



Ryder-Cheshire News

NEWSLETTER OF 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.

NATIONAL PATRON:- His Excellency Major-General Michael Jeffery. AC CVO MC (Retd)

Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Issue Number 58 November 2003

FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

NATIONAL PATRON

I am delighted to advise you that the
**Governor-General,
His Excellency
Major General Michael Jeffery
AC CVO MC (Retd),**
has accepted our invitation to be the

**National Patron
of the**

**Australian Association of
Ryder-Cheshire Foundations.**

His title and form of address is:

**His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery
AC CVO MC (Retd)**

Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

In accepting this invitation Major General Jeffery is continuing his earlier involvement with our Foundations, as he was previously Patron of the Western Australian Foundation during his earlier term as Governor of Western Australia. The Governor-General took a very active interest in the affairs of the Western Australian Foundation during his term of office and we look forward to a continuation of this interest.

EAST TIMOR

I am sure that all readers will be delighted to read the report by Peter Newton, our National Vice-President, on his recent visit to East Timor and Klibur Domin Tibar. The Home is making great progress due to the dedicated work of many Australian volunteers and supported by the financial contributions of our supporters in all state foundations.

The appointment of **JOAQUIM SOARES AS THE LOCAL HOME SUPERVISOR** is an important step in training local staff to assume the management of the Home.

Patricia McDonell, our National Secretary, has resigned from the RAAF and has volunteered to manage Klibur Domin, Tibar, for the next two years.

I WISH TO THANK PATRICIA FOR HER ENTHUSIASTIC SERVICE AS NATIONAL SECRETARY FOR MANY YEARS AND FOR HER PREVIOUS VOLUNTEER SERVICE IN EAST TIMOR. SHE WAS ALSO A VOLUNTEER AT RAPHAEL.

Her new appointment in East Timor means that we must appoint a new National Secretary and I would welcome any nomination.

Don Sinclair, National President.

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RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATIONS THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA

There are Ryder-Cheshire Foundations in
Australian Capital Territory

New South Wales

South Australia

Victoria

Western Australia

Also Support Groups in

Ballarat, Bendigo and Mt Gambier.

There are Ryder-Cheshire Homes at

IVANHOE in Victoria

SHENTON PARK in Western Australia and

SINGLETON in New South Wales

Overseas Homes are:

RAPHAEL RYDER-CHESHIRE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

Dehra Dun, Northern India

www.raphaelicare.org

and

KLIBUR DOMIN TIBAR, East Timor.

The Australian Association of
Ryder-Cheshire Foundations
would like to wish its many supporters in all States
a Very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Your valued generosity enables the work
of our Founders to continue,
touching the lives of many in the
"relief of suffering".

We thank you all most sincerely and may you enjoy
Peace, Joy and Happiness in the Festive season.

The Association gratefully acknowledges David Coath, of
Prompt Distribution Pty Ltd, West Heidelberg, Victoria, who most
generously arranges and pays for the distribution of this Newsletter.

KLIBUR DOMIN, TIBAR

from Peter Newton

In mid September 2003, I visited the **Ryder-Cheshire Home, Klibur Domin, Tibar in East Timor** to check on progress and to discuss future developments with the staff and other members of the Board of Management. The following are my impressions of this visit.

I was greeted at the Dili Airport by three smiling faces, **Mike Chapman** the volunteer Home Manager, **Joaquim Soares** the newly appointed East Timorese Home Supervisor, and **Maria De Castro** the wife of the late Tito who was killed in a motor cycle accident earlier this year. The Airport itself was a very different place to the very run down facility I remember in May 2000 on my first visit to East Timor. It had been greatly extended and was clean and efficient.

This initial impression made me wonder about progress in the rest of Dili and East Timor. I was delighted to find Dili had moved ahead in leaps and bounds. Roads were no longer a series of pot holes where cars and trucks jockeyed for the best route to their destination. The rubbish on the streets had largely gone, and there was an air of industry as buildings were in the process of restoration (80% of all buildings in East Timor had been torched in September 1999). The people looked happy and had a positive attitude towards the future. This was most heartening.

If I was impressed with the changes in Dili, then I was overwhelmed with the changes I found at Klibur Domin. It had progressed from a facility very much in its infancy to a mature and extremely efficient operation, doing exceptional work to care for the fifty or so patients and residents living at the Home.

