



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 60 JULY 2004

NATIONAL BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

from Margaret Hetheron, President NSW Foundation.

THE BIENNIAL CONFERENCE, WHICH WAS HELD IN SYDNEY APRIL 30 - MAY 2 2004, REMINDED US AGAIN OF THE PERSONAL LINKS AND SHARED SPIRIT OF RYDER CHESHIRE MEMBERS AUSTRALIA WIDE.

NSW was very pleased to host the event organised primarily by Judy Purdon, Jayne Robinson and Jenny Coleman. We were delighted that nearly all of our committee were able to meet the almost 30 interstate participants and to share interests and concerns with them.



Pictured at the opening (from left). Helen Newton, Caroline Jones, Peter Newton and Joaquim Soares.

Many other NSW supporters were also able to hear Caroline Jones' opening address. Her reminiscences about interviewing Leonard Cheshire on one of his last visits to Australia, reminded us all of his special charisma and the legacy he has left to us all to continue.

THE OPENING ALSO PROVIDED THE POSSIBILITY OF RECOGNIZING THE DECADES OF WORK BY BARBARA LEWIS FOR RYDER-CHESHIRE GOALS - WORK WHICH BEGAN IN THE 1950S WHEN SHE REPRESENTED LEONARD CHESHIRE IN INDIA.

NSW was pleased to host JOAQUIM SOARES, WHOSE APPOINTMENT AS MANAGER AT KLIBUR DOMIN WAS FORMALLY ANNOUNCED ON JULY 1. Joaquim attended courses in management, conflict resolution, first aid and driving whilst in Sydney and impressed all at the Biennial Conference with his intelligence, caring manner and tact. It was good to hear from Joaquim first hand of the work in Timor.

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THERE ARE RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATIONS THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA

in

Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria and 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, Timor-Leste.

THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATIONS

thanks its many loyal supporters who assist in so many ways with our fund raising. 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.

Newsletter coordinated by Chris Lopez, SA. (08 8322 1833)
Edited and produced by Evelyn Petters, WA. (08 9349 5043)

Newsletters are issued every four months
in **MARCH, JULY AND NOVEMBER.**

State reports and other contributions for the
NOVEMBER ISSUE should be sent by e-mail to Chris Lopez
christine@dpspublishing.com.au

by 9th October 2004

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.

**REPORT FROM THE 12TH
NATIONAL BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE
AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATIONS**

*Held on Saturday, 1st May & Sunday, 2nd May, 2004,
at the Mary McKillop Centre in North Sydney.*

OPENING:

Some 35 people from State Foundations and Support groups and those interested in our work, attended the Biennial Conference. Guests included Sir Christopher France, Trustee of Ryder-Cheshire Trust UK. Many more supporters attended the Official Opening and welcome Reception, which was held on Friday 30th April. We were privileged to have Caroline Jones AO as our Speaker. Caroline gave an enthralling account of her experience in meeting and interviewing Leonard Cheshire. In opening the Conference, the National President, Don Sinclair, praised the voluntary nature of the Ryder-Cheshire Organization. He commended the grass-roots efforts of members and stressed the need to clarify Ryder-Cheshire values and philosophies in a changing world. He particularly recognized with gratitude the contributions of Patricia McDonell, our former National Secretary, and Margaret Sleigh, our former National Treasurer. He spoke with regret of staunch members who were recently deceased, recognizing the invaluable contributions of Cath McLenahan in Ballarat and Mike Chapman at Klibur Domin. He introduced the new National Treasurer, Mr. Peter Colliver, who is a practising accountant with extensive professional expertise.

NATIONAL TREASURERS REPORT:

The National Treasurer tabled his financial report. Funding annual targets for State Foundations for 2004-2006 were adopted. These amounts totalled \$211,000 being \$126,000 for Raphael and \$85,000 for Klibur Domin. Peter stressed the need for all State Foundations and their Support Groups to be aware of their responsibilities in handling their finances according to the requirements of current Charitable Legislation.

NATIONAL PROJECT OFFICER'S REPORT

Barney Fernandes gave a wide-ranging summary of the administrative challenges that now face **Raphael**. The Quality Management Services Report has led to a number of changes in administration and a definite improvement in service provision. Only two thirds of the 23 acres leased from the Forestry Commission is being used. With the creation of the new State of Uttaranchal and the expansion of Dehra Dun, real estate is increasing in value and this will place pressure on Raphael. In spite of all the challenges facing it, Barney was optimistic about Raphael. He said that it was something of a showpiece in Northern India.

