

## News from Community Relationship Manager, Kerri Guyett

Welcome back everyone! I hope you had a lovely break with your families and loved ones.

Annual Regional Luncheons (formerly called Regional Conferences) have commenced for 2004. Frankston Auxiliary hosted the Luncheon this year for Sorrento and Mentone Auxiliaries. Jan Doran – whom I'm sure many of you have met – was our guest speaker. As always, Jan gave an interesting talk on the many activities she now undertakes. I would like to extend a big thank you to everyone at the Frankston Auxiliary. Despite a small membership group and their president, Evelyn, not in attendance due to illness, everyone had a wonderful day and thoroughly enjoyed the lunch provided.

Behind each RVIB Auxiliary is a dedicated team of members, backed by community support, who raise funds for people who are blind or vision impaired. In today's fast paced world, taking the time to say thank you is easily forgotten, and I would like to make sure that no person who has helped support RVIB goes unnoticed. Therefore, I ask everyone to let his or her secretary know of anyone whom they think is deserving of an RVIB certificate of appreciation. This includes people who have donated time or prizes for functions,

local organisations, members of your auxiliary, or anyone who has done something special who deserves recognition. These people can then be invited to attend the luncheons where the certificates will be presented.

The proposed merger between RVIB, Vision Australia and the Royal Blind Society of NSW continues to move forward. I will keep you informed of any progress as information becomes available. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the merger process please contact RVIB's public relations manager, Michelle Bourke, on 03 9522 5230, or myself.

I heard a whisper that some auxiliaries are not receiving receipts. Our fantastic volunteer Lyn (whom many of you met at last year's Christmas party) is 100% up-to-date with the issuing of receipts. You should receive your receipt within about 10 days of your cheque arriving at RVIB. If this is not the case then please let me know. Sometimes mail goes astray in which case we can issue you with a copy of the receipt.

Donald Auxiliary members had a big celebration recently. Mrs Hannah Bath – a long serving member of the auxiliary – celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday! I will be seeing Mrs Bath at

the next meeting in Donald, and in the meantime, I am sure you will all join me in congratulating Mrs Bath on this wonderful occasion!

Congratulations also to everyone who celebrated their own milestones recently.

One last thing, I am pleased to inform you that the cheques handed in at the Christmas Luncheon totalled \$16,463!

I look forward to seeing you soon at an Annual Regional Luncheon. In the meantime keep up the good work and happy fundraising.

Best wishes, Kerri

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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.

# Around Victoria

## News from Wodonga

It gives me great pleasure to present the Wodonga RVIB Auxiliary's President's Report for 2002/2003.

Firstly I would like to thank all the auxiliary members for their attendance at meetings and functions which the auxiliary conducted, and for providing goods for the trading table. Without you, the auxiliary would not function.

Thanks to Wilma France for her efficiency as treasurer during the last 12 months.

Thanks also to Shirley Gray for her efforts as secretary and also for making her and Les's residence available for auxiliary functions.

Fundraising during the year consisted of a Pleasant Sunday and Autumn Brunch both held at Shirley and Les's residence – a pleasant venue to conduct such events. Both were very well attended and financially successful. We also conducted a short raffle over a couple of days for a load of wood. This was also a successful venture. A trading table was in operation at meetings and also at the Pleasant

Sunday Afternoon and the Brunch. We sold items such as calendars in the street for a couple of days.

Members of the auxiliary assisted on a couple of days where Gina Schmidt organised get-togethers for families of vision impaired children. I believe these were successful, especially the last day held at Willow Park. This allowed the children to run wild and use the playground equipment.

Members attended and supplied morning tea at the Wodonga Library where an information day was organised by Kerri Guyett.

I would like to thank the Wodonga Fire Brigade for the use of their meeting room for our meetings and Christmas luncheon, which we had for the first time last year. This luncheon was very successful with members being able to socialise without having to put their hands in their pockets. We probably should continue to have this function.

In closing, I would like to wish the members of the auxiliary all the best for the coming year.