On the physical side, the Home looked wonderful. The grounds were clean and manicured and there were lush gardens supplying the Home with fresh vegetables. Water actually came out of taps which would have been a rare event three years ago. There was only one black-out during my entire visit compared with three or four hours nearly every day and sometimes many days on end without power in the early days. The Home had a lot of the equipment it needed instead of making do with hand-me-downs sent in our original container in September 2000. The roofs were all shining with a new coat of paint replacing the rust so evident before. We actually have a telephone at the Home and I was able to ring my wife without having to travel most of the 15 kilometres to Dili to use a mobile phone.

Of even greater impact, was the peace and harmony evident at the Home and the air of efficiency with the staff and volunteers going about their duties. Everyone had their tasks and were getting on with them seemingly without direction or supervision. Without doubt, their attention to the needs of the patients and residents was always uppermost in their minds. All the patients and residents were happy and displayed a sense of purpose by helping in the gardens, sweeping the corridors and paths, undertaking sewing tasks or just working hard on their own rehabilitation.

I could not have asked to find the Home in a better situation, and I am extremely grateful to everyone who has made this happen since Ryder-Cheshire first sent volunteers to the Home in September 2000.

More than 75 Australian volunteers have now served at the Home for periods from several weeks to nearly two years. Each has contributed enormously and their combined efforts have seen wonderful results.

The local staff have likewise done an outstanding job and are now the backbone of the workforce at the Home. In recent months, the recruitment of Joaquim Soares to be the Home Supervisor has been a giant step forward, as he will take over the management of the Home after a period of training and co-management.

This will allow us to honour our promise to the East Timorese people that we would hand the Home to them as soon as practicable. **We will still continue to fund the Home and to send volunteers to assist, but the responsibility for running the Home will pass to the East Timorese.**

Much still needs to be done to further improve the Home and to protect the asset. Most of the buildings need a new coat of paint, inside and out, and we need more fencing to keep stray animals out of the gardens. The electrical wiring requires an upgrade and we need to send over additional items to make the Home even more efficient.

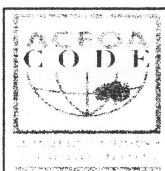
WE ARE LOOKING FOR MORE SPONSORS AND DONORS TO HELP WITH THE COST OF RUNNING THE HOME (A\$75,000 EVERY YEAR), AND MAINTAINING AND FURTHER DEVELOPING IT.

If you would like to help, please talk to your local Committee or Support Group, and remember that 98% of everything you give will reach the Home, just as it does with Raphael our Home at Dehra Dun in India.

Opportunities for Volunteers in East Timor and India

Klibur Domin, our Home in East Timor, welcomes the assistance of volunteers from Australia. More than 75 volunteers have already served at the Home since September 2000 and more are needed. Likewise we need volunteers to serve at Raphael, our Home in India.

Any reader who is interested in volunteering at Klibur Domin or Raphael should contact
Anthea Swann, Volunteer Coordinator,
03 9877 7084 or e-mail iandaswann@bigpond.com



The Code defines standards of governance, management and financial reporting in the use of funds donated by the public. By following this Code, Ryder-Cheshire ensures that their work in every area delivers outcomes which match the spirit of their supporters' generosity.

NEWS FROM RAPHAEL

from Meera Handa, Liaison Officer

There never seems to be a dull moment at Raphael and these past months have been no exception. We are pleased to present our October update.

AVA VIHAR

We currently have **51 RESIDENTIAL AND 56 DAY CENTRE STUDENTS**, our youngest student being only 4 yrs old! These past months have seen 13 new admissions primarily of children below the age of 11 and this is very encouraging as the key to successful rehabilitation of persons with disabilities lies in early intervention.

OUR VOCATIONAL WORKSHOPS are always a beehive of activity. We have recently introduced several new items to the range of hand crafted items made by our residents including carry bags and jewellery pouches and these are proving to be very popular with local shops.

OUR FESTIVE SEASON IS WELL UNDERWAY FOR DIWALI (*Indian Festival of Light*), and our candle workshop is hard at work churning out candles and clay lamps which are always in high demand this time of year.

LITTLE WHITE HOUSE

The children of Little White House continue to make us proud of their achievements. Of the children who sat for Class 10 Board exams in late April, nearly all passed and have proceeded to Class 11. One of our girls, **Bina** who passed Class 12, is now attending college in Chandigarh, pursuing a career in Fashion Designing.

To sensitize children about environmental issues and teach them about the local flora and fauna, *the Nature and Environment Awareness Programme (NEAP)* created by the **Friends of the Doon Society**, was recently introduced into local schools in Dehra Dun.

The Ferger School and CNI (Boys and Girls) where the children of Little White House attend school, were included and the children have been going on field trips to nearby wilderness areas and also receiving audio visual lectures. This has proved to be a major success with our children showing a lot of interest and enthusiasm in learning about the various plants and animals to be found in and around Dehra Dun.