REPORT ON KLIBUR DOMIN.

Peter Newton reported the Home has now been running for 3½ years. Its dilapidated buildings have been refurbished, a fresh water system and electrical power installed, motor vehicles supplied and a proper management structure put in place. Peter then introduced Joaquim Soares who is taking over as the local manager of Klibur Domin. Joaquim spoke about the work of the Home and the challenges it faces.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:

The following were elected Office Bearers of the National Executive 2004-2006:

<i>President:</i>	Don Sinclair	VIC
<i>Vice-President:</i>	Margaret Hetheron	NSW
<i>Secretary:</i>	Shirley Williams	ACT
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Peter Colliver	
<i>Projects Officer:</i>	Barney Fernandes	

VENUE FOR THE NEXT BIENNIAL CONFERENCE:

Victoria agreed to host the Conference in 2006.

INSURANCE:

Peter Newton advised that all insurance issues were now up to date and Richard Hurford of the NSW Foundation was nominated to take over the annual responsibility for renewal.

REVIEW OF CONSTITUTION:

The Chairman spoke on the draft Constitution and necessity for the Australian Association to be incorporated under appropriate legislation. Clauses of the National Constitution under review were discussed. Council will now meet to prepare the final document.

DAME ROMA MITCHELL BEQUEST:

The meeting discussed arrangements for use of the funds from this bequest. Consideration was given to using some of the funds to assist with a Mount Gambier request to establish a cross-disability facility for young people, which fully complied with the philosophy and principles of Ryder-Cheshire. In consultation with the National Council, the Chairman pledged to support Mt. Gambier's request to allow the project to go forward.

The Conference concluded at midday on 2nd May and all agreed this had been a valuable forum for States to participate in discussion on decisions and to renew their links with their counterparts.

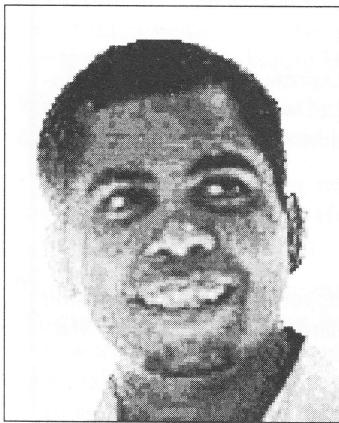
KLIBUR DOMIN, TIBAR

from Helen Trueman

Greetings to everyone. Much has happened at the home since the last newsletter.

Annette Joyce arrived at Klibur Domin in March and has taken on the role of Carer Advisor for the next two years. She is a PALMS volunteer. Annette has many years nursing experience and we warmly welcome her to the team at Klibur Domin.

Patricia McDonell, who has been the Home Manager, has also committed to a 2 year volunteer role at Klibur Domin. She has been at the home since October 2003 and is doing a fabulous job. It was always envisaged that Management of the Home would be transferred to an appropriately qualified local person.



Joaquim Soares pictured above

THIS TRANSFER TOOK PLACE ON THE 1ST JULY 2004 TO JOAQUIM SOARES, WHO FOR THE PAST YEAR HAD BEEN THE HOME SUPERVISOR. Patricia will continue to have a very important and pivotal role as advisor to Joaquim. Our congratulations are offered to both Joaquim and his family, to Patricia and all the volunteers and Klibur Domin staff in this achievement.

Following is a letter from Peter Newton which was read out when the announcement was made by the **Chairman of the Klibur Domin Board, Dr Rui, that Joaquim Soares would officially take on the role of Home Manager.**

"Dear Joaquim

All your friends in the Ryder-Cheshire Foundations in Australia join with me in saying a very warm and sincere congratulations to you on this very important day.

Since the Home was first conceived four years ago, it has always been our intention that the management of the Home should transfer to an appropriately qualified and experienced person from Timor Leste. Finding the right person was not an easy task until you came along some twelve months ago. Now we know that we have not only found someone who can do the job, but someone who will do the job in a most competent and professional way.

You have impressed us all, Joaquim, with your intelligence, your caring manner and your ability to get on with everyone, be they the staff, the residents, the patients or all the other people at all levels who you have to deal with.

