

CARING FRIENDS

S U M M E R 2 0 1 5 - 1 6 N E W S L E T T E R

The Ryder-Cheshire Home
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THANK YOU FROM OUR PAST PRESIDENT- DON SINCLAIR

In September, during the Ryder-Cheshire Victorian Homes Foundation Inc annual general meeting I stepped aside as President. From 1992 until this time, it has been my privilege to serve as President of the Ryder-Cheshire Victorian Homes Committee, a period of 23 years. I am very pleased to congratulate Don Hamilton, our Senior Vice President for many years, as incoming President of the Homes Committee of Management. Don has a deep knowledge of the Homes and the philosophy of Ryder-Cheshire.

In review, my association with the wider Ryder-Cheshire organisation has spanned almost 50 years. This has included 40 years as treasurer of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation(Victoria) and 8 years as President of Ryder-Cheshire Australia, organisations further supporting 'Raphael' in Dehra Dun, and more recently Klibur Domin in Timor-Leste.

The Ryder-Cheshire Victorian Homes Foundation or 'The Ivanhoe Homes' were established over 34 years ago in 1981. A demonstrated need existed then as it does today for short-term, good quality accommodation for patients and carers attending Melbourne hospitals for medical treatment. As a foundation member of the Ivanhoe Homes Committee, I have over these 34 years witnessed many positive changes to the Homes. I am proud during my term of presidency, to have not only

overseen but also been directly involved in the many and varied refurbishments, developments and resulting improved amenities that make the Homes what they are today, a very comfortable and affordable "Home Away from Home".

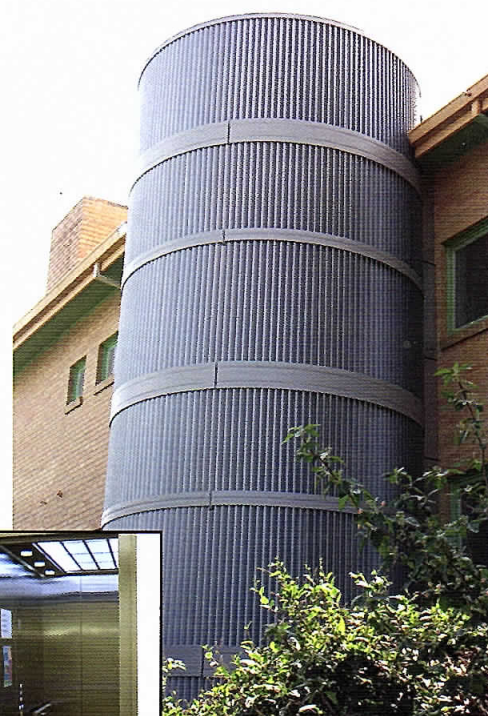
Despite not receiving any government funding, the Homes have demonstrated a continuous improvement in the quality of our facilities and services. More recently, the major project to install lifts, air conditioning and improved TV reception was undertaken in Buildings 12 and 14. The development of the Homes demonstrates what can be achieved by dedicated and generous people. Our capital funding has been greatly assisted by a number of generous bequests; for these we are most grateful and appreciative. Furthermore and importantly, it has been a joy to work with our Resident Carers, committee members, supporters and volunteers whose contribution has been essential to the success of our mission.

In my time as President I enjoyed the frequent opportunities to talk to many people about the Homes. Meeting and greeting the many residents and volunteers was one of the most rewarding aspects of my role both personally and formally.

I treasure so many happy memories of the Homes at Ivanhoe in serving its mission for the relief of suffering. I intend to remain as a committee member for as long as my health permits.

*Thank you and best wishes to
all associated with the Homes.*

**Don Sinclair, OAM -
President 1992 to 2015.**



▲ Building 12 completed lift
◀ Building 12 lift entrance



Building 14 lift
construction ▶▶



▼ A perfect Spring day



RESIDENT CARER'S REPORT

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the life of our Ryder-Cheshire Home during 2015! It has been an interesting and challenging year for everyone (and sometimes very noisy) but by the time we commence 2016 we will be experiencing the rewards of being patient and accepting occasional inconveniences. We have heard nothing but positive comments re the lift in Building 12 and with summer coming, residents will certainly enjoy the new reverse cycle air-conditioning systems.

We continue to urgently seek the assistance of volunteers. Please refer to the end of this Newsletter for information regarding volunteering at the Home.

