



# Newsletter

July 2024



## Ryder-Cheshire Mount Gambier Home Foundation

Welcome to the Newsletter of the Ryder-Cheshire Mount Gambier Home Foundation Board.

The Foundation is dedicated to the relief of suffering. In 2006 and again in 2018 the Board built homes in Mount Gambier that provide accommodation for a total of 10 people with disability. This informally links with other homes in Australia, Raphael in India and Klibur Domin in Timor-Leste.

*Our Mission is to provide the best accommodation in a caring, respectful and compassionate environment for people living with a disability in our Community.*

*Our values emphasize respect, compassion, integrity and courage.*

### Vale Dr Jerry Leech AM



Many tributes were paid following the death of Board Vice-President and former Treasurer Jerry Leech in November 2023.

"We have lost a great humanitarian and a wonderful man who has left a huge legacy that his family can be enormously proud of," said Foundation President Matthew Dixon.

"We will miss his challenging intellect, energy and can-do attitude and most of all we will miss his friendship," he said.

Jerry was made a Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia in the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours in recognition of his significant service to the forestry industry, tertiary education and the community.

### Major donation from Lakes Rotary Club



(L-R) Lakes Rotary Club Secretary Sherril McKay, Rotary Immediate Past District Governor Ian McKay, Mary Leech, Foundation President Matthew Dixon, Colleen James and fellow Lakes Rotary member Trevor Williams.

**The Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes presented a \$10,000 donation to the Foundation on July 3, 2024 in memory of Jerry Leech.**

The presentation was made at a morning tea in the Ryder residence celebrating the legacy of Lady Sue Ryder on what would have been her 100th birthday.

The donation has been deposited in the Foundation's Next Home Fund to be spent on projects close to Jerry's heart. The Board will need federal funding assistance for its next proposed project to build a further two homes. At the time of writing, the Board was awaiting the opening of Round 2 of the Growing Regions Program. More on Page 3.

### Kitchen replacement

The Foundation plans to replace the kitchen in the Ryder residence in the next six to 12 months.

The project will also include replacing floor coverings in all common areas in Ryder, as well as repainting the common areas.

### Our Board

Matthew Dixon (President)  
Greg Clayfield (Vice President)  
Stuart Stansfield (Treasurer)  
Bernadette Douglas (Secretary)  
Neville Gilbertson OAM  
Mary Heysen Diane Little  
Sue Roberts Peter Telford

### Our Lessee

Our two homes are leased to and managed by estara, formerly known as ParaQuadSA (PQSA) and HomeCare+.

The original home, Ryder, still has the same five women who became the first residents in 2006.

The second home, Cheshire, was completed in late 2018 and is occupied by five men.



Foundation Board Members (L-R) Di Little, Peter Telford, Greg Clayfield and Sue Roberts.



Board Members Mary Heysen and Neville Gilbertson.



Former Ryder-Cheshire Australia President Rory McEwen with Ryder home campaigner Raelene Kuhl.

## Lady Sue Ryder's legacy celebrated

The 100<sup>th</sup> Morning Tea on July 3 was attended by about 40 people including family members of Ryder residents and long-time supporters of Ryder-Cheshire.

The Foundation's Patron and Governor of South Australia, Her Excellency Frances Adamson AC, sent a message saying she was proud to support the local charity.

"A more eloquent and humanitarian statement of purpose than that you are '...dedicated to the relief of suffering without discrimination' would be hard to conceive," she said.

The Hon Elizabeth Cheshire also sent a message stating she was delighted to hear that her mother's centenary was being celebrated in Mount Gambier.

"My mother held Australia very dear to her heart and looked forward eagerly to her visits to meet you all and thank you personally for the wonderful work you do," Dr Cheshire said.

## Finance

Financially we continue to be in a very sound position.

Our annual information statement, including the most recent annual financial report, can be found on the ACNC website: <https://bit.ly/45VAToP>

If you are interested we now have brochures suggesting how you can include Ryder-Cheshire in your bequests. They are available on our website: <https://www.ryder-cheshiremoutngambier.org/>



## Major donation from Rotary cont'd from Page 1

"What a great honour it is to be here to show our respect for our esteemed former member, Jerry Leech AM," said Colleen James from Lakes Rotary.

"Jerry was a great member of our community, both locally and worldwide through his forestry achievements.

"To honour his memory, and in appreciation of the many faithful and committed years Jerry gave to Rotary and in fact to the whole community, Lakes Rotary Club has much pleasure in presenting this donation," she said.

*"Jerry was very passionate about the two organisations – the Ryder-Cheshire Mount Gambier Home Foundation and Rotary," said Jerry's wife Mary.*

"He really enjoyed his time with them. He really appreciated the friendships and camaraderie as well as the work that he did. I know he would be looking down on us. Thank you everyone," she said.

