



Ryder Cheshire News



Issue 55

April 2002

Good bye Margaret & thank you

Welcome. As mentioned last issue, Margaret Blaber has retired from Newsletter duty. After many years of fantastic work keeping all of us in the Australian Ryder Cheshire community connected she has decided to take a well earned break. Thank you, Margaret, for all your wonderful work. You have left large shoes to fill and I hope I am up to the task.

I am Anne-Maree Sleight and I have been asked to take over. I have been involved with Ryder Cheshire since I was young. My mother Margaret is the National Treasurer and my father Dennis is the former ACT president. I myself have had the honour of meeting both Lord Cheshire and (briefly) Lady

Ryder, as well as Major General "Rummy" Bahkshi and his amazing wife Shobha. Now I am eager to take a more active role in the Foundation and look forward to meeting you all through the pages of RC News.

You may notice some changes in this issue, but don't be concerned. It is only the layout that has changed, not the format. We still have branch reports, as well as news from abroad. I am also introducing a section on fundraising ideas, something I hope you find useful.

Please contact me with any suggestions or contributions. After all, this newsletter is for ALL of us. My contact details are on the back page.



Happy Birthday Rummy

Major General Ranbir Bahkshi, or Rummy as he is more affectionately known, turned 90 on April 1st. Rummy is the Chairman of Raphael, the Ryder Cheshire home in India. Despite ill health over the years, he still manages to take an incredibly active role in the day to day running of Raphael. Volunteers have described him as 'inspirational' and those who have met him know him to be a bright, happy gentleman.

The birthday invitation sent out to

guests included a poem by Rummy's children:

*In 90 years, He has fought a war,
Lost his natural home,
Reared his own family and
nurtured a military family, Swum
for his beloved India, Fought for
the unfortunate and disabled,
And has drunk everyone under
the table while doing so!!.*

Best wishes Rummy, from all your friends in Australia

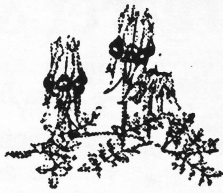
News from around Australia

South Australia

Submitted by Margaret Blaber, Secretary

As South Australia comes to the end of the current financial year (31 March 2002) it is pleasing to note that the commitment to Raphael (\$25,000) and to Klibur Domin (\$5000) has been met. This is due in large part to the outstanding contribution from the Mt. Gambier Support Group, the Oswald Raphael Group (Sponsors) and the recently formed East Timor Support Group, and also to the continuing generous support of our subscribers and sponsorships.

Six members of the committee will attend the Biennial in Mt Gambier in April.



Sturt's Desert Rose.
Emblem of SA

Fundraising continues, and the first function in the new financial year is the Film/Luncheon in April. A Luncheon will be followed by the film "The Man who sued God". Other fundraisers will be organised throughout the year.

The cards are one of the major sources of funds, and the Foundation will again be participating in the Charity Card shop.

Mount Gambier Support Group

From a report by President Jose Simsa to the AGM in November 2001

This year we were more than able to meet our support for the activities at Raphael.

Duchess Catering has proven to be a wonderful success, in raising both funds and the profile of the RCF.

Thankyou to all those whose unstinting and willing work has helped things run so smoothly.

The year's highlight was the Law Week Debate. The evening provided grand entertainment and fun for a packed house and we have been asked to run the function again in 2002.

"Our sponsors and supporters play a significant role in the program and we acknowledge their generosity"

President Jose Simsa has been appointed to the National Executive, replacing Margaret Blaber as the SA representative. This will give us a direct connection at the national level, and a fuller understanding of the national program.

We were able to send a sizable donation to Klibur Domin, to provide aids for the home. We hope to assist with further activities in 2002.

Mount Gambier will be hosting the biennial conference in April 2002 and we look forward to welcoming the participants of the conference.

News from around Australia

New South Wales

Submitted by Barbara Lewis—President

It was with great sadness we learnt of the death of Sue Ryder, after her heroic struggle. A Memorial Mass was held at Mary MacKillop Chapel in Sydney and was well attended.

Her idealism and stoic determination to assist suffering people is an inestimable loss to Ryder Cheshire and the Sue Ryder Foundation.