I wish everyone a very peace filled Christmas and New Year.

God's blessings to each and every one of you.

Jane Gorey C.S.B.



▲ Maria celebrating her 90th



▲ Maria, John and children leaving Holland

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is my pleasure to accept presidency of Ryder-Cheshire Victorian Homes Foundation Inc (RCVHF) on the retirement of Don Sinclair. Don has guided the Ivanhoe Home through many developments during his time at the helm. I am humbled to be given the opportunity to follow on his good works. His stewardship over the years has been magnificent and brought many changes, improvements and developments to the Home for the benefit of our residents.

Firstly, to introduce myself: my name is Don Hamilton. I've been a member of the RCVHF Committee of Management since the mid 1980's...although I had time off for good behaviour when my company sent me to Sydney for five years! However, on my return I could not keep away from the Home and quickly re-joined the Committee.

I am Melbourne born. I spent my teens in country Victoria with my parents and sisters dairy farming in the Kiewa Valley and after that helping with the family general store in Newbridge, located about halfway between Bendigo and Maryborough.

In 1961 I joined an Australian bank, working there for some 35 years. Upon leaving the bank I worked in financial planning and superannuation education until finally retiring. I now spend much of my time involved with Rotary, a strong supporter of the Home. My wife Ann and I have four children and three grand-children which keep us active on the family front.

Getting back to the Home, I'm sure you are all aware of our latest project; the retro-fitting of lifts to both Buildings 12 and 14. The lift in Building 12 is complete and fully functional and a boon for our residents on the first and second floors. The lift in Building 14 is expected to be completed very shortly.

At this stage, with completion on the horizon, I thank our architect, builders, electrical contractors and lift installers...in fact, to all who have contributed towards the project.

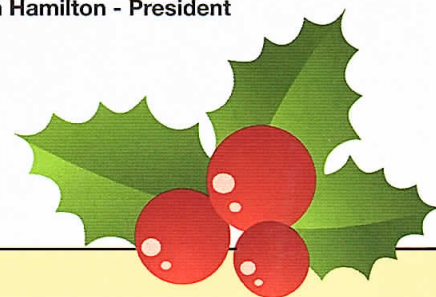
This work also included installation of air-conditioning to Buildings 12 and 14. Recently the Committee decided to install air-conditioning in Building 10.

Over the last financial year, bed night occupancy was approximately 14,476, accommodating 2,474 individual residents. A magnificent effort! Our thanks go to our Resident Carer Sr Jane, our Office Manager Angie, and Romish and Sneha who, together with our team of dedicated volunteers, provide so much support and assistance enabling us to offer the service and facilities we do for our residents.

In closing, I applaud the wonderful work being undertaken at the Home to provide care and support to meet the needs of our residents and their carers. Moreover, I congratulate Don Sinclair on the wonderful way in which he and the Committee have brought the Home to where it is now.

With best wishes for the Christmas Season and New Year!

Don Hamilton - President



MARIA DORTMANS

HOUSE PARENT 1984 - 1987 CELEBRATES HER 90TH!

On Sunday 9th August over 150 family and friends gathered at Jeeralang North Hall to celebrate Maria's 90th birthday. Maria Van Der Heyden was born in Dinther, Netherlands in 1925. In 1945 she married John Dortmans, a widower with 4 children. Eight years later, John and Maria migrated to Australia. In 1958 they bought a 350 acre dairy farm in Jeeralang North which remains in the family. John and Maria had 12 children together, 5 born in Australia. John passed away in 1980 and son Renus in 2006.

During the celebration, Maria was presented with a book, titled "So Be It", compiled by her granddaughter Suzie Taylor. The book is the story of the Van Der Heyden and Dortmans families as told to Suzie by Maria. Many family members contributed to the book, telling their stories, providing photos and proof reading. The book begins with the years surrounding World War II and its devastating effect on their lives.

Maria's 15 children were present along with their children and grandchildren. Following

AROUND & ABOUT JEERALANG NORTH HALL & LOCAL COMMUNITY

Peter and Teresa Overton, two Committee members attended Maria Dortmans 90th birthday celebration. Travelling on what seemed an interminably long and winding road, 'lost in the middle of nowhere', they were both relieved and surprised to unexpectedly come upon the large and very modern Jeeralang North Hall. Located in Gippsland, the hall is approximately 20 km from Traralgon and Morwell, surrounded by bush in the Strzelecki Ranges overlooking Latrobe Valley. A glimpse of Jeeralang North Hall and its impressive history is shared here by Gwenda Dortmans, testament to a resilient and vibrant local community.