Every evening for about an hour, the children learn Judo and Karate courtesy **Mr Naresh Gurung** who has kindly given his time to teach the children.

Recently, the children of Little White House were divided into two teams 'GANGA' and 'JAMUNA' and a whole series of activities has been planned including sports, music and drama competitions. Both teams will compete against each other and score points. The aim is to further increase bonding and interaction between the children.

THE TB WING

Our TB Hospital and Outpatients Department are busy places and every day sees large numbers of TB patients arriving from all over the state seeking treatment. Dr Gupta and Dr Rawat are kept on their toes trying to cope with the numbers. **Our TB Mobile Team** also makes its monthly round reaching out to people in remote locations.

VOLUNTEERS

Owing to the weather and global security concerns, we have not had many volunteers at Raphael these past months. **Simon Jackson from England** was here for about six weeks in July/August. He had a very enjoyable time and we too enjoyed having him over. **Father Charles** paid us his usual yearly visit for about a week in August. **Christine from the RCF UK office** was also with us for a short time. Now with the good weather setting in, we are expecting volunteers to arrive in the next few months.

BEREAVEMENTS

Sadly in these past months some of our long time residents passed away – **Rami and Durgi from Shiv Sandan; Sandeep (Andu) and John from Ava Vihar.**

But perhaps of all our losses, that of **Matron Massey** who passed away at the end of May after a long battle with cancer, left us with a very deep scar.

Matron Massey had a long association with Raphael right from the early days. All our volunteers will surely remember her as she was in charge of the Mess and kept a motherly eye on all the volunteers.

We pray for all the departed souls.

CONCLUSION

As we celebrate our festive season which will culminate with Diwali on the 25th October, a festival that celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, we pray that this light will continue to guide us as we strive to keep the dream of our Founders alive.

CHRISTMAS AT RAPHAEL

Festivities usually include a tea party to which all Raphael residents, friends and supporters are invited and someone dresses up as Father Christmas and distributes gifts and sweets. The children of Ava Vihar and the Little White House act out a Nativity Scene and sing songs and Christmas Carols. Others help to entertain by getting up on stage to sing and tell jokes.

**ON BEHALF OF SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS IN AUSTRALIA
WE WOULD LIKE TO SEND ALL AT RAPHAEL OUR
WARM WISHES FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON**

FOCUS ON RAPHAEL

MAJOR-GENERAL RANBIR BAKHSHI, MC, (Retd). CHAIRMAN

2003 MARKS THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF MAJOR-GENERAL BAKHSHI'S ASSOCIATION WITH RAPHAEL, and the Australian Association extends grateful thanks to him for the tremendous dedication and commitment he has given in those years.

Born in 1912, he has been living in Dehra Dun on and off since 1916. His father was a medical officer with the Gurkha regiment in Dehra Dun Cantonment. Graduating from the Indian Military Academy in 1939, he joined the Regiment of Artillery. In 1950 he returned to Dehra Dun as the Chief Instructor at the Academy and in 1957 as Artillery Brigade Commander in Clement Town, Dehra Dun.

On retirement from the army in 1966, he and his wife, Shoba, returned to Dehra Dun to live a retired life. In 1967 the Indian Home Ministry asked him to take up an appointment as Administrator of H.H. the Maharaja of Jodhpur's property.

On his return to Dehra Dun in 1973, he joined the council of Raphael. **IN 1975 ON REQUEST FROM THE FOUNDERS, HE ALSO TOOK OVER ITS ADMINISTRATION AS DIRECTOR AND IN 1992 WAS NOMINATED AS CHAIRMAN.**

During his time at Raphael, he has been recognized on at least twelve occasions for his work in the field of disability. These honours include several Citizen's awards from Dehra Dun and Doon Societies, Hong Kong Foundation International Awards, and from the National Society for Equal Opportunities, India.

One of his two most prestigious achievements was in 1997 when he was awarded the "**Golden Award**" by HelpAge India for being a senior citizen over the age 80 years, who has had a distinguished career and has been actively involved in service to humanity.

The other was in 2001 when he was presented with a "**National Award**" by the Vice President of India in the field of disability (individual - leprosy cured)

In 2002, two "**Lifetime Achievement Awards**" for his service in improving the quality of lives of disabled persons and for his inspiring achievements, makes this an impressive list of Awards.

RUMMY, WE SALUTE YOU. FOR THE INSPIRATION YOU HAVE GIVEN US ALL AND FOR THE MANY LIVES YOU HAVE GIVEN HOPE AND COMFORT TO OVER THE PAST THIRTY YEARS.

