring for about 50 residents and patients-quite a remarkable achievement in such a short period. My thanks go to everyone who has supported the Foundation and assisted in this work. You have certainly kept alive the spirit of Leonard and Sue in their endeavours to relieve the suffering of the sick, the handicapped and the destitute.

Our supporters were many and they were most generous in their contributions and donations. They came to our Bridge Days, our Concert and our major event, the Dinner with Peter Cosgrove, which alone raised more than \$10,000. In all we raised well over \$100,000 during the year, which allowed us to increase our remittance to Raphael from \$40,000 to \$49,000 (including \$5000 for a special project) and to contribute more than \$50,000 to the East Timor project. So my congratulations and my sincere thanks to everyone who made this possible and my very best wishes to you all in the year ahead.

## **BALLARAT SUPPORT GROUP**

*Cath McLenehan - Publicity*

We were all saddened by the eventual death of Lady Sue Ryder. On Wednesday November 29<sup>th</sup> at midday, a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Sue, was held in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat. In preparing for this occasion, every assistance was given by our Administrator, Father Adrian McInerney, the organist, leader, producer of booklets, and the Polish Association. Representatives of sponsoring schools read prayers of intercession for Sue and her work, while Ryder-Cheshire members led by Jack Burcon of the Polish Association, took part in the Procession of Gifts and the reading of the Lessons. Fr. McInerney, as a student, spent time with Leonard and Sue at Cavendish, while working amongst the residents. He gave a wonderful Homily, much from a personal perspective. Prior to the conclusion of Mass, a moving poem written by Joy Brisbane, reflecting the lepers' thoughts and words as they gazed at a photo of Sue, was read by Joy.

Raised behind the Altar were the Australian and Polish Flags and the Polish Association Banner, while in front of the Altar were placed photos of Sue, her autobiography and a Polish Decoration. A large

Congregation attended this very meaningful Service of Thanksgiving.

Thank you to Carmel Morgan-Wall who assisted me in organizing the Service in a very short time.

*LADY SUE RYDER*

*Mama they called you.*

*Your photograph garlanded,  
Yellow flowers with heady perfume,  
The last remnants of Spring  
Wilting now  
In near Indian Summer Heat.  
And You, Lady Sue, Smiling.*

*'She our Mama', they say.  
Hands together in reverence,  
Toothless grins, noseless faces,  
Dark eyes shining.  
The blind one touches the frame,  
feels the flowers, prays  
in a language I cannot understand.*

*Beside you, also garlanded,  
Shiva rides his bull.*

*Reprinted by permission of  
Joy Brisbane.*

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RAY McCLUSKEY, the 1964 foundation treasurer of our Support Group, has given 36 years working for Raphael and continues to do so. A keen cyclist, he entered the Great Victorian Bike Ride of 565 Km over nine days. By gaining sponsorship, including a \$5,000 donation

from Harvey Norman Pty Ltd, Ray set a target of \$10,000 to help fund the Ryder-Cheshire East Timor Home. He is two-thirds towards his target and expects the remainder in by Christmas. Congratulations Ray!

N.B. Ray is planning to issue a challenge to Ryder-Cheshire supporters to join him in 2001 and "RIDE FOR RAPHAEL".

*Alison Rennie*, a young committee member, who spent 3 months earlier this year as a volunteer at Raphael, and friend *Narelle White*, leave for the Ryder-Cheshire East Timor Home later in December as volunteers for 2 months.

*Members of Soroptomist International Ballarat* have taken a sponsorship following a talk given by Anne Bourke. A welcome addition to our Support Group Committee is Soroptomist Dorothy Carpenter who has also been actively involved with the 5 sponsorships of Ballarat & Clarendon College, Senior & Junior Schools.

*May all members of the  
Ryder-Cheshire Family enjoy  
The Blessings of Christmas.*

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## ***SOUTH AUSTRALIA***

*Secretary Margaret Blaber*

### **JOYCE STANFORD**

**died 9 October 2000**

**aged 76 years**

A founder member of the S.A. Foundation, for over 30 years her support and friendship has been beyond price. A great lady who is sadly missed. Our thoughts are with husband Ross and son Greg.

It has been a sad year for the S.A. Foundation, with the passing of Dame Roma Mitchell in March, Joyce in October, and Sue Ryder in November. Many of our early supporters are no longer with us. However, under the able chairmanship of Christine Lopez, and the continuing support from sponsors and donors, the Foundation is continuing the work for Raphael, and recently for East Timor.

**Fundraising** – The Oswald Raphael Group held a dinner in November which raised funds for their sponsorship plus an amount to be used for resource materials at the Day Centre at Raphael.