In 1944 bushfires destroyed the hall which housed the school and community centre. Using voluntary labour and funding from Traralgon Shire the hall was rebuilt, officially opening in 1955. The hall again became the school and was well known for monthly old-time dances. Around 1961 the school closed. Buses then transported the children to schools in Morwell. Despite improvements over the years the hall's use gradually declined. Tragically in 2009, the Black Saturday bushfires took their toll on Jeeralang North again. Several homes were destroyed, with one loss of life in the immediate area and several in nearby Traralgon South. The Jeeralang North Hall was again a casualty, the kitchen and toilet block were destroyed, the damage making the hall unusable.

A building committee was formed to oversee the rebuilding of the hall. The committee worked hard to see the hall was again a functional community asset. It now features a state of the art kitchen, a new toilet block, an outside picnic area,

playground, pizza oven and BBQ. The main part of the Hall that was not burnt down has been refurbished with new windows, roof and newly polished floor boards.

The Jeeralang North Community received part of the special funding available to fire affected areas for community activities. The people of the area came together in a way that had not occurred for a number of years. Since the hall reopened in October 2011 there have been many community events including Grand Final Day celebrations, Cup Day gatherings, an annual bush dance and the monthly old-time dance has continued. A small group of people who lived in the area used to hold Christmas get-togethers called "Track BBQ" at different residences each year. Now the BBQ is held at the Hall and the wider community invited. Before the fire there had been talk about starting a book club. With the increased need to get-together, a group of women established a club which has played an important role in providing them with support. Club members of all ages meet every two months to discuss the feature book. The hall has been the venue for weddings, birthdays, engagements and family reunions. It is amazing how adversity, sadness and trauma can rally a community into action and something good can come from those times. Hopefully the hall will continue to be central part of the community.

In September 2015 the Jeeralang North Hall celebrated its 60th birthday!

Thank you to Gwenda Dortmans for kindly contributing the historical background for this article.

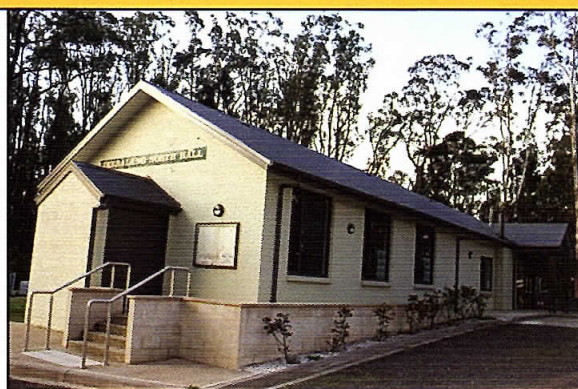
lunch together, more family and friends arrived for the afternoon tea, book presentation and cutting of the cake. Family travelled from as far as Karratha in WA and Mackay in Queensland. The celebration was a tribute to the amazing mother and Oma that Maria is to her 16 children, 58 grandchildren, 69 great grandchildren and 7 great, great grandchildren! Direct descendants total 150 and still growing!

Maria was a House Parent at the Ryder-Cheshire Home commencing in 1984. In 1986 she married Anton Van Lith, also a House Parent and together they served the Homes community. Maria's time at Ryder-Cheshire allowed her to meet many people who became recipients of her caring, kind nature. She has fond memories of those

years and whilst she was helping others, it filled a need in her own life and gave her great satisfaction.

Maria now resides in Traralgon. To maintain good health she keeps active attending daily exercise sessions, gardening and regular outings. Maria keeps up to date with all family members and knows about births and engagements before the rest of the family! Her positive attitude to life has stood her in good stead. Maria's philosophy is: **'To take one day at a time'**.

