



## Out & About Auxiliaries Newsletter

### Auxiliary Coordinator's Message

*Sue Parkes*  
26/3/02



Hi. I'm Sue Parkes and I started here as Auxiliary Coordinator just over six weeks ago. During this time I have had some wonderful welcoming letters and comments from members of many RVIB Auxiliaries and I thank you for these.

Firstly, a bit about me. I have worked in the community services sector for over 20 years, four of those at Vision Australia, nine as the Executive Officer of ACROD (the peak body in the disability sector) and six as PR Manager at Wesley Central Mission. Throughout these years I have worked with Auxiliaries in one way or another and my admiration for the work done by Auxiliary members has grown and grown. In my personal life I have been President of the Mothers' Association at my sons' school so I know a bit about what it is like to be a part of a voluntary fundraising committee. It's not easy.

I hope to make Auxiliary fundraising a bit easier for all of you by providing practical support in any way I can. I am hoping to get some donated goods to boost up the raffle areas without you having to ask the same people over and over again.

Once I have got to know you all I would like to work alongside you to bring some new people on to your teams, perhaps to start with just organising some small events that are appropriate to the interests of your members and people in your area. (A big welcome to Bill Verboon who joined the Leongatha Auxiliary at the Rose Show meeting the other night!)

If you already have a big fundraiser that works, for example Leongatha's Rose Show, then I would just like to see what I can do to help you with the work involved in a big event like this.

I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible at Annual Meetings, 70<sup>th</sup> Birthdays and Regional Conferences. If you haven't already done so, please call me on 9522 5232 if you have any dates you would like me to book into my diary.

The work of auxiliaries is all about community relationships and raising money for a very worthy cause. I am looking forward to building those relationships, together. It's going to be a great year!

#### The Way Forward

My first face to face introduction to the Auxiliaries was at The Way Forward meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February. It was a great day, full of energy and enthusiasm for the year ahead.

#### Items discussed were:

**Support from RVIB** - a commitment that **Out and About** would be produced more frequently and that the December edition would be produced in November in time for December meetings. Facts and figures to be produced for each area to support fundraising efforts.

**Central Council** - members expressed an interest in attending Regional Conferences and welcomed auxiliary members to attend their meetings any time on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 11 am at 557 St Kilda Road.

**New members** - various ideas were discussed, including involving schools in fundraising efforts and the expansion of door knocks. There is still more information I need to follow up.

**A Discount card** - suggested for all RVIB supporters.

**Calendars** - It was felt that the calendars should not be changed from their previous format. The Events and Projects Dept has agreed to consult extensively with Auxiliary members **before** producing the 2003 calendar.

**Christmas cards** - members provided feedback to the Events and Projects Dept which will be used to determine the selection of cards for Auxiliaries this Christmas.

**Other merchandise** - I'll be working with the Fundraising Business Unit to look at other products that could easily be sold through the Auxiliaries, including diaries, pens, key rings and bookmarks.



◀ **Life Governors** - members asked for an explanation of the procedure for awards and recognition. I will include details in the next edition of **Out and About**.

The response to **The Way Forward** was excellent. Over 50% of Auxiliaries responded, either by attending or providing feedback on the forms. I look forward to working through the various suggestions and will look at specific issues raised at **The Way Forward** in future editions of **Out and About**.

## MONASH COMMUNITY RAFFLE

I know it is very difficult for auxiliaries to obtain **BIG** prizes for raffles in their communities.

We have been offered the opportunity through Rotary to sell raffle tickets on behalf of the Monash Community Raffle with the proceeds coming to RVIB.

The Raffle Tickets will sell for \$2 of which \$1.40 comes to RVIB. 60 cents covers all the printing and administration costs, so the \$1.40 is a net result for RVIB.

The prizes are fantastic:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize Choice of either Mitsubishi Pajero IO 4WD Manual Wagon, or Mitsubishi TH Magna Auto Sedan
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize NEC 68cm Full Stereo Colour TV Set with DVD Player
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize NEC 51cm AV Stereo Colour TV Set

Tickets need to be sold over March, April and May with all unsold tickets and stubs returned to RVIB by 15 May 2002.

The tickets come in books of ten. If you would like some tickets to sell, call me on 9522 5232.

## REGIONAL CONFERENCES

On March 14<sup>th</sup> the Kongwak, Leongatha and Korumburra Auxiliaries met at Kongwak for their Regional Conference; and on March 18<sup>th</sup> Mentone/Mordialloc, Frankston and Sorrento Auxiliaries held their Regional Conference at Mentone.

There are no Regional Conferences booked in for April and I am finalizing the other Regional Conferences for the rest of the year. Please ring me if you have a date booked that I am not aware of, on 9522 5232.

The Greensborough AGM was held on 13<sup>th</sup> March.

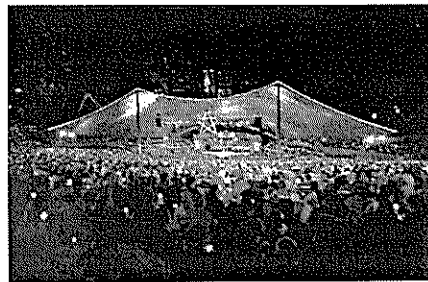
The Wodonga Auxiliary will be holding its 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April and the Barwon Heads Auxiliary will be celebrating 60 years on 1<sup>st</sup> May. Happy Birthday!

Goodbye for now,  
Sue Parkes

# Carols 2001

## Photo gallery

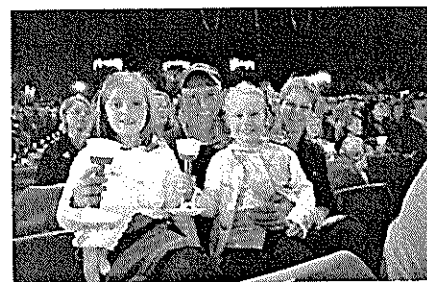
RVIB Carols by Candlelight was again a marvelous success, and we would like to sincerely thank the many people who helped make it such a wonderful night.



▲ The magnificent Myer Music Bowl in lights



▲ Performers enjoy the on-stage celebrations



▲ Carols is a Christmas tradition for many families



▲ RVIB Client Lauren Hayes with host Ray Martin.



# Updates

## Barwon Heads Auxiliary

We have 15 members aged 60 years and older and we raise up to \$2,000 each year, as well as maintaining Lorna Lodge in Saratoga Avenue, Barwon Heads.

Lorna Lodge is a two-bedroom house donated to RVIB by Eureka Budget Homes Pty Ltd, and since 1991, approximately 290 people and their families have enjoyed the lodge at a nominal rent.

Originally, the house was located in Melbourne, and Ocean-Grove Barwon Heads Auxiliary undertook the responsibility of its transportation to Barwon Heads.

The house was established in 1980 as a place for people who were blind or vision impaired to go to enjoy a holiday.

We have been maintaining the house and grounds since 1991, and in 2001, with a legacy from a Barwon Heads resident, the Lions Club has been able to repaint the building and put in a much needed cement driveway and paths.

This year we hope to re-carpet and put up new blinds, soft furnishings and replace some furniture.

The year 2002 is our Auxiliary's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday and we hope to celebrate in April or May.

Grace Brown  
Hon. Secretary

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## Get well wishes!

To NANC FORDHAM, President of Yarram Auxiliary, we wish you a speedy recovery after your open heart surgery. Auxiliary members and staff at RVIB send their best wishes for a full recovery.

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## Obituaries

We have been advised that MIN MORGANS, President of Swan Hill Auxiliary has passed away. We know that Min will be missed by all her fellow members and we extend our sincere condolences.

E.M. Mason of Yarram Auxiliary advised the sad loss of valued member VAL BADHAM due to cancer in December. Val will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

# Member Profile

## Elizabeth Davies, Sorrento Auxiliary

Fundraising for RVIB is in Elizabeth Davies' blood. Her grandmother, Mary Mackinnon, was a founding member of the Sorrento Auxiliary, and Elizabeth and her mother Anne soon joined her. Elizabeth's late husband John was a member and their son Richard helps out to make it four generations of the family in the Auxiliary.

'I grew up in the house next door to my grandmother, and watched her make clothes for blind babies with scraps of material she had collected from the tailors in Flinders Lane,' Elizabeth says. 'So I've been aware of RVIB and the work it does since I was very little.'

Although sewing, baking, and making enormous amounts of strawberry jam all play a part in their fundraising, Sorrento Auxiliary is famous for its main fundraiser: the annual Christmas in June lunch.

'We cater for 60 people, and do the full works,' explains Elizabeth. 'There's turkey and presents and everyone always has a wonderful time.'

The event raises between \$1000 and \$2000. With street stalls twice a year, including one on Easter Saturday, the Sorrento Auxiliary raises between \$5000 and \$6000 every year for RVIB.

Elizabeth, who now lives in Melton, travels to Sorrento every fortnight for the Auxiliary meetings, where she is secretary.

'Because my family has been involved for so long, the Auxiliary is almost like a second home to me!' she says. 'I love being part of a wonderful group of people who do so much to help those who need it.'



## Some paths are not for walking



Shopping's easy these days. Pick up a 'paper and your favourite magazine from the rack outside the newsagents, select some ripe tomatoes and a bag of apples from the stand in front of the grocer's. You could have a peek at the cheap shoes displayed outside the clothing store, and top it all off with a coffee and a cake in the sun at a pavement café.

With goods piled up in front of shops, pavements all over Victoria are treated more like a shopping centre than as a means of getting from A to B.

This approach may be welcome to shoppers, but for people who are blind or vision impaired, it makes negotiating the streets difficult, potentially embarrassing and dangerous.

White cane users tap their canes along the sides of shop fronts to orientate themselves. When there are obstacles such as furniture, signs or displays, they are forced out into the confusing and dangerous void in the middle of the footpath.

