

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. 52

APRIL 2001

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MAJOR GENERAL RANBIR BAKHSHI, MC (RUMMY)

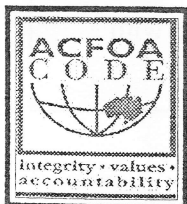
Born in April 1912, Rummy has now reached the young age of 89 years. In 1973 he began his long association with *Raphael*. He has seen *Raphael* recognised by the Government of India as one of the prestigious non-Government institutions in the country. Recognition has been given for the development of work for the disabled, the mentally impaired, and not least in the area of the treatment of tuberculosis. He has received many awards over the years for his services for the relief of suffering. Three generations of residents have passed through *Raphael* since its modest beginnings in 1959. To quote Rummy: ".....I feel the opportunity to serve in my humble capacity was initially given me by the Founders with their establishment of the *Raphael* Centre with its unique range of humanitarian work.....my years here have been immensely rewarding."

Our very best wishes to Rummy and and his wife Shobha.

Readers will have noticed that they received the last issue of *Ryder-Cheshire News* through Prompt Distribution Pty. Ltd. of West Heidelberg, Victoria.

David Coath, Director of Prompt Distribution has generously undertaken the task of distributing the Newsletter.

The Australian Association of Ryder-Cheshire Foundations appreciates this gesture by David and the assistance given by his staff.



**HELEN McKENDRICK,
AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS AWARD**

Helen, who was President of the Victorian Foundation for many years, and involved in the Ryder-Cheshire Home "Ivanhoe" has been made a Member of the Order of Australia for her dedicated work and achievements for Ryder-Cheshire.

National President Jake Newham in his letter to Helen:

"It gave me enormous pleasure to see your outstanding work for Ryder-Cheshire recognised by the award of Membership of the Order of Australia. Please accept Jo's and my hearty congratulations. As a leading light within Ryder-Cheshire since its inception in Australia, your efforts, dedication and effectiveness have played a crucial role in keeping the Foundations alive and together. We appreciate these achievements and qualities and remain profoundly grateful. Thank you most sincerely."

AND CONGRATULATIONS FROM ALL FOUNDATIONS

CORRECTION AND APOLOGY

In the December Issue (No.51) we said goodbye to the Odd Bods group that had supported Ryder-Cheshire for many years. This referred only to the Odd Bods UK Association in New South Wales.

The Odd Bods Association in Victoria have been supporters of Ryder-Cheshire for many years - the Group is alive and well, sponsoring four residents at Raphael, and recently giving financial support to the East Timor Appeal.

My apologies for the unclear report in the last issue.

My apologies to the Victorian Group – may your Association with Ryder-Cheshire continue for many years to come.

**MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR
LADY RYDER OF WARSAW, CMG, OBE**

A Mass of Thanksgiving to commemorate the life and work of Lady Ryder was held at Westminster Cathedral, London, on Thursday 15th March 2001. The Celebrant was Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor. Representatives of the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Queen Mother, and the Prince of Wales, attended, as did Jeromy and Elizabeth Cheshire, and other members of the Cheshire family.

Mrs. John Toohey represented the Australian Foundations at the Mass.

A EUCHARISTIC MEMORIAL SERVICE

held on Saturday 9th December
at St. Mary MacKillop's Centre, North Sydney
The Ryder Cheshire Foundation in New South Wales

RAPHAEL PRAYER MEETING

15th March 2001

Introduction: Maj Gen Bakhshi
Prayer Song: Residents of Ava Vihar
Prayers by representatives of Four Religions:
Hindu, Muslim, Sikh & Christian
Prayer (Song): Children of Little White House

COMPASS the quarterly magazine of the Leonard Cheshire Foundation, Issue 6, December 2000 – February 2001, includes Tributes to Baroness Ryder of Warsaw, from distinguished persons worldwide, including Major General Ranbir Bakhshi (Rummy)

RAPHAEL NEWS

From the Director

6 December 2000

All is well in Raphael. We celebrated World Disabled Day on 3rd December. Many local institutions participated in our programme. Now we are getting all set for Xmas. We celebrate it on 24th December.

