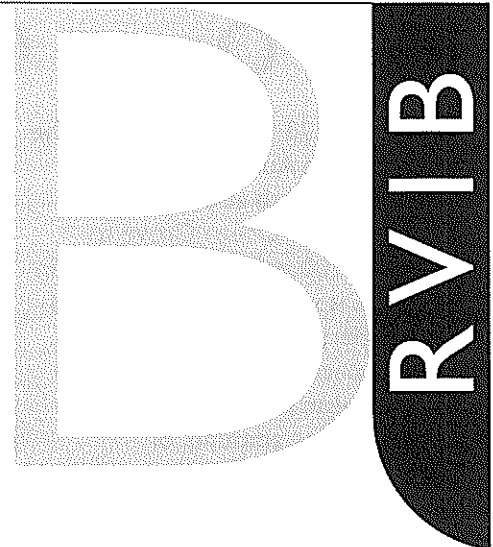




OUT & ABOUT

Message from Auxiliary Coordinator Kerri Guyett



Dear Auxiliary Friends

Happy new year and welcome to the first edition of *Out and About* for 2003. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas with friends and family and that in this new year you will continue your fantastic efforts to support people who are blind or vision impaired across Victoria.

I have enjoyed a much needed break over the Christmas period, relaxing and recuperating, and am now ready for another successful and busy year, assisting you with your fundraising.

I am pleased to begin the new year with news of a very exciting event. RVIB recognises the outstanding contribution auxiliaries have made over the years and thought it only

Kerri Guyett, Auxiliary Coordinator



fitting that the Patron of RVIB, the Governor, Mr John Landy AC MBE formally acknowledges your achievements. Soon you will receive an invitation to attend Government House where the Governor will present recognition awards to auxiliaries. I hope you or a representative from your auxiliary can attend this wonderful event. Please note the date 26 March 2003 in your diaries. You will receive further information with your invitation.

Plans for the year ahead at RVIB are already taking shape. RVIB tours of St Kilda Road, the RVIB School and RVIB Enterprises will again be conducted where you can see first hand how your hard work is making a difference to adults and children who are blind or vision impaired. Let me know if this is something that would interest your auxiliary.

Regional conference dates are also currently being finalised and you will be notified of these shortly.

This year I am hoping to help lighten the fundraising load by seeing what community events we can become involved with. If there is a community event planned for your area, which you think may

present an opportunity for RVIB I would love to hear from you. I also plan to visit many auxiliary functions and to help you with these in any way possible. Make sure you let me know of your events and meeting schedule so that I can note them in my diary.

Out and About will again be a quarterly publication, with upcoming editions in May, August and November, so keep sending in news from your auxiliary so we can keep everyone informed.

I am looking forward to meeting more of you in the coming year, and building on the friendships we have already begun to form.

Best wishes

Kerri Guyett

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Around Victoria

RVIB Ocean Grove Auxiliary

On Monday, 23 September 2002, the Ocean Grove Auxiliary held a Federation Lunch at the Uniting Church Hall in Ocean Grove to celebrate 100 years of Federation in Australia. It was very well attended by members and their friends. The hall was beautifully decorated with old Australian photos around the walls and huge amounts of memorabilia such as saddles, tools, cylinders hand crocheted articles and even a gramophone player. Other interesting items on display included candle moulds, horseshoes and coins, which were on issue at that time.

Many auxiliary members took the opportunity to dress in the clothing from the era, and it was great to see ladies in large hats with feather boas on the brim coupled with long dresses and aprons and men dressed as swaggies with cork trimmed hats.



▲ Pauline Holland, Secretary, Ocean Grove Auxiliary



Left to Right: Charles and Dawn Taylor, Viv Wills and Dot Whithead (President)

The tables were covered with newspaper and decorated with Australian colors and flags. Scattered on the tables were replicas of gold nuggets. There was plenty of Australian fare to go around, with pies and sauce, vegemite rolls, fairy bread, ANZAC biscuits and lamingtons on the menu. Everybody who attended enjoyed the day immensely.

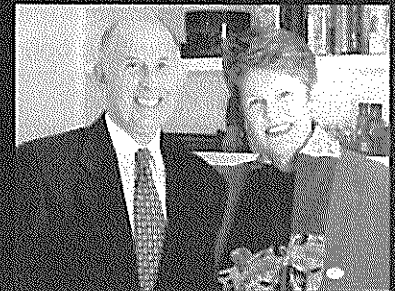
Dawn Taylor,
Ocean Grove Publicity Officer

Government House - you're invited!

The Governor, Mr John Landy AC, MBE is inviting RVIB auxiliaries to attend a special function to recognise the outstanding contributions of auxiliaries to RVIB. This very special event will be held at Government House on Wednesday, 26 March 2003, and will feature presentations of recognition awards to auxiliaries.

Arrival: 10.00am
(Guests to be seated by 10.30am)
Official Proceedings: 11.00am
Light Lunch: 12 noon
Function Concludes: 1.00pm
Cost: Free

If you would like to attend, please call either Kerri Guyett on (03) 9522 5232 or Ian McDonald on (03) 9522 5218.



▲ Governor Landy and Mrs Lynne Landy

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 Sorrento Auxiliary

The Sunday afternoon had seen some of our members set up the room for a garden luncheon. David and Faye Trim from Trim's Nursery at McCrae arrived with a van full of plants of many colours, shapes and types. He proceeded to transform four trestles into the most colourful display. The tables were set with colourful tablecloths and flower centres, which looked spectacular against the plant display.

A lovely pastie and quiche lunch was to follow, which was served with a beautiful tossed salad. The delicious meal was topped off with sponge and slices for dessert.

Our group was extremely grateful that Ian McDonald was able to drive the bus to bring the Mentone Auxiliary. With the Frankston Auxiliary joining us it was lovely to have our friends from both auxiliaries with us for the day.

David and his son Gareth arrived after lunch and did a wonderful job answering various gardening questions such as how to deal with gardens in the dry conditions. Gareth was happy to show us the wonderful little pot toppers, pots and accessories to go with the plants. The unusual herb combinations and colourful creepers were amazing.

During the afternoon we also raffled our popular mystery buckets.

We had 20 to give away and everyone enjoyed the thrill of winning one.

David also kindly donated four plants for us to raffle, which were gratefully received. It was a

wonderful day which finished all too soon.

December was soon upon us and it was time for our Christmas break up lunch. We had decided to do something different and so went to a movie and out to lunch. We watched "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" which was such a funny film. When we arrived at our lunch venue Peter had prepared lovely Christmas tables and had the courtyard doors open as it was a sunny day. We took around a basket of gifts for everyone to choose a Christmas gift from. We also had raffles and a special door prize, happily won by Mollie. The prize was a small wooden door made by Henry, and Mollie said it would look lovely on her table. We are extremely grateful to Peter for donating the lunch and also to David and Anne Marie for donating the movie. It enabled us to raise \$360.00 on the day.

Our January stall was very successful on a busy Saturday in Sorrento. We were so pleased that Sorrento is a popular holiday place as our stall is well attended.

We are looking forward to holding the conference in March on St Patrick's Day. We have some surprises planned for that day as well.

We would also like to congratulate Jean and Henry Travis on their 60th Wedding anniversary on the 16th February. What a wonderful achievement! Jean is our President and Henry is a Life Governor and does such wonderful hand made wooden items for us to raffle - the latest being a beautiful coffee table.

To all our supporters, thank you for another great Carols



▲ Host Ray Martin



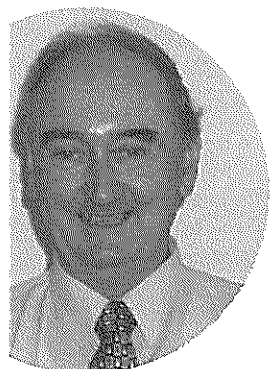
▲ Kane Alexander and Silvie Paladino



▲ Byrne, Stapleton and Nicholls



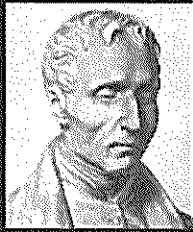
▲ Annalisa Kerrigan on the lovely stage



▲ RVIB's Ian McDonald was our trusty bus driver

Louise Braille

Jean Travis, President of Sorrento Auxiliary found this written inside a

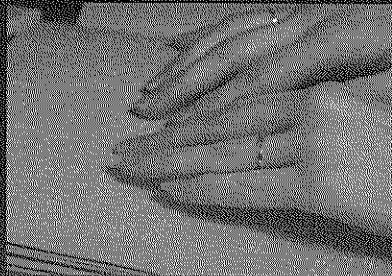


Christmas card which she received quite a few years ago at a Christmas party at Ormond Hall. The card was signed by L. McCredie.

In the little French town of Coupvray lived a small boy called Louis. Louis was blind but he was fortunate - in the town there many men without work. To help fill in time and to help Louis, some of the men scratched a groove down the path to the pond where Louis loved to play. By pushing a stick along the groove, Louis could follow the twisting path in safety. Louis never forgot the kindness of the men who helped him achieve his mobility.

As they helped him, so he also undertook to help others in return. For most of his life he worked to perfect and have accepted for blind people a system of reading and writing, a method still used all around the world.

His name was Louis Braille.



Staff Profile: Patsy Vizents



Documenting the history of RVIB is no easy feat - but Patsy Vizents is up for the challenge and enjoying it every step of the way.

Q: Who are you?

A: Patsy Vizents - Project Manager for the History Project at RVIB.

Q: What do you do at RVIB and how long have you been working here?

A: I began on 13 January 2003 and will spend the next six months collecting as much information on the history of the RVIB as I can, developing a data base for cataloguing all the information (including photographs, objects and ephemera like invitations and posters), and putting together the ideas for exhibitions, publications and tours for the future.

Q: Tell us about your recent working background.

A: I have most recently been working at Rippon Lea and Como Historic House and Garden. I was the manager of visitor services and interpretation so I delved into the history of both houses and collections. Interpretation included developing education programs, designing exhibitions, tours and public programs. My working career has been in heritage and cultural tourism.

Q: Will you be presenting the history of RVIB as a book?

A: I will not be writing the history of the RVIB but will collect the information and make sure that it is documented so that a writer can then find the information easily.

Q: Why do you see it as important to document RVIB's past?

A: RVIB is part of the history of Melbourne and Victoria and its past encompasses the history of people, not just an organisation. This sort of documentation reinforces why we continue to value or maintain those parts of our culture, and I think the way that the RVIB has assisted the community is worth valuing.

Q: How do you intend to approach the project? Will you need help from volunteers and other staff members?

A: I am developing the storage facility on the second level at St Kilda Road and will need help with entering data into the catalogue system. There will be plenty of jobs for volunteers and those who wish to assist me may like to think of a project or come and discuss with me possible areas to be involved. My phone extension is (03) 9522 5238.

2003 Further Education Bursary Awards



▲ 2003 winner
Michael Curran

Nine Victorian students who are legally blind each received \$4,500 of

adaptive technology

Equipment after being selected for the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind's (RVIB) Further Education Bursary.

