



# 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

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## *From the National President*

I recently enjoyed visits to both Klibur Domin and Raphael. **Both places are an inspiration to all and shine like a lighthouse sending a strong beacon of hope to those in need.** They are also wonderful examples of what can be achieved in developing countries when projects are well-managed over the long-term.

**KLIBUR DOMIN** is progressing well under the leadership of Joaquim Soares, the local manager appointed last year. The contribution of the many volunteers is magnificent. A large food garden is being developed under the supervision of two volunteers at present. No more permanent residents are being admitted at present as the emphasis is being directed towards the accommodation of short-term patients and carers attending the Dili hospital. An outreach program to assist disabled people in rural villages is being developed and offers great potential.

Whilst at Klibur Domin I attended the opening and dedication of 'Mike's House', the new building dedicated to the memory of the late Mike Chapman, who made such a wonderful contribution to the Home. Mike's widow, Nancy and her daughter, Judith, were guests of honour at the ceremony. I also had the pleasure of meeting Dr Rui, the Timor Leste Minister of Health and chairman of the Klibur Domin board of management.

I am confident that Klibur Domin will continue to develop as a very valuable contribution to *"the relief of suffering"* in Timor Leste.

At **RAPHAEL** I met Air Marshal Brijesh Jayal, the recently appointed chairman of the council, and other members of the council. I attended Founders' Day which was a great celebration for Raphael and an opportunity to invite community leaders and other schools to see what is being achieved. Raphael is now a very mature establishment and highly regarded in the Indian community. The mobile TB clinic which served outlying rural communities was discontinued at the end of March due to a change in government policy but outpatients are still treated at Raphael.

An outreach program for severely mentally and physically challenged children has been established in several rural villages and has the potential to make a very valuable contribution to the welfare of these children in very poor rural communities.

I also paid a brief visit to the **CHESHIRE HOME IN DELHI** after visiting Raphael. I will be making a more detailed report to the state foundations on my return from overseas.

*Don Sinclair*

### *Message from the Chairman of Raphael Air Marshal B D Jayal.*

So far this year has been an eventful one. We were particularly delighted to receive and welcome **DR. DONALD SINCLAIR, NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATIONS**, on his very first visit to India. With his camera, he walked every inch of the campus and met residents, staff and volunteers making many friends in the process.

We are aware that supporters and well-wishers of Raphael are spread far and wide. It is our endeavor not only to expand this family, but also to make them feel close to Raphael even if they cannot make the physical journey. This we are attempting to do in several ways. The traditional newsletter will continue, though you will find progressive changes now that the editorship is in the hands of Ms Nita Roy. We also have our website at [www.raphaelicare.org](http://www.raphaelicare.org) which is being updated periodically. The newsletter will also be posted on this site, as will be periodical news updates. Do tell us if you have any ideas or suggestions for improving this site. We are also available on e-mail and will gladly entertain any queries or ideas. Finally, the volunteers in particular and other casual visitors become our ambassadors and help spread awareness of Raphael and its activities. We are grateful to them.

As we in Raphael strive to face new challenges in our quest for providing relief to the suffering, we are conscious of the moral and material help that is available to us in ample measure from individuals and institutions that support us. On our part, through improved communications, we shall strive to bring some of Raphael's people and activities to you at home.

### *From the Raphael Newsletter of May 2005 by Nita Roy*

#### **Little White House**

The children continue to pursue their studies and vocational courses and it is heartening to note that a number of children have developed motivation towards interesting careers like medicine, nursing, travel and hotel industry, teaching and the armed forces. The volunteers have been greatly instrumental too, in persuading and assisting these children to choose fields that could be of benefit to them in the future. One of our residents, Rajinder Singh, has joined the Army and is very happy undergoing his training.

The children have been kept busy on holidays by taking them on educational, environmental and sports events. They were recently taken on a trip to the Rajaji Game Sanctuary in the Doon Valley. The children were thrilled to have sighted wild animals. This was a tremendous experience of awareness of wild life and their environmental surroundings. The older children played a cricket match against the well-known local Welham Boys School and won-- a great feat for our boys.