## Share your auxiliary's news!

The next edition of *Out and About* will be in June. Please send contributions by 14 May to:

The Editor

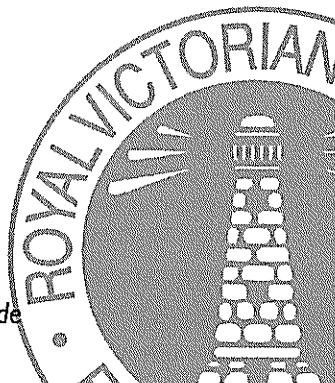
*Out and About*

RVIB, 557 St Kilda Road

Melbourne VIC 3004.

Tel (03) 9522 5232 or Fax (03) 9529 6382.

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



## Annual Regional Luncheon Dates 2004

**15 March:** Frankston Auxiliary, Church of Christ Hall, Frankston

**20 April:** Leongatha Auxiliary, Uniting Church Hall, Peart St, Leongatha

**12 May:** Yarrawonga Auxiliary, venue TBC

**19 May:** Barwon Heads, venue TBC

**15 June:** Colac, St Johns Hall

**24 June:** Coleraine Auxiliary, RSL Hall

**7 July:** Warracknabeal, Uniting Church

**August (date TBC):** Swan Hill, venue TBC

**7 September:** Maldon, venue TBC

## Coming events

**Flowers, Foliage & Food at Barringo Valley:** 22 April from 10:30am to 3:30pm. Cost \$15. For details contact Jean Hedington on Tel: 5422 1038.

**Warracknabeal Casserole Luncheon:** 7 May, Uniting Church Hall. Contact Kerri Guyett on Tel: 03 9522 5232.

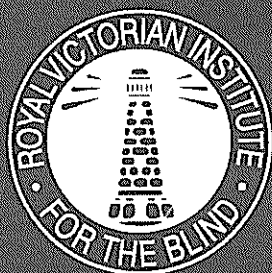
**Ocean Grove 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday:** 10 May, Uniting Church. Contact Kerri Guyett on Tel: 03 9522 5232.

## Meet Lyn Annetta - Volunteer profile

I've been a volunteer with Kerri Guyett since September 2003. Since then I've had the pleasure of meeting some auxiliary members at the Windsor Hotel and at the RVIB Christmas Party in Ormond Hall.

I have spoken to many auxiliary members over the telephone and hope to continue my contact with you. As you all know, Kerri and I are currently updating the member database. Thank you to all the secretaries who have returned their updated member lists.

Apart from my voluntary work with Kerri, my interests include being a member of the University of the Third Age (U3A). Their lectures are always stimulating. I am also a member of a walking group which is so invigorating and makes me feel like I've really achieved something at the end of a walk.



# RVIB

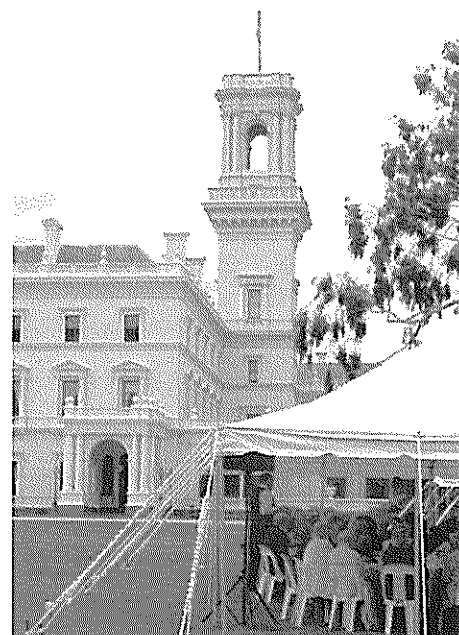
# News from Kyneton

It has been an exciting year for the RVIB volunteers from Kyneton. Nineteen of us ventured into a minibus to visit Government House for the volunteers' appreciation luncheon in March last year. What a lovely day we all had with beautiful surroundings, an interesting array of speakers and lovely finger-food. We all returned to Kyneton inspired to work further for RVIB.

On our trip home it was decided that we would reform the Kyneton Auxiliary which had lapsed for a number of years.