RVIB awarded the bursaries to enable each of the students to continue their studies in fields as diverse as engineering, social work, massage therapy and music.

Education Consultant from RVIB, Ms Jo Webber said that the awards are designed to make it easier for people who are blind or vision impaired to undertake further education and help to create equity in the learning environment.

"The high cost of the technology, essential to students who are blind or vision impaired, prohibits many of them from participating in further education and ultimately pursuing their chosen careers," Ms Webber said.

"The RVIB Bursary aims to address this situation by enabling the students to purchase adaptive equipment, such as Braille note-takers, computers with voice output, voice operated organisers and scanners."

Jo Webber said that these awards have significantly reduced the barriers faced by people who are blind or vision impaired in the field of further education.

Up to ten bursaries are awarded each year and applications are open to students of any age. They must be able to demonstrate financial need, that they are enrolled in further education and that they are legally blind.

Happy Birthday!

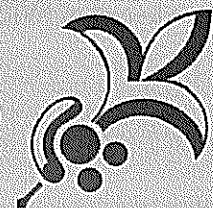
Gisborne Auxiliary would like to congratulate member Betty Robjant on her recent 80th birthday. Instead of presents, her family and friends gave a donation to RVIB, which was very gratefully received.

Thank you

RVIB thanks the Masonic Lodge in Gisborne for donating a cheque from a Christmas Raffle to RVIB. RVIB relies on the generosity of its auxiliaries, donors and sponsors to continue providing services to people around Victoria who are blind or vision impaired.

Upcoming RVIB Event

Gold Ball - RVIB's annual fundraiser dinner and auction, **10th May, Melbourne Town Hall**
Showcasing the glitz and glamour of Hollywood's golden years, this black tie dinner promises to be an evening to remember! The Ball will feature a live and silent auction and Elvis, Frank Sinatra and Marilyn Monroe live! Held at the Melbourne Town Hall's Grand Ballroom, guests will enjoy a sumptuous four-course meal, fine beverages, and a truly unique and entertaining experience. Tickets



Obituaries

Libby Dalrymple - RVIB Gisborne Auxiliary

Elaine Millar has advised us of the sad loss of Libby Dalrymple who died after a 12 month battle with cancer. She was 72. Libby was a great worker for RVIB and collected door to door and also outside the Trading Post at Mt. Macedon. She also rattled her tin at the polls at each election. She kept our little group of people at Mt. Macedon interested and 'rounded' them up. A very sweet, kind lady, she will be greatly missed. Approximately 200 people attended her funeral.

Bill Easton - RVIB Sorrento Auxiliary

Sorrento Auxiliary was saddened by the loss of Bill Easton, husband of Connie. Bill had been ill for some time and will be greatly missed by us all.

RVIB Leongatha Auxiliary



▲ Wanda Egerton

2002 was another eventful year and monthly meetings

had

attendance

rates of around 15

members or up to 30-40 on special occasions. Meetings were held indoors during inclement weather or on finer days at various outdoor venues such as at local homes and gardens where family and friends were welcome to gather for a social afternoon over a good country 'cuppa'.

We are very grateful for the expert assistance given by Kerri Guyett, Auxiliary Coordinator, who has been an excellent liaison for RVIB information. Kerri officially opened our 31st Annual Rose Show in November and was accompanied by Wanda Egerton, who is well known by many auxiliaries. Wanda judged a new section of the Rose Show for "the best perfumed rose" and presented the prize which was donated by a local florist. The Rose Show attracted almost 1,000 entries and, together with accompanying fundraising, enabled us to forward \$5,000 to RVIB.

Our auxiliary takes a break from November through to February, 2003 when we will commence another year of events and fundraisers on behalf of RVIB.

Feelix Braille Book Library a success



I can feel the words



As many of you may know, last month RVIB launched the Feelix Early Childhood Braille Book Library at the Melbourne Zoological Gardens. The event was a wonderful success and it was lovely to see a number of you come along and show your support - especially those that travelled some distance!

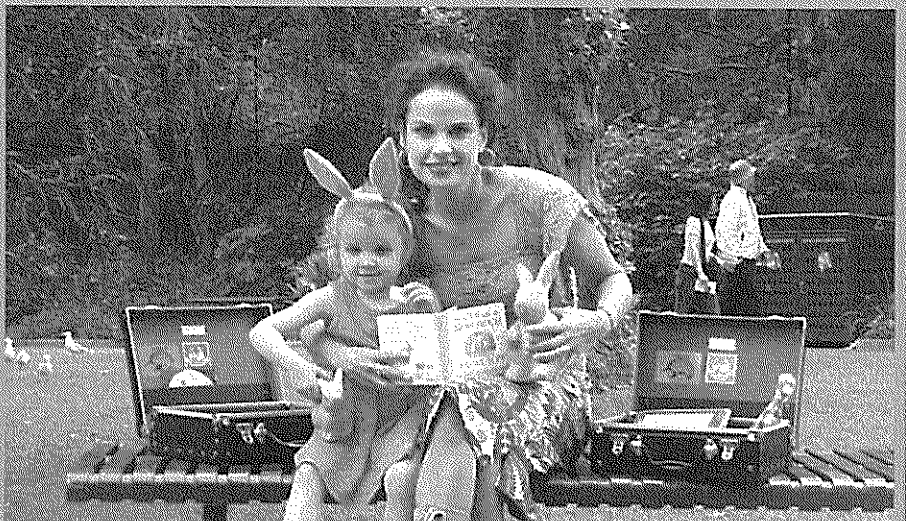
The idea behind Feelix is to create a library of children's books that are accessible to pre-schoolers who are blind or vision impaired so that they can enjoy the same stories that their sighted friends do.

Each storybook kit contains the original picture storybook annotated with Braille, an audio CD or tape of the story, some tactile aids to help the child enter the world of the story and a little handbook with tactile graphics so that children can tell the story to themselves or others.

A number of stars donated their time to make audio recordings for the project including Feelix Patron **Sigrid Thornton** (MTC's *The Blue Room*), **David Treddineck** (*Secret Life of Us*), **Jon Faine** (ABC 774) and **Kick Gurry** (*Looking for Alibrandi*).

Highlights of the launch included a reading of a popular children's book by the Patron of *Feelix*, Sigrid Thornton, as well as a performance by soprano Annalise Kerrigan, who sang at last year's RVIB Carols by Candlelight.

The event was well covered by the media, with a write-up in the Herald-Sun newspaper, a story on the Channel 9 news, a feature on Sunrise and a spread in *Woman's Day*. The event has therefore further raised awareness of RVIB services in the community. *For more information about the Feelix project please call Louise Curtin on (03) 9522 5216.*



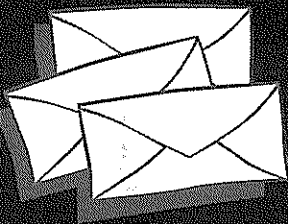
▲ *Feelix Patron Sigrid Thornton with young reader, Micaela*

Share your News!

Thank you secretaries and other correspondents for sending in your news. The next edition will be May 2003, so please send in your Out and About contributions by Friday 18th April 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.



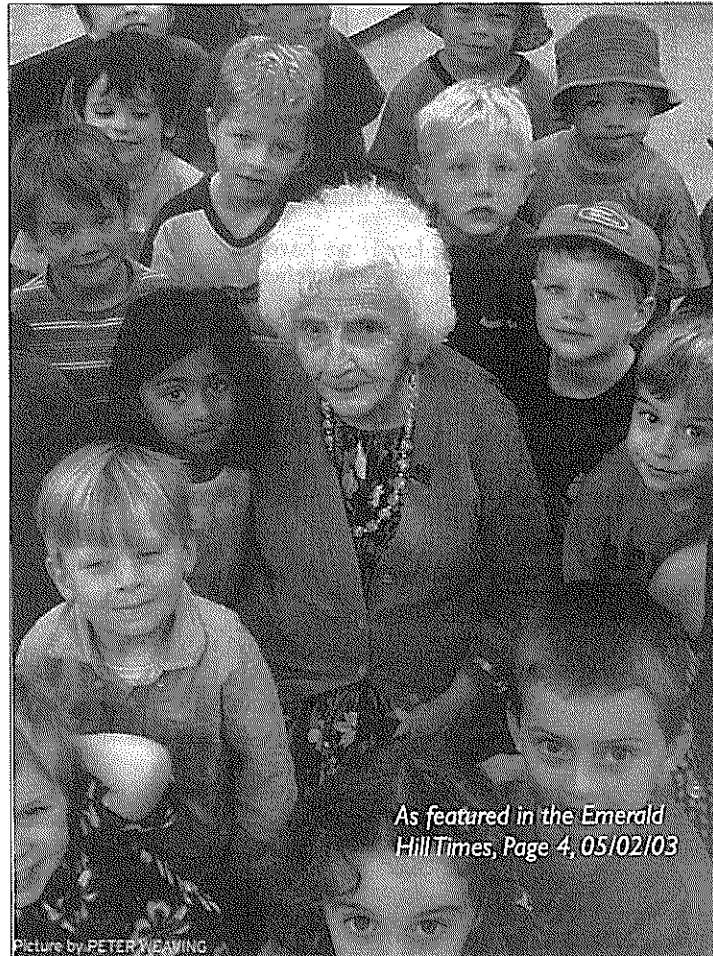
Cheques for RVIB

Thank you once again to all Auxiliaries for another wonderful year of dedication and commitment to RVIB. If any of you are holding onto cheques and don't know what to do with them, there's no need to wait until we next meet. Pop them in the post to Kerri Guyett, RVIB, 557 St Kilda Road, Melbourne 3004.

Ellen Ramplin - Park St Ladies Auxiliary shows her Community Spirit



These photographs were taken of Ellen Ramplin when she visited South Melbourne's Lilian Cannam Kindergarten's 80th anniversary, where Ellen was one of the original pupils.