The 2001 Annual Dinner was another success, with our guest speaker a young volunteer to Raphael, Tim Ayliffe. His moving account impressed the audience.

We are delighted that in January 2002 a NSW couple donated a computer and software to the Raphael Sponsorship office.

The Singleton Home continues to be

used by the Hunter Carer Respite and ATLAS, the former for respite care, the later for the running of Living Skills courses. Thanks to Anne Boyd and her committee for this wonderful outcome.

"The Foundation is undergoing a delicate stage of transition. Fortunately ... even with the simplest of administrative structures it is possible for individuals to make small contributions to world peace. This is the vision."

In January six of us, including three committee members, went to Raphael for five days. It was inspirational and invaluable, and we were warmly received.

Fundraising over the last year has included the ever popular Indian Lunch, a Shopping Spree bus tour, a card party, and the usual Street Stalls. We also held an information day, for a nominal fee, which included talks from Judy Purdon on Raphael and Patricia McDonnell on Klibur Domin. We were delighted with the response.

Cheshire's Biography

Barbara Lewis, NSW President, sends word that Leonard Cheshire's recent biography (paper back edition published 2001) is available through Angus and Robertson bookstores for the retail price of \$26.

If you have difficulty in obtaining a copy at your local bookstore you may be able to



contact the NSW foundation. They even have a couple of copies available at a discounted price, although these may not be available for long. Still, the recommended retail price is a small price to pay for the story of such an inspirational man.

Next issue will feature a review of the biography.

News from around Australia

Western Australia

Submitted by Malcolm Petters—Acting President

Barbara Seabrook House is operating very efficiently under the supervision of Jean and John, and Jenny. Last year the House accommodated 527 guests from the country and overseas. Many of our House guests express their deep gratitude to the Foundation for the help the House provides in such a time of great trauma.

Over the past twelve months we have raised funds through such events as a Quiz Night, Film Morning, and Cards Day, as well as through Op Shop and Card Sales.

29th October saw the end of an era



Kangaroo Paw.
Emblem of WA

when our Op Shop closed its doors for the final time. Rising costs, drops in nearby trade, and difficulty in finding new volunteers have all forced the Council to make the decision to close. To all those who have contributed over the many years, thank you. Special thanks must go to Elaine Adams and Peggy and Harden York. Without their organisation and dedication we could not have continued trading for so long.

Finally, several volunteer Physiotherapists will be going to East Timor. *[There will be more news on this in a latter issue. Ed]*

Victoria

Submitted by Anthea Swann—Secretary

We welcome a new member, Robyn Larking, to our committee. Robyn and her husband John spent 10 weeks in East Timor as she worked as Home Manager of Klibur Domin. Her first hand knowledge makes her invaluable.

The Victorian Committee and the Homes Committee combined in December for a very pleasant end of year celebration. For some it was the first time they had met members of the other committee.

Our financial report for 2001 has pleased us. Our biggest boost to funds came from the corporate dinner at which Peter Cosgrove was guest

speaker, but smaller events also made valuable contributions. We are already well underway with fund raising plans for 2002.

A sub-committee of three people is tackling the issue of saving and organising the archives of the foundation and are collecting documents and film, before they begin sorting, collating, and conserving. A brief written history is also planned. Not a small task.

Finally, congratulations and many happy returns to Major General Rummy Bakhshi on turning 90 on April 1, 2002.

News from Overseas

Raphael—our home in India

Congratulations to Major General 'Rummy' Bakhshi, the Chairman of the board at Raphael. He has been granted an award by the Indian Government in recognition of his work over the years with the disabled. The plaque on the award reads as follows:

Individual (Leprosy Cured)

"Maj Gen Bakhshi has done commendable work for leprosy cured people in and around

Dehra Dun district of Uttaranchal. He is also involved with other organisations working for disabled persons. During his tenure with Raphael Ryder Cheshire International Centre, 14 girls from families of leprosy affected persons got jobs in civil hospitals in Utter Pradesh, 17 of them became special educators and many young men have been recruited into the police and the army." National President Jake Newham sent the following congratulatory message to Rummy:

"My dear Rummy

Ryder-Cheshire Australia is delighted to learn of your award for dedicated work for the disabled. Please accept our hearty and most sincere

congratulations; it is a pleasure indeed to note recognition of your achievements by India with such a high honour.