YOUR MANY FRIENDS ACROSS AUSTRALIA SEND YOU THEIR THANKS AND VERY BEST WISHES.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

RAPHAEL ANNUAL REPORT 2002-2003

At the age that I have reached, I find a little difficulty in switching from one routine drill to another. For the last 25 years our Annual Report covered happenings in a calendar year, but now that we have to get in line with the financial year, I have to collect my thoughts to cover 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003. For Raphael the period under report has been an exciting one.

First, the Primary School children of Little White House who were admitted en bloc in a school in town are making excellent progress. Credit for their direct admission in a school in town goes to the Director and the ex-Liaison Officer, Mrs M Malhotra.

For Ava Vihar's new role, to train specialist staff for rehabilitation and training the disabled, it ran a number of courses. The conduct of final examinations of those courses, making test papers and marking, was done by outside agencies. The results confirmed that the faculties under the leadership of the Coordinator (Mrs Priyo Lal) had done an excellent job.

During the year, **Raphael's Doctors, Col JP Gupta, Medical Superintendent,** and **Dr DS Rawat, Medical Officer In-charge** (the latter runs Raphael TB Control Mobile Team), had us worried, as Col Gupta underwent two brain operations within a month, from which he made a wonderful recovery. This kept him away from Raphael for almost 6 months. Dr Rawat's wife became unwell and she was admitted to a hospital in Delhi so that Dr Rawat had to be away for a fairly long spell. We were glad that she made an excellent recovery and has returned home. Raphael had a lot of difficulty in finding suitable doctors during their absence. In fact we have great difficulty to replace superannuated staff with the right successor mainly because of the poor emoluments we offer.

Between the Director, the Coordinator, and Finance Manager, we are close to computerizing the Finance Section and records of the residents and Day scholars in Ava Vihar. The Director and the Coordinator, in consultation with an expert, are working on opening a website - www.raphaelicare.org for Raphael within the next few months.

I am glad to mention that Mrs Moena Roy who had done so much to ensure that the sponsors and supporters of Raphael abroad were kept updated with the activities of Raphael in her very lucid style of expression, is still available to us whenever Raphael requires her presence. Her late sister-in-law, Mrs Helen Latif, had left in her Will a very healthy donation for our TB hospital. In fact a bed in each male and female ward has been endowed in perpetuity in her name.

In last year's Annual Report I had mentioned that I planned to be more often on the golf course during the year under report, but alas, this hope has not materialized because both the Rehabilitation Council of India and the National Trust have entrusted me with the responsibility to help sensitize the politicians, bureaucrats and the public about the rights of the disabled and facilities that the Central Government has offered.

Ranbir Bakhshi, Chairman.

DONATIONS. *The Ryder-Cheshire Foundation remits more than 98 per cent of all money donated to its Homes for sick and disabled people. The Organisation is run by dedicated unpaid volunteers, ensuring money reaches those in need and administration costs are minimal. Donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible.*

NEWS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

From Evelyn Petters, Honorary Secretary.

Our recent Film Morning "CALENDAR GIRLS" at the Windsor Cinema was a great success, with over 200 supporters attending. As usual, Morning Tea was served in the foyer before the film, where we also had our cards on Sale. Including a good result from the raffle, the total profit from the event was \$2,400. We are most grateful to all of our supporters who attend our functions.

We regret that we have lost three members of our Council, Robert & Marguerite Potts and Tony Burnett, who have resigned for personal reasons. We thank each of them for their valued contribution and wish them well.

CHRISTMAS CARDS ARE AGAIN ON SALE IN THE CHARITIES CARD SHOP AT THE ANZ BANK, 77 ST GEORGES TERRACE, PERTH (street level) where five of our ten available designs are on sale. Alternatively, cards can be purchased by mail. For details please telephone the Secretary on 08 9349 5043.

FUNCTIONS FOR 2004

The Committee has recently put together a program of events for 2004. Two events have already been arranged and **details are shown opposite**. Members will be advised of further details and events in due course.

SPONSORSHIPS.

The WA Foundation seeks more sponsors for children and adult residents at Raphael and beds at Klibur Domin, East Timor. All sponsorships are tax deductible and donors are assured that the full amount of their sponsorship benefits the recipient. Please contact our Sponsorship Secretary, Malcolm Petters on 08 9349 5043, for further details.

BARBARA SEABROOK HOUSE

The House continues to accommodate people (and/or their carer) from country areas who are referred to Perth for Hospital/Medical treatment. It provides a low-cost homely environment where guests can make their own meals and have the company of other guests. It is well situated for public transport. Guests come from all over the State. Guests bed rates are \$25.00 per night.