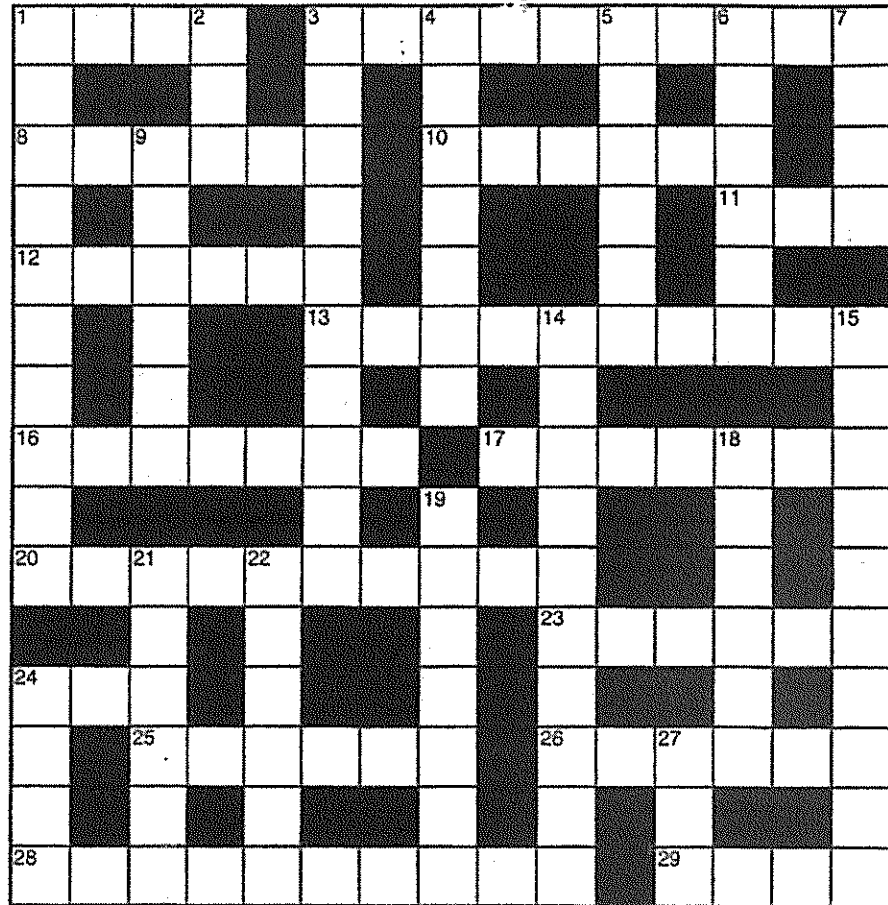
As featured in the Emerald Hill Times, Page 4, 05/02/03

Picture by PETER WEAVER

Your ten-minute crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. It swings into a field usually (4)
3. Be tenacious when taking a sprint to the Tees (10)
8. Trees which could be used as a sample (6)
10. This might be quite a business (6)
11. A clinger, this girl (3)
12. Strike a light (6)
13. A boat to go to war in (10)
16. It might be a trial to Pa, but he rather likes it (7)
17. He's likely to do you a favour (7)
20. A PRO is inside the machine for making copies (10)
23. Entreaty or attractive quality (6)
24. Vital juice for a simpleton (3)
25. Pitch your tents! (6)
26. Take exception to this thing (6)
28. Thrown away extravagantly (10)
29. A row for a binder (4)



CLUES DOWN

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In sport, for a start, he looks after animals (10) 2. A slippery customer (3) 3. Stop a beard, with this stiff card (10) 4. There's no doubt about this! (7) 5. A firm and solid farm building (6) 6. Make more wealthy with good food (6) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. The salver ends in a beam of light (4) 9. Some hesitation after a pool makes you think (6) 14. A place for scientific work (10) 15. A coffee maker (10) 18. To sadden or upset (6) 19. The doctor can be quite cutting with this (7) 21. Father's in the news for a | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> start! (6) 22. A consultant of the highest order (6) 24. Skier's delight and motorist's nightmare (4) 27. Black polished stone for an airliner (3) |
|--|--|---|



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 Email rvib@rvib.org.au



RVIB thanks lifetime achievers

The Governor of Victoria, Mr John Landy, was given the honour of presenting lifetime achievement awards to some of RVIB's most dedicated supporters during a presentation lunch held at Government House in March.

Organised by RVIB, as an official gesture to recognise the outstanding contributions made by our auxiliary members, long time volunteers and sponsors, the impressive garden location provided a perfect backdrop for the occasion.

President of the RVIB Board of Directors, Dr Trevor Anderson, and RVIB's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Doug Kent, both addressed the attendees and thanked them for their commitment and generosity of spirit.

"You can all be proud, for you are part of the team that ensures RVIB's services are accessible to those who need them," Mr Kent said.

"Today, we celebrate our relationship with you. We recognise and honour your past efforts and hope we will continue to work together to meet the challenges of the future."

Receiving lifetime achievement awards were each of the 22 auxiliaries, individual volunteers who have offered years of commitment to the organisation and, of course, representatives from our major corporate sponsors and partners: Qantas, Channel Nine and Southern Cross Broadcasting (3AW and Magic693).

The proceedings concluded with the drawing of a raffle, in which the Donald Auxiliary took home two out of the three prizes.

RVIB thanks the sponsors and supporters whose generosity helped make this event possible.



^ Governor John Landy presents a Lifetime Achievement Award.

contents

MESSAGE FROM KERRI GUYETT

AROUND VICTORIA

ATHLETE HAS THEM SPELLBOUND

NEWS FROM RVIB



RVIB

> Vision: To be the leading provider of services, resources and information which enable people who are blind or vision impaired to maximise their independence and quality of life.

Message from Auxiliary Coordinator Kerri Guyett

Dear Auxiliary friends

Welcome to the June edition of *Out and About*. It is hard to believe that we are already almost half way through the calendar

year and it won't be long before we are making plans for Christmas!

Thank you to all auxiliary members who have contributed items for *Out and About* and helped to make this a very full and interesting edition.

During the past few months I have travelled around most of Victoria, attending AGMs, regional conferences, morning teas and various other events. As a result, I have now met with many of you and am very grateful for the warm welcome I have received.

Coming events to note in your diaries include:

* **Christmas in July at Tatra Restaurant, Mount Dandenong, Wednesday, 30 July 2003**

* **For Sight Week - 8 to 12 September**

* **High Tea at The Windsor - Thursday, 11 September 2003**

Regional Conferences:

- * **Beechworth 29 May 2003**
- * **Maffra 16 June 2003**
- * **Hamilton 26 June 2003**
- * **Rainbow 23 July 2003**
- * **Terang 30 July 2003**
- * **Swan Hill 13 August 2003**
- * **Kyneton 28 August 2003**
- * **Donald 18 September 2003**

As a part of For Sight Week, RVIB will be conducting a Rural Door Knock. RVIB sees this as a wonderful opportunity for students to become involved in their local community by assisting people who are blind or vision impaired.

Last year, the students from Benalla College collected on behalf of the Benalla Auxiliary and this was very successful. Each student was presented with a certificate in recognition of his or her work and the College is hoping to be involved again in 2003. A letter will be sent out to secondary schools asking them to participate in this event.

Once again I thank all of you for your commitment to RVIB and the work you do. I look forward to seeing you at the up and coming conferences.

RVIB is committed to you and welcomes your thoughts and ideas, so contact me whenever you have a query.

Regards
Kerri Guyett

Kerri, on the road...

April was a busy month for Kerri Guyett, who made the following auxiliary visits:

- **Korumburra Regional Conference**
- **Anglesea AGM**
- **Euroa regular meeting and morning tea**
- **Kongwak**
- **Park Street Ladies Card Afternoon**
- **Ocean Grove AGM**
- **Portland AGM**
- **Leongatha AGM**
- **Central Council Meeting**
- **Ocean Grove Regional Conference**
- **Beechworth Regional Conference**
- **Maffra AGM**

Kerri would like to say a special thank you to RVIB's Janet Robins for attending St Arnaud's annual coffee morning and Ian McDonald for attending the Barwon Heads AGM.

If you would like Kerri to attend your next function, please call her on (03) 9522 5232 with as much advance notice as possible.

Message from General Manager, Corporate & Community Relations, Elizabeth Trefeli



Dear Auxiliary members,

I'm taking this opportunity to write to you about the proposed amalgamation.

As many of you are already aware, RVIB is in discussions with the Royal Blind Society (RBS) and Vision Australia Foundation (VAF) about a proposed amalgamation.

Some of you were recently involved in focus groups regarding this proposal and I would like to update you all on how the process has been proceeding.

A Heads of Agreement document, which describes all of the key matters that have been agreed between the three organisations, is currently being drafted and will be considered by the three boards at their next meetings.

When, and if, the Heads of Agreement is entered into by each existing organisation, the formal amalgamation process will commence. The next step will be a vote by the relevant members of the organisations. The time frame for the voting process for RVIB and VAF would be either later this year or early next year.

Because RBS was set up through an Act of Parliament, it will need to undertake a separate process and first convert into a company limited by guarantee. Following this it will be able to enter into a Scheme of Arrangement with RVIB and VAF. The

RBS Board will be provided with legal advice at its next meeting and will consider approving the beginning of the conversion process.

It could be expected that the amalgamation of all three agencies, assuming each agency gains member approval, will occur sometime in the first half of 2004.

Due diligence for the initial phase of the amalgamation has also been completed. This means that the three organisations have each had the opportunity to look openly at each other's financial position, liabilities, structures and resources to consider any issues, legal or other, that could potentially deter one or more of the three organisations from joining. A due diligence report will be considered by the three boards at their next meetings.

Branding and design consultancy, LKS Landor has conducted 44 individual interviews as well as numerous focus group workshops. More than 215 people from across our three organisations, and beyond, participated in these focus groups.

This research, which has been undertaken by seeking input from a wide range of people, will help us understand the values and essence of each organisation and I would like to thank members of the Auxiliaries who participated in this process, as the comments received were extremely valuable.

Despite the planning that is being conducted, I want you all to know that it is business as usual at RVIB. No binding agreement has been signed and whatever results from the process, you can be assured that it will be in the best interest of our clients.

It goes without saying that the process of investigating the feasibility of bringing Australia's three largest blindness agencies together is complex.

As Auxiliary members you have each played an extremely special role in the making RVIB the dynamic organisation that it is. We value the input and insight of each Auxiliary member. The work that you do for RVIB in each of your local communities will be just as important to our clients tomorrow as it was yesterday.

The CEOs and Boards are committed to ensuring that you are given timely information and have an opportunity to contribute to the process.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or feedback about the proposed amalgamation on (03) 9522 5294.

Also, I look forward to seeing you at our Christmas in July lunch at Tatra Restaurant.

Best wishes,
Elizabeth Trefeli

Leongatha Auxiliary

President's Report 02/03



▲ Glenice Griggs, President of Leongatha Auxiliary accepts a Lifetime Achievement Award at Government House on behalf of the Auxiliary.

In **March 2002** our monthly meeting welcomed our first male member, Bill Verboon, who was the current president of the Leongatha Lions Club. The first community meeting was held at the Leongatha Bowling Clubrooms to form a new committee for our annual Rose Show. Sue Parkes (RVIB) chaired a well represented meeting. The Regional Conference was held at Kongwak with six of our members attending. Councillor Jeanette Harding (Mayor of South Gippsland Shire Council) officially opened the Conference.

At our **April** meeting, Val Laszlo from "Co-Care Gippsland" was the guest speaker, assisted by Val Wilson who spoke of her personal experiences obtaining help through the agency.

May was our Auxiliary's Annual General Meeting, chaired by Sue Parkes. The meeting elected Glenice Griggs as president, Jan Donaldson as vice president, Margaret Jerram as secretary, Yvonne Leslie as assistant secretary and Pat Dodson as treasurer.

After the formal meeting, Wanda Egerton spoke about her family and her experiences coping with being blind from birth. There were over 50 members and friends present at the AGM. Prior to the soup and sandwich luncheon, RVIB Service Medals were presented to our 10-year members and a Life Governor Certificate was presented to Glenice Griggs in recognition of her efforts over the years in raising money for RVIB through the Rose Show. A cheque for \$1,500 was given to Sue Parkes as a further donation to the work of RVIB.