Then it can be difficult to find a way through the clutter and almost impossible to find entrances to shops.

RVIB and other disability campaigners say it doesn't need to be like this.

Access to the community is a fundamental right, and policies and laws cannot discriminate against people with disabilities.

RVIB is working with councils to develop user friendly footpath policies that include a two metre clear zone along the building line, and obstructions to be placed on the kerb side of the footpath.

Already four municipalities have conformed to these standards, and RVIB, with other agencies such as the BCA, will continue to work towards communities equally accessible to all.

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## Diary Date!

This year's Annual Day will be held on Saturday 16th November, at Melbourne Town Hall, so make sure you write this in your diary. For inquiries, please call Julie Robson on (03) 9522 5282.

## Heritage Day Trip & Luncheon

On April 10, 2002, RVIB will be holding a very special day for supporters of RVIB at a very special price.

A visit to Heritage Hill, one of Melbourne's oldest historical sites, will be followed by a three-course lunch at the elegant Clover Cottage, famous for its delicious cuisine and fabulous gardens. Book your place now!

Heritage Hill, in Dandenong, is an historical property comprising rare examples of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century architecture. There will be the opportunity to walk around Laurel Lodge, and visit the Benga Lodge History Centre. St James Anglican Church boasts splendid grounds and wonderful stained glass windows, as well as its famous pneumatic electric organ.

After morning tea at Heritage Hill, a scenic drive will bring everyone to Clover Cottage in Berwick. There will be plenty of time to wander through the beautiful, restful gardens of this unique Victorian property after a delicious three-course lunch topped off with Clover Cottage's extraordinary desserts.

The day will cost only \$45, including all meals and transportation. Numbers are strictly limited, so book now by calling Kerri Guyett on (03) 9522 5229.

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## New staff at RVIB

Bequest Officer IAN McDONALD has recently joined RVIB and is working hard in the area of bequests. Ian worked in a similar role at the Red Cross for the last five years, and has a wide range of experience, including two terms as Mayor of Dandenong.

If you would like to contact Ian, he is available on (03) 9522 5218; or email: [mcdonia@rvib.org.au](mailto:mcdonia@rvib.org.au)

Also new to the team is KERRI GUYETT. Kerri joined RVIB in December last year, and is enjoying being part of the committed Fundraising team. Kerri is pleased to assist you with your fundraising efforts, and is looking forward to helping you, however possible.

Kerri is available on (03) 9522 5229 or email: [guyetke@rvib.org.au](mailto:guyetke@rvib.org.au).





## RVIB Further Education Bursary Awards 2002

Members of Leongatha Auxiliary will be familiar with local RVIB client Chris Baillie.

Chris is 20, and has finished school. He wants to be a computer programmer, and to enter the highly competitive IT Industry, he needs a university degree.

It looks as though he is on track. He has achieved a high score in his VCE. He is a good 'all-rounder', playing cricket and participating in athletics. He has been offered a place on a Computer Science degree course at Swinburne University.

But, because he is blind, there are other obstacles to overcome before he can achieve his dream.

While his peers take notes in class with pen and paper, Chris will need a laptop computer or 'Braille Lite'. While other students can share computers or use those provided by the university to complete assignments or research, Chris will need his own with an audio or braille function.

With technology, Chris can study independently. With a scanner he will be able to save printed material to a computer. With JAWS, a screen reading program for his computer, he will be able to access this information without having to rely on a sighted person reading for him.

This technology is available, but it comes at a price. A price that Chris cannot afford. The high cost of essential equipment prohibits many students who are blind or vision impaired from taking up university places, and this is why the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind created the RVIB Further Education Bursaries.

In their sixth year, the Bursaries are awarded to outstanding students to enable them to have access to the same opportunities as the rest of the community.



▲ Chris Baillie, RVIB Further Education Bursary Recipient, 2002

In the form of up to \$4,500 worth of adaptive equipment, nine students, including Chris, were presented with their awards at Ormond Hall by His Worship the Mayor, Stonnington City Council, Councillor Leon Hill.

'RVIB has provided me with financial support at a critical time in my education, allowing me to work towards becoming a successful member of the workplace and of society,' Chris says.

'I would not have been able to go to uni without RVIB's help, and I am incredibly grateful to everyone who has made it possible.'

The other recipients were: Hamish Mackenzie, Melissa Singarella, Suzanne O'Dowd, Nic Bonne, Heath MacLachlan, Kelly Carkeek, Mathew Christo and Krista Fisher.

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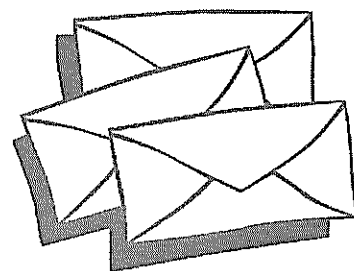
## Have your say!

Please send news of your auxiliary, fundraising events and ideas for the next six months, and interesting information to:

Sue Parkes, RVIB  
557 St Kilda Road  
Melbourne VIC 3004

Telephone (03) 9522 5232  
Fax (03) 9529 6382  
email parkesu@rvib.org.au

Please mark all contributions 'Out and About' and include your name, auxiliary group and phone number.





# A Day with a Disability -

By Steven Hurd, Government Relations, RVIB

Many people look at disability and the access issues that accompany it in sheer disbelief at how a disabled person gets through the day. How does a person in a wheel chair get to the station? How does a person who is blind do their work? Or how does a person who is hard of hearing answer the telephone or front door? Many of these questions precede involvement with a person who has a disability either as a friend, co-worker or a member of a club.

A friend once asked me if she could make a documentary about a day in my life. At first I thought this was silly, but realised there was something to it. If you who are fully able bodied think about your day ahead as you wake up, you may think of all that work you have to do, that bill you have to pay, or that meal with friends you are planning. I do the same, but in addition, I wonder how my walk to the station will go. How many times will I crash into something today? Will the voice in my computer work? If not, I won't be able to work and I may get the blame. Those of you who can read your bills worry about having the money to pay them. I worry that I have missed one and wonder if the telephone, electricity or water is going to be turned off. Then, when I get up I may crash into the wall or dresser, because my lack of eyesight means I don't orientate myself as quickly as others.

The barriers to the full participation of people with disabilities are not just systemic. Nor is it enough to say, 'X is not motivated to getting out there and trying.'

It's true there are lazy people with disabilities (PWDs) and motivated ones just as there are in any community. There are days when S. Hurd is more motivated than other days, just like you. There are days when it's all too hard and I just want to hide from the big nasty world, and those nasty letterboxes that I hit my arms on, and which are just full of bills anyway.

A disability does not necessarily affect one's life in the same way every day. Associated pain may be higher some days, energy may be lower and sometimes one just wants to cry and not be blind or disabled anymore. Able-bodied people sometimes scoff. They say 'X is just bitter about life', or 'get over it', or the standard 'Bill Smith has your problem and he's been round the world ten times on his head on a skate board.' I say Bully for him. For all we know Bill Smith has days when he wishes he didn't have a disability too.

In recreation and in providing real access, it is not about Steven living up to Bill Smith's standards, nor he living up to mine. It is about having the right to make a choice about one's lifestyle and being able to act on those choices.

Whilst ideas and help from organisations and individuals are great, it is important that PWDs are not pushed into programs just to make programs work. PWDs must drive the process and choose their own lifestyles.

To decide whether to attend an event or program, a PWD has many factors to consider: transport, pain levels, health, difficulty of access, the attitude of the people at the event. An obvious, yet often forgotten, fact is that they may not have any interest in the activity. If someone was calling you every week trying to push you into doing something you hated (line dancing, aerobics, bowling) how would you react?

Looking back on each day, or reflecting on life, good memories are of times when we did something we had thought we couldn't do. When we transcended our own expectations by doing something that requires spiritual or emotional strength, or by acting for the greater good in spite of what we wanted to get from a situation for ourselves. When our team makes a gain and we knew how we made a difference in that team or when we shared experience with friends. In each day, or lifetime, we are most proud of those things we do that take real courage. In that sense, PWDs are no different to anyone else. I am so often bemused at the use of the word 'courage' when applied to highly remunerated sports professionals, who are in most cases much more rewarded than you and I.

When we look back on a day after the taxi finally came and after the bleeding stopped on our bruised shins, we end as we start with one choice. This choice was put best by 'Star trek' character Q. The captain was bemoaning the loss of 18 of the crew who had died in an adventure. And Q said: 'you can't explore the universe if you are going to complain and cry the first time you get a bloody nose. If that's the case stay at home...there are wonders to satiate desires both wondrous and gross, but there are also things that can hurt'. Put another way: 'You can either hide away from life and wonder what may have been, or face up to life, skinned knees and all'. Put that way, the choice is quite easy. Isn't it?





# RVIB

June 2002

# Out & About

## Auxiliaries Newsletter



Welcome to the June edition of Out & About!

It certainly is hard to believe that it's June and we're half way through 2002. When I first started in this position in January this year I had great hopes and a sense of anticipation - I find I am enjoying the role even more than I had hoped.

I have met many wonderful people and travelled the length and breadth of Victoria and I've only just begun...

Some highlights include:

- A wonderful roast lunch with Rona and Otto Schilling in Dimboola; afternoon tea at Mrs Oakleigh's house in Donald; hearing the most beautiful poem about the willows and Lake at Murtoa.
- From the dry land of Western Victoria to the seaside auxiliaries at Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove where the auxiliaries are very busy with a hectic schedule of fundraising events.
- Warracknabeal was exceptionally warm and friendly and I look forward to a return trip to have a look around this beautiful old town. Wangaratta was busy, busy, busy and of course I've enjoyed my trips to my friends in Gippsland at the Leongatha Auxiliary, and lunch with the ladies in Mentone.

As I meet you all and hear your stories and see the magnificent results of your fundraising efforts, I realise more and more that auxiliaries aren't just about money. They are about community, friends and a tradition of hard work for a good cause.