October has seen a **CHANGE OVER IN SUPERVISORS** at the House and we are sad to say farewell to **JEAN AND JOHN COX** after their four years as our Resident Supervisors. We thank them both most sincerely for their good work and commitment. On behalf of the WA Foundation, and the many guests who have stayed at the House, we extend best wishes to them for a happy and fulfilling retirement. We are pleased to welcome **TESS van der VOORDEN** who took over as the new Resident Supervisor on 20th October. We do hope Tess will be very happy in her new environment.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA BARBARA SEABROOK HOUSE VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

We now have a greater need for **Volunteers at the House** and **we would be pleased to hear from anyone who could assist there from time to time**, when the Supervisor (Tess van der Voorden) needs to leave the premises at times other than on her normal days off (which continue to be covered by Jenni Rimmer, Relief Supervisor).

If you can help and are willing to put your name on the roster, would you kindly telephone

Cynthia Lyall,
House Coordinator on 08 9311 4384.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SUNDAY 14TH MARCH 2004

"JAZZ BREAKFAST"

WITH JUNE SMITH AND THE APPLE BAND

at the

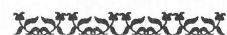
ROYAL PERTH GOLF CLUB

Labouchere Road, South Perth

Tickets \$25.00 a head

Further details later

(Contact Evelyn Petters 08 9349 5043)



MONDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2004

ANNUAL CARDS AND MAH JONG DAY

at the

NEDLANDS YACHT CLUB

The Esplanade, Nedlands.

Further details later

(Contact Elaine Adams 08 9384 2656)

BUYING RYDER-CHESHIRE GREETINGS CARDS WILL ASSIST WITH OUR FUND RAISING

"LEONARD CHESHIRE ROSES" is one of the attractive "All Occasions" cards on sale by State Foundations. The design was painted by Australian Artist, Barbara Storer and is symbolic of Leonard's life. It shows eight red roses, from the opening buds of the new rose to its full bloom and finally the spent rose. It is a most fitting tribute as a symbol of Leonard's life journey. **This card and other designs may be purchased by contacting representatives of State Foundations including those listed below:-**

Victoria	<i>Helen Newton</i>	03 9894 3191
South Australia	<i>Judith Weston</i>	08 8276 6282
Western Australia	<i>Evelyn Petters</i>	08 9349 5043
New South Wales	<i>Maureen Murphy</i>	02 9664 6141

There are also Charities Card Shops selling Ryder-Cheshire cards in several States. Contact your State Foundation for details.

NEWS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES

From Judith Purdon.

Plans for the **BIENNIAL CONFERENCE in April/May** next year are going well and having the accommodation and venue at the one location makes it easier to organise and more convenient for the participants.

We can assure you **ANDERLEDY LODGE AT THE MARY MACKILLOP CENTRE IN NORTH SYDNEY** is a perfect place because the staff know us and support our cause. The accommodation is excellent and the surrounds peaceful and as far as presentation equipment is concerned it is state of the art – we feel confident you will be happy there.

THE OPENING OF THE BIENNIAL CONFERENCE WILL COMMENCE AT 6.00 PM ON FRIDAY APRIL 30TH 2004 with a brief address by a guest speaker, and then cocktails will be served. Anyone wishing to dine out after the opening should have no problem finding restaurants within walking distance in North Sydney or at Crows Nest which is ten minutes up the highway.

As we have had our annual fund raising dinner at Anderledy Lodge for the past four years and know the food and service well, we decided to have our **BIENNIAL DINNER THERE ON THE SATURDAY EVENING**. We will send you more information as plans progress.

If other State Foundations have any items to be included on the Agenda, please email Margaret Hetherton at m_hetherton@hotmail.com

A few of the committee members bade farewell to Trish McDonnell on Friday September 12th at a Vietnamese Restaurant in Willoughby. We had a great evening with the conversation flowing well. It was a pleasure to have this opportunity to see Trish before she takes off for East Timor – we in New South Wales wish her well and know she will do a great job in training Joaquim Soares to take over as manager of Klibur Domin, Tibar.

Some of the Executive Committee also met with **Barney Fernandes, National Project Officer**, who was able to enlighten us on what is happening at Raphael. It was especially interesting to receive all the news on Raphael for those of us who visited there a couple of years ago. I met Barney recently and continue to enjoy his company and listening to his stories.