**The Raphael International Centre**  
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#### **Ava Vihar**

Ava Vihar also had its share of grief. We lost Polly after a brief illness in March. We miss her cheerful presence. The other residents are in good heart and responding very well to the various programmes set for them. The volunteers along with the teachers have done a great job training them in various aspects and physiotherapist **Emma Lattey** has been able to bring great improvements in some of them.

#### **Day and Residential Centres**

The Day Care Centre student strength is 71 now and the Residential Wing has 49 residents.

#### **Community Based Rehabilitation**

Three centres are operational in villages around Dehra Dun and 10 children in each centre with disabilities are attending classes in these centers.

#### **Resource Centre for Dyslexia**

Children diagnosed with specific learning disabilities have been attending classes regularly for remedial work. Workshops have been conducted in local schools such as the Doon School, Welham Boys and Doon Girls to spread awareness of Dyslexia. Some remedial work is being carried out by us in these schools.

#### **Special Olympics**

In February students of Raphael and several teachers participated in a sports meet in Rishikesh near Dehra Dun. This was organized by the Utranchal Chapter of the Bharat Special Olympics. This is growing in importance at Raphael as the children of Ava Vihar are showing great promise and talent, as is evident from the several medals that they won at this meet.

#### **TB Mobile Team**

The TB Mobile Team manned by Dr Rawat and his colleagues will sorely be missed by the villagers of Doon valley. After an enviable record in the field of treatment and control of TB in rural areas, we have closed down the operations of TB Control Mobile Team. The concept now adopted by the government is the **Revised National Tuberculosis Control Policy (RNTP)** wherein the treatment philosophy moves to the patient. Raphael has been following this concept since 1984 with the help of TB Control Mobile Team, and the incidence of TB in the rural areas reduced significantly. The success rate in curing the patients has been around 87%. However, now the medicine to the TB patients has to be administered in the presence of a supervisor (called **Direct Observation Therapy or DOT**). The TB Control Team cannot adopt this methodology. Operating our TB Control Mobile Team in these areas would have meant duplication of effort and not cost effective. As such it was decided to close down its operation.

#### **TB Hospital**

Our TB Hospital and the Outpatient Department (OPD) continue to provide treatment and cure for the TB patients visiting the hospital. Over the last six months 280 outpatients have been treated and the average occupancy in our 26 bedded TB Hospital has been 50%. With the completion of repair work in the hospital, this figure will increase.

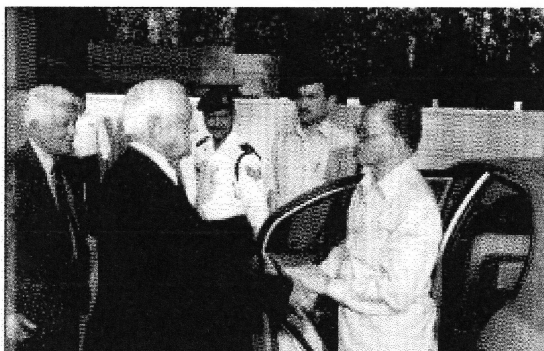
## Founders Day

This was celebrated on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2005 with great enthusiasm. Ava Vihar looked resplendent with its new paint and polish. The Governor of Uttranchal, Mr Sudarshan Agarwal was the chief guest and Dr Donald Sinclair was our special guest.

The programme presented by the children was very enjoyable and innovative. The volunteers had done a great job of teaching the children the South American Salsa and the native Haka of the Maoris of New Zealand. It certainly was one of the best items on the programme. The Governor of Uttranchal gave an impressive speech and complimented the children on their performances. He lauded General Bakhshi as the spearhead of Raphael, and the other office bearers of the Institution, for their exemplary work done by them so selflessly, to make Raphael a special and unique place for relief and rehabilitation.



*Picture above. Dr Donald Sinclair (centre) with Air Marshal Jayal (left) and Maj-Gen Bakhshi.*



*Picture above. Maj-Gen Bakhshi receiving His Excellency Mr Susarshan Aganal, Governor of Uttranchal.*

## Volunteers

We have had quite a few volunteers between January and April. **Ashley Harvey, Caroline Mascad and Kabir Suharan were from UK** and **Emma Latley**, a qualified Physiotherapist, **came from New Zealand**. Congratulations to them. They have done an excellent job with the children, giving them love, compassion and guidance. They are leaving behind a lot of friends who will miss them very much.