*Sue Parkes,  
Auxiliary Coordinator*

There are lots of great things happening for the auxiliaries over the next few months:

### **Blindness Awareness Week Door Knock**

Yes, we are planning a door knock and some of the auxiliaries have very kindly agreed to support us in this way by holding their door knock in the second week of October.

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**Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind**  
557 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne, VIC 3004  
Tel (03) 9522 5222  
Fax (03) 9529 6382  
Website [www.rvib.org.au](http://www.rvib.org.au)  
Email [rvib@rvib.org.au](mailto:rvib@rvib.org.au)

If you would like more information about the door knock and would like your auxiliary to be involved please ring me on 9522 5232. All the participating auxiliaries will be provided with kits for volunteers and we will support you with state-wide media coverage including a rural focus, and volunteer recruitment within your communities.

And the best news is that the funds you raise will be credited to your auxiliary. Join in the fun and be part of the blindness awareness week from October 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, 2002.

### Volunteers Needed in Geelong

It looks as though we are not going to be able to staff the Geelong Christmas Shop this year. This is very disappointing, especially for Judy Drinnan who has worked tirelessly selling Christmas cards for many years.

Judy is still prepared to provide support for us if we can get a team together to help sort the cards and to serve in the shop.

We need someone prepared to go to meetings four times a year and three people three times for half-day shifts over the Christmas period. The cards also need to be picked up and checked and the boxes restocked. It would be great if we could get a few people, including some able bodied men to help us. The more the merrier and we will support you as much as we can from Head Office.

Please call me on 9522 5232 if you feel you could provide support.

### Did you know we had an Opp Shop?

With your broad knowledge of RVIB you probably all knew about the Willaura Opportunity Shop. I was delighted to meet the ladies (and gentleman) of Willaura and to visit their Opportunity Shop. What a great way to support RVIB.

If you have any clothing or shoes that you are tired of or some bric a brac you would like to donate, please call me on 9522 5232 and we will work out a way of collecting the goods and getting them up to Willaura. They also have a "sub-branch" of very capable knitters who would appreciate donations of wool if you have some that has been sitting around for a while.

### Raffle Tickets

RVIB will be running a raffle in August featuring a RAV four-wheel drive as first prize. If you would like some tickets to sell in your community, please call **Kerri Guyett** on (03) 9522 5229 for further details.

### The next six months....

This month there is the Trentham Spud Festival then Christmas in June with the Sorrento Auxiliary and Regional Conferences in Sale and Charlton. Lots of new friends to make and social activities to enjoy while making money for the auxiliaries.

I thank you all for your generosity, hospitality and commitment to RVIB. Don't forget I would be delighted to host a lunch for your auxiliary with a tour of RVIB facilities.

### Dates for your Diaries

- High Tea at the Windsor on **October 10<sup>th</sup>**.
- RVIB Annual Day on **November 16<sup>th</sup>** at the Melbourne Town Hall.

*Sue Parkes*

Sue Parkes  
Telephone 9522 5232.

PS:

I know many of you have already sent in cheques for the end of the financial year. If you haven't sent a cheque in for the end of the financial year it would be greatly appreciated if you could pop one in the mail as soon as possible, backdated to June if necessary.

This means that we can produce a total amount raised by the auxiliaries for this financial year and let you all know as soon as possible.

Thanks for all your work, once again.

## STOP PRESS!

**RVIB pens are now available for auxiliaries!**

If you would like to order a supply for your auxiliary, please telephone

Kerri Guyett on  
(03) 9522 5229 or email  
[guyetke@rvib.org.au](mailto:guyetke@rvib.org.au)



## RVIB



# Around Victoria

## **RVIB Leongatha Auxiliary - President's Report 2002**

In March 2001 Leongatha Auxiliary hosted the RVIB Annual Regional Conference. Local businessman Bradley Westaway opened the conference, and speakers included Mr Bob Slater (RVIB), Greer Bland (Gippsland Region Rehabilitation Officer), and Russell Short and Darren Bone who are both vision impaired.

### **April**

Together with the Korumburra Auxiliary we celebrated our joint 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. Over 100 people attended and were entertained by a variety of local artists.

### **May**

We held our Annual Meeting, chaired by Mr Tom Low, and elected office bearers. Jan Donaldson retired as Treasurer after eight years, and was superseded by Pat Dodson. Light entertainment was provided by a choral group from the local Salvation Army.

### **June**

Our members visited Korumburra Auxiliary for morning coffee and Kongwak Auxiliary for their annual luncheon.

### **July**

We held our morning coffee at the Uniting Church Hall, where over \$400 was raised for RVIB.

### **August**

We all enjoyed a lovely 'Christmas' luncheon at McCartin's Hotel and a meeting followed with a cuppa and slice.

### **September**

We were entertained by the Meeniyan Music Lovers.

### **October**

Korumburra's morning coffee was patronised by members. The meeting was spent busily preparing for our Annual Rose Show and accompanying raffles.

### **November**

Our Annual Rose Show raised almost \$5,000 resulting in a transfer of \$5,500 to RVIB at their Annual Meeting and Luncheon at the Melbourne Town Hall. Four of our members attended the meeting. Our meeting consisted of a long discussion after the Rose Show, followed by a friendly Christmas chat as we don't meet in December or January.

### **February**

Our meeting was held at 'The Manor' in Mt Eccles where Christine Corbidge displayed her craft work and paintings which helped raise over \$400.

Throughout the year we have visited both the Kongwak and Korumburra Auxiliaries, and we have supported each other in our fundraising activities.

Leongatha Auxiliary constantly raises money through activities such as raffles, "No Bake" stalls and social afternoons. Another source of fundraising is through donations from local organisations such as Mrs Benson's "Meeniyon Card Players", who annually donate over \$300. The Anglican Church Op-Shop and Kardella CWA have also helped make donations.

It has been a very full year, but my job has been made much easier with all the help I have received from my hard working committee - Margaret Jerram as Secretary, Pat Dodson as Treasurer and all other members of the Auxiliary.

- **Glenice Griggs**

## **RVIB Willaura Auxiliary**

We had a very successful street stall on 22<sup>nd</sup> March with fine weather and plenty of goodies. We raised \$1,364.85! All stall holders were pleased with the results.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to all volunteer workers at a morning tea party. We were joined by friends and hostel residents who were admitted by gold coin donations. A lovely morning was had by all, and a total of \$55 was raised.

Our calendar clients would like to see RVIB return to their previous format. Our Auxiliary sold \$215 worth of calendars this year.

Our good wishes go to our Treasurer, Judy Gleeson and her husband Bill and family, who are on their move to their new home in Ararat. The good news is Judy is going to continue as our Treasurer.

## **RVIB Hawthorn Auxiliary**

The Hawthorn Auxiliary would like to thank the Boroondara Function Inc. Hawthorn Community Chest for their generous contribution to purchase talking books for adults and children.

- **Olive Williams, President**

## **RVIB Ocean Grove Auxiliary** *News from the Grove -*

The Ocean Grove Auxiliary recently had their Annual General Meeting (13 May 2002) and elected a new President and Treasurer.

Dot Whitehead is now our President and Helen McKean our Treasurer.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Beth Gray (former President) and Lisa Snowden (former Treasurer) for their time and effort as office bearers. Without good leaders it is difficult for an Auxiliary to function and our contribution of \$6,000 to RVIB last Christmas shows it has been a rewarding year for all members.

Last year we had two luncheons. Our Basket Luncheon was held in our local Senior Citizens Clubrooms and included entertainment from the Troubadours and a concert party associated with the Senior Citizens.

We also had a very successful Federation Luncheon in the Uniting Church Hall. This was made memorable as members (both male and female) dressed according to the times and enjoyed looking at the displays of crafts, household items and memorabilia of days gone by. We enjoyed food such as french sticks with vegemite, pies with sauce and Anzac biscuits while being entertained by a pianist and two harmonica players. Our fete in October was an outstanding success, raising just over \$2000, which is a record!

Personally, I have had a couple of highlights already this year. These include attending "The Way Forward" conference held in February at RVIB headquarters, and the Regional Conference at Anglesea in May. Both occasions gave me the opportunity to meet the new staff we are working with and express some of our Auxiliary's concerns. The Auxiliary now feels that better working relationships are being developed between us and headquarters, and I look forward to a rewarding year for all concerned.

- **Dianne Sapwell**



## **RVIB Donald Auxiliary-** *By Win McClelland, Hon. Sec.*

We as an Auxiliary are sorry to advise the passing of one of our members - **Mr Jack Golding**.

Jack has been a member of the Auxiliary for many years and has attended all of our meetings and functions since his retirement together with his wife Joan.

Jack worked with his father Walter in the furniture and hardware business WG Golding and Co. Mr Walter Golding was responsible for advertising the Touring Blind Concerts many years ago, and sold items such as mats and baskets which were made in the RVIB vision impaired workshops.

Jack will be missed by all his fellow members and we extend our sincere condolences to his family.

On a different note, a very happy social day was held at the home of Mary and Catherine Oakley on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2002. This home has been the special venue for a meeting and fundraising occasion for many years. There were 23 members in attendance, and speeches made by Sue Parkes and Jan Doran were enjoyed by all.

Sue and Jan were made very welcome and kept everyone entertained by sharing their information and life experiences. Approximately \$200 was raised through admittance and a competition.

## **RVIB Portland Auxiliary**

The Portland Auxiliary was saddened by the loss of our valued and long time member, **Mrs Joyce Costello**.

Joyce passed away on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2002 and was associated with the RVIB Auxiliaries for over 50 years. Joyce was also awarded an OAM earlier this year.

- **Pat Punch, Hon. Sec.**

## **RVIB Murtoa Auxiliary**

Murtoa Auxiliary currently has 16 members who hold meetings twice per year. To raise money we hold a street stall and a raffle at the June Market.