Warmest regards from all."

The award was presented to Rummy by the Vice President of India at a ceremony on December 3, 2001. Congratulations Rummy.

In other news from Raphael, the Rehabilitation Council of India, in

consultation with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, has approved Raphael to be one of the institutions authorized to run courses to train specialists in the field of disability. Raphael will be running the Diploma in Special Education (Mental Retardation) from July. The Centre has also been selected to run the orientation of the Disability Management course (MR Disability) for doctors in charge of Primary Healthy Centres in rural areas and also 45 days of Primary Education courses, aimed at teachers working in Primary Schools. All expenditure to employ staff etc will be provided by the Rehabilitation Council of India. This is another great honour for the Ryder-Cheshire Home in India.



Rummy at his birthday celebrations

News from Overseas

Klibur Domin—our home in East Timor

Submitted by Peter Newton

Hiring an East Timorese Home Manager remains a priority, but finding the right person is hard. Meanwhile, an Australian manager continues to serve.

Between five and eight Australian volunteers work at the Home at any one time, more than 40 volunteers have served there and seven have returned for a second period. They do an incredible job and without their efforts to care for, educate and amuse the patients, carers and residents, the Home could not operate so smoothly.

The Project to train East Timorese nurses in physiotherapy and rehabilitation techniques is well underway and the first Physiotherapist (Avril Steyl) arrived on 12 February 2002, with the remaining Australian Physios to commence the training phase in mid April. Equipment is being transported to Dili via Rotary. We have applied for an AusAID grant to assist with the funding.

After initial difficulties with locals the staff are generally working well. While kitchen staff arrangements are working well, a new kitchen hand is needed. The flow of donated food has helped enormously, but eventually these sources will dry up so we need to plan

a weekly menu with most food coming from the market to stay within the budget.

The outstanding efforts of Robert Mills, Ian Swann and Johann Cerecke improved the water supply and reticulation system, and the sinking of a bore has guaranteed the future supply of water. Of course, it must still be treated by filtering, boiling or sterilising to make it safe for consumption.

The Home has three well-maintained vehicles and as the truck donated by the International Medical Corps (IMC) is probably a luxury, the Home Manager is

keen to exchange it for a more suitable vehicle. Despite unreliable power supplies in Dili, the second generator from Australia means we can maintain power to essential services.

The buildings require consistent maintenance, and despite significant improvements since September 2000 more construction/maintenance will be undertaken. Melbourne members are trying to arrange a donation of paint for the roofs.

Communication remains a problem, and we should press the new East Timorese communications authority to

"Despite difficulties at Klibur Domin, progress by Australian volunteers and East Timorese staff has been remarkable. A Board of Management, with Dr Rui Araujo (Chairman), Mr Jose Teixeira (Member) and Patricia McDonnell (Secretary and carrying the proxy vote of Peter Newton, the Australian Member) and successive Home Managers - Anthea Swann, Robyn Larking, Ann Mills and Patricia McDonnell - have all acted magnificently."

News from Overseas

provide mobile coverage and eventually a land line to Tibar. Miles Robertson has provided an extremely useful email link for us through his email address robertso@unhce.ch. Short e-mails can be sent direct to the home at patricia@pocketmail.com.au. No attachments please.

The Home now has most things it needs to operate effectively. While some stores can be purchased reasonably in Dili, sometimes it is cheaper to buy from Australia. A relatively new computer from Victoria plus an uninterrupted power supply (UPS) should prevent problems occurring because of frequent power failures.

Rotary continues to send items for our use from Melbourne. The Donations in Kind (DIK) Coordinator is Bill Dagg, who stayed at

Klibur Domin Tibar in November 2001. Miles Robertson serves as the unofficial Rotary Co-ordinator and has been extremely helpful to the Home.

Any major equipment needed from Australia could be purchased in Melbourne and transported to Dili in a Rotary container. Other States may wish to explore setting up a similar arrangement with Rotary in their own

states.

Budgeting is difficult because of the large amount of donated foods received, but we should be able to live within the budget allocated by the National Executive (A\$74,000) for normal operating costs. State Foundations should confirm their ability to meet commitments to support the Home.