## Visitors

**Wing Commander Barney Fernandes, Executive Officer, Special Projects, RCF Australia** visited India during November/December 2004. Barney held detailed discussions in Delhi with the new Chairman, Air Marshal B. D. Jayal, one of our general council members, Mr Ranjit Sikand, and the Director, Brigadier Sinha. The meeting was very fruitful, as this provided a good opportunity to discuss the present state of Raphael and possible direction into the future.

We were privileged to have with us on Raphael Founders' Day no less a personage than **Dr Donald Sinclair, National President of Australian Association of RCF Australia** who was the special guest. This was his first visit to Raphael and we feel very happy that he left immensely impressed and he hoped that the magnificent work that was being done at Raphael continued with the same zeal and dedication.

**Mrs Kumkum Prakash, wife of the Chief of Naval Staff in India**, while visiting Raphael said that for her it was one of the most moving experiences in her life.

**Christine and Peter Witton and their son Chai from Australia**, had glowing comments on Raphael saying it was an inspirational visit for them.

For **Marissa Rogers** it was down memory lane - a visit after 27 years. She had been at Raphael as a volunteer and had spent 15 months in India. For her it was especially sentimental and she was greatly impressed with all the new innovations additions and improvements in these years. For her 14 year old son Theodore, it was an unforgettable visit meeting with the Residents who welcomed him with such love, warmth, and cheerfulness despite their disabilities - something that he would always remember and cherish.

The Australian Association of Ryder-Cheshire Foundations would like to thank its many supporters in all States. Your continued and valued generosity enables the work of our Founders to continue, touching the lives of many in the "relief of suffering".

## NEWS FROM TIMOR-LESTE

From Helen Trueman, Klibur Domin Project Officer

**KLIBUR DOMIN** continues to be a busy and thriving place. Currently the home supports 10 permanent residents and up to 40 patients. Recently staff from the Hospital **Nacional Guido Valadares** (formally known as Dili Hospital) have been to visit the home and were very impressed by the work and facilities. Klibur Domin's good relations with the National Hospital has also meant that doctors from the Hospital have been to Klibur Domin to participate in a dengue awareness program.

**The Minister of Health, Dr Rui Maria de Araújo**, continues as President of the Board of Management. Recently Klibur Domin's Manager, Joaquim Soares was nominated as a Board member. Klibur Domin employs 13 local staff. There are a number of long term volunteers who continue to assist and pass on their many and varied skills to the staff and others at Klibur Domin.

**The work of the foundation reaches many people.** Isuara, a young East Timorese woman is one of these people. RCF brought Isuara to Australia in 2000 for surgery. Isuara once again needs the support of RCF. She will soon be coming to Australia for further investigations. You can help RCF to continue to support people like Isuara, by becoming a regular sponsor of a bed at Klibur Domin.

Recently Joaquim Soares travelled to Australia to attend the Rotary District 9550 Conference in Ayr. Joaquim expenses were covered by Rotary. It is wonderful to see Joaquim making a contribution to Rotary and also to the wider community within East Timor.



### FUND RAISING DINNER IN EAST TIMOR

The official Party is upstanding for the National Anthem.

The photo includes **Joaquim Soares**, Home Manager (far left) and **Dr Rui Maria de Araújo**, Minister for Health and Chairman of the Board of Management of Klibur Domin and other guests.

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## FUND RAISING DINNER



On the 12<sup>th</sup> May Klibur Domin held a fundraising dinner. This was the second time this type of event has been held. Patricia McDonnell put a great deal of effort into organising this event.

Following is an article submitted to the local **Timor Sun** press. Congratulations and well done to all those involved.

*"Thanks to all our supporters, both the donors and those that attended the evening, the second Klibur Domin Fundraising Dinner on 12 May was an outstanding success. Over 100 people joined us at the Hotel Timor – and a good night was had by all. The evening began with the Timor-Leste national anthem and, following the Dinner, all guests toasted the newest nation in the world"*

The 2004 Dinner was sponsored by **USAid** and again in 2005 they generously provided funding for all expenses except alcohol. This has meant that the majority of monies raised will go directly to support the humanitarian work of Klibur Domin.