We have come to appreciate your talents during your two visits to Australia and from the reports that have reached us back in Australia, we know that we have found the right person for the job. Your time spent as the Home Supervisor working for Judy Chesney, Mike Chapman and Patricia McDonell during the past twelve months will have given you an excellent opportunity to observe different management styles and to practise your own management skills. Now you will get the chance to put those skills into effect and we know that you will be most successful.

As the Australian Project Officer and the Australian Member of the Board of Klibur Domin, I am particularly delighted to welcome you to the position of Home Manager and I wish you every success in that role. Please also pass my congratulations to your wife Maria and your two children, as they should share this proud achievement with you.

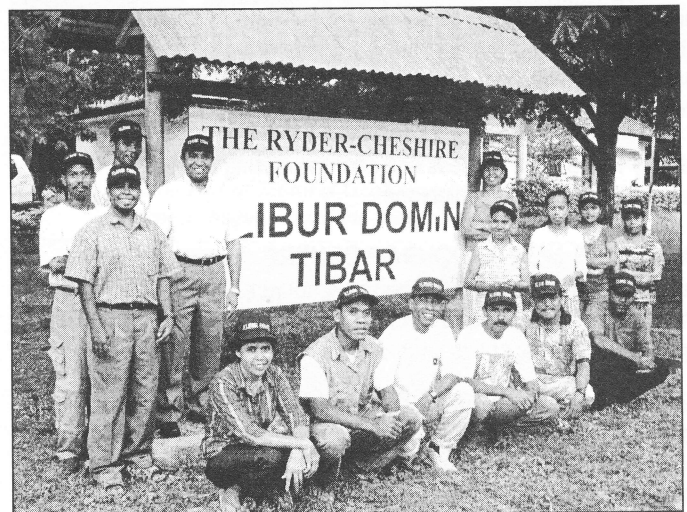
We all look forward to working with you closely in the future.

Most sincerely,

Peter Newton,

As the Project Officer and a Member of the Board of Klibur Domin."

Klibur Domin have also been involved in some local fund raising activities. The Inaugural First Lady Cup 10km Fun Run/Walk took place in Dili on 16th May. The money raised from this event was shared with three local charities, the Aloia-Foundation, the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation and the Rotary Club of Dili. Patricia McDonell has drawn to my attention that officially, East Timor has changed its name at the United Nations to Timor-Leste. It has been requested that wherever possible we all endeavour to use Timor-Leste in the future.



Staff and Dr Rui at Klibur Domin (left to right)
Anacleto, Gregorio N (at back), Joaquim, Dr Rui, Maria A, Jacinto, Carlos, Maria C (at back), Olivia (middle), Tomas, Maria (Joaquim's wife) (back), Gregorio M, Joanina (at back), Domingos, and Albertina

NEWS FROM RAPHAEL

from Meera Hand, Liaison Officer.

LITTLE WHITE HOUSE CHILDREN

This academic term has been an important one especially for those children in Classes 10 and 12. Eight students sat the Class 10 Board exams held in April, while five students sat for the Class 12 Board exams. The results are expected to come out in June and we pray all the children will pass so that they can continue further with their education.

We are pleased to report that one of our boys, Ajit Bahadur, who was in Class 10 has joined the Army and is currently undergoing basic training. All schools closed in May for the summer holidays.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS MEET

The **Special Olympics Bharat Uttaranchal Chapter** recently held a sports meet in the Royal Indian Military College grounds. The event began with a march past by the participants, acknowledged by our very own General Bakhshi, who was the special guest for the first day. Seven special schools participated in a range of events which included athletics, cycling, table tennis, badminton and bocce.

THE CHILDREN FROM RAPHAEL DID EXCEEDINGLY WELL BRINGING HOME 15 GOLD, 6 SILVER AND 3 BRONZE MEDALS. We congratulate all our children who took part.

44th FOUNDERS' DAY

WE CELEBRATED OUR 44th FOUNDERS' DAY ON 5th April 2004. All the residents of Raphael were invited as well as many friends and well wishers. We were also fortunate to have with us for the occasion Ms Patsy Wright-Warren, Chairperson RCF UK, who was visiting at the time.