In **June**, Leeanne Verboon joined our Auxiliary and Pearl Cristofferson presented a travelogue of her 33-day trip to Europe, organised through Murray Goulburn. Members from Leongatha attended the Korumburra Auxiliary's coffee morning.

In **July** we held our coffee morning which was well attended and raised over \$400. Following our general meeting, Lauri Hanks was presented with a 25-year service badge.

We held our "Christmas Luncheon", in **August**, at the local RSL which was enjoyed by members, family and friends. Five members attended the Kongwak Auxiliary's luncheon and 'Cent-a-day' afternoon.

At our **September** meeting we were entertained by the Meeniyandumbalk Music Lover Group and each member of the group was presented with a posy of flowers made by Mavis Wightman. Our members attended Korumburra's coffee morning.

Kerri Guyett (RVIB) attended our **October** meeting and brought along a range of merchandise, including large print calendars. Two of our members attended the Windsor High Tea. Donations of \$50 were received from the Kardella CWA and the Leongatha Lord Brassey Masonic Lodge.

The annual Rose Show was held in **November** and raised over \$5,000. The sale of raffle tickets raised over \$1,000. Thanks to all those who worked so hard to make this event a success. Kerri also attended our monthly meeting and was given a cheque for \$5,000 for RVIB.

Our first meeting for 2003 was in **February**, held in the gardens of Lisa and Stephen Riley's home and was attended by more than 40 members and friends. We raised \$284 from the gate takings.

March 2003 was busy with two members attending the Government House ceremony. Four members attended Korumburra Auxiliary's morning coffee.

The RVIB Regional Conference was held at Korumburra on **2 April** and our members assisted with the catering. Two of our members, Yvonne Leslie and Irene Wisdom, are now eligible for their 10-year service awards.

Throughout the year, we have visited both Korumburra and Kongwak Auxiliaries and they in turn have assisted us. Many local organisations have assisted our functions including Mrs Benson's "Meeniyandumbalk Card Players", the Anglican Church Op-shop and local CWA groups.

It has been another full year however the tasks of the president have been made easier thanks to secretary Margaret Jerram, treasurer Pat Dodson, other members of the committee and, indeed, all of the active members of the Leongatha Auxiliary.

Machine is a big help

As reported in the North Central News, 30 April, 2003



▲ **PLENTY OF HELP:** BrailleNote recipient Chad Kelly received donations from Colac and district businesses, community groups and individuals.

A new braille machine has improved the quality of life for Colac High School student Chad Kelly.

The 18-year-old's new \$10,500 Braille Notemachine is making his Victorian Certificate of Education easier for him and his teachers.

Chad is blind and needs the machine to help him write. The new machine converts braille text into a word document, enabling Chad to print assignments for him and his teachers. The machine can also convert braille into an email document to send over the Internet.

"The BrailleNote is certainly helping me a lot," Chad said.

"I can now access my work a lot easier.

"I can also correct my work because of the spellcheck function.

"It's a good piece of technology."

Colac and district businesses, community groups and individuals rallied behind Chad and began fundraising in mid-2002 to purchase the new equipment.

Colac's ANZ Bank hosted a function for Chad to thank each sponsor on Wednesday.

Chad's mother said the BrailleNote gave him greater independence and equipped him for VCE and any university studies.

"Last year we spent three or four nights a week reading his work back to amend it and hand it in," she said.

"Now, I ask to lend a hand and he's already done it.

"And because he doesn't have to spend so long doing his homework he's becoming a much more social person."

"The Colac community got behind him and now he can print out work for himself and work for his teachers," Ms Murdoch said.

■ *Thanks to Colac Auxiliary, a donation of \$1,000 was given to Chad to help with the cost of the braille machine. This money was left to the auxiliary by a late member, and with permission from RVIB, was passed on to Chad.*

Sights for sore eyes

As reported in the Euroa Gazette

Some beautiful handiwork was on view at a morning tea held by the Euroa unit of the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind (RVIB) on April 8.

Featuring in the displays was Doris Johnson's exquisite needlework and Lorna Smith's elegant china painting. Mrs Johnson has been a craft member of CWA for many years and her framed tapestries, complemented by a collection of pin cushions representing a bygone era. Mrs Smith's talent with a brush was evident in her selection of hand-painted plates, along with a decorated porcelain vase and an unique trinket box.

Group president Fran Williams welcomed everyone to the event and introduced Doris Johnson, who gave an interesting and informative commentary on her display. Sadly, Mrs Johnson is no longer able to continue her fine work due to deteriorating eyesight, and her very last piece of tapestry was finished for her by another excellent craftswoman, May Brierley.

A well-stocked trading table was run by Lorna Smith and Lillian Smith, while Glad Anker and Jean Hodges were kept busy selling raffle tickets for a weekend bake. \$45 was also received through cash donations that were greatly appreciated. Following the morning tea was the regular meeting of the Euroa unit, which was attended by RVIB's Community Relationships Manager from Melbourne, Kerri Guyett.

Centenary medals awarded to district volunteers

As reported in the North Central News, 30 April, 2003

One St. Arnaud and three Charlton citizens are recipients of the Centenary medal, announced last week.

They are Ella Ebery, (St Arnaud) and Margaret Wood, Joy Freeman and Peter Watts (Charlton).

John Forrest, Member for Mallee said that the medal was created to honour persons who have made a contribution to Australian Society or government and will enable the community to thank those who have made Australia's first hundred years as a federal nation, such a great success and who have laid solid foundations for its future.

Margaret Wood received her award for long service to the community through **RVIB**, Red Cross and Church and Joy Freeman for service to the community through Red Cross, Hospital and Church.

Peter Watts citation reads for "outstanding community service to the development of Charlton."

Ella Ebery received the medal for outstanding services to local government and community.

Other recipients in the area include Eddie Lee (Birchip) for local government and community service and Ian Harvey, Wycheproof for service to rural youth.

Show goes on, thanks to four helping hands

As reported in the Mornington Peninsula Leader, 1 April, 2003



▲ Anne-Maree Croad and Peter Bonnici receive their awards from Jean Travis

The combined efforts of Anne-Maree Croad and Peter Bonnici are just one example of how local businesses are helping sight-impaired people.

Mrs Croad manages Peninsula Cinemas along with her husband David, while Mr Bonnici operates the Couta Cafe.

Between them they provide packages where members of Sorrento RVIB auxiliary can watch a film and have a meal afterwards.

Either all or a large proportion of funds raised are donated back to the auxiliary.

Mrs Croad and Mr Bonnici, along with a number of other people, received commendations from the auxiliary at its annual conference last week.

Mrs Croad said the cinema had been running the program for about "four or five years".

"We have a set price as a way of raising money. We are in a small community and it's a very good cause. They do a very good job."

Mr Bonnici said the cafe prepared a light lunch after the film and donated the proceeds back to the auxiliary.

"It's respect. I would like to think if I was in an elderly group, I'd hope people would put on something and not expect to get anything in return," he said.

"It's nice to be nice."



Athlete has them spellbound

As reported in the Mornington Peninsula Leader



▲ Paralympian Russell Short with Sorrento Auxiliary Secretary Elizabeth Davies

Paralympian Russell Short had his audience at the annual peninsula RVIB conference mesmerised. Not a bad effort for a man who is 98 per cent vision impaired.

A combination of wit, detail, and the straight talking of a person with a country background clearly captured the audience.

He opened with: "You are all heavily concentrating, by the sound of things." Laughter all around.

Mr Short is a track-and-field athlete who won gold medals in shot put and discus at the Sydney Olympics.

"I'm vision impaired; I've lost about 98 per cent of my sight," he said. "It's a genetic thing - my brother Steve's got the same condition.

Mr Short, whose powerful upper body indicated his chosen sport said he had been using RVIB services for about 25 years. "At school with the visiting teacher service; mobility services - how to get around to different jobs; and vocational and educational officers."

Mr Short works as a community education officer for the RVIB, and said he often gave talks to groups such as the auxiliaries so they could see how their efforts were helping the individual.

"It's to put a face to why people are raising money; to make that connection between what they are raising money for and who they are raising it for".

Sorrento conference

As reported in the Mornington Peninsula Leader, 1 April, 2003

Community spirit was on display last week when the RVIB Sorrento auxiliary hosted its Peninsula conference.

Sorrento hosted the Frankston and Mentone auxiliaries at the conference, held at the Sorrento fire station on March 17.

Secretary Elizabeth Davies commended the efforts of members, businesses and individuals in the community.

"Our auxiliary works really hard and appreciates the help that the community and traders give us," Mrs Davies said.

She spoke highly of people who received commendations at the conference for their support.

"It's just been invaluable to us. It's given us a new lease of life just to know we've got so much support from them."

RVIB community relationship manager Kerri Guyett praised the auxiliaries' work.

"It is important for people to get together and exchange ideas and to report to each other what they have been doing for the past 12 months, Ms Guyett said.

"Their work has been astounding. For such small groups of people, the amount of work that they do and the amount of money they raise is incredible. Without the auxiliaries' help, RVIB wouldn't be able to provide the services they do".

Crossword solutions from the last edition of *Out and About*

Across: 1 Gate, 3 Persistent, 8 Maples, 10 Affair, 11 Ivy, 12 Kindle, 13 Battleship, 16 Partial, 17 Obliger, 20 Reproducer, 23 Appeal, 24 Sap, 25 Encamp, 26 Object, 28 Wastefully, 29 Tier.

Down: 1 Gamekeeper, 2 Eel, 3 Pasteboard, 4 Reality, 5 Stable, 6 Enrich, 7 Tray, 9 Ponder, 14 Laboratory, 15 Percolator, 18 Grieve, 19 Scalpel, 21 Papers, 22 Oracle, 24 Snow, 27 Jet.

News from Kyneton

On behalf of the Kyneton Auxiliary, may I extend sincere thanks to you all for the invitation to Government House last month. Our team of 19 had a most enjoyable day. The venue, food and staff were all excellent and we were most appreciative to be invited. Also, thank you for our framed certificate. Congratulations to all. Doug and I also enjoyed our visit to your building last week - hopefully our input was of some help.

Obituaries (Kyneton Auxiliary)

SMITH, Vera

Vera was born in Maryborough (Victoria) in 1923. She moved to Melbourne during the war and obtained work at Fisherman's Bend making rivets for planes and also bullets. Later she worked at Fletcher & Walkers making light fittings.

She married in Melbourne in 1947 and had a daughter Barbara. In 1976 she moved to Kyneton where she became a local identify working at the local museum for many years, and then at the health food shop. She moved to the Ray M. Begg units for the elderly in 1984 and later became the collector for RVIB around her neighbour's units. She collected there for 10 years and was usually the first to bank her money each year - she was a very keen collector.

Vera was a happy, bright and cheerful person who loved her garden and enjoyed chats with her friends.