Gwenda Dortmans



▲ Jeeralang North Hall

▼ Old Jeeralang North Hall

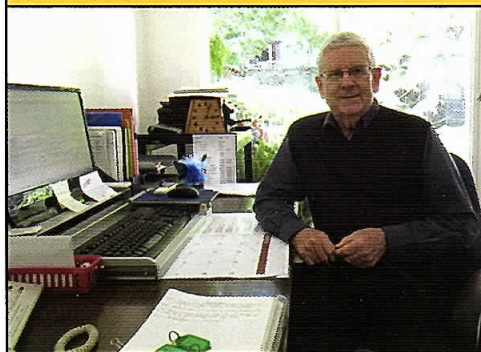


▲ This way to Jeeralang North Hall



▲ Maria cutting her impressive birthday cake
▼ Maria & her children





Terry volunteering in the office

Urgent Call for Volunteers

Volunteers are a valued part of Ryder-Cheshire. We always need extra volunteers on an ongoing basis to ensure the continued operation of the Home.

What can volunteers do? A few examples: welcome residents, provide office/administration support, sewing, and knitting for the trading table, support morning coffees, spend time listening and talking with residents and carers.

However, our most urgent need is for WEEKEND Resident Carers. This can be for a weekend or two a year or even a week. Some past residents offer to stay when they come for their regular check-up. **Please consider and call us...**

▼ "Because you're a creature of God you reflect wisdom and love."

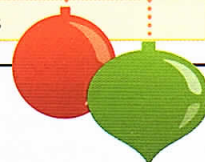


MORNING COFFEES - 2016

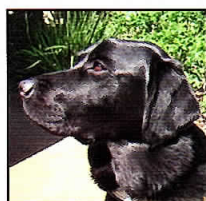
Dates for your diary – last Friday of the month, everyone welcome!



DATE	TOPIC	PRESENTER
26 February	The Art of a Collection	Fiona Tettman, Art Curator
18 March	Zonta International (Aust.)	Rosemary Tait
29 April	Darebin Parklands	Peter Wiltshire, Parklands Ranger
27 May	La Trobe Wildlife Sanctuary	TBA
24 June	Serendipity Choir	Nancy Cornwallis



INTRODUCING WILBY



Leo now has a new Guide Dog named Wilby. A boy, he is shining black in colour, very gentle and loves people. Wilby was only 14

months old when Leo was matched to him. Wilby had only six weeks training and Leo had to go to Guide Dogs in Kew to do two more weeks living there with him. This was planned so that he would be ready to go to Queensland with us in June.

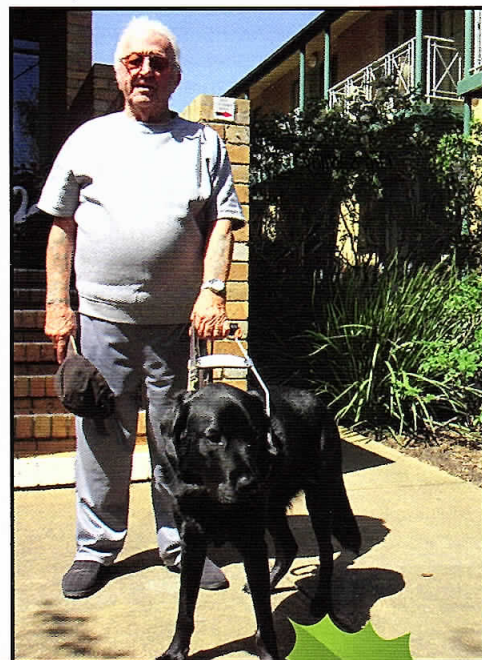
Wilby came from a 'W' litter. Wilby, his four brothers and four sisters all received names starting with the letter W. Hence Wilby! Wilby has a lovely nature and is always very close and protective of Leo. However, off the lead and harness he gets playful and excited. When mealtime comes around he leaps around with happiness and in his playtime he is just a normal dog. Nevertheless, when the harness is held up for him to come and put his head into it, he knows it is back to work!!

Wilby has been to the Ivanhoe Home a few times and knows his way around. Like Mollie, who we fondly remember, Wilby is

also regarding it as his second home. We hope residents will enjoy him and know he will welcome as many pats and cuddles he is offered.

Nola Jones

▼ Wilby and Leo



DONATION

The Ryder-Cheshire Home
(ABN 94 074 894 677)

receives no government funding and is financed entirely through its own efforts and the generous support of Caring Friends.

Donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible

Visit www.rydercheshirehomes.org.au

If you would like to make a donation, please fill in the form and send it to the address below:

RCVHF Inc. 10-14 Donaldson Street
IVANHOE VIC 3079

☐ General Donation ☐ Lift Project Donation

Amount \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