Ava Vihar children went out on a picnic to Dak Pathar. Everyone enjoyed it immensely.

Visit of Wing Commander Barney Fernandes went off extremely well. He has promised to be with us again soon. Chairman is out of station till 14th December.

I am busy with the Annual Report.

8 January 2001

We held our Christmas function on 24th December. All residents and staff enjoyed themselves immensely.

Day Centre building is coming up fast. We hope to have the inauguration on 5th April (Founders' Day).

The Patricia Korting Library is well maintained and properly utilised.

Barbara Lewis is with us these days. Her party consists of 6 members including her husband and brother. It was a great pleasure having them here and taking them round. She will give you all the news.

The situation of volunteers has improved now. By this weekend we will have five volunteers. Tim from Australia has settled down nicely and is popular with residents and staff.

Chairman is enjoying good health and is very active.

We are expecting snowfall in Mussoorie this week.

6th February 2001

New Day Centre building is ready. We are equipping it and should be functional on coming Founders' Day (5th April). It has come out nicely. Pryio Lall is joining us as Coordinator for Ava Vihar and Day Centre.

Barbara Lewis will give you all the news. It was a great pleasure meeting her.

23rd February 2001

This year it has not been very cold in Dehra Dun. This being capital of new state, there has been an increase in population and traffic.

Governor of New State visited Raphael on 9th January. He went round and visited all wings.

We have good volunteer crowd these days. Getting all set for the Founders' Day on 5th April.

Day Centre building is ready now and we should be shifting as planned.

16th March 2001

To commemorate the life and work of Lady Ryder of Warsaw, CMG, OBE, who died on 2nd November 2000, special prayer was held at Raphael on Thursday 15th March. The ceremony opened with a prayer sung by the mentally and physically handicapped residents followed by prayers offered by the representatives of four religions – Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christian, and ended

with a prayer sung by the children of Raphael Primary School. Before thanking the large number of friends of Raphael who had gathered, General Bakhshi asked everyone to stand in silence in homage to the late Founder. A special prayer leaflet was distributed.

GIFTS FROM RCF AUSTRALIA 1999-2000

The Patricia Korting Library - initially funded by relatives and friends of the late Patricia Korting of South Australia has now grown to a good size with donations from Australia. The Little White House children assist with the selection of books.

Funding for special projects:

- A cemented path around Shiv Sadan
- Wheel chair path from Ava Vihar to physiotherapy block
- Additional clothing and shoes for Ava Vihar residents
- Hot Water Geyser and Mattresses for volunteers' accommodation
- Free standing roof to cover the physiotherapy area
- Winter coats for Shiv Sadan residents
- Gym equipment for LWH children
- TV for Little White House
- TV for Ava Vihar

There has been funding for further special projects in the past 12 months. Visitors and volunteers to Raphael invariably have funds given to them by friends and supporters, and with the advice of the Director, these are used for any particular needs.

For example, Dr. Ron Mackenzie of New Zealand, a frequent visitor and volunteer to Raphael, has taken specialised equipment for the TB Hospital and TB Control Mobile Team, donated by companies and individuals in New Zealand. Dr. Mackenzie has explained to the staff and doctors the use of such equipment.

KLIBUR DOMIN TIBAR

The new Ryder-Cheshire Home at Tibar in East Timor is now well and truly established and operating. The first volunteers from Australia arrived in September last year, and the outstanding efforts of more than 20 volunteers and 15 local staff since then have resulted in the Home being ready to take in its first patients in January this year. To each and every one of those volunteers, the Foundation sends its heartfelt thanks.

Then there was the magnificent contribution of the Volunteer Team of nine Rotarians from Victoria who restored the 18 buildings at the Home in October and the most generous contribution of the Nunawading Lions Club who donated the shipping container which was sent to Tibar loaded with household and personal items. The generosity of the businesses, groups and individuals who contributed to this appeal was most touching and very much appreciated.