We attend regional conferences and an annual Christmas party in Melbourne.

### **Murtoa's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations**

On 10<sup>th</sup> May 2000, Murtoa Auxiliary celebrated 70 years of service.

The minutes of the first Murtoa Auxiliary were read, and we enjoyed our RVIB guest speakers Janet Robins (Rural Services Coordinator), Sue Parkes (Auxiliary Coordinator) and Jan Doran.

Other highlights included poetry readings from local identity Mary Rabl, and musical entertainment by Coral Blobell and Deidre Ladlow.

All members thoroughly enjoyed the day and were very impressed with the guest speakers.

The birthday cake was cut by long serving members Audrey Hately and Vera Irwin.

## **RVIB Yarrawonga Auxiliary**

The Yarrawonga Auxiliary celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2000 with a Luncheon at Burkes Hotel.

After a welcome by Auxiliary President Mrs Jean Riches, a delicious luncheon was served.

The Secretary later read the Auxiliary's first Annual Report, which was printed in the Yarrawonga Chronicle on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1933.

Some beautiful flowers were presented to Mrs Laura Birthisel to recognise her 20 years as Treasurer. Mrs Margaret Corboy also received flowers in recognition of her 30 years as Hon. Secretary.

Our celebrations concluded with the cutting of a birthday cake.

- **Margaret Corboy, Hon. Sec.**

## RVIB Frankston Auxiliary

I sadly advise of the passing of one of our well-loved members, **Mrs Clare Belbin** on Tuesday 14th May, aged 86 years.

Clare's health had been slowly failing, and shortly before she passed away she had suffered a severe stroke down the left side of her body. She was hospitalised firstly in Frankston and later in Mount Eliza where she peacefully passed away.

Clare has always been a popular and hardworking member of our small Auxiliary. Where possible she brought produce for our trading table and always enjoyed playing and calling bingo.

In the past, when our Auxiliary was larger, she hosted a function at her home.

Clare's family attended a lovely service at Frankston on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2002 where all her wonderful attributes were mentioned, of which there were many.

We salute her, thank her very much for her work and will always miss her love and kindness.

Clare had been a member of the Auxiliary for approximately 25 years.

## Share your news!

Please send news of your auxiliary, fundraising events and ideas for the next six months, and interesting information to:

The Editor, Out and About  
RVIB  
557 St Kilda Road  
Melbourne VIC 3004

Tel (03) 9522 5233, Fax (03) 9529 6382.  
Email [kosacs@rvib.org.au](mailto:kosacs@rvib.org.au)

Please mark all contributions 'Out and About' and include your name, Auxiliary group and phone number.

## AUXILIARY NEWS

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### Alma receives Life Governorship



*President Gwen Elliott and Secretary Rona Schilling present Alma Ward with her certificate.*

**As published in the Dimboola Banner,  
Wednesday May 15, 2002**

Last Sunday, May 12, Mrs Alma Ward was presented with a Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind (RVIB) Life Governorship by fellow members Gwen Elliott and Rona Schilling.

Mrs Ward has been a very active member of Dimboola's group, having crocheted and donated three single bed rugs, two cot rugs and five knee rugs as well as doing other volunteer work within the group since 1992.

Auxiliary Coordinator for RVIB, Mrs Sue Parkes from Melbourne was to present Alma with her award last Friday, but Alma wasn't home, so Gwen and Rona had the honor to do so on Sunday.

There are approximately 29 members in Dimboola's group, some of whom have also received Life Governorship as well as other awards.

Alma wasn't aware of her achievements being recognised until Sunday morning when the President and Secretary knocked on her door.

Alma was pleasantly surprised, saying she feels very honored to receive it, although she said that all the other members were just as worthy as her.

# Surprise Award for Glenice



*Sue Parkes presented Glenice with the certificate for her work.*

**As published in the South Gippsland Sentinel Times, Tuesday May 28, 2002.**

For Glenice Griggs, it was an ordinary Leongatha Blind Auxiliary annual general meeting last week that is until she was surprised with an award.

As auxiliary president, Glenice became suspicious when she noticed someone carrying something in a frame.

"I knew nothing about it". Glenice said last week, as fellow auxiliary members congratulated her. She was presented with a Life Governor award from the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind (RVIB).

The 54-year-old has been a member of the Leongatha Blind Auxiliary for 14 years after following her mother in law to one of the meetings.

Since then she has spent countless hours in the kitchen baking for fundraisers and has been president for the last 11 years.

"I do throw myself into the Auxiliary. It's one of the main things that I do".

To raise money for the RVIB, the Auxiliary holds morning teas, street stalls, social afternoons and musical afternoons. But their main fundraiser each year is the Leongatha Rose Show.

"In the last 12 months we have handed over \$7,000 to RVIB.

It's been a record year, we gave them \$5,500 at Christmas time and \$1,500 today", Glenice said.

The RVIB uses funds to support 12,000 clients in Victoria, 40% of whom live in rural areas with quite a few hailing from South Gippsland.

This year will be Glenice's twelfth as Leongatha Rose Show Secretary.

"My main reason for joining was that they were short of helpers at the rose show one year.

"Evelyn Sage took me along to a rose show and taught me what to do and I sort of got a job from there... and I've been working ever since".

Glenice is also involved in the Leongatha Horticulture Auxiliary, Farm Net and Ladies in Farming.

She was presented the Life Governor award at last Tuesday's Auxiliary Annual General Meeting by RVIB's Community Relationship Manager, Sue Parkes.

The Life Governor award recognises the quality of the service given, rather than the quantity, Sue said.

"Glenice brings persistence, determination, energy and a great personality and charm", Sue said.

More than 50 people joined Glenice for a celebratory luncheon at the Leongatha Uniting Church Hall.

## Belgrave Auxiliary



*Belgrave Auxiliary members*

Ian McDonald and I met with Iris and Rose at home in Belgrave to thank them for their many years of commitment and fundraising through the Belgrave Auxiliary.

We had a delightful afternoon and it was with great sadness that I accepted the handover of all the files and memorabilia from the years of the Belgrave Auxiliary.

Iris and Rose have agreed to keep in touch, and we hope to see them at the Annual Day on November 16th and the High Tea at the Windsor Hotel on Thursday 10th October.

- Sue Parkes

## Castlemaine Auxiliary



*Lynette Carter (centre) accepted the award on her mother's behalf with President Alma Chaplin (right) and Eileen Piper (left).*

Castlemaine Auxiliary recently presented a Certificate of Appreciation for the services of their late Secretary, Mrs Lyle Davis, to her daughter, Mrs Lynette Carter. Lyle had been on the Castlemaine Auxiliary for 38 years and Secretary for 28 years. She was a wonderful Secretary - loved by the committee and everyone in Castlemaine. Her passing has been a great loss to the community.

## DID YOU KNOW?

RVIB has a rich history spanning over 130 years of providing services to people who are blind or vision impaired.



**RVIB**

In November 1866, in rented premises on Commercial Road,

Prahran, an institute was founded to take care of the needs of people who are blind or vision impaired in Victoria.

The following year, land was purchased on St Kilda Road and a bluestone building for residential occupancy by children and adults was constructed at a cost of around £6,000.

On Saturday 25th January 1868 at 3pm the foundation stone for the "Victorian Asylum and School for the Blind" was laid by the Mayor of Melbourne the Hon. George Harker. There were more than 50 people in attendance and a time capsule containing newspapers and currency of the day was buried under the foundation stone.

# Do Touch!

## Unique international exhibition's Melbourne visit

RVIB recently hosted the very successful *Egypt by Touch* exhibition which showcased a collection of 35 ancient Egyptian replica artifacts especially made for people who are blind or vision impaired.

Gathered together and managed by the Rundle Foundation and Macquarie University, the collection was designed to provide a truly

unique experience to all its visitors. It opened up the exciting world of Ancient Egypt to people who are blind or vision impaired by allowing visitors to handle the artifacts which include Nefertiti's Bust, Old Kingdom Scarab and a Late Period Bronze Cat.

*"This exhibition opens a new world of pleasure that has not previously been available to the sight impaired. It opens doors to those touching and feeling Egyptian antiquities for the first time".*

*Dr. Val Rundle, Rundle Foundation*

The exhibition has been shown all around the world including London, Prague, Cairo and Sydney.

The exhibition was held in the foyer of 101 Collins Street Melbourne, and was visited by hundreds of people from school groups, to clients and those working in surrounding offices. Feedback from visitors was excellent, and this was a great way to raise awareness of RVIB.

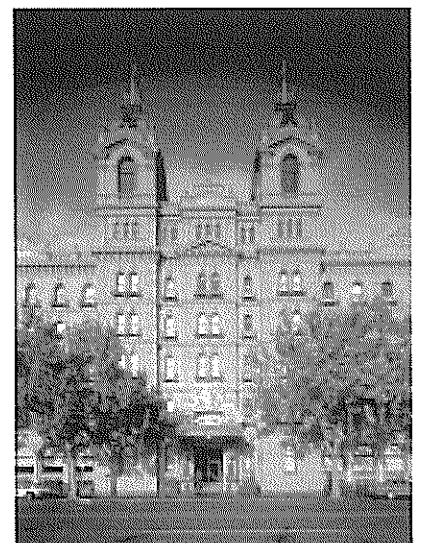


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## Your invitation to High Tea at the Windsor

To celebrate RVIB and its work over the past 136 years, you are invited to attend the Windsor Hotel on 10 October for high tea in the Grand Ballroom from 2pm - 4.30pm. You will be served with a traditional tea in the historic hotel on Spring Street, Melbourne, and a guest speaker and other entertainment will add further highlights to this day we know you will enjoy.

The cost per person is \$40. Bookings are essential. Call **Ian McDonald** on **(03) 9522 5218**. If you have concerns about transportation, please let us know and we will do our best to make some arrangements.