Would NSW members wishing to receive Christmas/Greeting cards remember to contact Maureen Murphy on 02 9664 6141 as soon as possible as she took over from Barbara Shield who is still ill.

The last item I would like to mention was a Shopping Spree Tour we had on September 20th. We decided to have it this year well before the Christmas rush but unfortunately only 28 people were able to go. We had a great deal of fun and did lots of shopping. Some of the factory outlets such as the Corning Wear, Victoria Basement, Breville and Sportscraft were great as far as getting a good deal is concerned. We made over \$400 for Ryder Cheshire.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

From Margaret Blaber, Honorary Secretary

We were delighted to meet **Carolyn Fisher** at our meeting in September. Carolyn came along to talk to us about the time she spent at Klibur Domin, East Timor, from January to November 2002. This gave us a real insight into the daily routine and also showed how far this Ryder-Cheshire facility has progressed since its inception in 2000. We sincerely thank Carolyn for her informative talk.

The two dinners organized by the **EAST TIMOR SUPPORT GROUP** in August were well supported and raised over \$3500 for Klibur Domin, of which \$2000 was contributed to the wash house project, the remainder given to the maintenance fund.

THE OSWALD-RAPHAEL GROUP ANNUAL DINNER IN SUPPORT OF RAPHAEL WILL BE HELD ON 15TH NOVEMBER. Notices of this will be forwarded to members. This group has sponsored a resident at Raphael for many years.

THE END-OF-YEAR BBQ IS TO BE HELD AT HISTORIC "WAIROA" (MARBURY SCHOOL), BY KIND PERMISSION OF THE DODDS FAMILY – THE DATE SUNDAY 23RD NOVEMBER. This will be a great day out, and tours of the heritage gardens at "Wairoa" will be available. Again, notices of this function will be sent to SA members.

THE CARD SHOP IN THE SOUTHERN CROSS ARCADE is now in full swing for the Christmas season – Ryder-Cheshire has a selection of attractive cards and card packs available. Volunteers from the committee will be doing their stint in the Shop on 13th November – come along and meet us and do your shopping!

OUR HARDWORKING SPONSORSHIP SECRETARY, ALISON ROWNY, CONTINUES TO SEEK SPONSORS FOR BOTH RAPHAEL AND KLIBUR DOMIN RESIDENTS. RING ALISON ON 08 8337-1274 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

President Patricia Frith and Secretary Margaret Blaber have arranged to talk about Ryder-Cheshire to the residents of a Retirement Village. Through these talks the work of Ryder-Cheshire is brought to a wide section of the community and committee members are happy to give such talks to any organization or group. There is also a short introductory video available for screening where possible.

As we come to the end of our 34th year, Ryder-Cheshire SA is proud to know that we have kept up our annual commitment to Raphael and recently to Klibur Domin. **This would not be possible without the contribution of our Support Groups, especially the hardworking people at Mt. Gambier, and our sponsors and supporters.** We thank you most sincerely and we hope we can continue to maintain our efforts in the coming years.

For now – we wish you all in South Australia, and our interstate colleagues, a Happy Christmas, and may the year 2004 bring peace and goodwill to all.

For further information on Ryder-Cheshire Foundation South Australia, telephone Margaret on 08 8363-4584.

NEWS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA

VICTORIA

From Anthea Swann, Honorary Secretary.

We are delighted to welcome a new member, Florence Gough, to our committee and to report that Helen McKendrick has returned to meetings looking fit and full of energy after her hospital sojourn.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Cath McLenehan following Cath's death and to the Ballarat Support Group who will miss her greatly. Cath served Ryder-Cheshire with dedication for over forty years since she was first inspired by the visit of Leonard and Sue in the early 1960s. This is a remarkable achievement. Thank you and vale, Cath McLenehan.

Thank you to those who responded to our request in the last newsletter by sending photographs of Raphael for inclusion in the website, and for other display purposes. Several State Committees have developed public relations resources which are being shared around. A New South Wales Raphael "Power Point Presentation" was sent to Victoria, a Victorian Klibur Domin "Power Point Presentation" was sent to ACT and a brochure about Klibur Domin has been circulated to all Committees for photocopying. We have also recently set up a sub committee to collect and catalogue photographs as a centralised resource that everyone will be able to access in due course.

Six Leonard Cheshire Memorial Roses were purchased in July and quickly snapped up. Ross Roses in South Australia who sell this beautiful rose, which was developed to commemorate our Founder, say that there has been a decline in demand in recent years. Maybe there is still a market within Ryder-Cheshire? **Any roses required bare-rooted for next winter will need to be ordered by November this year from Ross Roses Nursery, PO Box 23 Wilunga SA 5172, phone 08 8556 2555.**

Our Annual General Meeting and a very successful Planning Day were held on July 5, followed quickly by a Bridge Day later in July, which raised nearly \$1100. The always popular Christmas Card table was extended at recent functions to include the sale of cumquats, jam and bonsai plants, which helped to bring a few extra dollars.