Subsequently we held a 're-formation' meeting in June and our auxiliary was up and running once again. In August we volunteered to host the Regional Conference which was very successful with 28 in attendance including our Mayor – Donna Petrovich. Eleven members from Kyneton and three from Gisborne had earned service badges. Kyneton members included: Jean Hedington (20 years); Beverly Lynch (10 years); Barbara Jones (10 years); Thelma Ferguson (10 years); Betty McClure (10 years); Betty Govan (10 years); Dorothy Bullen (deceased – 12 years); Noel Young (10 years); Vera Smith (deceased – 10 years); Carmel Bowe (5 years); and Elaine Barron (5 years). Members for Gisborne who received service badges included: Dorothy Colquhoun (10 years); Elaine Millar (5 years); and Margaret Thomson (new member). Congratulations to all for such a great effort!

We held a very successful annual door-knock in October in the Kyneton area with 40 collectors taking part. The door-knock resulted in nearly \$3,900 being collected, and with profits from the conference and donations from several counter boxes, we were thrilled to send RVIB a cheque for \$4,150. What a wonderful result from a 'new' auxiliary! Thanks must go to the willing band of collectors and also to



▲ The Government House function was a highlight of the year.

our many generous donors. We will add another small cheque to our total before 30 June this year.

The Christmas luncheon at Ormond Hall was an inspirational outing. Not only did we have a lovely Christmas dinner, but we were also inspired by the performers.

The RVIB students are a joy to see and hear – their confidence in performing is heart-warming. Then there was the address by Marie Younan – what a lovely story. How wonderful for someone like Marie to secure such support from RVIB. She has found a new life through RVIB's help. She is so grateful and it was lovely to see her show her appreciation by praising all the auxiliaries for their hard work and support.

We come away from these outings feeling proud to be volunteers for such a worthy organisation, and to not take our sight for granted.

May all staff, students and supporters enjoy good health and happiness for the year we are starting.

- Jean Hedington  
Secretary/Treasurer

# Sorrento Auxiliary reports

## Spring garden lunch at Sorrento

On Sunday, 9 November I was able to help David Trim set up the most magnificent display of plants, punnets of seedlings, and colourful pots with tomatoes and other beautiful looking vegetables. How wonderful the hall looked when he had finished!

It was then ready for us to prepare and decorate the tables for following day's lunch. We were having a pastie and sausage roll lunch with delicious cakes and slices to follow. It was a beautiful meal and so we were ready to enjoy the rest of the afternoon.

David is from Trim's Nursery at McCrae. He came to talk about plants and planting and about how to help the gardens in these times of water restriction.

David brought a magnificent red flowering tree to be raffled. It was duly won and the new owner thought it was wonderful.

Our mystery bucket raffle was a huge success and is always much looked forward to. Some of the themes included a stationary bucket with stamps, notebooks, pens and a diary; a party bucket with a cake mix, icing, sprinkles, party invitations, poppers and balloons; and a cleaning bucket. The garden theme bucket was popular, with a vase, gloves, seeds, fertilizer and garden ties. For readers who haven't heard of our mystery buckets, we use two litre buckets and fill them with items around a certain theme.

RVIB's Ian McDonald very kindly acted as the bus driver and collected our friends from the Mentone Auxiliary. It was lovely to



▲ Sorrento School captains were thrilled to present Elizabeth Davies of Sorrento Auxiliary with a cheque. Also present were teachers Mr Holwell and Mrs McDonald.

catch up with them and also to welcome our friends from the Frankston Auxiliary. We also welcomed members from other local groups and the community.

It was a very busy and successful day for us. Our only upset was that Jean fell as she was leaving the hall, and required a plaster cast for her wrist for the next six weeks.

## Visiting Sorrento Primary School

I was approached by the Sorrento Primary School last May who asked if they could donate money to us.

Of course I agreed away, and then asked what was involved. The children have a casual dress day every term and they like to choose local charities to donate to. This was the first time that we had been chosen. Mrs McDonald - one of the teachers - is often a guest at functions we hold.

It was decided that it would be wonderful if Russell Short and Jason

Hanrahan (with his dog, Iggy) could come for the morning to give an overall view of RVIB.