# Support Skills Program

Bridget Jolley, now 16, has a cataract and severe short sightedness, and has been vision impaired since birth.

Bridget attends mainstream school - Avila College in Mount Waverley and twice a term, on a Friday, she comes to the RVIB School at Burwood for the RVIB Support Skills Program.

Started in 1985, the Support Skills Program was set up for students who are integrated into mainstream schools, but find they need extra help in certain areas or with issues arising from their blindness or vision impairment.

Garry Stinchcombe, Coordinator of the Support Skills Program, says that while integration has allowed students of all abilities to be educated together, for students who are blind or vision impaired, there are some unique learning skills that are best taught by RVIB.

Bridget, for instance, finds that her vision impairment affects her day to day learning because she is unable to read for extended periods, finds small text difficult to keep focused on, and is unable to read from the blackboard without the assistance of a monocular.

Recently, even finding her way around the renumbered classrooms of her school has been a challenge.

'I have to stand right under the door to read the numbers to see if I'm in the right classroom,' she says. 'It can be a bit embarrassing if I get it wrong.'

At the beginning of each year, students nominate the subjects that will be of greatest benefit to them. Garry then uses this information to set the program for the year.

'We treat the needs of each student individually, and keep the numbers in each class small,' he explains. 'That means they can spend ample time learning and practicing these unique skills.'

From a range of subjects including Braille Skills, Orientation and Mobility, Library and Research Skills, Bridget's favourite is Adaptive Technology. She has learnt to use a laptop in the classroom every day because it suites her better than any other option.

'I can keep up with the class, and by using large fonts for words and icons on the screen, I can see everything clearly,' she says.



'I have learnt to use key commands instead of the mouse, which can be difficult to find on the screen. Using key strokes to tell the cursor what to do gives me more control.'

Another favourite is Drama. In lessons, the students are encouraged by teacher Barb Forehan to enact everyday situations, and come up with ways of dealing with them.

For Bridget coming to RVIB is about more than learning new technical skills.

'Support Skills helps me with everyday issues and gives me the opportunity to meet other people who are vision impaired.'

'They understand what I'm going through and we talk about specific vision impaired issues.'

Garry, who is also blind, agrees with Bridget. 'The Program really is about giving the students the opportunity to learn new skills, and also an opportunity for them to talk and learn from students in similar situations.'

'They enjoy coming to the program twice a term because it gives them an emotional break. They don't feel different and they don't have to pretend to be sighted.'

*Tours of the RVIB School can be booked by contacting Sue Parkes on (03) 9522 5232.*



# OUT & ABOUT

## Message from Auxiliary Coordinator Kerri Guyett

*RVIB Board, staff and clients wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*



RVIB

### Dear Auxiliary Friends

For those of you whom I haven't had the pleasure of meeting, I am Kerri your Auxiliary Coordinator. I have been in this role for more than two months and have worked with RVIB since December 2001.

While I was at home with my three children I was involved with various clubs and committees. Although hard work at times, this never outweighed the fun or friendships that I have made.

*Kerri Guyett, Auxiliary Coordinator*



My return to the workforce has also been very rewarding. Thank you to the auxiliary members whom I have met, for their warm welcome. I look forward to meeting all of you in the New Year.

I would like to work with you in organising some events that are appropriate to the interests of your members and people in your area. If you have had a successful fundraising event and would like to share your ideas with other auxiliary members please send the details to me and I will include them in *Out & About*. If you haven't already done so, could you forward any dates you would like me to include in my diary for 2003. Please call me on 9522 5232 or on mobile 0405 186 400. I plan to attend as many meetings and events as possible.

As you are aware Annual Day has been postponed and we look forward to holding a very special event in March or April 2003. Further details will be available in the New Year.

It's that time of year again and I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

I am looking forward to a very successful year of fundraising and especially look forward to forming many new friendships.

Merry Christmas

**Kerri Guyett**

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As Christmas approaches it is always worthwhile to reflect on the major achievements from the



preceding 12-month period. In an environment of global tension and insecurity RVIB has continued to move forward.

We owe the success of 2002 to the many people who constantly give their time and dedication to the organisation to ensure that we can keep on providing our services free to any Victorian who is blind or vision impaired.

For over 70 years, you, our auxiliaries, have been committed to RVIB. Your contribution is easily seen in the smiles, independence and outstanding achievements of our clients.

This year RVIB's auxiliaries have held events throughout metropolitan and regional Victoria. These events and activities not only raise money but they also significantly increase awareness of blind and vision impairment issues with a reach that is only possible through these networks.

Meeting many of you at the High Tea at The Windsor Hotel was a highlight for me and I look forward what we can achieve together next year.

Looking ahead, 2003 promises

to be significant for blind and vision impaired service provision as Project Nexus continues to review the feasibility of a national blindness agency.

RVIB Carols by Candlelight, the biggest fundraising event on our calendar, is fast approaching and once again looks as though it will be a memorable evening for everyone who attends as well as the hundreds of thousands of Australians who will view it in their lounge rooms via the Nine Network telecast.

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas. Thank you to each of the 77 auxiliaries for your commitment to RVIB and may the New Year bring health and happiness to you and your family.

Regards,

Doug Kent

## RVIB Carols by Candlelight



**RVIB Carols by Candlelight  
24th December 2002  
Sidney Myer Music Bowl**

Enjoy the festive spirit while you relax under the stars at Australia's favourite Christmas Eve tradition - Qantas presents RVIB Carols by Candlelight.

### General Admission to the Lawn

\$25: Adults  
\$18: Child (under 16) & Pensioners

### Seating

\$61: Adults  
\$36: Child (under 16) / Pensioners  
\$170: Family (2 adults & 2 children)

Please note: prices include GST and booking fees; gates open at 5pm, main show starts at 9.00pm; children under three years seated on an adult knee are free; no chairs, glass or umbrellas can be taken to the venue.

For tickets call Ticketmaster7 on 136 100. For more information visit our website at [www.rvibcarolsbycandlelight.com.au](http://www.rvibcarolsbycandlelight.com.au).





# Around Victoria

## RVIB Mentone Auxiliary

We have great pleasure to announce that Barbara Naylor is our new President and is doing a great job in this position. Barbara Round continues in the position of secretary with Dot McKenzie in her second year as treasurer.

We have an average attendance rate of 18 members per meeting. We seem to lose one member but gain another so our numbers stay stable.

New members Margaret Ryan and May Newell are a welcome addition to our group.

We continue with our trading table where we sell various donated items and are able to raise much needed funds.

As part of our monthly activities, we recently held a lunch where a few ladies simulated what it would be like to be blind and manage eating a meal, by covering their eyes with blindfolds. Other activities have included listening to guest speakers and viewing a demonstration of various new cookery products.

Our local Opportunity Shop helps support our aims for which we are grateful. We travelled to Sorrento to join them for their Christmas in July luncheon and hope to see them again for their next luncheon. We always enjoy these social outings with other Auxiliaries and try to support them whenever possible.

**Barbara Round, Hon. Secretary**

## RVIB Swan Hill Auxiliary

The RVIB Swan Hill Auxiliary members held a very successful regional conference in August with members from Merbein, Kerang and Sea Lake Auxiliaries joining in. It was great to have Sue Parkes with us to very capably compare the conference. Three of our members visited Cohuna for their 70<sup>th</sup> birthday party.

It is with regret that we have received the resignation of our Secretary Mrs Euna O'Bree who was in her 20<sup>th</sup> year as our Secretary. Euna has been a wonderful worker

for the Auxiliary and was well known for her sponges, tomato sauce, relish and jams. Euna's health is not as good as it could be and she is now a resident at "Barkly Place" in Bendigo.

Our members are few, and we concentrate on one fundraiser now, which is a monthly Card Party.

**Mrs Grace Manson,  
Assistant Secretary**

## Life Governor Awards



▲ Thelma Powell receives her Life Governor's Certificate for outstanding service at Boort's 70th Anniversary. Presented by Carol O'Reilly.



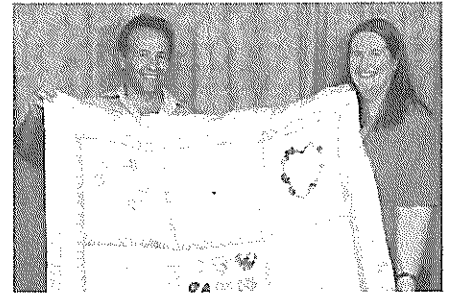
▲ President of RVIB Boort Auxiliary was caught totally by surprise when presented with her Life Governor's certificate by Carol at the same function.



# Sorrento Auxiliary

## Annual General Meeting Report 01/02

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▲ The magnificent quilt raffled for \$900.

After such a busy year we are all wondering where the last 12 months have gone! We certainly keep ourselves busy at Sorrento and we know it is not possible without the help of our spouses, families and close friends.

Much of our success also depends on the support of the local community. We are indebted to Henry Travis who each year continues to donate wonderful items for our raffles, as does Mrs Anne MacKinnon. Our group also thanks Mrs Doris Gilbert for her generous and continued donation of profits from the sale of her knitted football bears. Thank you also to the Creswick Craft Ladies for their beautiful items for our christmas lunch trading table.

Last year Karen and Noreen Daniel presented us with the most magnificent quilt. We were thrilled to receive it and to raffle it over six months, as we raised over \$900. Thank you to Mr and Mrs Brash for drawing the winning ticket.

During October we again held a street stall. We had new ideas poached from Adelaide, which we started working on, and of course, we started to prepare 'mystery prize buckets' for the November lunch.

On the morning of our November lunch, panic initially struck when we received a telephone call at 9.10am that our speaker would no longer be attending! Fortunately Mr Bob Breeden stepped in and not only helped us organise equipment at the hall, but also gave a wonderful and informative talk on roses, answering questions table by table. We are

extremely grateful to Bob for helping us in such a crisis.