Festivities began at 4.30 pm with the arrival of our Chief Guest, Lt. Gen. H B Kala. **A 'welcome' song and dance was performed by the children of Ava Vihar and Little White House.**

Then began the entertainment which included: a **Garhwali dance performed by "Diploma in Special Education" students** from the Training Centre; **Karate performed by children** from Little White House; **"The Orange Princess" performed by the volunteers, Jane Forster and residents of the Chronic Ward;** and several **small skits acted out by the teachers and children of Ava Vihar. The final item was a poem specially written for the occasion and recited by Inder Dhiman from Shiv Sadan.**

The day was a huge success and after the closing ceremony, refreshments were provided for everyone.

LAUNCH OF NEW RESOURCE CENTRE

On 29th March, Raphael launched a **RESOURCE CENTRE FOR LEARNING DISABILITIES.** The centre was inaugurated by **Shri Sudershan Agarwal, Governor of Uttranchal.**

This is first centre of its kind in North India. Dehra Dun boasts some of the best schools in India and yet there is no facility for the diagnosis and treatment of children with learning disabilities. This is quite regrettable given that statistics show that about 10% of all school children have some degree of specific learning difficulties. It is with this in mind that Raphael has launched this centre. We will be available to schools, teachers and parents who have children/students with Dyslexia and other learning disabilities. Our centre will carry out assessments and diagnosis and design individual remedial programmes for each child which will be implemented by the parent/teacher. We will also arrange workshops for teachers/parents/doctors on the subject.

FROM THE STATES



VALE

ERIC MYERS

Eric and Kath Myers were the linchpins of the Geelong Support Group for many decades up to 2002 when Eric became too sick to continue.

Together Kath and Eric had coordinated the strong group of supporters in Geelong and collected the sponsorships and donations. This coordination task moved to Melbourne when Eric became sick and Kath found she was unable to continue. After a long illness, Eric died peacefully on 30th April 2004.

All members of the Foundation express their sincere condolences to Kath and her family, all of whom continue as wonderful supporters of the Foundation and of Raphael in particular.

JOHN DACK DFC, OAM.

John Dack was a tremendous supporter of the Foundation since the early days when Leonard Cheshire visited Melbourne in the early 1960s.

John had known Leonard when they were both members of Bomber Command during WW II. John had been shot down over Holland in 1944 and rescued by a German soldier, Hans Bannick, while unconscious and drowning in a river.

In 1991, fate allowed the two to contact each other and commence a wonderful friendship and finally meet in Melbourne in 2002.

John died peacefully on 12th June 2004. Our sympathies go to his family and our thanks to John for his support for over forty years.



*John Dack (left) and Hans Bannick.
Together again after 58 years.*

BALLARAT SUPPORT GROUP

from Diane McGrath

- President-** Bernard Bradbury
- Vice-President-** Janice Cook
- Secretary-** Carmel Morgan-Wall
- Treasurer & Sponsorship Secretary-** Dorothy Carpenter
- Mailing List & Media-** Hazel Luke
- Newsletter-** Dianne McGrath
- Stationery & Publicity-** Olive Lamont

Our retiring President Olive Lamont has guided the Ballarat group through a number of highly successful and energetic years of leadership. Our appreciation and thanks go to her.

Our Committee undertake the variety of tasks that a year requires. We are looking forward to our new President's direction and inspiration.

Sponsorships are on the increase due to Dorothy's dedicated hard work. Our group is now sponsoring a young person at the Little White House.

We are delighted with the sale of our 2003 Christmas cards, all having been sold.

We continue to welcome new members, Leo Rennie being our newest member. He and his daughter have volunteered at Klibur Domin.

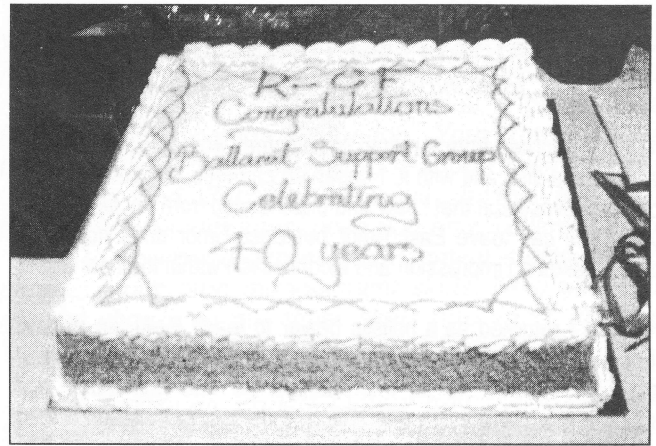
This year the group celebrates its fortieth year. **The inaugural Meeting was held on 25 June 1964.** Several working bees have been undertaken to sort through archival material in preparation for the anniversary.