She passed away in March 2002 and will be sadly missed by many.

BULLEN, Dorothy (Nee Shelling)

Dorothy was born on 17 December 1944 at Carlton, then spent her early years in the Kinglake area and later moved to Kyneton.

She married Peter Bullen in 1969 and had three sons and a daughter, to whom she was a wonderful mother. The family moved to Tylden in 1976 where they became involved in local activities. Dorothy was awarded life membership of the Tylden junior football club and was also a keen player and supporter of the nearby Trentham Golf Club.

She was a very willing and enthusiastic collector for RVIB Kyneton Auxiliary and collected from the whole township of Tylden each year. She always achieved a great result, bringing in the highest result for a collector from our auxiliary. Unfortunately Dorothy endured a battle with cancer which eventually took her life on 14 October 2002.

Her companionship and assistance over the 12 years she worked for RVIB is sadly missed by all who knew her. She leaves a proud husband and family and many sad friends.

RVIB Events

RVIB For Sight Week 8 - 12 September, 2003

▶ RVIB will be celebrating its annual state-wide awareness campaign, 'For Sight Week', from 8 to 12 September, 2003. A number of fun events and educational activities are planned to increase community awareness about what it means to live with blindness or a vision impairment and to highlight the achievements of a number of RVIB clients. If you would like to hold an event for For Sight Week, please call **Kerri Guyett** on **(03) 9522 5232**.

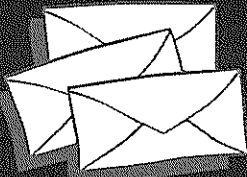
Christmas in July Luncheon 30 July, 2003, Tatra Restaurant

▶ Celebrate Christmas in July with RVIB at Tatra Restaurant in the beautiful and tranquil Dandenong Ranges. Enjoy a sumptuous two course meal of traditional Christmas fare followed by entertainment from a talented singer who will lead the singing of best loved Christmas carols. Tickets are \$30 (or \$40 if transportation is required). For bookings and enquiries please call **Ian McDonald** or **Kerri Guyett** at RVIB on 9522 5218 or 9522 5232.

High Tea at The Windsor 11 September, 2003

▶ To celebrate RVIB and its work over the past 139 years, you are invited to attend The Windsor Hotel for high tea in the Grand Ballroom. A traditional high tea will be served and a guest speaker and entertainment will add further highlights to the day. For bookings please call **Ian McDonald** on (03) 9522 5218 or **Rosemary Nelson** on (03) 9522 5294.

Share your News!



Thank you secretaries and other correspondents for sending in your news.

The next edition will be in August 2003, so please send in your *Out and About* contributions by 31 July 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 would like to extend thanks to Snap Printing at St Kilda Road for supporting Volunteer News. Snap Printing is a preferred RVIB supplier. For your printing needs please contact Ian Clarke at the below address:



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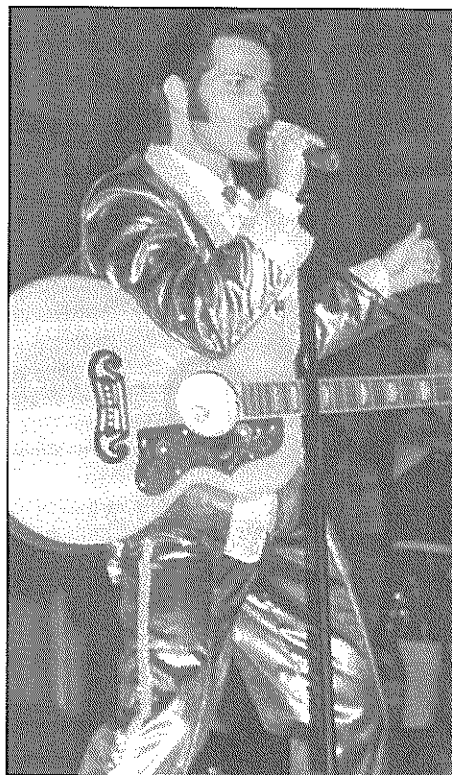
A night of glamour and fun at the RVIB Gold Ball

RVIB's dinner and dancing fundraiser, the Gold Ball, was held on Saturday, 10 May at the Melbourne Town Hall Grand Ballroom and was a roaring success.

This year, RVIB Gold Ball organisers recreated the glitz and glamour of stage and screen for a glamorous night consisting of a four-course meal, lively atmosphere and big band entertainment.

Special Projects and Events Manager, Jeff Johnson, says that the Gold Ball is an important event on the RVIB calendar not only due to its grand scale, but also because of the relationship it helps to foster between RVIB and corporate Victoria.

"We planned the evening as a glamorous night out for those who attend but, ultimately, we all know why we do this - to raise funds," Jeff said.



▲ Elvis staged a spectacular show



"Special entertainment was provided by two golden legend impersonators; Elvis and Frank Sinatra. It was in keeping with our theme, differentiated our event from others and certainly helped create some added appeal."

A live and silent auction was also held on the night and proceeds will assist the purchase of new computer equipment for children at the RVIB School.

RVIB thanks the many sponsors and supporters who not only helped make the night such a success, but who also generated much needed funds for people who are blind or vision impaired.



▲ Guests danced the night away



▲ Some of the auction items



OUT & ABOUT

RVIB For Sight Week makes a splash!

RVIB

RVIB held its annual awareness campaign - For Sight Week from September 8 to 12, which was a great success.

A number of well-attended activities and special events were held throughout the week and RVIB thanks all auxiliaries for showing their support.

A highlight of the week was High Tea at the Windsor Hotel, and special guest speaker Jayson Hanrahan gave an engaging presentation.

Jayson, RVIB's donor relations manager, is legally blind, yet is a champion water-skiier.

"I initially got involved in the sport as a social activity and found I had a bit of natural ability. Within the first three or four pulls of the boat, I was standing up on the skis and I've never looked back," Jayson says.

Jayson has gold medals in both trick and slalom events and recently returned from Florida when he was awarded third place in slalom at the World Disabled Waterski Championships.

"Aside from physical preparation, there's the mental side. I'm always visualising my tricks and turns," he



▲ Jayson Hanrahan was an impressive guest speaker at the For Sight Week Windsor High Tea.

says. "It's largely about visualising the sensations - being aware of the positioning of my body, the skis and the pressure on the hands."

Jayson says that beyond his general love of the sport, there's another side that draws him to waterski.

"I look like everyone else out on the water," he says. "I'm completely independent, I've got the same freedom as my peers and that appeals to me."

"It is a definite confidence boost - particularly on those occasions where other skiers have come up and told me how great I looked out there and said, 'we could never tell that you were vision impaired!'"

More For Sight Week photos page 8

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RVIB

> Vision: To be the leading provider of services, resources and information which enable people who are blind or vision impaired to maximise their independence and quality of life.

News from RVIB Auxiliary Coordinator - Kerri Guyett



Dear Auxiliary friends,

Welcome to the spring edition of *Out and About* and thank you to everyone who has sent in contributions. You may like to settle in with a nice cup of tea, as this is a bumper edition of all your wonderful news.

Over the past three months I have met with many of you at regional conferences and Annual General Meetings. It is inspiring to see members travel such long distances just to attend. We received more letters of thanks and appreciation to hosts than we could print, so I express thanks on behalf of all auxiliaries for their efforts.

We have enjoyed listening to many interesting guest speakers and on most occasions have had the mayor or a representative from local council in attendance. It was very pleasing to see that many councilors joined us for lunch. But then again, how could they resist? The aroma of country soup warming on the stove was delightful. Thank you for the many trays of "goodies" that travelled home with me. My children were the beneficiaries and they too were delighted to be treated to the wonderful taste of country cooking.

By now many of you will have seen the **RVIB 2004 Large print**

calendar. Marilyn Skinner, an RVIB client from Gippsland is the artist of "Winter Morning" - the painting chosen for 2004. The artwork is lovely and I am sure the calendar will be very popular. It is priced at \$6.00 and can be ordered via the enclosed catalogue. Thank you to the auxiliary members who attended regional conferences earlier in the year, and helped choose the 2004 range of **Christmas cards.**

Also available now through me are **2004 pocket diaries at \$3.50** and **RVIB white pens at \$3.00.** The diaries are pocket-sized with a blue vinyl cover with the RVIB logo on the front. This diary replaces the white cardboard diary that you may have had in the past. To order diaries, please phone or write to me and I will arrange for delivery.

In this edition I have included a copy of the **RVIB Insurance.** Many of you will need to supply a copy to various venues that are used for meetings and fundraising activities.

As you are now planning your activities for Christmas and beyond, please remember to advise me of dates for any upcoming events. It is my pleasure to attend and I will endeavour to be at as many functions and meetings as possible.

Stay tuned for the summer edition of *Out and About* where I will include an overview of discussion

points from the 2003 conferences and the outcomes from various issues.

I hope you will all be able to attend the **2003 Auxiliary Christmas Luncheon** on Wednesday, 3 December at Ormond Hall. A detailed invitation is enclosed. It has been a wonderful year of fundraising so I hope to see you all there to join in the festivities. Special guests include children from the RVIB School who will sing for us; as well as Dennis Walter and Phillip Brady.

Thank you again for showing your support for the work of RVIB.

Kindest regards,

Kerri



RVIB

Around Victoria

Royal occasion

By Dawn Taylor (Publicity Officer)
Ocean Grove Auxiliary

On Monday, 2 June our auxiliary celebrated fifty years of the reign of Queen Elizabeth with our own golden anniversary festivities. Many of our members dressed in-keeping with the times, so there were many and varied long-lost outfits discovered in wardrobes and brought out for the occasion.

Admission tickets were quickly purchased by people not only from Ocean Grove but from around the peninsular.

"Queen Elizabeth" made a royal appearance with her consort, looking beautiful and accompanied by her ladies in waiting. Tiaras and broaches were the order of the day as 100 members and friends of the Ocean Grove RVIB Auxiliary came together to celebrate this wonderful occasion.



▲ What a pretty picture! The royal party (L to R) are: Pauline Holland (Vice-president), Dot Whitehead (President), Dawn Taylor (President) and Jean Mayling (Committee).



▲ Vera Cowle (second from left) was wonderful as "Her Majesty". She is pictured with (L to R) Dawn Taylor (Committee), Dot Whitehead (President) and Jean Mayling (Committee).

After the coronation

Where, O where had those white gloves gone?
O where on earth did they go?

Jean search high and low, she could hardly think,
She went to bed, but slept not a wink.

Next day she rang Dot, not knowing what to do,
She thought maybe Dot would give her a clue.
Dot hadn't seen them, but said she'd look,
She would look everywhere, by hook or by crook.

Dot searched the tea towels, and linen so fine,
That by now was washed and hanging on line.
She looked in her bags, and all over the place,
She searched till she was nearly blue in the face.

So Jean and Bob turned their place upside down,
By now the loss was all over the town.
"Has she found them yet?" one was heard to say,
Oh they'll probably turn up, perhaps any day.