In December we had our meeting to plan the January street stall, and also enjoyed a lovely breakup lunch. Later that month we travelled to Melbourne and enjoyed a lovely lunch and concert at the Melbourne Town Hall to commemorate the Year of the Volunteer.

January is busy in the Sorrento Main Street and again our stall reaped the rewards of this. Our new baby baskets were very popular. The barbeque a fortnight later was a most friendly and relaxing evening at Henry and Jean's. Thank you so much to the chef of the night - great job!

March is conference month on the Peninsula and we were off to Mentone for their perennial conference. We thank Mentone for hosting the day and it is our turn next year. This time we traveled by bus and this was so much easier for us with Norm Mackinnon picking us up along the way.

Easter saw us once again in the street only this year we had the wonderful quilt to raffle. The winner, a gentleman, was thrilled to take it home to his wife and daughters.

In April we enjoyed a wonderful day at Buckley's Chance. Fred also donated a prize for our raffle.

In May on a chilly day we enjoyed our soup and slices luncheon, followed by a pearl jewellery display. Plans were also well in hand for the Christmas in June lunch.

We thank Betsy for allowing us to hold our June meeting at her home. Ian McDonald was a welcome guest from RVIB and also the most magnificent bus driver. Those who won a door prize took great delight in choosing a gift from under the tree. As always we are indebted to Pat, Noreen, Bill & Wayne, (from Creswick) for their help in the kitchen, and to Chris and Renee for their waitressing skills. It was a busy day but gratifying to be able to hand over a cheque to Ian for \$7,500.00

July is the month we have off as we think we deserve it after such a busy year.

Our birthday month is August and we all look forward to being able to go to the movies and enjoying lunch afterwards. Each person chose a surprise gift from the birthday basket to help share the day.

Over the past year we have presented Life Governor certificates to Mrs Connie Easton and Mr Henry Travis. We welcomed new members Mollie Catchpole, Carol Marr, Margaret Harris and Rikki Callaghan. Certificates of appreciation went out to Miss Greer Arnott, Mrs Cottrell and Mr Mick Gallace.

Always in our thoughts and prayers are Connie and Bill Easton.

It was with regret in September that we farewelled Carol who is moving to Townsville to live. We would also like to thank Richard Davies for all the computer help he has given us over the year.



## Farewell to Ena and Ern

The Wimmera Health Care Group Dimboola Campus Appeals Auxiliary farewelled Ern and Ena Rudolph at the Dimboola Hotel last Saturday evening with a counter meal.

Also present were a number of people from other organisations that the Rudolphs were involved in.

Ern and Ena came to Dimboola in 1980 when they built their beautiful home near the Nine Creeks reserve. In the 22 years, Ena and Ern have been closely involved in many community activities.

President of the Dimboola Hospital Appeals Auxiliary Pam Bothe presented Ern and Ena with a certificate of appreciation in recognition of many years' of commitment to the Hospital and their involvement with the Appeals Auxiliary.

The certificate featured a photo of the new Hospital. The president thanked Ern and Ena and wished them well and happiness in their home in Adelaide.

Cr John Kemfert paid tribute to Ern as a former Councillor in the Old Dimboola Shire Council, and he wished them all the best and said that Dimboola will always be here to visit.

Max Budde spoke of Ern's involvement with the Nine Creeks when he and Pam were caretakers at the Dimboola Caravan Park for 16 years. He wished them all the best for their retirement.

Shirley Kemfert thanked Ern and Ena for their great help at the Bargain Shop, saying it was sad to see them leave.

Pam Budde said Ern was the only man to join the Garden Club and appreciated the work he did.

On behalf of the Lutheran Church Ian Lehmann said Ena and Ern were both always there to greet people, and were involved with everything in the Church. Ian thanked them for all they had done for Dimboola.

Lesley McKenzie told of Ern's involvement in Red Cross for 10 years, and said both had done a lot around the town and will be missed.

Ena thanked everybody for coming and said when they first came to Dimboola they were almost ran out of town, as within the first few years there was the big fire, flood and drought, but said it had been a wonderful 22 years, that they really love Dimboola and the lovely people.

Ern, who also spoke about the fire, said that as their family went away they became involved in the community, whether it was selling raffle tickets in the street or anything else, they enjoyed it all, especially working for the German Fest for the past eight years, which he thinks has done wonders for the town.

Ern said that being involved in so many organisations over the years they have met wonderful people. He commented on Dimboola's human touch and said that they will be sorry to go.

Peter and Maureen Burke of Adelaide have bought the Rudolph's home. Last Sunday neighbours in Wimmera Street put on a farewell barbecue lunch for Ern and Ena at Warren and Jan's home.

### **RVIB Dimboola Auxiliary Farewell Ena and Ern**

After 16 years of dedicated service to the RVIB Dimboola Auxiliary, Mrs Ena Rudolph will sadly be leaving the Auxiliary as she is moving house to Adelaide with husband Ern.

On 18 September at the monthly Senior Citizen's luncheon, Mrs Rona Schilling presented a small gift to Ena on behalf of the Auxiliary in appreciation of her service. Ena was President from 1989-97 and Vice President from 1997-2000. She also opened her home for meetings and our share luncheons. We will miss her friendship and assistance over the years and are sad to see Ena and Ern go. We wish them many happy and healthy years in their new home.

PS: Ena and Ern will be celebrating their 61<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary on 26<sup>th</sup> December.  
- Mrs Rona Schilling

# 13 years of memories

Farewell from Carol O'Reilly



Well, I can hardly believe that this will be the last time I write for *Out and About*. After 13 amazing years

working with RVIB, I am about to retire. Over those years I have worked in 4 different positions, but without any doubt, Auxiliary Co-ordinator has been the one I enjoyed the most. I met so many incredible, inspirational people and to this day maintain friendships that were formed during those early years. Earlier this year I had the opportunity to do the job again for six weeks whilst Sue Parkes was ill and it was great to see so many familiar faces. Here I was attending all the 70th anniversaries, having already presented 60th anniversary vases! Change is constant these days, but luckily some things stay the same; the warm welcome and of course the delicious food. The cream cakes - they were the beginning of my

downfall in the weight department all those years ago!

To each and everyone of you I say thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you have done for our clients and for the attributes I learned through our association. Generosity, hard work, commitment, trust, caring and the great camaraderie shared when working for a common cause.

I am now going to join my husband who has been retired for the past year. (I not sure that he's looking forward to having me around every day!) We are about to renovate our house, I will continue to dabble in my 'hobby' of tourism and then we hope to 'hit the road' and head for the wilds of Broome or the Kimberley.

I know you will all keep up the hard work under Kerri's guidance. Have a safe and happy Christmas. I wish you a New Year of peace and good health.

Warmest wishes

Carol

## Bonnie's Town

Extract from the "Echo" Colaci Otway Bellarine Surf Coast



Bonnie Cameron knows Barwon Heads inside out. Bonnie has lived in the seaside town since 1949 and has seen the

town grow into a bustling holiday destination.

She remembers everything from the 1952 floods when her family lost everything, to the changes sparked by the popular ABC television program Sea Change.

Bonnie said she loved her life in Barwon Heads and nothing could get in the way of her enjoying it.

And during her years in Barwon Heads, Bonnie has been involved in everything from the football club to volunteering at the Anglican Church opportunity shop.

Her community involvement stretches across organizations including the Country Women's Association, pony club, film society, and the Association of Barwon Heads. In fact, you can't drive down the main street of Barwon Heads without seeing her name. Painted on a sign on a wall of the Barwon Heads Community Hall is the contact details for B. Cameron. Bonnie is the hall's booking officer.

■ **Bonnie Cameron is a member of the RVIB Barwon Heads Auxiliary**

## Help RVIB by shopping at Ritchies

It's that easy. Do your grocery and liquor shopping at a Ritchies store and 1% of the money you spend will be donated to RVIB. Just complete a Ritchies Community Benefit Card, nominate RVIB as your charity and each month RVIB will automatically receive your shopping credits.

For more information on this simple way to help RVIB raise much needed funds, please call Kerri Guyett on (03) 9522 5232.

# RVIB Euroa Auxiliary News

By Kathleen Kelly

I would like to fill in Auxiliary members on the voluntary work undertaken on the large print Euroa Gazette, to benefit those who are vision impaired. To do this I must mention some of the history of how it all began. Some years ago, one very special Euroa citizen, George Hunter, saw the need for a large print edition of the weekly paper. He realised that some people with impaired vision could not even read newspapers with their reading glasses.

George started the project and was the sole worker on it for some time. Later he received the voluntary help of members from the Euroa Rotary Club. They assisted each week with the cutting, pasting and reassembling of the paper. The Rotary Club then took the whole project over and paid for the 'Large Print Reproduction'.

After some years the Rotary Club members asked for assistance from members of the Probus Club. The Probus Club is not a service club, but most of its members are involved in all sorts of service work around the town, such as Church Auxiliaries, Cancer Council, Lions Club, Meals-on-Wheels, Senior Citizens, Sports Clubs and so forth.

Initially eight of our Probus members volunteered under the leaderships of Barbara Saxon and went about collating the information. This involves editing the paper back to 16 pages (from 24) and reassembling it on to A4 paper in sequence as near as possible to the original. The next step is to take the paper to the Gazette office where it is approved by the editor and reproduced on to the original large size paper by Euroa

Printers. Different volunteers then deliver the finished product to a number of locations including the Amaroo Nursing Home, Euroaville Hostel, Euroa Hospital, Euroa Library, Day Care Centre, The Currie Homes and the Violet Town Nursing Home.

It must be noted that the large print Gazette is produced only for the above named venues. It is not a full copy of the paper as advertisements and various other items are edited out. It is not available to members of the general public for sale, due to the extra costs associated with its reproduction. It is available at the Euroa Library each Tuesday afternoon until Friday. After Friday it can be taken home to read and returned at the reader's own discretion.