We were saddened to learn of Geoff Campbell-Nott's resignation from RCF. He has been involved in Ryder Cheshire for 40 years mostly with the Ballarat Group as President. He and his late wife, Anne, had visited Raphael on a number of occasions. He was a tireless worker for RCF and all of his contributions over these years are highly appreciated. We wish him and his wife, Rae, all the very best in their continuing adventures.

Our group meets regularly on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 8.00 pm. We welcome new supporters.

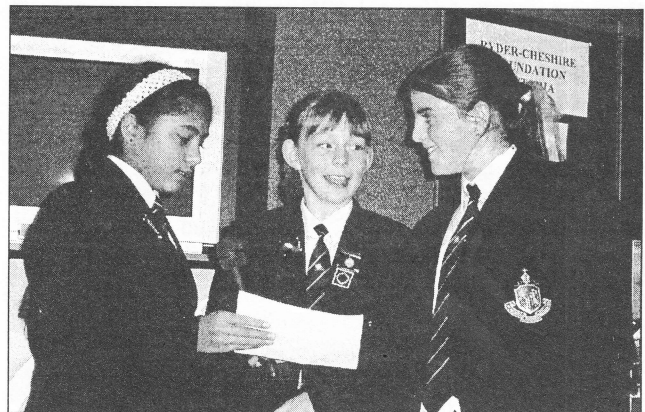


Members of the Ballarat Support Group with Peter and Helen Newton (4th and 5th from left) at the Anniversary Party.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BALLARAT SUPPORT GROUP ON YOUR FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY !!

The group recently celebrated their 40th Anniversary of the forming of the group on 25th June 1964. They held a Party to recall their achievements. Others who came to join in this special event were **DON SINCLAIR, the National President, PETER NEWTON, who was the Guest Speaker, and VAL SARAH AM.** Both spoke about the work of Ryder-Cheshire at Raphael, in Northern India and Klibar Domin in Timor-Leste. Two supporters, **ANTON BRANDENBURG AND OLIVE LAMONT,** were honoured with Life Membership. The Group also were privileged to accept a cheque from the students at **BALLARAT GRAMMAR JUNIOR SCHOOL.** Those attending were served a delicious hot lunch followed by a birthday cake to mark this very special event.



Students of Ballarat Grammar Junior School present a cheque from their Fundraising for Raphael.



Life Members, Olive Lamont and Anton Brandenburg, cutting the cake.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

from Shirley Williams, President.

I recently returned from a month of volunteer work in East Timor. It was my third visit and with it, I observed changes and development from the devastation that I saw and experienced from my first visit in 2000. "You can leave East Timor but East Timor does not leave you!" It makes an impression and a connection within the heart.

This time I returned as a holistic healer to teach Reiki, an ancient Tibetan technique of healing. Alternative forms of therapy come to East Timor but as far as I am aware, no one has taught the Timorese to sustain those modalities. Reiki is easy to teach and to learn. Reiki can be used as a form of relaxation as well as preventive medicine. I divided my time teaching and giving treatments between the Bairo Pite Clinic in Dili, under the auspices of Dr. Dan Murphy, and Klibur Domin. I spent 4 weekends at Klibur Domin teaching the staff how to do Reiki.

I cannot say enough about Patricia McDonell and how well everything went during my stay, not only at Klibur Domin, but back in Dili.

I looked forward to those weekends to escape the noise and pollution of Dili. Whenever Patricia was in town, she would include me in her activities. I met some terrific people and absorbed much from the experience. I am deeply grateful for everything she did for me.

I was very impressed with the professionalism of the Klibur Domin staff. All were ready for me to begin my teachings. (There is a difference between Timor time and the rest of the world's concept of time, but the Klibur Domin staff were always on time). All paid attention throughout with the assistance of Joaquim Soares' translation, and were involved with the practice and theory of Reiki. I also noticed a great difference between Timorese staff at Bairo Pite Clinic, who refused to do Reiki on anyone unless they were from the same village. In comparison, the Klibur Domin staff treated all their patients as if they were part of the family. With Klibur Domin similar to a small village with everyone living on the compound, it takes a 'village to heal a patient'. All are concerned for the welfare of that patient and assist them to get well. With improved health, the patients are then able to return to their villages and reintegrate into the social fabric of that community.