Again the **Chinese Embassy supported the night** – both the Military Attaché and his wife attended the evening and the Embassy donated a beautiful red sculpted lacquer plate that fetched over \$300.00 at auction. **Rocky Construction** were another supporter that 'came to the party' a second time. Not only did they have a table of 12, they also donated two emergency lighting units and a return airfare to Bali. Together these items raised more than \$600.00 at auction.

**Other generous donors were Freeflow (for the second year), the Turismo Beach Hotel, the ANZ Bank Dili, Central Maritime, the CazBar, TransHose, the Embassies of Portugal, the Philippines and Japan, Beauty Beleza, Tim from Auto Timor Leste, Ted and Catherine Redden, David Boyce and Tricia Johns. Super Fuel, the DVD Shop at Comoro and ALink Computer Café provided discounted prizes, and the Xanana Gusmao Reading Room and Arte Moris also supported the evening. In all, \$2,190 was raised.**

The Australian Association of Ryder Cheshire Foundations, registered as a qualifying charitable organisation in Timor-Leste and Australia, operates a 50-bed low dependency health care facility at Klibur Domin in the village of Tibar, 17 kilometres west of Dili. Klibur Domin operates in close liaison with the Ministry of Health and the RDTL department of Labour and Solidarity. The day to day operations of Klibur Domin were funded entirely from monies donated in Australia. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and of those who attended the Dinner, four beds have now been sponsored for one year from within Timor-Leste. This is a wonderful outcome to a fun evening."

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

*from Margaret Blaber, Honorary Secretary.*

The SA Foundation is now well into its 36<sup>th</sup> year with its 35<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held in May.

**All officers were re-elected** with President Patricia Frith now into her 4<sup>th</sup> year as President. Judith Bonfiglioli replaced Alison Rowney as Sponsorship Secretary in 2004, and her enthusiasm ensures that she will contribute much to this position.

In her report Patricia congratulated the Mt. Gambier Support Group on their achievements in setting up a “cross disability” residential facility in Mt. Gambier. Patricia also mentioned that the “Ryder-Cheshire News” was well received and informative, with thanks to Christine Lopez (SA) and Evelyn Petters (WA). Thanks were recorded to all committee members for assisting with functions and to the Treasurer for his attention to the accounts. We continue to maintain our financial commitment to Raphael and Klibur Domin.

In her report on the Card Shop, our capable Coordinator Judith Weston stated that about 9000 cards were sold, plain and Xmas, as well as the craft goods made by Barbara Phillips. The Card Shop overall is facing difficulties with a change in management. To enable the Shop to continue operating throughout the year, the Landlord has agreed to provide 5 months rent-free. The Foundation will continue to maintain its supplies of cards and craft during 2006.

Although all committee members were re-elected, they have been in office for many years, and the time is coming when older members will wish to stand down - “new blood” is needed and anyone who can spare a few hours as a committee member would be welcome!

Our first fundraiser in 2006, the Film/Afternoon Tea in April was enjoyed by all attending, and though numbers were down it was successful as a fundraiser. Dates have been booked for this function in 2006. **The Quiz Afternoon so well organized by Barbara Phillips in 2004 will be repeated this year, dates will be advised to members in good time for this event.**

**Finally Margaret Blaber, accompanied by her daughter Debbie, visited India on a 7-week trip in January/February this year, and were able to spend 10 days at Raphael.**

Both were warmly welcomed and Margaret was pleased to catch up with old friends. There were four volunteers there at this time. This was Debbie’s first visit and she was impressed with Raphael – with the caring atmosphere, with what was being done in the Resource Centre, and with the general friendliness. **The photograph shows Margaret with Raphael Director, Brigadier Sinha**



Raphael has come a long way since Margaret’s first visit in 1991, when the power was off for 36 hours and the water supply was erratic!