Many of our Big Print Volunteers are members of both Rotary and Probus, or are wives of the Rotarians. This includes Joy Elston, Monica Board and Helen Dewan. The other volunteers are our leader Barbara Saxon, Margaret Parkinson, Lillian Nugent, Kathleen Kelly, Kay McGregor, Barbara Leahy, Gwen Malone and emergencies Gwen Lang, Phyllis Dean, Vi Kitchen, Evonne Owens and Norma Canter (who also attends to deliveries) as does Frank Cullen.

The Big Print Volunteers were invited to a Rotary Club Dinner in November to thank them for keeping their special project going. George Hunter, who originated the project, was presented with a copy of the book 'Valuing the Volunteers' which includes a story by Kathleen Kelly.

## Food for thought!

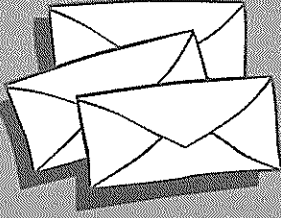
Words of wisdom from Elizabeth Davies to bring a smile to your day...



- A balanced diet is a tim tam in each hand
- Junk is the stuff you kept for years then threw away three weeks before you want it.
- Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognise a mistake when you make it again.
- By the time you make ends meet they have moved.
- If it weren't for stress I'd have no energy at all.
- Dogs have owners, cats have staff.
- If the shoe fits - buy one in every colour.
- If you're too open minded your brains will fall out.
- Everyone has a photographic memory some just don't have film.
- Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself.
- Opportunities always look bigger going than coming.
- Once over the hill, you pick up speed.
- I love cooking with wine. Sometimes I even put it in the food!

# Open letter

Dear Sue, Kerri and Wanda,



We have many happy memories of your visit to our Auxiliary's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations in Cohuna. The local newspaper printed its version although of course it cannot recapture the pleasant atmosphere or attentive interest of almost 100 people. I am sure our collectors have been revitalised while the community generally have become more aware of the services of RVIB.

Thank you Wanda for your inspiring address and also for your entertaining and informative talk to the children. They were delightful with their keen questions and spontaneous appreciation. Their joyful rendering of "Happy Birthday", with the insertion of their special little verse sings on in my mind. In fact, may I end this note of goodwill and gratitude by quoting the children's verse:

**"To old friends and new,  
To good friends and true,  
May God's blessing go with you  
And happiness too."**

(to be sandwiched between two choruses of Happy Birthday - a gentle reminder of something other than gifts at this special time or indeed anytime!).

Yours sincerely,  
**Alison Mawson, President,  
Cohuna Auxiliary of RVIB**

## Donald's RVIB Auxiliary Meets

*Extract from the Buloke Times, 12/11/02*

The Donald Auxiliary of RVIB held its annual meeting at the home of Phyl and Don Broughton on November 4, with 19 members attending.

Margaret Pearse was elected as the president, with Joan Smith, Treasurer and Win McClelland once again takes up the Secretary's position, which she has held since 1990.

In answering a question from the RVIB, "When to we retire", the answer was "We do not retire; we just swap places!".

The members hope they can do just that and keep the Auxiliary functioning for a few more years.

As guest speaker, Beth Hollis told of her Insight tour of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, along with her husband Norm.

The Auxiliary is indebted to the people of Donald for supporting the annual street appeal and the "basket of goodies" campaign during last year's Christmas promotion, enabling a contribution of \$1,000 to be made to RVIB.

Members regret losing member Dawn Hollis, who is moving to Bendigo. She has been a regular attendee and has benefited from the RVIB service.

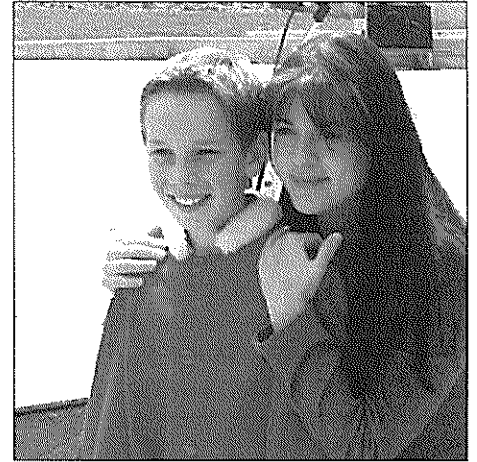
They are also grateful to the "Buloke Times" for publishing these reports, and to Mary and Catherine Oakley for opening their home over many years for the social day in April or May.

The meeting closed with the singing of "Happy Birthday" to Mary for her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary, and the cutting of the cake, shared by all at afternoon tea.

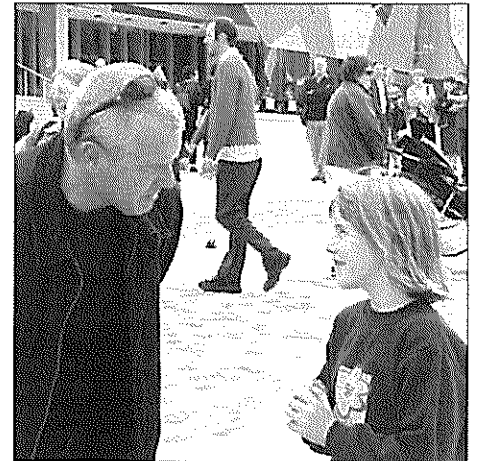
## Crowds enjoy Carols Launch

Federation Square came alive on Friday, 13th December at the official launch of this year's **Qantas presents RVIB Carols by Candlelight**.

Passers-by enjoyed a sneak-peak at some of the performers below:



▲ Vanessa Amorosi with a member of the National Boys Choir



▲ Daryl Braithwaite chats to a young fan



▲ Adoration Choir had help from school children during their gospel-style carols

# RVIB Cohuna Auxiliary's 70 year Milestone

*As reported in the Farmer's Weekly, 4/19/02*

A milestone of continued effort and hard work to enhance the life of people who are blind or vision impaired was celebrated in Cohuna last week.

The town branch of the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind toasted its 70th anniversary on Friday.

Over 80 branch volunteers, former members and district residents filled the Cohuna Memorial Hall to join in the birthday celebrations that included several guest speakers from the institute.

Branch president, Alison Mawson officially opened the event by ringing a gold bell presented to the branch by RVIB 20 years ago, during its 50th anniversary.

Mrs Mawson described the occasion as an opportunity to honour the many branch volunteers who have made enormous contributions through volunteered time and a over the years.

The birthday was also an opportunity for all attending to learn more about RVIB and how the raised funds are spent from guest speaker, Wanda Egerton.

Blind since birth, Mrs Egerton has been involved with the Royal Institute for the Blind for over 40 years.

Her involvement began at the age of five, when she commenced her education at RVIB's school.

Here she learnt basic school and living skills such as Braille for nine

years before she transferred to a regular secondary college.

She described this period of transition as the hardest time of her life as she suddenly became aware of the sighted-world.



*Pearl Barton (centre) and Joan Haynes (right) at the celebrations, with RVIB client Wanda Egerton (left).*

However, RVIB helped her adjust to this change through the continued provision of special services, such as speech lessons, Braille books, magazines, watches, cheques and talking book machines.

"A lot of funding from RVIB goes into developing and producing special technology, all of which is very costly," Mrs Egerton said.

A computer especially modified for a blind or vision impaired person can cost a minimum of around \$10,000 with special Braille suitable print costing \$10 per sheet.

"Although it is very costly, the use of this technology and the support of RVIB made me realise that we're all the same," she said.

Mrs Egerton is married to a man, who like her has been totally blind since birth, and the couple have a teenage son, who has complete sight.

"So many people have concerns about how blind people complete everyday tasks like cooking and cleaning, but eight is just one of many senses and most things can be done through touch and feel.

I've never seen my son, but looks are only skin deep and I know him through his personality, the tone in his voice and his footsteps," Mrs Egerton said.

When her son was younger, she joined his school's parents association and helped out with numerous fund raising tasks.

"I can well understand the hard work that volunteers put in and the funds raised by the branch members is very well used and appreciated to enhance the daily life of the blind.

"RVIB opened up the world to me and it is a place of joy not sadness as I can do all sorts of things," Mrs Egerton said.

At the conclusion of the celebrations and in keeping up with the tradition of birthdays, the branch sang 'Happy Birthday'.

Cohuna RVIB client Nessie Harrower and branch long-standing treasurer Joan Haynes had the honour of cutting the cake.

The celebrations were also an opportunity to present Mrs Haynes with a certificate of appreciation for 23 years volunteer work.

Pearl Barton was also inducted as a Life Governor for 30 years of service. Before all enjoyed a slice of the birthday cake, Mrs Mawson presented to Mrs Egerton a cheque for \$2000 from the Auxiliary to RVIB.