But Jean was worried, they had to be found,
A week had gone by, and they were still not around.
She thought she'd try and buy some more,
If she could get some at a good class store.

Now Saturday came, and Jean decided to bake,
But first got a saucepan for some soup to make.
Now just believe me, or believe me not,
There were the white gloves, sitting in the pot.

How did they get there you might well ask,
Well at the lunch for 100 it was quite a task,
She'd taken her gloves off, to just wash a pot,
Then she popped them in - and just forgot.

Christmas in June at Sorrento!

By Elizabeth Davies (Hon Secretary)

With excitement similar to what children must feel on Christmas Eve, we closed the doors on a magnificent sight. All the tables and the stage were decorated in preparation for the following days' lunch.

This was our fifth Christmas in June lunch.

So much work had gone into having everything just right for our guests who were coming from as far and wide as Eltham, Frankston and Mentone. Kerri and Ian from RVIB also joined us, not to mention plenty of our local friends.



▲ Sorrento ladies cooking up a storm in the kitchen.

We had knitted serviette rings decorated with lace and a lucky number was placed on each table. One person from each table was able to choose a gift from under the Christmas tree.

Ann made her beautiful and unique little Christmas boxes with delicious chocolates in them. Anne Mack had a parcel with Christmas cards and candy canes and Betty made lovely shortbread which was served with an after-dinner mint to enjoy with our tea and coffee.

Our lovely kitchen ladies served us a tasty hot quiche with salad for entrée, followed by our piping hot and delicious main course consisting of turkey, ham and vegetables. Next we were in a dilemma as to whether we should have hot Christmas pudding or pavlova! Decisions, decisions!

Pat, Layle, Marie, Sue, Clare and Wendy did a wonderful job looking after 64 guests.

Inghams Turkeys once again donated the turkeys to us and Michael of Blairgowrie Meats donated the ham. We enjoyed the wonderful surprise of having Father Christmas find his way to our festivities with a gift for each person. With a jolly "ho-ho-ho" he wound his way around the hall, making sure he stopped by each and every person, including the kitchen staff, before disappearing with his oh so noisy bell.

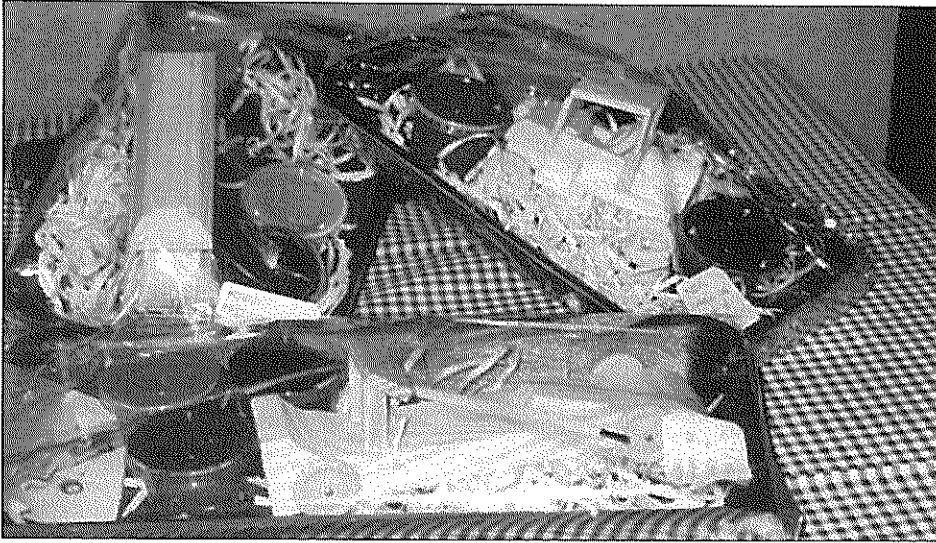
As the afternoon drew to a close, we sensed it had once again been another successful event. Ian McDonald once again played the good shepherd as he escorted his happy Mentone Auxiliary members to the bus and drove us back to town. We were so grateful for his bus driving abilities.

We were pleased to announce that on the day we raised \$1,250 and were so thrilled to be able to forward a cheque to RVIB for \$7,500 for our year's work.



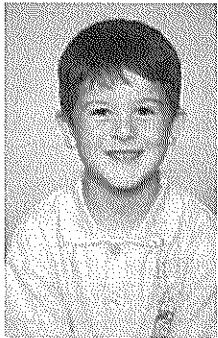
▲ The tables were beautifully set with all the traditional Christmas trimmings.

Young helping hands



▲ Ben Breeden saved his pocket money to put together these lovely gift packs for us

By Elizabeth Davies (Hon Secretary)
Sorrento Auxiliary



Ben Breeden, aged eight, has been coming to Sorrento Auxiliary events for the last two years. He especially enjoys the end of January BBQ.

The night we played pass-the-parcel he was extremely involved, trying very hard to organise who would be holding it when the music stopped.

Ben comes with Nan and Pa Breeden - better known to us as Ann and Bob.

For this year's trading table at the Christmas in June lunch, he used his pocket money to buy and make four activity trays holding a wooden toy, three pots of paints and a paintbrush. These packs were quickly snapped-up as they were ideal boys' presents.

The group was thrilled that Ben, at his young age, wanted to do so much to help us.

RVIB's Christmas in July



More than 40 friends and supporters of RVIB gathered for an afternoon of fine food and entertainment at the organisation's annual Christmas in July luncheon at Tatra Restaurant in the Dandenong Ranges. The warmth of an open fire, traditional Christmas fare and singing of carols created a wonderful atmosphere, and RVIB thanks all guests for joining in the festivities and showing their support. Pictured: Organiser Ian McDonald and RVIB client Wanda Edgerton with guests.

Kerri on the road

It has been another busy few months for Auxiliary Coordinator Kerri Guyett. These were her recent engagements:

- Swan Hill AGM
- Kyneton AGM
- Skipton Regional Conference
- Newborough AGM
- Maffra Regional Conference
- Central Council Meeting
- Christmas in July Sorrento
- Hamilton Regional Conference
- Trentham Humble Spud Luncheon
- Dimboola AGM
- Hamilton AGM
- Mentone AGM
- Jeparit AGM
- Traralgon and Newborough Special Luncheon
- Rainbow Regional Conference
- Gisborne 3S Luncheon
- Terang Regional Conference
- Boort AGM
- All Souls Opportunity Shop AGM
- Hamilton Sheep Vention
- Lorna Lodge Visit
- Swan Hill Regional Conference
- RVIB Tour - Euroa Auxiliary
- Essendon AGM
- Park Street Ladies Card Afternoon
- Maldon AGM
- Kyneton Regional Conference
- Wodonga Braille Expo
- Wodonga Library assisted by Wodonga Auxiliary
- For Sight Week Launch, Botanic Gardens, Melbourne
- Gisborne AGM
- High Tea at the Windsor

Many thanks to Jeff Johnson, RVIB Event Manager, for attending Euroa Christmas in July on my behalf and to Kerang Auxiliary Members. Unfortunately Kerang AGM clashed with Boort's AGM and I was unable to attend.

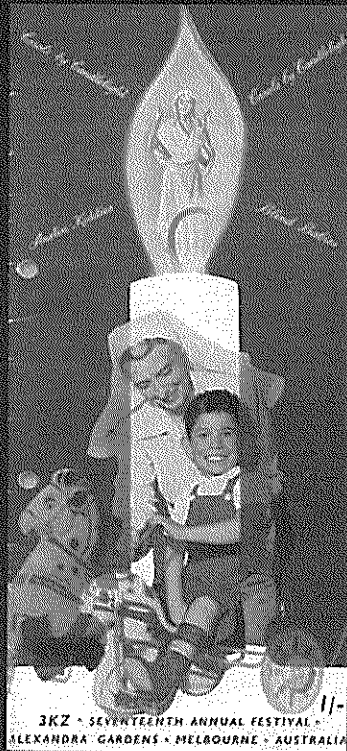
CAROLS

Tickets to this year's Christmas Eve tradition, RVIB Carols by Candlelight, will be on sale from 9:00am on Saturday, 8 November through Ticketmaster7.

Presented by Qantas and featuring top Australian talent, each year over 30,000 people attended the event held under the stars at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl.

RVIB Carols by Candlelight is broadcast live by sponsors the Nine Network, Radio 3AW and Magic 693.

This year, RVIB is set for another sell-out event, so people are advised to buy tickets early through Ticketmaster7 on 136 100 to avoid disappointment.



▲ Cover of the 1955 Carols program

Dimboola Annual Report 02/03

I have much pleasure in presenting the 66th Annual Report for the Dimboola Auxiliary of the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind (RVIB).

We have 25 financial members and hold three meetings each year with an average of 11 attendees. Amongst our members we also have three men who attend the Christmas Luncheon and assist when required. Our oldest member will be 92 in November and our youngest is 52 - and also a very good treasurer! Our main fundraising activities are the Blumes summer and winter fashion shows and three raffles which are held in March, October and December, where a Christmas stocking is raffled. We were able to send \$1,500 to RVIB in June.

In December, members enjoyed a Christmas Luncheon at the Dimboola Hotel. As the Christmas calendars returned to the old format, we were able to sell 100. Diaries didn't have our logo last year, but I sold 30 with our auxiliary stamp on the front cover.

We were sorry to see Mr and Mrs Rudolph leave Dimboola in September. Ena had been a member of the Auxiliary since 1986, and was president from 1989 to 1997, and Vice-President from 1997 to 2000. She also opened her home to us for our meetings.

I would like to thank the senior citizens for allowing us the use of their rooms for our meetings and fashion shows. I also thank our President, Mrs Gweneth Elliot, our very capable Treasurer, Mrs Marilyn Bridgewater, and all members for their loving support in what has been a difficult year for me. You are always so willing to help. I trust we will have another happy and successful year in our work to raise funds for people who are blind or vision impaired.

Our thanks to the Dimboola Banner for advertising our meetings and news items.

Cressy Auxiliary's President's Report 02/03

By Nerine Sanders (Hon Sec.)

The RVIB Cressy Auxiliary hold three meetings per year - in February, July and October.

We have 12 members with an average attendance of seven members. At our last meeting we welcomed two new members: Sonia Plant and Rhonda Walters. In the past 12 months a total of \$450 has been sent to RVIB in Melbourne.

In June we held a showing of "Blumes" winter collection of clothes which was followed by a luncheon. Blumes will be back by popular demand on 7 November to preview their summer collection.

The Cressy Auxiliary consists of a small but dedicated group of core members. If additional assistance is required, we have a number of helpers whom we can call on to assist, for example, with catering.

Kerri visits Maldon...



▲ RVIB Auxiliary Coordinator, Kerri Guyett, with some of the lovely ladies at Maldon. Kerri visited Maldon on 26 August 2003.

News from Jeparit Auxiliary

President's Report 2002/2003

By Irene Schmidt (President)

At our 2002 AGM, office bearers were elected. We enjoyed listening to our guest speaker, Miss Margaret Preston, who showed slides of her trip to America during the 11 September period.