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA—  
MOUNT GAMBIER HOME FOUNDATION**

*from Neville Gilbertson.*

**Background**

The need for an “across disability” studio complex to provide independent living for young disabled people in the **Limestone Coast region of South Australia** was identified in the early 1990’s. For many years the local Parent Advocacy Group tried unsuccessfully to gain Government support for the establishment of a home. **In 2002 the Mount Gambier branch of The Ryder-Cheshire Foundation (South Australia) initiated a project which has now secured the capital funding.**

**With major contributions from the Australian Association of Ryder-Cheshire Foundations, Ryder-Cheshire Foundation (South Australia), the Commonwealth Government’s Regional Partnerships program and the City of Mount Gambier, a home to accommodate five young disabled adults will be constructed in 2005. The capital value of the project is \$700,000.**

**The Department of Human Services in South Australia have approved recurrent funding for the operation of the home.** The project meets a long established community need and also satisfies the objectives of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation.

**Current update**

Over the past few months the Home committee have been working with the architect on the final design and fittings of the Home. This is now complete, and planning and building approvals have been received from the City Council. The appointment of a local construction company (who are just completing a major expansion of an aged care facility in Mount Gambier) will see the foundations laid in early July with completion expected in December this year.

The initial care provider will be the State Government agency, Intellectual Disability Services Council (IDSC), who are working with the committee to develop an operational protocol. IDSC already provide supported accommodation for a range of disabled persons in Mount Gambier. However the Ryder-Cheshire Home is a unique development in that it will be the first home in the local community to provide a permanent residence for the five young disabled adults.

**Wide community support for the Home is expected with a number of organizations already pledging assistance.**

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 2005 ISSUE should be sent by e-mail to*

Chris Lopez

christine@dpspublishing.com.au

**no later than Friday 14th October 2005**

**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.**

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

*from Evelyn Petters, Honorary Secretary.*

Our report in the last Newsletter of March 2005 painted a very bleak picture for the future of the West Australian Foundation. We were at a point where we could not foresee carrying on. Several Council Members were intending to resign and we had no-one to carry on with office bearer positions. Under Professor O'Connor's Presidency, the past few months have seen a revitalisation of the Foundation following an appeal to our members and supporters for committee members. Several came forward to volunteer their help and this inspired others, who were considering giving up, to remain.

In consequence, at the Annual General Meeting on 3rd April, the following members were elected:- **President** Emeritus Professor Desmond O'Connor, **Vice-President** John Lyall, **Treasurer**, Paul Pell, **Secretary** Evelyn Petters and **Council Members** Carroll Brown, Maureen Connaughton, Cynthia Lyall, Ann Penny, Malcolm Petters, Brenda Pullen, Muriel Robertson and Marianne Tunbridge. **We extend a warm welcome to John Lyall, Brenda Pullen and Marianne Tunbridge who are joining Council for the first time and it is pleasing to welcome back previous Councillors Desmond O'Connor and Muriel Robertson.** We are now planning fundraising activities and WA members and supporters will receive later notice of events planned. We hope to include a Lunch and a Film Morning in the next few months. **The annual Cards Day will be held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October at the Nedlands Yacht Club and further details will follow later.**

We are very pleased to report that we have appointed a permanent House Supervisor at Barbara Seabrook House, **Eleanor Gould.** Eleanor first stepped in to help us in February when we were not sure whether we could continue operating. She came to us as a friend of a House Guest who had stayed at the House many times whilst supporting her husband in hospital in Perth. **We warmly welcome Eleanor** who has now been at the house for four months. Eleanor has lived for some time in Fitzroy Crossing (2,500 kms north east of Perth) and is very sympathetic to the needs of people living in remote areas who have to visit Perth for medical treatment.

**The future is now much brighter for the WA Foundation and we feel positive of moving forward.**

### BARBARA SEABROOK HOUSE

**On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June we celebrated a special milestone for Barbara Seabrook House** with an Afternoon Tea to mark the **6,000<sup>th</sup> guest since the House was opened.** The event was attended by House Guests and Staff, Members of the Ryder-Cheshire Committees, Volunteers and other invited Guests. Professor O'Connor reviewed the history of the House and thanked Volunteers past and present. Special Guests were Ernie Robinson of Swanbourne (who cut the cake) and Wyborn Seabrook of Cottesloe, the daughter and son of the late Barbara Seabrook after whom the House was named for her many years of dedicated work for the WA Foundation. Guests also were able to view the new landscaped front garden planted with azaleas, gardenias and other flowering shrubs. (made possible by a very generous donor).