Gregorio Mendez, senior carer, was enthusiastic about the Reiki and how it affected his patients. His patients asked if they could learn so that they could give self-treatments as well as to their family members. I was pleased with the outcome. Reiki evolves in its own way. I plan to return next year with additional follow-ups.

On the home front, our ACT group held its major fundraiser of the year at the Royal Canberra Golf Club on 14 May 2004. General Peter and Mrs. Lynne Cosgrove were our guests of honour. We had approximately 90 in attendance and after expenses, we realized over \$3,470 for Klibur Domin. One of those attending was so moved by my speech, that she decided to make a donation to our home in Raphael.

I would like to make mention of my appreciation to Barbara and Patrick Lewis and Jayne Robinson, from NSW, who came to support us in our fundraising efforts that evening. My sincere thanks!

I also would like to thank my committee with special recognition to Wendy and Robert Altamore, and Gayle Yeaman for making the evening as successful as it was!

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

From Margaret Blaber, Honorary Secretary.

The year 2004 will be a busy one for the S.A. Foundation. The first fundraiser, the Film/Luncheon, held in April, was well attended and added significantly to funds. This has become a popular annual event and will be held again in April of 2005.

Several SA members attended the Biennial Conference including Patricia Frith, Margaret and Les Blaber, along with Jose Simsa and Di McEwen from Mt Gambier.

Later in May the AGM was held, and S.A. embarked on its 35th year as a Ryder-Cheshire Foundation. A warm welcome was extended to Di McEwen, Mt. Gambier secretary, who was able to inform the meeting of the activities of this hardworking Support Group.

Patricia Frith was elected President for her third term, and in her report stated that the Foundation although with a small committee, had continued to maintain its commitment to Raphael and more recently (since 2000), assisting with funds for Klibur Domin. This was in no small part due to the dedication of the committee members, the support received from sponsors, schools and clubs, and the continuing and valuable activities of the Support Groups of Mt. Gambier; Oswald-Raphael and East Timor. All committee members were re-elected, with Christine Steers welcomed as a new member. Christine has been a long time supporter of the Foundation and spent some time at Raphael in the early years.

The meeting concluded with speaker Dr. Kerrie Round. Dr. Round is an Historian preparing a biography of Dame Roma Mitchell with co-author Dr. Susan Magarey. Her interesting and informative talk covered the research to date, and also Dame Roma's connection with the Foundation in S.A. and eventually as President of the National Association. At the conclusion Kerrie was presented with the Dame Roma Mitchell Rose.

The Card Shop in the Southern Cross Arcade has been a significant source of funds and the year 2003 was a successful one. **The Shop is now open all the year round**, and Coordinator Judith Weston continues to see it is well stocked with cards and gifts. Judith is now busy ensuring that a good supply of Christmas and other cards will be available for the current year. S.A. volunteers will again be assisting in the Shop during the busy Christmas season.

S.A. was pleased to contribute financial support to the proposed Memorial for Mike Chapman at Klibur Domin.

The East Timor Support Group will again be holding Film/Dinners, on Saturdays 21st and 28th August with the option to attend either (or both!). Further details will be sent to members shortly, when coordinator Alison returns in early July from overseas.

THE USUAL END-OF-YEAR BBQ WILL BE HELD IN NOVEMBER, and we are looking for a venue. Other fundraising events are under discussion and suggestions are welcome.

We are delighted to learn that Cassa Heading will be going to Raphael as a volunteer in September/October and look forward to her report when she returns.

Members of the Foundation will be pleased to learn that the Catholic Women's League of S.A. have initiated the production of a **"DAME ROMA" SPECIAL ROSE**, "to commemorate the life of Dame Roma Mitchell AC, DBE, a distinguished Australian, eminent in law, and pacesetter for Australian women". This will be available from Ross Roses, Willunga.

IN THE WORDS OF OUR PRESIDENT "WE LOOK FORWARD TO OUR 35TH YEAR WITH CONFIDENCE AND ENTHUSIASM."

NEW SOUTH WALES

From Judith Purdon, President.

In addition to my comments on the Biennial, on Page 1, I would like to record the following events and thanks to the enthusiastic organisers.