Our first patients were all recovering from Tuberculosis. They included one little three year old girl Fernando who weighed just 9 kilograms when she arrived. The patients soon made friends with the 18 residents and the staff at the Home and settled into a daily routine. Young malnourished children have since been admitted and are being fed special high protein meals every three hours to build up their strength. We plan also to take in patients who are recovering from bone fractures and orthopedic surgery. Eventually we will have about 50 residents and patients at the Home.

The Home was officially opened on 3rd February 2001 before a crowd of about 70 local and international guests. We have decided to call the Home "Klibur Domin Tibar" which means "Sharing or Union and Love at Tibar" - we think this describes the Home perfectly.

Much still remains to be done at the Home and we also need to create a funding base to pay the costs of operating the Home, estimated to be about \$75,000 annually. Anyone wishing to assist in this should contact their State Foundation. Sponsorships are available for residents and beds, similar to the scheme which assists so successfully with the funding at Raphael.

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NEWS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

Met in Mebourne at the home of Helen McKendrick on 11th February. President J.W. Newham extended congratulations to Helen on the award of the OAM in the New Years Honours List.

Barney Fernandes was welcomed to Executive as the Projects Officer. Margaret Blaber (South Australia) resigned, and the appointment of Jose Simsa as the representative of S.A. endorsed.

Peter Newton reported on developments in East Timor and Barney reported on his recent visit to Raphael.

Patricia McDonell (Nat. Secretary) is coordinating the volunteers programme to both Raphael and Klibur Domin Tibar.

The next Biennial Conference will be held in Mount Gambier in April 2002.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Secretary Jenny Coleman

Committee Meeting (Feb.2001)

Judy Purdon reported on the visit to Raphael and Delhi Cheshire Home in January. (Barbara Lewis, her husband and brother were part of the group.)

Cards: In excess of 13,400 cards were sold during the 2000 season.

Fundraising – Stalls continue to be successful and two are planned for April. A dinner is being held on 28th April. The first prize in the raffle is two donated return air tickets to Delhi. A Bridge Lunch is planned for October.

Barbara Lewis sends a letter received from Joan Keenan in England reporting on the Memorial Service held for Sue [see separate item]. Joan (as Joan Masters) was personal secretary to Leonard for many years, and also did a stint at Raphael in the 1970s.

Barbara says that 140 guests are expected at the April dinner including Jake Newham and Patricia McDonell, and also the Secretary of the C.W.A. who is interested in the East Timor project.

Tim Ayliffe (22 years) spent six weeks as a volunteer at Raphael over the Christmas period and wrote up profiles of the residents sponsored in NSW. Tim will speak at the dinner.

The Indian Lunch held each year will take place in October.

VICTORIA

President Peter Newton

Reflecting back on the year 2000, we had an incredibly busy and successful year. With the additional commitment to the new Home in East Timor, the Victorian Committee found new reserves of energy and achieved wonderful results. We lifted our level of funding for Raphael from \$40,000 to \$49,000 which included a \$5000 donation for a project to renovate the kitchen and toilets in the Chronic Ward at the Hospital. At the same time, we provided another \$32,000 for the new Home in East Timor. Our sponsors and supporters made this possible by your generosity and your support of our fund raising functions.

The year 2001 has started in a similar way, and already we have received some extremely generous donations. The Pratt Foundation has contributed \$10,000 to the East Timor Appeal and Ray McCluskey, one of our long term Ballarat supporters, undertook a sponsored bike ride as part of the Great Victorian Bike Ride last November and recently forwarded a cheque for \$11,500 for East Timor. Ray's major sponsors were Gerry Harvey of Harvey Norman Stores and many Catholic Schools and Offices in the Ballarat Diocese, but many other people

contributed as well, and we send our sincere thanks to you all.

As the Home in East Timor is now well and truly established and operating, we are attempting to create a funding base similar to the one that has allowed us to fund Raphael so successfully for nearly 40 years. We have set up a sponsorship scheme for the new Home and now have seven people sponsoring residents and beds. We would be delighted to hear from other people interested in sponsoring residents, patients or beds at either Raphael or East Timor. Please telephone Helen Newton, the Sponsorship Secretary, on 03-9894-3191 for details.