*AND* our sincere thanks to Alison & Barry Rowney, who held a special Film/Dinner evening in December which raised funds for East Timor. *For 2001* plans are under way for a

Sunday Lunch/Film Show in March, and another combined Film Morning in June. Other functions are being discussed for 2001.

**Cards** – The Charity Card Shop continues to be a good venue for the sale of our cards. Sales to date have been good.

We end the year 2000, with some sadness, but confident we can continue to fulfil the aims of the Founders, Leonard and Sue.

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## ***MOUNT GAMBIER SUPPORT GROUP***

Margaret Blaber attended the AGM in November, and was once again impressed with the energy and enthusiasm of this hard-working group. They do have original ideas, such as the catering undertaken on behalf of other organisations! A useful fundraiser requiring some hard work!. A very successful dinner was held in July, over 100 in attendance, and the guest speaker was Valda Street (secretary to "Weary" Dunlop).

Josie Simsa is the new President, Di McEwen carries on as the hard-working Secretary, and retiring President Kerry Probert, who has done a great job, will continue on the committee.

*AND* Mt. Gambier will be hosting the next Biennial in 2002 – we look forward to that meeting!

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## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Vice-President Malcolm and Secretary Evelyn Petters have returned to Perth after a visit to India and Raphael. They report that Dehra Dun now has 600,000 residents and is a very noisy city! They were given a "tremendous reception by Brig. Harshpati and staff, and entertained to morning tea on the verandah", followed by a tour of Raphael spending time in the Leper Village and Workshop.

WA has been actively involved in its support for Raphael, with card sales through the Charities Card Shop, fundraising functions, and of course, in Barbara Seabrook House, where occupancy remains constantly high, with 338 guests staying since January 2000 (1,877 'bed days').

In addition the Foundation is contributing to the East Timor project, and recently provided funds to assist *Liliana*, a little girl from East Timor receiving eye surgery in Perth, which allowed Liliana and her family to stay in Perth until treatment was finalised. The Associate Editor of the *Sunday Times* (the newspaper which organised the Appeal) wrote: "*On behalf of the Sunday Times and the Trindade family, I would like to thank the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation for the donation*".

## HEARTFELT THANKS

It is with extreme gratitude that we acknowledge the generosity of Wing Cdr Barney Fernandes VM (IAF Retd) who has made generous donations to "Raphael", and to the East Timor Project. Thank you so much Barney. Your consideration and generosity will touch the lives of so many. It has enabled us to assist with the home in East Timor, and also provide valuable assistance with major maintenance work long overdue at Raphael.

## RYDER-CHESHIRE HOME – IVANHOE

The November 2000 issue of *Caring Friends*, the Newsletter of the Home, Donald Sinclair, President, presents his report for 1999-2000. The Homes continue to play a vital role in providing short-term accommodation for country, interstate and occasional overseas hospital patients and their carers while the patients are receiving treatment in Melbourne hospitals. The Newsletter includes a tribute to Sue Ryder.

**Reminder:** The book "*Ryder Cheshire, Ivanhoe*" by Richard Brooks, can still be ordered at a cost of \$20.00 inclusive of GST and postage. Contact the Home at 10-14 Donaldson Street, Ivanhoe, or telephone (03) 9254-2400.



## BACK PAGE

The many published obituaries on the life of Sue Ryder, together with the tributes received, have provided a wealth of material on the life of this remarkable lady. Thanks to Cath McLenehan of Ballarat for sending an early C.V. of Sue. Some time over the next few weeks (months?) I intend to collate this material and print a booklet – I hope such a document will be of interest to the members of the Ryder-Cheshire family.

*Margaret Blaber, Newsletter Coordinator*

Sorry to say goodbye to the Odd Bods group – a group that has supported Ryder-Cheshire for many many years. Thanks and best wishes to you all.

On 23 November five priests celebrated the anniversary of their ordinations at Sacred Heart Cathedral Newcastle. In his eulogy praising the priests for their devotion and caring, Bishop Phillip Wilson also spoke of two people who had set an example of love and caring to the world – Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder.

Some readers may have known **BROTHER ANDREW**, formerly Ian Travers-Ball of Melbourne – sadly he died of cancer in October at the Missionaries of Charity Sisters Home in Fitzroy, Melbourne. He was 72. He is remembered for setting up the Missionary Brothers of Charity in Calcutta in 1964, as requested by Mother Teresa. He will be long remembered in love for his goodness, gentleness, humility and commitment to holiness, social justice and simplicity.

*MAY THE NEW YEAR BRING PEACE TO ALL OUR READERS.*



integrity • values •  
accountability

The next Newsletter will be issued in April 2001  
Contributions are welcome and should be sent to  
Margaret Blaber, 2/5 Cornish Street, Stepney, SA 5069 by the end of March.  
Telephone (08) 8363-4584