FUNDRAISING

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NSW RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATION TOOK PLACE ON THURSDAY 24 JUNE. With the annual accounts completed by our hard working Treasurer, Stim Robinson, it is useful to reflect on the year's fundraising. Overall, the major part of the \$83,000 raised last year came from direct donations (46 per cent). Sponsorships brought a further 17 per cent; cards earned about 11 percent net of our revenue and functions almost as much. From this we were able to send \$35,000 to Raphael and \$33,000 to Klibur Domin.

SPONSORSHIPS

have long been managed by Peter Coleman who has a personal connection with so many sponsors. Melody Smythe is now assisting him. Sponsorships have grown to 70 thanks partly to emphasising them at our annual fundraising dinner.

THE ANNUAL DINNER,

Was held this year on 3 April at the Mary Mackillop Centre and is one of our major ways of attracting new people as donors and sponsors. We have been working to invite the right balance of old and new supporters to the dinner and also to plan the mix of musical entertainment, speaker and some focus on Ryder-Cheshire work. This year as a result of the deeply mourned death of Mike Chapman, we were without a speaker. Klibur Domin was highlighted by a visual presentation by Gail Clifford, a recent volunteer. We are most grateful to the hard working dinner sub-committee led by Fr Paul Coleman SJ.

CARDS.

Special thanks are also due to our Co-ordinator of Cards, Maureen Murphy. With IT support from Margaret Dobbin, Maureen has taken over the dedicated work of Barbara Shields whose death in February this year was sadly reported in the last Ryder-Cheshire News. Maureen is working for our access to a Charity Card Shop in the Chatswood-Lane Cove area. To all those who distribute cards for Maureen, especially Joan Cunningham in the Newcastle Shop and the remarkable Leila McCretton who single handedly in 2003 accounted for 5000 card sales, we are most grateful.

BEQUEST APPEAL.

The new bequest brochure was recently mailed to our members with an explanation of the significance of the National Council's decision to establish a Trust Fund. Despite the "greying" of Ryder-Cheshire members, the Trust will provide support for the work of Ryder-Cheshire and the mission of the founders in future generations.

VOLUNTEERS.

Gai Smith has very kindly agreed to be the Volunteer co-ordinator in NSW. Gai brings to the position much relevant experience including a period at Klibur Domin as a volunteer.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

From Evelyn Petters, Honorary Secretary.

At the Annual General Meeting held in March, the following Office Bearers were elected for 2004.

President Malcolm Petters
Vice-President Clement Astruc
Secretary Evelyn Petters
Treasurer Paul Pell

Sponsorships (Raphael) Malcolm Petters
Sponsorships (Timor-Leste) Evelyn Petters
Cards Co-ordinator Clement Astruc
Council Members Carroll Brown, Maureen Connaughton, Cynthia Lyall and Ann Penny.
Barbara Seabrook House Co-ordinator -
 Cynthia Lyall

Numbers on Council have diminished in recent years, and Council is most anxious to recruit new members on committee to ensure the work of the Foundation continues in the spirit of our Founders. The Foundation in WA was founded in 1970.

FUNCTIONS: A "Jazz Breakfast" held in March was a sellout and hailed by many as a most successful event. We hope to repeat the event next year.

We plan to hold the annual Film Morning at the Windsor Theatre and members and supporters will be notified at a later date of this event.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: The Annual "CARDS AND MAH JONG" DAY will be held on **Monday October 11th** at the **Nedlands Yacht Club**. Again details will follow later.

BIENNIAL CONFERENCE: Malcolm and Evelyn Petters attended the Conference in Sydney. The Conference brings together members from all RCF Foundations in Australia, who work tirelessly to support our work "for the relief of suffering". It was a great opportunity to meet with our other State counterparts and discuss matters which affect our funding commitments to our Ryder-Cheshire projects, and the common goals to which we all work to achieve.

VACANCIES ON WA COUNCIL

Council of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation in WA would be pleased to hear from anyone who is interested in serving on the Committee.

Meetings (usually about two hours)
 are held bi-monthly
 on the 4th Tuesday of the month
 at 5.00 pm in Nedlands.

If you would like to know more,
 please telephone the Honorary Secretary,
 Evelyn Petters on 08 9349 5043.

NEWS FROM THE STATES

VICTORIA

From Anthea Swann, Honorary Secretary.

AT OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN MAY, we were delighted to welcome Terry Warr, also of the Ballarat Support Group, not only on to our Committee, but also as Vice President for the coming year. Our thanks to Ian Swann who held this post for the past twelve months. All other positions on the Committee remain the same. We welcome Patricia Woodcroft-Lee who has transferred to Melbourne from the ACT Committee. Andrew Connelly and Robert Gardiner have both moved away from Melbourne, but maintain their interest in our activities. Many thanks to them both for their contributions in the past.