The annual Founders Memorial Address was held on September 9. The guest speaker was Ashley Brown who has been a volunteer for the past four years at the Ryder-Cheshire Home in Port Moresby. It was exciting to hear of the work being done there to provide a long term home and rehabilitation for about twenty-five people with a range of mental and physical disabilities.

Our Committee has already started to plan for next year's functions.

We wish all Committee members and Ryder-Cheshire supporters a productive end of year and peaceful holiday season. Our heartfelt thanks go to all the wonderful people who have supported our fund raising efforts during 2003.

NEWS FROM IVANHOE

From Don Sinclair

President of the Victorian Homes Foundation

I am happy to report that we are completing the second stage of our landscaping project and have repainted the interior of Ryder-Cheshire House, in addition to providing a microwave oven in every unit.

MELBOURNE SUPPORTERS

Forthcoming event:

FRIDAY 19TH TO SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER 2003

ART EXHIBITION

AT GARDENER'S GALLERY

635 BURWOOD ROAD, HAWTHORN EAST.

Opening Night commences at

7.30 pm on Friday 19th December.

Contact Peter or Helen Newton on 03 9894 3191.

CHRISTMAS CARDS 2003

from Helen Newton, Victoria

As Christmas fast approaches, the sale of Christmas cards is in full swing in Victoria. The distribution and sale of cards has increased dramatically in recent years as our cards are now available for sale in numerous charity card outlets. The Victorian committee is keen to maintain this trend as apart from raising funds, it is felt the logo and caption on our cards does assist in raising awareness of the Foundation. The last edition of the Newsletter contained a colour Christmas card flyer and mail order slip for Victorian supporters. The response to date has been very pleasing. If by chance you have not purchased your cards, please consider ordering now and the cards will be forwarded to you without delay.

**Extra colour flyers and mail order slips are available
by contacting Helen Newton on 9894 3191.**

BALLARAT SUPPORT GROUP

from Dianne McGrath

It is with sadness that we write this article. We want you all to know that our STALWART SUPPORTER AND MENTOR, CATH MCLENEHAN, passed away peacefully on Saturday 30th August in Ballarat. Cath recently enjoyed a celebration of her 80th birthday. She worked tirelessly during her life to "help make the world a better place". She achieved her dream and Raphael has been one place that has benefited from her devotion. We are really indebted to her for her wonderful contribution to the Support Group. Cath was there at the beginning, 40 years ago, and was involved right to the end of her earthly life. We will remember her friendship fondly, and her good deeds with admiration and appreciation.

We also sadly had to say goodbye to another member who died one week after Cath. Elaine Goulter was a newer member who was originally active with RCF work in New Zealand. Members were represented at both funerals. We are happy to welcome home our two intrepid travellers, Bernard Bradbury from Europe and Robert Brooks from Borneo.

Sponsorships are well supported with a number of new sponsors enrolled. This year we have sent \$9,500 to Raphael. We are most thankful to all our wonderful sponsors as they too are "making a difference."

We have had two successful fund raisers selling raffle tickets making \$300 and a Tupperware Party raising \$150. We had a lovely afternoon as it had been many years since many of us had been to a Tupperware Party. **The Christmas cards are in the Combined Charities Card Shop in Grant Street, Ballarat.** Leo Rennie, recently returned from East Timor, gave a most inspiring and informative talk on Klibur Domin. He spent time there with his daughter, Alison, volunteering their time to work. **OUR SUPPORT GROUP IS A SMALL ONE AND WE WILL MISS CATH ENORMOUSLY. WE MEET REGULARLY ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 8.00 PM. WE WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME NEW SUPPORTERS.**

Mother Teresa was a Member of the General Council of Raphael for a number years after it was established in the late 1950's. Her recent beatification by His Holiness, The Pope, prompts us to include the following story from Malcolm Petters of Western Australia who visited Mother Teresa in Calcutta during a visit to India in 1992. Malcolm was born in Dehra Dun, and went to BCS in Simla. He left India in 1947, following the partition of India.

MY MEETING WITH MOTHER TERESA



Having always been impressed with the dedicated work of this great lady, I was privileged with the opportunity to visit her Calcutta base during an extended holiday in India late in 1992. So it was that on Friday 27 November 1992, in the company of my two fellow travellers, that we visited the "Missionaries of Charity" home on Chandra Bose

Road, Calcutta. This road was formerly known as South Circular Road in the days of the British Raj.