Jeparit Auxiliary is now in its 11th year. We have 13 members and an average attendance of eight people per meeting. We have an annual membership fee of \$3, and each member donates 50 cents at meetings. A fine of 10 cents is imposed if members forget to bring an item listed, such as a baby photo or serviette holder for example.

Several members attended the RVIB conference at Nhill in July 2002.

During the year we held four meetings. Our meeting day was

changed from the third Thursday to the third Monday, at 1:30 pm. We held two bingo afternoons with no admission charge and games were 20 cents per card. Minties were given as prizes. We also held a Cent Day in the street.

We were saddened by the passing of two members over the year - Doris Hoffmann and Norma Kluge. We extend sympathy to their families.

We presented farewell gifts to Martha van Zanten; and Albert and Theresa Johnson. We also sent a card and hanky to Bobbi Ailvester who moved to Ballarat.

In concluding my report I give many thanks to all who have helped in any way. Special thanks to my secretary-treasurer, Myra Water, and vice-president, Nell Smith.

Colac reports

President's Annual Report 2003

We started the new year with two new members and I thank them for their interest.

The Cobden Auxiliary played host for the regional conference. Five of our members attended what was a very friendly and happy day.

The Chad Kelly Braille machine was of great interest to us and the Colac people. We were very pleased to be able to hand on \$1,000 to help pay for the machine. This was made possible by a request left to us by our late member, Mrs Hartop.

The past 18 months have been very hard for Auxiliary member Irene Curtis. We hope her health will only improve from now on.

The 2003 conference is coming up in Terang and we hope to attend this function.

A long time friend of our Auxiliary, Mrs Lass, passed away last year. She was a dear lady who will be missed.

We held a luncheon at member Anne Arnott's home in December. Members each invited two guests and a delightful day was had by all. Catering was provided by members and Den made the soup.

Instead of a holding street stall, members agreed to each donate \$20. Together with help from our meeting stalls and the Christmas raffle, we have had a really good year both financially and with fellowship.

Several of our meetings have been held at Rankins round the dining room table, as we have been small in numbers. Afterwards we enjoy a cup of tea and Barbara sells items from the stall. Thank you to Elisabeth and Lyn Easton for they continued interest, Ruth for her book work and all members for their continued support throughout the year.

Maffra auxiliary

President's Report 2003

As reported at the Regional Conference Monday, 16 June

Maffra Auxiliary has had a successful year with five new members joining. Our bi-monthly meetings attract an average of eight members.

Our secretary/treasurer is now employed part-time and writes up the minutes and treasurer's report which is presented by the assistant secretary to members. While not perfect, this system is working and I thank Lyn Ogilvie for stepping in for Jennifer at each meeting.

This year's fundraising activities included the usual street raffles for Fathers' Day, Christmas Day and Mothers' Day. Because of the short time between Easter and Mothers' Day, the auxiliary only had a small Easter raffle, rather than selling tickets on the street.

We held a Morning Coffee last month, which was small but successful, and we are planning another one later this year.

In closing I would like to thank all the members of our small group and am pleased to hand-over a cheque to RVIB for \$1,500.

Sale auxiliary

President's Report 2003

It is with pleasure that I present the Annual Report for Sale RVIB Auxiliary.

Our membership remains much the same, only we are all a year older. After saying that, I must add that we have again had another successful year, thanks to our energetic President, Mrs Harper, and some very willing helpers.

Our main fundraising activities included an afternoon tea at a member's home, visits to hostels, a lamington drive and the sale of some fancy goods.

Our thanks to all who assist us and those who buy our goodies.

*- Jean Garby
Hon Secretary*

For Sight Week - Windsor High Tea



▲ It was wonderful to see so many of our auxiliaries support RVIB during For Sight Week



▲ Singers Lauren Hayes and Amanda Forbes



▲ Host Ian McDonald and his lovely wife, Pat



▲ Guests enjoyed the afternoon of entertainment and, of course, the scrumptious high tea

News from Leongatha...

I have pleasure in presenting the President's Report for the year 2002/2003.

In June 2002 one of our members, Pearl Christoffersen, gave us a very interesting travelogue of her recent trip to Europe.

Our Annual Coffee Morning in July was well attended and raised \$400. One of our ladies, Lurie Hanks, was presented with a 25-year service badge.

In August we all enjoyed our Christmas Luncheon at the local RSL Club. The RSL is one of our Rose Show supporters.

We all enjoyed our September get-together where we were entertained by the local Meeniyan Dumbalk Music Lovers Group.

The October meeting was very busy as we finalised arrangements for the annual Rose Show. Two members, Joan Michael and Glenice Griggs, travelled from Leongatha to enjoy the *High Tea at the Windsor* in Melbourne. It was a wonderful day (and we fitted in some shopping as well)! Our auxiliary also received donations from the Hardella CWA and the Leongatha Lord Brassey Masonic Lodge.

It was Rose Show time again in November. We were blessed with good weather and it was great to see lots of entries. This year we were pleased to introduce a new category for best perfumed rose. This was judged by RVIB client Wanda Egerton. Wanda had quite a job with 30 entries! Wanda and Kerri spent the two days with us. Once takings from the Rose Show and our other fundraising events from the past six months were calculated, we were pleased to send a cheque to RVIB for \$5,000. After a very busy seven months we took a two-month well-



▲ This photo depicts three generations of auxiliary members who now attend our meetings and activities. Gwen Griggs has been a member for over 30 years, Glenice Griggs has been a member for 14 years and Karen Hardacre has been with us for two years. Well done ladies and keep up the good work!

earned rest, enjoying Christmas with our families.

Our first meeting for 2003 was held in February in the garden of Lisa and Stephen Riley near Leongatha. The garden party was well attended and we made \$300 from the social afternoon.

In March two of our members - Margaret Jerram and Glenice Griggs, attended the RVIB garden party at Government House. The Auxiliary was presented with a *Lifetime Achievement Award* by Governor John Landy AC MBE. We raised money at our March meeting with a 'No Bake' Stall. We all gave a donation instead of baking and working on a stall down the street.

April was a sad time for our auxiliary as one of our members, Irene Wisdom, passed away suddenly. She had been a member for 10 years. Some of our members attended the regional conference held at Korumburra on Wednesday, 2 April which was a very interesting day. Our annual meeting was held

in May with Kerri Guyett in attendance. Kerri presented two of our ladies, Maisie Sing and Estelle Cook, with 25-year service badges. She then took the chair for the election of office bearers. All positions were filled and another busy year is ahead.

We welcomed four new members this year which brings our membership up to 27. Among these are three gentlemen - it is great to have manpower with us.

We have been supporting our neighbouring auxiliaries (Korumburra and Kongwak) throughout the year with their recent Coffee Mornings, Luncheon and Cent Afternoons.

In closing I would like to thank the members and friends for their hard work throughout the year to help raise money for the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind (RVIB).

Four generations!



▲ This photos depicts four generations of Newborough Auxiliary members - Rhonda, Elsie, Heather and Phoebe.

RVIB Mentone Auxiliary

Kerri Guyett chaired our 73rd Annual General Meeting in July. The following Committee Members were elected unopposed: Barbara Naylor as President, Barbara Round as Secretary, Dot McKenzie as Treasurer and Coral Waddell and Mavis Voigt as Vice Presidents. Thanks to these members for again taking-up office. We welcomed new members Hazel Carter and Beatrice Johnson to our auxiliary. Bill (Bertha) Reid passed away recently and will be very much missed by our group.

Tess Bone was awarded a Life Governorship for her long work as President etc. Barbara Round was awarded a certificate of appreciation for her time in office. The Mentone Opportunity Shop and the Mentone Bowling Club were also awarded certificates of appreciation for their continued financial support, as was the Kingston Council Bus who transport our ladies to and from our meetings and other events. We are very lucky to have these local helpers.

Gwen Edwards and Barbara Round were awarded their 15 year badges.

Several members of our group travelled to Sorrento for the Peninsular Conference. We also joined Sorrento for their Christmas in July Luncheon. Both were very enjoyable days as we are always happy to socialise with our neighbouring auxiliaries.

We look forward to meeting members from other auxiliaries at the Christmas function.

- Barbara Round (Hon Secretary)
Mentone Auxiliary

Farewell Amanda!

Many of our Swan Hill members will miss Amanda Heighway, Loddon Mallee Region services coordinator, who has left RVIB. I would personally like to thank Amanda for her help with auxiliary activities. Amanda often gave up her time to help whenever she was needed. I wish her well for her future endeavors.

- Kerri Guyett

News from Terang

President's Report 2002/2003

The RVIB Terang Auxiliary meet quarterly and have an average attendance of seven to 12 members per meeting. Despite being a small group, the public's support is great.

Our fundraisers include a street stall and a soup and sandwich luncheon. The Poorat Card Players support our branch and raise an average of \$1,000 each year.

Meryle Goverdale retired last year after 38 years as secretary - a hard act to follow - and we thank her for her dedication and setting such a fine example to us all.

We support and fund the *Terang Express on tape*. Pat Stanhope, along with a band of dedicated readers, bring this service to people who are vision impaired every week.

We pay a tribute to the late Miss Mary Brandshaw. Miss Brandshaw was a wonderful, quiet lady who worked tirelessly for many organisations, including RVIB, where she was a Terang Auxiliary member for over 50 years.

We consider our Auxiliary branch to be very worthwhile and not demanding on anyone - four meetings per year, some fundraising, and we invite anyone interested to join us.

We mourn the loss of two former branch members - namely Doris Arundell, and earlier this year, Mary Glennen. Both were tireless, generous workers and are now enjoying their eternal reward.

Lastly we thank the public of Terang and surrounding districts for their generous support of our fundraising efforts and their presence here today. We forwarded \$1,455 to RVIB and \$500 to the *Terang Express on tape*.

News from Benalla

President's Report 2002/2003

- Dawn Keil (Hon Secretary)
Benalla Auxiliary

As presented at the RVIB Regional Conference on 29 May 2003.

"Madam President, members of area auxiliary and guests.

This is a brief report of RVIB Benalla Auxiliary's activities during the past year.

Since our last Regional Conference, members have been very busy with fundraising activities, which saw us forward \$3,000 to RVIB.

We are a small but enthusiastic group of friends, totally 16 members.

Eight members attended Wangaratta Conference last June and enjoyed the day immensely.

Our Treasurer, Jean, forwarded \$1,000 to RVIB. Also at our July meeting, the secretary informed members about the Benalla "Think tank meeting" where better living and conditions for local people were discussed.

In August we held a stall at CWA market, Sale, and collected \$121.90.

On 23 September (our usual meeting day) we held an afternoon tea at our president's home (Beth) and were pleased to hear from our special guest speaker from "Comfort Fit". It was a perfect spring day with many locals in attendance. Beth had previously placed tins around town and arranged for their collection prior to our annual audit on 30 September.

Kath Doxey makes our wreaths for both Anzac Day and Remembrance Day each year and we all appreciate her thoughtful efforts. We also thank Kath for arrangements she made with her son-in-law who is a secondary

school teacher. A total of 45 students assisted with RVIB's annual door-knock from October 7 to 11. Kerri assisted by providing support and media coverage.