### Next development

"We are in the late process of planning our next development," said Foundation President Matthew Dixon while accepting the donation and thanking Lakes Rotary.

"We have found a block of land (John Street/ Davison Street) that Empak own and we have had plans (Page 4) done to build two new three-bedroom homes that will accommodate six people in total.

"We're going to need some federal government funding to help us do that, and maybe council funding.

"These places are very expensive to build because of the number of bathrooms, fire systems, solar and batteries etc.

"We are waiting for Round 2 of the Growing Regions Program to open. We did put in an EOI in Round 1 and were successful in being asked to put in a full application but we weren't quite ready.

"But we are now just about ready to put in a full application for Round 2 as soon as that opens, and we are hopeful that will be in the next couple of months, and that process will probably take six months. We would be looking for about \$1.2m from the federal government, and we would have to provide the rest. We already have some money, and then we would have to borrow some money – and we are in a position to be able to do that.

"I'd like to think that we would be able to stand here in 18 months to two years' time housing 16 people. And as you get bigger, it's easier to grow as you have an income stream. And that's not the end – there's more to go after that. I'd like to think that we can pay our debt off, save some money and go again. That's the direction that the Board wants to take," he said.

## Meet David Lockwood

In January 2024, David Lockwood celebrated one year since moving into Cheshire and his family said it had been the happiest year of his life.

In their words:

'He previously lived on his own for 23 years. Independence has always been so important to him. Now, he can remain feeling independent, living in his new home, but also in complete safety, with care from great support workers, whilst living with four of his friends.

David was welcomed in with open arms by everyone at the house, which we are grateful for. They are fantastic friends/housemates for David.

This change has meant the world to David. He's never lonely anymore as there is always company and opportunities to do things with friends, but he can spend time alone and in privacy if he wants.

It's been amazing to watch David's confidence grow. He's speaking up more and more and telling us of changes that he wants to improve his life, like choosing his day options and activities. He has never actually requested changes until now, it has been wonderful to watch this change to his personality.

To his family, it means peace of mind for David's wellbeing, no longer being worried about his safety and happiness. Almost every time we see him, he is more confident and happier with his life. We have always tried to cater for his needs, but it has not always been easy to cater for his wants. Being in Cheshire has enabled this to happen.

We can be his family again instead of being his carers.'

### Home maintenance

Mr Chris Pfeiffer continues to carry out routine maintenance of the homes and the heavier garden maintenance. Ms Kathy Kotsovos has been contracted to undertake the lighter gardening work, replacing Annalea Vorwerk who relinquished the role.

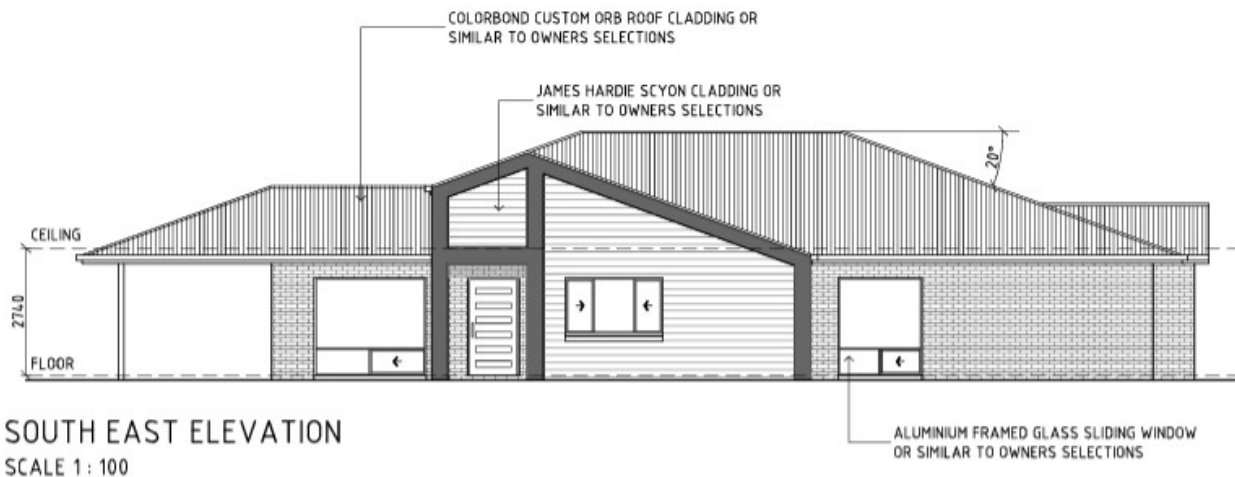
Board member Peter Telford oversees the general and gardening maintenance while Sue Roberts supervises both gardens.