Project funds for new developments or major maintenance to buildings or vehicles will need to be sought in a fully documented submission. Project

funds could then be made available for that specific project at the discretion of the RCF National Executive.

The National Treasurer, Margaret Sleight, will provide a detailed statement of accounts for the Biennial Conference. We

still need to relieve her load by getting the Home to do its own accounts as soon as practicable.

The progress at Klibur Domin Tibar has been possible because of the commitment and enthusiasm of the volunteers, and my thanks go to everyone involved - at the Home and behind the scenes in Australia. We are now well down the path of creating a viable and sustainable Home.



Residents, patients, volunteers and friends from Klibur Domin on a trip to the beach

Jake Newham's Retirement

It is with a sad heart that I announce the retirement of Air Marshal Jake Newham from the post of Honorary National President of the Australian Ryder-Cheshire foundation. His retirement is due to personal reasons, and has nothing whatsoever to do with Ryder Cheshire itself "... of which I have been and will remain so proud."

Honorary Vice President Peter Newton sent the following message on behalf of us all.

"... I thank you most sincerely Jake for your efforts over the past decade plus. You have kept the Foundations moving

along the right path and handled some very difficult issues with wisdom, sensitivity and diplomacy. You will be missed and we sincerely trust that you will continue your association with the Foundation in some way."

In my personal experience I have found Jake to be a sweet, gentle man, who still managed to drum up support in a real way for this vital organisation. I echo Peter's words - he will be missed. Best of luck Jake. News of Jake's replacement will follow in the next issue.

Due to a number of unforeseeable circumstances, including illness, this newsletter will not reach you before delegates of your local branch head to Mount Gambier for the biennial Ryder-Cheshire conference. I do apologise for this, but will include a full report of matters discussed at the meeting in the next issue (which will hopefully be produced on time). I realise this is a bad introduction to your new newsletter editor and I do apologise. Hopefully I won't let you down in the future.

Reduced airfares to East Timor

AirNorth, the airline that flies from Darwin to Dili, East Timor, has granted Ryder Cheshire NGO status on flights to East Timor. This means volunteers traveling to East Timor for Ryder Cheshire are entitled to cheaper airfares for Darwin—Dili return. This ticket will entitle you to change dates if required and increases your baggage limit to 30kgs before excess charges are applied. If you would like to work as a volunteer in East Timor contact Patricia McDonell (ph 0439 733 722).

You will need to contact AirNorth direct as this offer is not available through a travel agent. When you book your ticket, let AirNorth know you are traveling as an NGO for Ryder Cheshire. AirNorth will confirm with either Patricia McDonell or Margaret Sleigh that you are actually traveling for Ryder Cheshire and the discounted airfare is yours! Further incentive to help out.

AirNorth contact details are:

Ph (08) 8920 4000 Fax (08) 8920 4095

E-mail: airnorth@airnorth.com.au

News from around Australia

Ballarat Support Group

Submitted by Geoff Campbell-Nott, President

This is my final report as President of the Ballarat Support Group as I have recently remarried and am now living in Melbourne with my wife Rae.

Thank you to all the supporters, sponsors, committee members and others who have helped raise over \$11,000 for Raphael.

During the year we have had several special events to raise funds for the Ryder-Cheshire Home in East Timor. Thankyou to the first Treasurer of the Ballarat Support Group, Ray McLusky, who undertook a long bicycle ride and raised \$11,000 for the East Timor project. The Ballarat National Theatre's production of "Breath of Spring" also raised funds for the East Timor home.

A Mass of Thanksgiving for the life of Lady Sue Ryder was held at St Patrick's Cathedral. Thank you to all those involved in preparing this ceremony, and also to the members of the Polish community who attended.

Sue held a special place in their hearts due to the work she did there both during and after World War II.

In 2001 we donated money for concrete seats and sealing of grounds outside Shiv Sadan. The seat contains a plaque to commemorate the late Agnes McLean's wonderful service to Raphael

*The Ballarat
Support Group
raised over \$11,000
for Raphael in 2001*

Ann Bourke, our Sponsorship Secretary has resigned. Thank you, Ann, for your commitment to our Sponsors and to Raphael. Thank you also to Alison Rennie, who has taken over. Alison has worked at both Raphael and Klibur Domin.