**The 6000<sup>th</sup> guest was a 14 yrs old young man from Tom Price, 1,550 kms north east of Perth, who had stayed at the House with his mother and brother when the family had to visit Perth for medical treatment.** Guests come from all over the State and the House has also received many guests (and their carers) from overseas who are receiving medical treatment due to accident or illness suffered whilst staying in WA.

## VICTORIA

### BALLARAT SUPPORT GROUP

*From Dianne McGrath, Vice-President.*

The Ballarat Support group continues to hold monthly meetings. This certainly assists us with our planning and directions in keeping up with bulletins and developments within the Foundation.

The seasonal raffles are working well. We have taken the opportunity to use this fund raiser as a means of informing the community about the wonderful work of the Foundation.

Our second Tupperware party was arranged for June 4<sup>th</sup>. These afternoons raise money, provide information on the work of the Foundation and bring people together for a fun Saturday afternoon.

**We are holding another Valuation Day with Mr Ray Dalton of the ABC's Collectables Show. This is now an annual event and it is being held on 21<sup>st</sup> August.**

We have been approached by a number of schools to talk about the work being done by the Foundation at Raphael and Klibur Domin. We have appreciated the kit of photos and videos from the Melbourne Group. The large photos work well with the groups of students. One group had no idea of what begging meant as a means of living or what leprosy is and the stigma attached to this disease. Students are always interested in the history of Timor Leste and the work being done at Klibur Domin especially with children of their own age.

We are excited that three small country schools have grouped together to support a young student at Raphael. We are further excited that Robert Brookes, our intrepid traveller, is about to undertake some trekking in the Himalayas. He will be visiting Raphael for two reasons. One to deliver letters, drawings and photos to Savita at The Little White House from the students of the three primary schools. The other reason is to hand deliver a plaque in memory of a long time, tireless supporter of RCF, Jeff Brisbane. This will be our second attempt to deliver the plaque as the first one was lost in transit from Australia to India. We are looking forward to photos, stories and updates upon Robert's return.

Cards and the new gift cards are going well. We are about to deliver envelopes and information sheets to solicitors and funeral homes in Ballarat for families of past supporters to use in lieu of flowers. This has been created as our response to inquiries by such families for this approach.

**We were all sad to hear of the retirement of Mrs Helen McKendrick. She has attended many Ballarat functions over the years and has become a friend to all of us. We have appreciated her boundless energy, commitment, enthusiasm and wisdom and we sincerely thank her for this. We will all miss her. We wish her well in her retirement.**

**Ballarat Support Group meetings are held regularly every fourth Tuesday of the month at 8.00pm**

All are welcome to attend.

Please contact our Secretary

Mrs Janice Cook {Ph 03-5331 8898} for further information.

### RYDER-CHESHIRE WEBSITES

**Australia**

**[www.ryder-cheshire.org](http://www.ryder-cheshire.org)**

**India**

**[www.raphaelicare.org](http://www.raphaelicare.org)**

**East Timor**

**[www.klibur-domin.easttimor.net](http://www.klibur-domin.easttimor.net)**

**NEW SOUTH WALES**

*From Jayne Robinson, President.*

**On Saturday 30 April our NSW committee held its annual fundraising dinner.** It was a wonderful evening. Much time and effort goes into organizing an evening such as this and many thanks to the people that were involved. This year the venue was St Ignatius College Riverview and this proved to be very successful as more guests were able to be invited and comfortably seated. **Dr Phil Truskett (a volunteer surgeon to Timor Leste) was the guest speaker.** He spoke from the heart in regards to the plight of the people in Timor Leste and gave a valuable insight into the positive role of Klibur Domin. We are grateful for the donations that the guests contributed that evening and to the new sponsors that have committed support to either Raphael or Klibur Domin.

For a number of years our committee members have held street stalls at certain times of the year. Maureen Murphy, our card co-ordinator and Jenny Coleman, held a street stall prior to Mother's Day and over \$500 was raised selling greetings cards and bric-a-brac. Our secretary, Margaret Dobbin and Barbara Lewis held a stall a few weeks ago and more than \$800 was raised. Obviously this type of fund raising effort is appreciated by the public and assists in raising the awareness of The Ryder Cheshire Foundation in the community. I would like to thank Barbara and Jenny for their efforts because they are both retired members of our committee and we appreciate their continued interest and support.