Our annual meeting was held on 30 October and was attended by Benalla Auxiliary members as well as members from other local groups.

Our guest speaker was Chris Ballantyne, regional officer, and we were delighted to meet our new auxiliary coordinator, Kerri. They both spoke about their respective roles at RVIB.

Our Christmas break-up was attended by 20 members and friends and we had a great day.

Treasurer, Jean, arranged to send \$2,500 to RVIB, which included \$1,500 raised by the students through the door-knock.

The members agreed to have another stall at CWA market in March, which raised \$185.25 for RVIB.

Last month we held a luncheon for past and present members, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

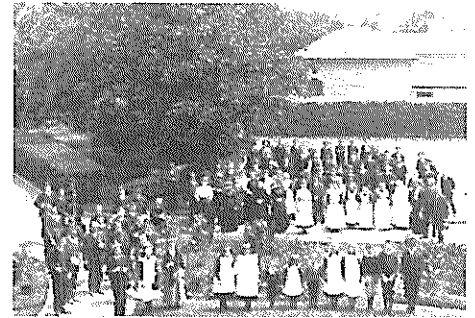
Members agreed at our recent meeting to hold another fashion parade in October.

We also received jars of quince jelly from Mrs DeFazio, who for many years has been donating jelly to our auxiliary.

Benalla Auxiliary are a very friendly and happy group and continue to enjoy involvement with RVIB.

Thank you members of Beechworth for inviting us to join you today."

Did you know?



Did you know that in August this year, RVIB celebrated its 138th birthday?

On 27 February 1866 a meeting of prominent citizens and philanthropists was convened by the Reverend James Mirams to consider setting up a school for blind children in Melbourne.

This was followed by a public meeting in Prahran on **21 August 1866** where it was decided to establish an asylum and school. A Provisional Committee was formed and the resolution was passed: "...that steps be taken to establish an Asylum and School for the Blind; that the gentlemen now present form a Provisional Committee to carry out this object; that the Hon. George Harker be Chairman and the Rev. Jas. Mirams, Secretary."

Happy birthday RVIB!



Readers' recipes!

Chocolate Mud Cake

- Michelle Baker, Quambatook

Ingredients:

- 3 cups of self-raising flour
- 8 tablespoon cocoa
- 1 ½ cups sugar
- 2 ½ cups water
- 4 tablespoon golden syrup
- 180g butter
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla essence
- 1 teaspoon bicarb of soda

Method:

Preheat oven to 180C. Mix the self-raising flour, cocoa and sugar in a container.

Boil the water and then add the golden syrup, butter, vanilla essence and bicarb soda.

Pour over the dry ingredients and mix with a fork until there are no lumps. Pour into a baking dish and bake for 25 minutes.

When cool, cut while still in tin and serve with dusted icing sugar, Whipped cream and strawberries.

Lamington cakes

- Elizabeth Davies (Hon Secretary)

Sorrento Auxiliary

Whenever Richy had fancy shaped birthday cakes this is the recipe that we used. It can be cut into shapes without crumbling and is a lovely tasting cake. This is fine to make into lamingtons as well as using for the ordinary creamed cake. It is easy and convenient to make as the ingredients are generally always in the house.

Ingredients:

- 2 eggs
- ¾ cup castor sugar
- Cream
- 1 cup self-raising flour

Method:

Break the eggs into a 1 cup measure and add the cream to the top.

Beat the eggs, cream and sugar together until fluffy. Stir in the sifted flour until mixed through.

Bake in a moderate oven for 30 minutes.

Can be made in a ring tin, or as small cakes and decorated with chocolate icing and coconut.

Classy Pumpkin Soup

I love using this recipe for dinner guests. It's just that little bit classy and different.

Ingredients:

- 1 butternut pumpkin (med.)
- Water
- Scallops
- Shelled pistachios
- Curry powder
- Coconut cream
- Shelled cooked prawns

Method:

Peel and cut-up the pumpkin. Place in a pot, then sprinkle on up to 2 teaspoons of curry powder. Add enough water to half cover, or enough so that it doesn't burn. Cook until soft, (about 20 mins) then puree. When ready to serve, heat and add the coconut cream, being careful not to boil. Just before serving, drop the scallops in and keep on the heat, bearing in mind that it does not take much heat to cook them. Add the prawns just long enough to heat.

Serve with beautiful, hot crusty bread.

Skipton reports

By Desma Meek

Our regional conference was held on 11 June and we had a good level of attendance. The meeting was opened at 11:00am and Councilor for Corangamite, Kevin O'Donnell, welcomed guests. Special guest speaker, Wanda Egerton, gave a most interesting and informative talk on how her life was made easier thanks to the help of RVIB.

Presentations were made to Doreen Wilkide, Lil Martin (20 year badge), Alva Esleorne (20 year badge), Joyce Wilkie (15 year badge), Eileen Rodalis (15 year badge), Joyce Williams (10 year badge), and Joan McMinnan (10 year badge).

I am sure that Kerri Guyett and Wanda enjoyed the day.

Barwon Heads

RVIB Barwon Heads Auxiliary welcomed Ocean Grove Auxiliary to Lorna Lodge in Barwon Heads. The lodge is a two bedroom holiday home established for people who are blind or vision impaired, and their families, to use as a break from the everyday grind.

Members from Ocean Grove were very impressed with the lodge. We then returned to the Uniting Church Hall for afternoon tea. It was a lovely get together. We were very pleased that Mr Ian McDonald and Kerri Guyett found the time from their very busy schedule to come. We thank them very much and it was lovely to see them.

Yarrawonga

Thank you to Beechworth and the caterers for a lovely day. Our auxiliary has an average of 15 members at each meeting. Our major fundraiser was a street stall which netted \$1,600 of which \$1,000 was raised from the raffles. This year we sent RVIB \$4,700. In recent years we have had a generous member give us \$3,000 a year.

OBITUARIES

WILLIAMSON, Olive

Portland Auxiliary members were saddened by the sudden passing of President Mrs Olive Williamson on 24 July 2003. Olive had been a dedicated auxiliary member for 30 years. She was always involved with activities, was a well-respected member of the community and touched the lives of many people through her involvement with local organisations. Olive was a very quiet achiever and will be sadly missed.

REID Bertha (Billie)

Mentone Auxiliary

Bill Reid was a long standing member of the Mentone Auxiliary. A long time resident of Mentone, RVIB Auxiliary was her favourite auxiliary of the many groups she belonged to. She was a tireless worker at various fundraising events and we won't forget her marvellous cakes etc she provided for our functions. She also organised the afternoon tea at our meetings. Bill will be particularly missed for her cheerful and outgoing personality. She always had a kind word for everyone and was quickly on the phone when she heard of anyone in trouble or unwell to see if she could help.

We will miss Bill very much in our group. She will be very hard to replace. Our sincere sympathy is

extended to her family at this time of loss.

- Barbara Round (Hon. Secretary)

HOUGHTON, Irene

Sale Auxiliary

In May our long time member Mrs Irene Houghton sadly passed away. Irene was a prolific maker of crochet rugs which she kindly donated to the auxiliary for fundraising. Even though ill-health forced her to move to Canberra to live with her son, Irene didn't forget the auxiliary, as she continued to post us her rugs - all the way down to Sale.

We all miss her friendship.

- Jean Garby (Hon. Secretary)

THIELE, Phyllis

Hawthorn Auxiliary

We are saddened by the death of Phyllis Thiele, our past treasurer. Phyllis was a vice-president of the central council of auxiliaries. She originally joined the Mitcham Auxiliary and came to Hawthorn when they disbanded. Phyllis took part in RVIB Carols by Candlelight. She was a cheerful member and will be sadly missed.

- Mrs. Olive Williams (Hon. Secretary)

RVIB School Tour



▲ Ellen Ramplin enjoyed an auxiliary tour of RVIB School, with Kerri Guyett and Ian McDonald

Euroa Auxiliary Annual Report 2002/2003

By Debbie Ellis (Hon. Secretary)

On behalf of the RVIB Euroa Auxiliary I would like to present a report on our fundraising achievements over the past 12 months.

We have 38 wonderful members. Our fundraising involved a garden party at the home of Trish and Peter Bamfords where 19 lovely framed long stitch pictures, crafted by Linda Watkins, were displayed. We also held a morning tea where two of our Auxiliary members, Mrs Doris Johnson and Mrs Lorna Smith, displayed their lovely china painting and craft work.

The Auxiliary also held raffles during Euroa wool week and at the Euroa/Ruffy sheep dog trials. We also hold a stall in our main street each year. We held our own Christmas party at the Euroa hotel and were pleased to have raised nearly \$900 for RVIB through two weeks of selling Christmas cards, calendars, pens and diaries etc.

The community of Euroa and its district have helped us to raise \$3,500 for RVIB.

Our Euroa Auxiliary thanks Beechworth for holding the conference. We thank them for their hospitality and we wish all auxiliaries the best for the next 12 months of fundraising.



Nhill Auxiliary President's Report 2002/2003

It is with pleasure that I bring you a report from Nhill Auxiliary.

We are a small band of ladies who work very hard.

Last year we were very pleased to welcome two new members - Mrs Dorothy Gosling who was a member here and now resides in Nhill - Rainbow's loss is our gain - and Mrs Evelyn Ansell has joined us.

We are very grateful to Lowana for making the room available to us to have card afternoons.

Flag bridge is played on the fourth Thursday of each month between the months of March and October. My sincere thanks to everyone for donating prizes and afternoon tea.

In December we have a Christmas Luncheon at the WA rooms, where we invite people who are vision impaired. This day is always enjoyed by all.

In July last year we hosted for the RVIB Conference, which was attended by members from Dimboola, Jeparit, Rainbow and Warracknabeal.

Mayor Cr. Rob Gersch from the Hindmarsh Shire declared the conference open. After morning tea, Cr. Gersch made presentations to Mrs Marlene Peake and myself.

Mr Ian McDonald was the guest speaker from RVIB, who told us about the history of the organisation and about Melbourne. RVIB was founded in 1866 as an Asylum for the Blind. Ian said that RVIB's mission is to be a leading provider of services, resources and information, which enable people

who are blind or vision impaired to maximise their independence and quality of life.

We had a lovely soup for lunch, as well as sausage rolls, sandwiches, quiches and fruit salad. Sincere thanks to everyone who brought food and for all the wonderful help received in the kitchen.

After lunch Mrs Janet Robins from Horsham spoke to us about her work visiting vision impaired clients in the Wimmera region. Reports were given by all auxiliaries.

Our auxiliary also celebrated its 70th birthday. Our cake was beautifully decorated by Mrs Bebbie Smith. We sang "Happy Birthday" and I had the honour of cutting the cake. I also presented a cheque of \$500 to Ian McDonald.

Thank you,
-Win

Share your news!

The next edition of *Out and About* will be in November. Please send contributions by 17 October to:

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



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