Our next major function is the annual Concert on 27th April at St John's in Southbank (the venue for last year's most successful Concert).

With the increased activity, we have been delighted to add six new members to our Victorian Committee. They are Ian and Anthea Swann, Palam and Devi Sundram, Del Gaudry and Robert Gardiner and we welcome them most warmly to the Foundation and to the Victorian Committee.

BALLARAT SUPPORT GROUP

Cath McLenehan – Publicity

We were pleased to welcome **Glenda Dennis** to our committee meeting, and to welcome back **Alison Rennie** from her two months as a volunteer at the Ryder-Cheshire Home, Tibar. We hear she was a very practical person, and achieved a great deal in the time there. She described Tibar, with a population of 1000, as a peaceful place now, and the East Timorese with whom she worked, as “positive considering what they had been through.”

Peter Newton attended our meeting and gave us a detailed account of the Home, saying that eventually it was hoped the East Timorese would manage and staff the Home with volunteer assistance.

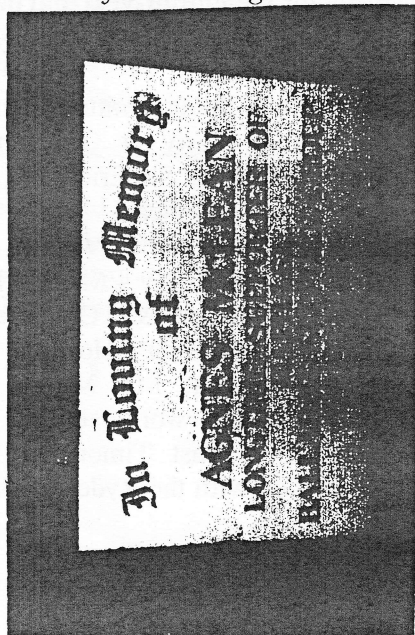
Tricia Bray, a sister of the late former volunteer at Raphael (Carmel O’Connell), accompanied her husband to India where Russell had to attend to business for the University of Ballarat. They managed an overnight stay at Raphael where they left many puzzle activities for Ava Vihar and a cricket set for the Little White House. They kindly took over proceeds from the Theatre night and a plaque for a memorial to the late Agnes McLean. The Brigadier sent us detailed accounts (plus 4 photos)

of the courtyard and the two seats erected for the use of the residents of Shiv Sadan. [A photo of the memorial plaque is reproduced below.] We do look forward to and appreciate letters from the Brigadier.

Cath has sent the following extract from a recorded interview Leonard made with Carolyn Jones in the ABC radio series “In Search of Meaning”. Leonard said:

“Somehow if you believe strongly enough in what you are doing, you’ll find the energy to do what has to be done. When God uses you, you commit yourself totally.”

“You have to realise you are not indispensable, but while you are going, go with a full heart, your full strength and your full mind, but be prepared for the day that he’ll take you out of the running.”



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Secretary Margaret Blaber

Margaret attended the Executive Meeting in February and resigned her position. She is replaced by Jose Simsa, President of the Mt. Gambier Support Group – Jose will be an excellent contributor to the deliberations of the national body.

Fundraising – The Lunch-Film Show held at the Wallis Theatre in March was well attended, the film “The Dish” enjoyed by all.

A Combined Film Morning (with 7 other organisations) will be held on 25th June at the Chelsea Cinema. The film is “Billy Elliot”.

Our East Timor Support Group is organising another Dinner/Film evening on 28th July. Notices of these functions will be sent to members.

Plans for the **end-of-year barbecue** are being discussed – this may be held in Willunga.

Members of the committee attended the Garden Party at Government House, given by Sir Eric Neal, our Patron and Lady Neal.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 22nd May – Mr. Mark H. Moore, Plastic & Craniofacial Surgeon at Calvary Hospital will be the speaker. Mr. Moore will speak on his work at the Dili Hospital in East Timor, and his connection with the Ryder-Cheshire

Home in Tibar. Details of the AGM will shortly be sent to all members.