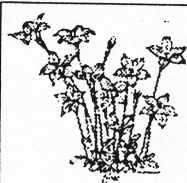
A film luncheon raised \$443 for the children's school at the Little White House, Raphael. Thank you to all involved.

Finally, many thanks to our Publicity Officer, Cath McLenehan for all her work as Publicity officer. She has put Ballarat on the Ryder-Cheshire map.

Australian Capital Territory

Submitted by Dennis Sleigh—Vice President

The ACT Foundation continues to move along gently, and special thanks is due to long serving Treasurer, Beth Stone. The multi-skilled Beth also handles Christmas card sales and Sponsorships.



Royal Bluebell.
Emblem of ACT

The Foundation congratulates ACT President, Bill Woodruff, on his recent marriage, and wishes him well.

We wish ACT member Trish McDonell well in her work in East Timor.

Memories of Cheshire

Some time ago Toni Josephs, a member of the first Ryder Cheshire committee formed in Sydney in the early 1960s, wrote to Barbara Lewis about her memories of that group. Due to space constraints her writing has previously not been able to be included in the Ryder Cheshire News but finally it is here. I hope you enjoy reading about Mrs. Josephs' memories. An edited version starts in this issue.

When I was about 8 years old the Depression hit. Some poor men took to sleeping in caves or whatever shelter they could find in the Sydney Domain. Those families who had a little extra food to spare often gave a meal to someone who would otherwise have gone hungry. Like many other families, mine had a bit of a struggle to survive. But we always had enough to eat. It was not till I was about 16 years old that I became aware that there were many more people who were really poor. In comparison, my family was well off. I longed to be able to help but there was not much I could do.

Then World War Two began. Some might say war is good for the economy. So many are employed in the armed forces for little pay. A big proportion of the population, who might otherwise add to the world's problems of the poor, are killed. Then, after it is all over, comes a "boom time" - plenty of jobs for everyone as the devastation and destruction means so much has to be restored and rebuilt. In the meantime the young men and women go off to battle, to become heroes, to die, while those who remain "the home fires

burning". I, too, wanted to go away and "do my bit" but my mother wasn't having her young daughter leave home at that age, so I had to be content with working for the Air Force as a civilian in the Area Finance Office. I also worked as a VA, belonged to the NES, and helped in a Service Canteen in my spare time. There seemed to be more people willing to undertake voluntary work in those days, and many of my friends were also involved. After the war ended I married my late husband Jack, who had also been in the Air Force. It wasn't until I had three children that I got to know about the great hero and VC winner, Group Captain Leonard Cheshire. One day I was invited to a fund raising luncheon, and the speaker showed pictures on a large screen as she told us all about Cheshire and the wonderful work he was doing. This courageous man, who had received the highest award for bravery, was not content with helping win the war—he was also determined to conquer another enemy—poverty—and help give hope to those who cannot help themselves. Cheshire was led into this work when he reached out his helping hand to a man who was very ill and had no home, no one who could look after him. Cheshire took him in. Neighbours who learned of this kindness also wanted to help in some way. This was the beginning, as I understood it. Eventually, as it was established so many others were in a similar condition, the Cheshire Homes came into being.

To be continued next issue.

Congratulations to Bob Cox, whose position on the ACFOA Code of Conduct committee has been extended. Bob, a Chartered Accountant in Hobart and business partner to National Treasurer Margaret Sleigh, represents Ryder Cheshire on this important council. Well done Bob, and keep up the good work.

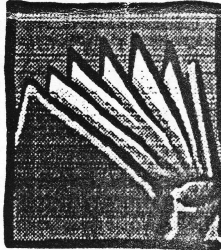
In other ACFOA news, a new chair has

been elected to the Code of Conduct Committee. Ms Chris Franks was unanimously elected for a three year term as head of the committee. Ms Franks has had a long association with the Code of Conduct, being the nominee of the Australian Consumer's Association to both the Interim Code of Conduct Committee and the Code of Conduct Committee.

Cheshire's Biography

Barbara Lewis, NSW President, sends word that Leonard Cheshire's recent biography (paper back edition published 2001) is available through Angus and Robertson bookstores for the retail price of \$26.

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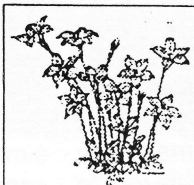
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