Kerri set up a program for 11 November, which included us being present at assembly. Kerri, Jason, Trish, Russell and myself were there to be introduced to the children and staff. Children were then split into groups with Russell playing cricket on the oval with the grade fours, and Kerri and I talking to the grade five and sixers about the work of RVIB and its auxiliaries.

Jason also joined us, and the children were pleased to be able to ask questions, which were many and varied. Most of the children loved being able to hear Jason's talking watch. The morning passed very quickly with a quick chat from Russell before the time was up. It was a most enjoyable morning.

On 1 December, I returned to my old school at assembly time to be presented with a cheque for \$400.

...continued

## News from Sorrento cont'd.

It was such a pleasure to receive and to speak to the children again. Mr Holwell and Mrs McDonald spoke about what a pleasure it had been to have members of RVIB at the school, and mentioned that many of the children had added talking watches to their Christmas lists!

### Holiday time at Sorrento

We held our stall on 10 December in the main street of Sorrento. It was a busy morning as Sorrento is bustling with visitors during the holiday time.

Doris, one of our members, makes the most wonderful bears. What fun we have selling those if the person buying the bear has purchased a Collingwood one and it goes into the bag head first! Of course, Hawthorn bears are proudly placed with their heads peeping over the tops of the bags.

A memorable family of three children had fun choosing a pink and blue bear. The little boy chose to have a Collingwood bear knitted and asked to have the number five sewn on the back. Doris did this and she told us how thrilled the little boy was when he came to pick it up. Mum also bought herself a bear when they came back, as she decided that she liked her daughter's so much that she wanted one too! When the family left the main street they gave us a big toot from their car and waved. They had enjoyed being customers.

Mr Michael Gallace, from the Sunny Ridge Strawberry Farm, also donated 36 one kilogram packs of huge strawberries for us to sell. They sold out very quickly with some of the ladies from the Red Cross stall across the street coming to buy them. We don't mind whom we sell to!

We often have people who come every year to see us and catch up on the group's news while they are purchasing. It is so nice to see them.

We did learn one thing though that nearly everyone wanted to win third prize in our raffle! Three lovely prizes were available to win. First prize was a canteen of cutlery in a beautiful handmade box by Henry, which also had a tablecloth and serviettes to match; second prize was a big box with everything needed for a morning or afternoon tea; and third prize was a tray full of fruit. It looked lovely laden with pineapple, cantaloupe, mangos, cherries, strawberries, peaches and apricots. It was a big morning and our thanks go to Jean and Henry Travis, Joan Dean, Anne Mackinnon and Margaret Harris, who helped so much on the day.

### The sick list

Unfortunately we have a sick list. Connie had not been well a few weeks before Christmas and then on the Saturday before Christmas she had to have a quadruple heart bypass. That's the best way I've heard of getting out of cooking the turkey! We are happy to say that she will be back home soon, after recuperating with her daughter, Wendy.

We all send our thoughts and prayers to Betsy whose grandson is not at all sparkling just now, and we wish that he copes well with his treatment as we are all thinking of him.

Our third sickie is Jean, our president, who has not at all been well. She is home after a fortnight in hospital and we are all wishing her a speedy recovery. It was strange to have our first meeting of the year without Jean to tinkle the bell to keep us in order. Get well soon Jean!

## Calling music lovers



If you love Melbourne, enjoy beautiful music and would like to support a worthy cause, then *Classically Melbourne* is for you.

The Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund and radio station 3MBS FM have joined forces to gather some of Melbourne's most gifted classical musicians to produce a unique CD called *Classically Melbourne*.

Featuring performances by the *Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Victoria, Australian Chamber Orchestra, Academy of Melbourne, Slava Grigoryan* and the up and coming *Flinders Quartet*, the CD highlights Melbourne's rich musical culture.

The profits of each CD sold will go directly to the Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund which supports over 200 health and human care service agencies – including RVIB – from public hospitals, agencies working with drug addiction and homelessness, to services for the disabled, aged, youth, families and children.

The CD is reasonably priced at \$19.95 (plus \$2 postage and handling).

To find out how you can order your copy of *Classically Melbourne*, call **Ron Dann** at RVIB on **(03) 9522 5206**.