FUND-RAISING FUNCTIONS so far this year include a film night to see "**Plots with a View**", a light hearted look at rivalry in the undertaking industry, which raised \$1000. A second week, staffing the Lions Club Op Shop at Mount Waverley in May, achieved about \$1600, and a Bridge Day in early May, just over \$1000. Several substantial donations have also helped the bank balance. **We are particularly appreciative of a donation of \$15,000 from the Variety Children's Lifeline Australia for the support of children at Klibur Domin.**

SPONSORSHIPS for Raphael and especially for Klibur Domin continue to grow slowly but steadily, nurtured by Helen Newton, and form the backbone of our fundraising effort. **We would certainly like to get more sponsorships if any of our readers would like to assist us through this scheme - see below.** Several of our members, respond to the many requests for speakers, which is another avenue of eliciting donations and sponsors.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the past few months was the **BIENNIAL CONFERENCE IN SYDNEY**. Twelve Victorians from three committees journeyed north, to stay at the charming Mary McKillop Centre - an oasis of peace and serenity, and the perfect venue for Ryder-Cheshire. It was stimulating and reaffirming to meet with our counterparts from other States, to review the past two years and set some new goals for the next two. **Many thanks to the NSW Committee for staging such a successful Conference. THE NEXT BIENNIAL CONFERENCE will be held in Melbourne in April 2006.**

After the conclusion of the meeting, co-ordination of the Overseas Volunteers was handed over from Victoria to NSW. Gai Smith, supported by Barbara Lewis and Margaret Hetheron, is the new Volunteers Co-ordinator.

We offer our warmest congratulations and best wishes to **JOAQUIM SOARES**, who many met at the Biennial Conference, on becoming **THE FIRST EAST TIMORESE MANAGER OF THE RYDER-CHESHIRE HOME, KLIBUR DOMIN**. It is the fulfilment of a long held goal of Ryder-Cheshire. Well done Joaquim.

Occasional cards bearing four photographs of East Timor, donated by a former Committee member are now on sale in Victoria, and were also distributed to other states for sale.

Joe Gahan was the Cheshires' personal representative in Australia and co-ordinated their visit in 1959.

His son, Mike Gahan, recently loaned our Committee a scrap book assembled by his father, at the time. This gave us a fascinating look at old newspaper clippings, and original letters to and from Leonard and Sue, including one advising of their forthcoming marriage. **For most of us this gave new insights into the origins of this inspiring organisation we work for today.**

MELBOURNE SUPPORTERS, - SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

BRIDGE DAY - 11 August 2004 Enquiries and bookings to Helen McKendrick on 03 9827 2065, or Peter or Helen Newton on 03 9894 3191

SHOPPING TOUR BY COACH - 13 NOVEMBER 2004. Get your Christmas shopping done early at bargain prices! Cost approx \$38. Sandy Mattingley on 03 9808 4212. would love to hear from you if you might be interested.

LEONARD CHESHIRE AND SUE RYDER

MEMORIAL ADDRESS - 20 OCTOBER 2004. 8.00 pm at the Uniting Church, 603 Toorak Road, Toorak. Supporters are warmly invited to hear Barbara Lewis speak about the early days of Raphael and her recent visit to Klibur Domin. RSVP to Helen McKendrick on 03 9827 2065 or Peter and Helen Newton on 03 9894 3191.

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help staff **Christmas Card Stalls** at Box Hill and Croydon, through November and December, and the **Op Shop** from 6 to 10 December. Contact Helen Newton on 03 9894 3191.

SPONSORSHIPS

Helen Newton, the Victorian sponsorship secretary, continues to seek **Victorian sponsors** for residents at both **Klibur Domin and Raphael** and would welcome enquiries on 03 9894 3191 or write to her at 50 Myrtle Grove, Blackburn, Vic. 3130

OVERSEAS VOLUNTEERS

Opportunities exist throughout 2004 and 2005. Anyone interested in obtaining information about voluntary work at **Raphael in India, or Klibur Domin in Timor-Leste** should contact Gai Smith, telephone 02 9698 1618 41 Wells Street, Redfern, NSW, 2016 or e-mail to gai.smith9@telstra.com