Together they ensure that the homes remain a lovely place for residents to live.

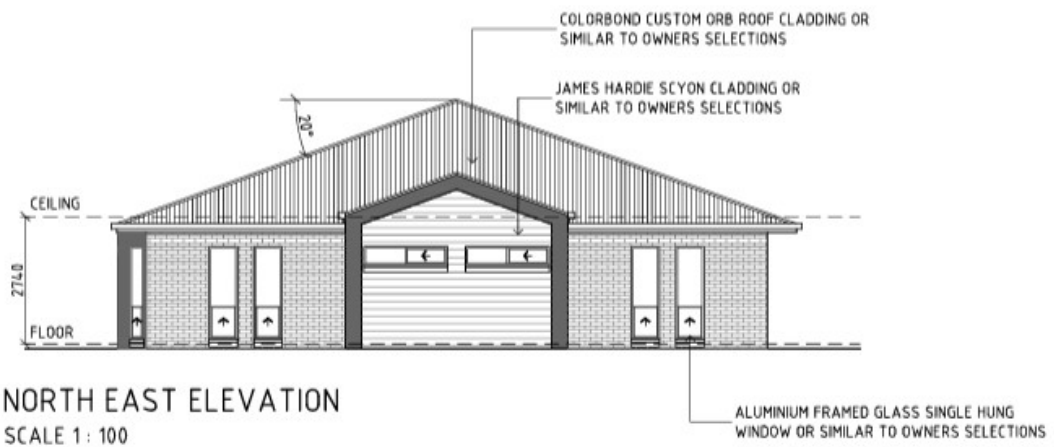
### Website

Our website provides a great summary of our homes and includes lots of interesting photographs: <https://www.ryder-cheshiremountgambier.org/>



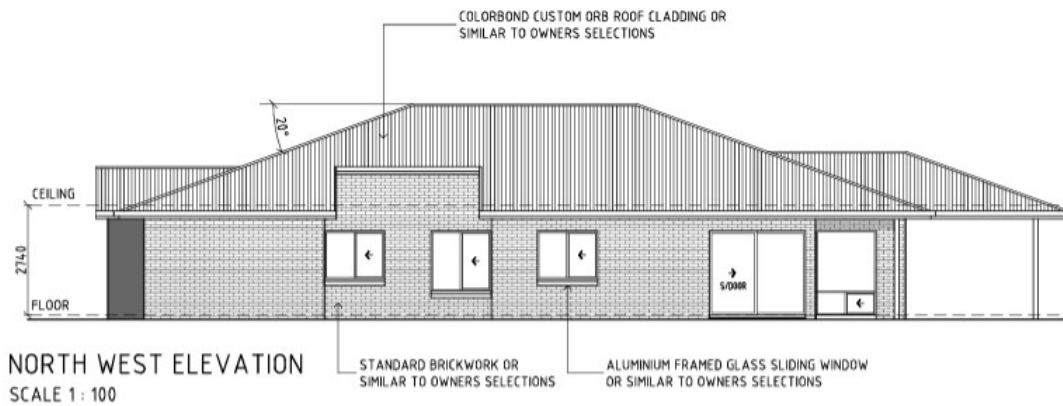


**SOUTH EAST ELEVATION**  
SCALE 1 : 100

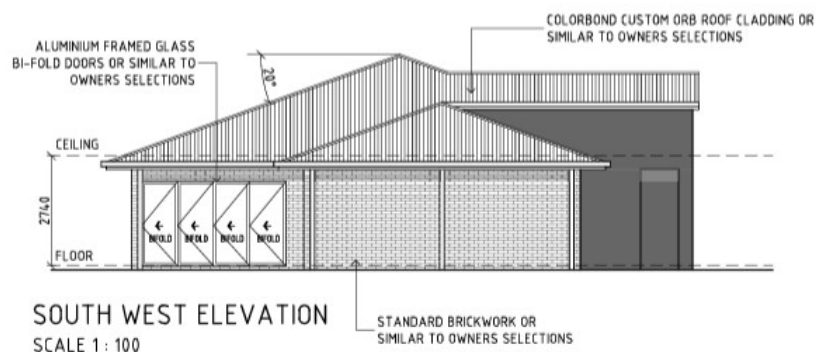


**NORTH EAST ELEVATION**  
SCALE 1 : 100

Above and below: one of two homes proposed for Davison Street. Plans not final and not to scale.



**NORTH WEST ELEVATION**  
SCALE 1 : 100



**SOUTH WEST ELEVATION**  
SCALE 1 : 100