**On the subject of volunteers, we would like to express gratitude and admiration for the volunteers that go to Raphael and Klibur Domin. They commit to working in a different and not so comfortable environment assisting in many ways to help improve the lives of the residents of the homes.** Recently the secretary of NSW, Margaret Dobbin, had the pleasure of meeting Anna Dawson who spent three months of her university holidays volunteering at Raphael. Margaret attended a 'Cheshire House' dinner at Riverview College and heard Anna charm and challenge the 320 boys and their parents to whom she spoke of her experiences.

**The annual Members' Indian Lunch is planned for Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2005** and NSW members will receive detailed information about this at a later date. We on the committee look forward to this event because, as it's name suggests, it is a function where members past and present have the opportunity to meet and encourage one another. It also gives us the opportunity of inviting friends and family to a most enjoyable, informative social occasion.

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

*From Shirley Williams, President.*

Shirley Williams spent the month of April on her annual volunteer trip in East Timor. This was the fourth year that she had travelled to Dili and Tibar to work with patients and to teach Reiki workshops to those who wished to learn this ancient healing technique.

Shirley spent her weeks at the Bairo Pite Clinic in Dili and on weekends at Klibur Domin. It is always a good feeling to leave the business of Dili behind as one approaches the Klibur Domin compound, much like the comparison of Sydney to Canberra, only in Timor terms.

As always, it was a pleasure to see Joaquim Soares. He has grown in confidence since last year. I know the running of Klibur Domin is in capable hands and that he has the vision to continue the responsibility that Ryder-Cheshire Foundation has placed on him in the day-to-day operations.

Shirley had the good fortune to meet with Gabby Hargreaves of Canberra when she arrived at Klibur Domin. Gabby is the volunteer who will work with Jane in the gardens during her year at Klibur Domin. She is enthusiastic and better prepared for her stay after discussions with Shirley and Patricia McDonell. The year will be rewarding for Gabby and those who work with her.

This year Shirley advanced the five Timorese students from last year to the teaching level in Reiki. If due to unforeseen circumstances she is unable to return to East Timor next year, they would have the knowledge to empower other Timorese from the villages with this technique. Shirley taught 4 other Timorese staff members levels one and two. In addition to teaching the Timorese, Shirley also taught the 4 volunteers (Maria, Celia, Jane, and Sam) and 2 from NGO status Reiki levels one and two.

Reiki continues to be proven successful among the Timorese as a relaxation technique and a form of health preventative. As next year will be Shirley's last year to return to East Timor, sustainability of Reiki will be placed in the hands of the Catholic nuns that operate the health clinics around Dili proper. Sister Magda, a St. Charles Borromeo nun, has asked specifically for Shirley to teach her nuns as Sister Magda had heard of her work and the wide-spread reception that Reiki has among the Timorese. Sister Eileen, a Maryknoll nun from Aillieu, was taught by Shirley this year and has engaged a translator to put Shirley's Reiki binders into Tetum.

**The ACT annual fundraiser is now set for 4 November at the Grand Hall, University House, ANU. The guest speaker is John Bell, director and lead actor for Bell Shakespeare Co.** We are very optimistic with a name as John Bell that we will have a good attendance for the evening. **Shirley Williams will be in the US from mid-September until 1 Nov, so future queries will be directed to Beth Stone on (02 6247 7843) or Wendy Altamore on (02 6282 2805).**

Our membership continues to decrease as members move away, are on strict pensions or have died. **If we do not fill committee positions with active participation, we will seek closure of the ACT chapter next year. We must go with the changing of the times which saddens us as Ryder-Cheshire Foundation is such a worthy cause.**

**The ACT Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 23rd July 2005 at 2.30 pm at Shirley William's House. Phone 02 6296 1831 for details**

## NEWS FROM THE STATES

### VICTORIA

*From Anthea Swann, Honorary Secretary.*

Our Annual General Meeting on 4 May saw all Office Bearers re-elected unopposed to their positions. Several additional roles were formalised with some people taking on new responsibilities.