Cards – Sales of cards were good in the 2000 season (up on the previous year). The Charity Card Shop is now trading 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each weekday, and although we are not participating in all-year-round trading, we do encourage our members to browse through the range of quality gifts, cards, and novelty items. The Foundation will again be part of the Shop for the 2001 Christmas season

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

From the W.A. Newsletter

The Annual General Meeting of the Foundation is being held on 22nd April.

Volunteers from WA have been working in East Timor. One of the first to assist with setting up the facility was **John Martires**, a PathCentre laboratory manager from Perth, who gave up his annual leave in September. John was joined by **Aida de Jesus** and **Robert Clancy** (both from Perth) who spent three months in Tibar returning in mid-December. **Sean Mullins** (a law student from Perth) recently returned after spending time assisting at Tibar during the summer university break. **Julian Tennant** (from Perth) was on a photographic assignment for the Defence Forces in East Timor – he

gave some of his time and expertise to produce a series of photos taken at Tibar for the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation.

Fundraising – a Film Morning to be held at the Windsor Cinema.

The *Opportunity Shop* continues as a valuable source of funds, thanks to the loyal team of volunteers.

Card Sales were very successful over the Christmas Season, through the Charities Card Shop and through various businesses.

Barbara Seabrook House – Jean and John Cox are doing a great job as House Supervisors, and the House has been frequently in full use over past months.

P.S. Margaret Blaber (Newsletter Coordinator) was in Perth during the Christmas holiday, and was invited by Evelyn and Malcolm Petters to attend an informal reception at the House. Margaret and husband Les were impressed by this “home-from-home” with its warm and friendly atmosphere. In talking to some of the residents and staff it became very clear what a valuable and necessary facility this provides in Western Australia.

Noleen Sonderegger, spent two months as a volunteer at Klibur Domin Tibar, from the end of December 2000 to February 2001. This is a shortened version of her thoughts:

There is a saying:

“It is not until we have reached our limits that we know how to overcome them. Until we confront our greatest fears, we don’t know our courage.”

The people of East Timor have done both. There is a wonderful spirit of strength and determination among the people that I did not expect to find when I decided to volunteer with the Ryder Cheshire Foundation.

While we are currently caring for 18 elderly residents, the aim is to establish a kind of halfway house for low dependency patients. We will take them from the hospital and care for them as they prepare to go home to their villages.

29th January - Our first hospital patients have finally arrived. Most are recovering from TB and may be with us for some time.

10th February - It has been great watching Anne (volunteer) work so closely with the patients. A teacher, she has been teaching them English....she sits with them for hours doing puzzles.

As the people press onwards united in their goals, miracles will happen, despite all the hardships and difficulties still to be faced.....

BACK PAGE

A *Worldwide Directory of Ryder-Cheshire Foundation's Offices and Projects* is now in preparation in the U.K. This publication will be available to all RCF projects, offices and members of the public, thus keeping us up-to-date with the worldwide activities of Ryder-Cheshire.

THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATIONS

Have you ever considered naming the Association as a beneficiary in your Will? This will demonstrate your lasting commitment to the work of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation and to the aims of relieving suffering as laid down by the Founders Leonard Cheshire and Sue Ryder. A simple clause will achieve this.

"I give and bequeath to the Australian Association of Ryder-Cheshire Foundation, through its National President, the sum of \$.....to be used for the general purposes of the Association. I declare that a receipt given by the National President of the Association shall be sufficient discharge for this bequest."

In April 1985 Margaret Blaber took on the task of coordinating the *Ryder-Cheshire News*. From a modest two-page Issue 1, with a circulation of approximately 150, the mailing list is now in excess of 800, and growing with each issue. We welcome to the list the staff at Klibur Domin Tibar, and the volunteers to the latest Ryder-Cheshire Home.

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