# Solicitors extend special rate to RVIB supporters

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As a community service, RVIB has arranged a number of solicitors throughout Victoria to offer a special rate to RVIB supporters and their families who wish to make or update their wills. The nominal fee for a standard will is \$60 inclusive of GST. You can take advantage of this excellent offer by making an appointment with the participating solicitor nearest to you listed below. For any other queries, please contact **Ian Mc Donald at RVIB on (03) 9522 5218.**

## **ALBERT PARK**

**Frederick Owen & Associates Ltd.** Contact: Mr David Owen on Tel: 9645 5511.

## **BALLARAT**

**BJT Legal.** Contact: Mr Andrew Byrne on Tel: 5333 8888.

### **OR:**

**Nevett Ford.** Contact: Mr Peter Wilson on Tel: 5331 4444.

## **BAYSWATER**

**F.J. Clarebrough & Associates.** Contact: Mr F.J. Clarebrough on Tel: 9729 6599.

## **BENDIGO**

**Sandhurst Trustees.** Contact: Mr Peter Goffin on Tel: 5433 9908.

## **BENDIGO**

**O'Farrell, Robertson, McMahon.** Contact: Mr Russell Robertson on Tel: 5443 9977.

## **BRIGHTON**

**Verna A. Cook.** Tel: 9592 1688 or 9592 1908.

## **DIMBOOLA**

**Brown & Proudfoot.** Tel: 5389 1201.

## **EAST KEILOR**

**Millars Lawyers.** Tel: 9336 2411.

## **FOOTSCRAY**

**Allan McMonnies.** Tel: 9689 2277.

## **FRANKSTON**

**Willerby's.** Contact: Mr Jason Coppard on Tel: 9781 2899.

## **GEELONG**

**Roger O'Halloran & Co, Barristers & Solicitors.** Contact: Mr Brendan O'Halloran on Tel: 5221 3700.

### **OR:**

**Birdsey, Dedman & Bartlett Solicitors.** Contact: Lorraine Secen on Tel: 5222 3655.

## **HAMILTON**

**Melville, Orton & Lewis.** Contact: Mr Mark Brian on Tel: 5572 1600.

## **HASTINGS**

**David Gibbs.** Tel: 5979 2955.

## **HORSHAM**

**Brown & Proudfoot.** Contact: Mr E. Mc Cabe on Tel: 5382 4455.

## **KEW**

**A.B. Natoli Pty Ltd.** Contact: Mr Paul Natoli on Tel: 9853 3222.

## **MELBOURNE**

**McNab McNab & Starke.** Contact: Mr Mark Maier on Tel: 9670 2219.

### **OR:**

**Nevett Ford.** Contact: Mr Peter Wilson on Tel: 9614 7111.

### **OR:**

**McMahon, Fernley Barristers & Solicitors.** Contact: Mr Frank Gianarelli on Tel: 9670 0966.

## **MONT ALBERT**

**Michael R. Nolan.** Tel: 9899 8355.

## **MOONEE PONDS**

**O'Brien & Galante.** Tel: 9375 3501.

## **MOUNT WAVERLEY**

**Mason, Sier, Turnbull Solicitors.** Contact: Paul Watkins, Tel: 9807 8688.

## **NORTHCOTE**

**Gray & Gray Barristers & Solicitors.** Contact: Mr Alan Gray, Tel: 9481 6488.

## **OAKLEIGH**

**Campbell & Shaw Lawyers.** Contact: Mr David Shaw, Tel: 9568 4077 or 9569 0562.

## **PRAHRAN**

**Mr David Allan.** Tel: 9510 5330.

## **RINGWOOD**

**Devenish & Co.** Contact: Mr John Scott-Mc Kenzie. Tel: 9879 1711.

## **ST.KILDA**

**Allan Mc Monnies.** Tel: 9534 1116.

## **THORNBURY**

**Phillips & Wilkins.** Contact: Mr Grant McKenzie, Tel: 9480 1155.

## **TOORAK**

**Bernstein & Associates.** Contact: Mr Maurice Bernstein, Tel: 9804 8166.

## **WILLIAMSTOWN**

**Gavan J.Black.** Contact: Mr Brad Saunders, Tel: 9397 2200.





## Share your News!

Thank you secretaries and other correspondents for sending in your news throughout 2002. The next edition will be March 2003, so please send in your *Out and About* contributions by 28<sup>th</sup> February to:

The Editor, *Out and About*  
RVIB  
557 St Kilda Road  
Melbourne VIC 3004  
Tel (03) 9522 5232  
Fax (03) 9529 6382

Please mark all contributions '*Out and About*' and include your name, auxiliary group and phone number.

## Thank you!

RVIB thanks Stuart Martine at 'Festive Delights' in Niddrie who kindly donated a lovely Christmas tree for use during the RVIB Carols by Candlelight launch. Many thanks Stuart!

## RVIB Anglesea Auxiliary Reports

On 2 November we held a Craft and Embroidery Exhibition. All work was made by local people and included some beautiful quilts and a selection of embroidery. We also served Devonshire teas from 10am to 4pm. It was a most successful and happy day.

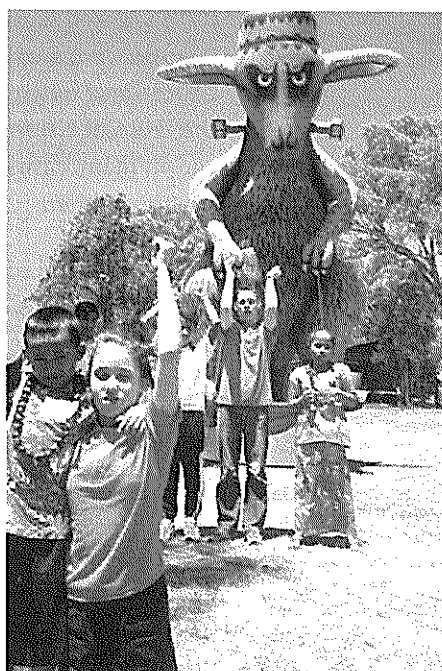
# Golden experience at the Southern Cross Games

More than 130 children who are blind or vision impaired competed for gold at the Southern Cross Games, hosted by the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind (RVIB), in Melbourne this month.

"Culturally, the games provide a rare opportunity to mix with athletes from other nations, learn about other customs and hear other languages," Mr Kent said.

"Many of these students will have competed domestically, but it is particularly valuable for them to come face to face with children from other parts of the world who confront the same challenges that they do."

Held every two years, the games are open to nations in the Pacific Ocean region and were this year launched amidst the colour and cheers of the athletes' procession, which featured the giant kangaroo from the Sydney Olympics.



Mr Kent said that a number of athletes from previous games now compete on an international level for

Australia in the Paralympics and have become role models for the younger generation.

The Southern Cross Games were held from 2 to 6 December at a variety of venues in Burwood including the RVIB School, St Leo's College and the Bill Stewart Athletics Track.

Thank you very much to all our sponsors and supporters who provided their assistance during the week. This was greatly appreciated.

This year teams from Australia, Samoa and Fiji competed in events including athletics, swimming, cricket, tandem bike riding and goalball.

According to Mr Doug Kent, Chief Executive Officer at RVIB, the students train in a variety of sports to compete at their best but the experience gained goes beyond the bounds of competition.

# RVIB spreads the word during 'For Sight Week'



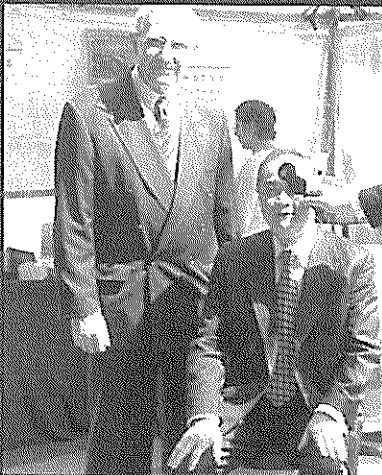
RVIB  
FOR SIGHT WEEK



▲ Speakers Steven Bradbury and Kirstie Marshall at RVIB's 'See the World through their Eyes' Corporate Breakfast.



▲ Singer and RVIB client Lauren Hayes was one of the performers at RVIB's High Tea at the Windsor.



▲ Melbourne Lord Mayor, Mr John So having his vision checked with RVIB GEO Doug Kent at RVIB's free vision screening at Bourke St. Mall.

Fifty per cent of cases of blindness and 70 per cent of vision impairment can be avoided through proper attention and care - that is the message RVIB spread throughout Victoria during 'For Sight Week' from October 7 to 13, 2002.

RVIB worked hard to present a fantastic range of activities and educational initiatives to highlight the issue of vision loss as a serious and, in many cases, preventable health problem.

We are pleased to report that the events and activities during For Sight Week were all well supported. The main events were as follows:

## High Tea at the Windsor

The High Tea was held to celebrate RVIB For Sight Week on Thursday, 10 October at the Windsor Hotel. 160 RVIB guests attended and were treated to a wonderful afternoon. The following nine Auxiliaries were represented: Portland, Kongwak, Essendon, Sorrento, Willaura, Belgrave, Leongatha, Central Council and Park Street Ladies. Other country visitors came from Catani, Geelong, Koo Wee Rup, Pakenham and Yarra Glen. The guests enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea and were entertained by talented performers including singer and RVIB client Lauren Hayes, violinist, Eddie Zavod, pianist Allan Zavod and accompanist Joy Findlay. Speakers were Doug Kent and RVIB Board Member Don Draffin.

## 'See the World Through Their Eyes' RVIB Corporate Breakfast

The 'See the World Through Their Eyes' RVIB Corporate Breakfast, held in celebration of For Sight Week, was a tremendous success with Steven Bradbury (gold medal olympian), Kirstie Marshall (world champion freestyle skier), Gerrard Gosens (paralympic blind distance runner) and John Murphy (Carlton & United Breweries) all sharing their visions for success and the future. The MC for the morning, Tony Leonard of 3AW, was brilliant in generating some laughs and contributed to a well-received event. Thanks to CUB and 3AW for helping make this event a success.

## Rural Doorknock Campaign

The For Sight Week Doorknock received excellent results. Four auxiliaries participated in the Doorknock including Benalla (assisted by students from Benalla College), Skipton, Gisborne and Kyneton. Awareness of RVIB created through For Sight Week has also led us to receiving the funds from an annual community group raffle, which is a wonderful result.

RVIB thanks all those who gave their support during For Sight Week. It is with the help of auxiliaries, corporate sponsors, community groups and volunteers that RVIB can continue to provide services to people who are blind or vision impaired throughout Victoria.



RVIB

Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind 557 St Kilda Road, Melbourne VIC 3004

Telephone (03) 9522 5222 Facsimile (03) 9510 4735 Website [www.rvib.org.au](http://www.rvib.org.au) Email [rvib@rvib.org.au](mailto:rvib@rvib.org.au)