THE "MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY" BUILDING was a stark, bare and uninviting double storeyed block, with windows (no fly-screens) only to the upper floor. The main entrance was down an alleyway off Chandra Bose Road, and after knocking loudly on the heavy teak front door, it was opened by an Indian missionary nun, clad in a white sari. It took us some time to persuade her (and my knowledge of the local language helped) that we were not just tourists, but from Australia and actively engaged in helping to support the Suffering (as Mother Teresa does). She called for the Mother Superior (Sister Monica) and after another lengthy discussion, we were permitted to look around. In the entrance hall there was an "In and Out" board, and I noticed against the name of "Mother" it showed "In". I casually asked Sister Monica did it mean that Mother Teresa was in the building and she said yes. I promptly asked whether it was possible for us to meet her. Sister Monica said that as Mother Teresa was only in Calcutta for two days prior to embarking on another world trip, she really did not have the time to see anyone. Undaunted, I asked whether I could have a note delivered to her. Paper and pencil were produced and I wrote about ten lines explaining that I was born in India (Dehra Dun), knew all about the Ryder-Cheshire International Centre for the Relief of Suffering (which she had visited in Dehra Dun) and what the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation was doing in Perth. I gave the note to Sister Monica and, with my friends, went to have a look around the home.

The building was sparsely furnished with only one water tap, so the "bucket brigade" system was in operation. We saw for ourselves that when any washing had to be done or water was required for the kitchen, it was transported in buckets from this one tap. We took unobtrusive pictures of the "bucket brigade" at work and the nuns at prayer. We spent about a half hour there and were

on our way out, when Sister Monica called to me that Mother Teresa had a few spare minutes and would like to see me. I was led into a small darkened room, which was cluttered with newspaper cuttings and old books, into the presence of a small, frail, bent lady who rose from her chair and gave me the "Namaskar" Indian greeting. It was Mother Teresa. She invited me to sit and we must have talked for about ten minutes.

I could not take my eyes off her crinkled face and those beautiful penetrating - yet sad - blue eyes and the bulbous hooked nose. SHE SPOKE SOFTLY IN A QUIET GENTLE VOICE, TELLING ME OF THE IMPORTANCE OF GIVING "UNTIL IT HURTS" WITHOUT EXPECTING ANY RETURN. She spoke of her recent visit to China and to England where she had visited Leonard Cheshire just before he died. She spoke also of her visit to Palestine and of her impending visit to the USA. I told her that I supported Raphael and how we in Australia helped to fund it. At the conclusion of our talk, she invited me to attend the evening prayers at 6.30 that night. I said that I was not a Roman Catholic, but she said the service was held every day and open to all comers.

I returned for the service. We waited for the procession of bare-footed sisters (must have been about eighty in all) to pass us on their way to the chapel. Mother Teresa followed last and as she passed she recognised me and said "You are the man I spoke to this morning - please see me after the service". My friends' mouths opened wide and I swear I heard them gasp! The service was held in a large bare hall on the second floor, the only furniture being the altar. We all sat on the floor. It was hot and humid, and the few ceiling fans were not operating. There were no shutters on the bare, open windows and the noise from the street below was deafening with the roar of traffic directly outside the building. The mosquitoes too were having a field day!

THE SERVICE WAS SIMPLE but mostly drowned out by the noise of the traffic outside. The service lasted about an hour and all through it I could not take my eyes off this frail, stooped lady with a claw left foot, only a few feet away from me. Could this really be the same lady who had stopped the civil war in Beirut for just one day because God had spoken to her the night before and told her the continuous fighting would stop to allow her to go into the city to rescue a group of crippled children? Could this be the same lady who spoke to Presidents at the United Nations, to University Chancellors and the rich, and then went into the slums and back streets of New York and Calcutta to give comfort to the poor, the outcasts of society, to hand-feed the lepers, the blind and the crippled lying in the dark corners of the streets? And here was I, just a few feet away from this very person!

After the service, I waited outside with my friends while Mother Teresa spoke to others who had attended. I was the last in the line. She spoke to me for about a minute, thanked me again for what I was doing for Raphael and then to my amazement, she took off her rosary from around her neck and put it in my hand saying "God be with you". I kissed her hand and suddenly realised I had tears in my eyes.

Mother Teresa was born in Skopje in Yugoslavia in 1910 and received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. She died in Calcutta on 7 Sep 1997, aged 87.

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State reports and other contributions for the
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