**President** - Peter Newton    **Vice President** - Terry Warr

**Treasurer** - Don Sinclair    **Secretary** - Anthea Swann

**Sponsorship Secretary Raphael** - Helen Newton

**Sponsorship Secretary & ET Project Officer** - Helen Trueman

**Cards Co-ordinator** - Helen Newton

**Assistant Cards Co-ordinator** - Florence Gough

**PR Officer** - Peter McConnell

Ongoing assistance from the Ballarat and Bendigo Support Groups has been excellent and the Victorian Committee is very grateful for their support.

The Committee regretfully accepted Devi Sundram's resignation due to her increasing family responsibilities. Devi's valuable contribution over several years has been greatly appreciated.

Fundraising events so far this year have included in April the film "Ladies in Lavender", followed by lunch. We were very pleased with the sale of 122 tickets and with how much people reported enjoying the film and the delicious lunch. For the first time we catered this lunch ourselves, which boosted the profits, while stretching our human resources somewhat more than usual. There will be a film evening organised for October to suit the needs of people who cannot attend during the day.

Our relationship with the Lions Club of Waverley Op Shop continues, to our mutual benefit. We have staffed it for four weeks so far this year and are booked in again for December. **If you can help out with staffing for a few hours, in a pleasant and friendly environment, please contact Peter Newton on 9894 3191.**

Another very successful Bridge Day was held on 13 April. These events attract a loyal group of supporters who love their bridge, but also newcomers are made very welcome. The days are suitable for newer players or the very experienced. See more details in events.

Following Ballarat Support Group's successful Valuation Day last year, the well known Valuer Ray Dalton, ran one for us in Melbourne on 21 May. This was a most informative and enjoyable day as Ray entertained us with stories, history and facts about the wide range of articles people brought to be valued. Some people were very pleasantly surprised to discover the value of heirlooms and purchases.

Committee members continue to speak to various groups, which is a good way of publicising the work of RCF and frequently results in donations from groups and individuals. **We were delighted to recently receive \$5000 from the Rotary Club of Balwyn for Klibur Domin, following Peter Newton's talk to them last October.** If anyone is aware of groups, such as Probus, Lions or Rotary Clubs, looking for guest speakers, please contact Peter Newton on 9894 3191.

Two new items for sale are Birthday Calendars and Gift Certificates using cards printed with photographs of East Timor. The Gift Certificates can be purchased for values ranging from \$5 to \$30, and given as a gift to someone in lieu of a more material item. Sales are progressing well.

**Victoria will host the next Ryder-Cheshire Biennial Conference in Melbourne in 2006 and a planning sub-committee has been formed comprising members of both the Victorian Committee and the Ivanhoe Home Committee.** (See also separate notice).

### Coming Events for Melbourne Supporters

#### 26 October 2005 Founders Memorial Address

Delivered by Kevin Bailey,  
Honorary Consul for East Timor.  
7.30 pm Uniting Church Hall  
603 Toorak Road, Toorak.

#### October Film Evening and Spring Garden Lunch and Demonstration, details to be advised

For general enquiries in Victoria,  
please contact the President  
Peter Newton

Telephone - 03 9894 3191

E-mail - [peter.newton@ryder-cheshire.org](mailto:peter.newton@ryder-cheshire.org).

### The Australian Association of Ryder-Cheshire Foundations The 2006 BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

will be held in  
MELBOURNE

from 24th to 26th February 2006

The Conference will commence  
with the opening Function on  
Friday 24th February 2006

State Foundations and Support Groups will shortly  
receive the initial details

Peter Newton

President, Victorian Foundation

Tel 03 9894 3191

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER OVERSEAS?

There are Volunteer Opportunities  
at the Ryder-Cheshire Homes at Klibur Domin  
in East Timor and Raphael in Dehra Dun, India,

Working in one of these homes as a volunteer for a few months is a great way to **expand your horizons** and at the same time **make a contribution to the welfare of some of the most disadvantaged people in the world.** Depending on the location, Australian volunteers support the work of local staff, assist with training, and sometimes contribute to developmental projects. Special skills are welcome but not essential.

For more information contact  
**Gai Smith, Volunteers Co-ordinator,**  
Telephone 02 9698 1618  
41 Wells Street, Redfern, NSW 2016  
or e-mail to [gai.smith9@telstra.com](mailto:gai.smith9@telstra.com)