# OBITUARIES

## **CAMPBELL, Millie**

I am writing on behalf of the Sea Lake RVIB Auxiliary to inform you of the sudden passing of one of our members – Mrs Millie Campbell – on 25 November 2003.

Millie was a well-respected member of the community and was always willing to be involved in all activities with the auxiliary and local organisations. She joined RVIB in 1976, and will be sadly missed by all.

- Barbara Clarke  
Hon. Secretary,  
RVIB Sea Lake Auxiliary

## **GOODWIN, Vi**

Anglesea Auxiliary members were saddened by the death of Vi Goodwin. She was vision impaired, and enjoyed our meetings, discussions and playing cards. We will all miss her, as she was such a cheerful member.

- Mary Dupe  
Hon. Secretary, Anglesea Auxiliary

## **Tribute: ESTHER JOHNSON – long standing member of Berwick Auxiliary**

Sadly, I have to tell you of the passing of long-time member of the Berwick RVIB Auxiliary, Mrs Esther Johnson, on 24 September, aged nearly 96 years.

Es was President of this Auxiliary for 35 consecutive years, relinquishing that office only eight years ago.

To know Es was to love her. She had a beautiful nature and was an inspiration to all members and to everyone who knew her. Her husband, Bill, died nearly 40 years ago, but Es carried on with all her commitments, always helpful and pleasant. Till her illness prevented her, just before last Christmas, Es still worked for the auxiliary. She was at one time President of the Anglican Church Guild, the Berwick Bowling

Club, and the West Gippsland Bowling Association, all of these organisations lasting many years.

Es had three daughters – Margaret, Elizabeth and Gwen (her only son already deceased) who will mourn her. She was a wonderful, caring and loving mother, and indeed a very special lady.

Regards  
Bea Doherty

## **Tribute: ERNA O'BREE – much loved member from Swan Hill Auxiliary**

Swan Hill Auxiliary members were saddened to learn of the passing of Mrs Erna O'Bree on 28 January 2004, at the age of 86 years.

Erna was a great worker for the Swan Hill Auxiliary, being a member for 26 years and secretary for 18 years. Erna was not able to stay in her own home and was in a hostel in Bendigo but was still very interested in our auxiliary. Erna and the late Min Morgans were well known for their sponges, tomato and plum sauce, relishes, jams and anything else that would help our funds. Her other interests were her church and the Laurel Club. Erna also enjoyed bowling and was disappointed when she had to give up.

Erna was a teacher in her early days and when she came to Swan Hill taught at the IH Centre for quite some time. Erna is survived by her seven children and their spouses, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Vale Erna - we do miss you, not only as an auxiliary member but also as a



# Whooping it up!

**The no fail easy Christmas Cake - courtesy of RVIB's Ian McDonald!**

## **Ingredients:**

1 cup sugar  
1 cup butter  
4 large eggs  
1 cup dried fruit  
1 tsp baking powder  
1 tsp salt  
1 cup lemon juice  
1 cup brown sugar  
½ cup nuts  
1 or 2 bottles whisky

## **Method:**

Before you start, check whisky bottle to ensure it is gluten free. If not, move down a shelf, then sample bottle to check quality. Not too bad? Right. Select one large bowl, measuring cup, etc. Check whisky again. To be sure of quality, pour one cup into a glass and drink as quickly as possible. With an electric mixer, beat one cup butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add one teaspoon sugar and beat again. Check whisky again. Cry another tup, open second bottle if nesh-neshasary. Add 2 large leggs, 2 cups dried fruit, and beat until high. Shample whisky again. Next sift 3 cups salt or anything else you can see still. Shample grog again. Shtill OK? Grind half gallon lemon juice, fold in chopped liver and strained nuts. Add one babblespon brown sugar or any old colour around. It really doesn't matter anymore. Wix mell. Grease over and turn cake tin up to 165 gedrees C. Pour the putrid lot into the long shince empty brishky wottle with the unleaded baking powder, stir it into bovenand ake for a douple of cays. Winish other frisky pottle and brawl to ced. Scheeet dreamzzzz.

# News from Benalla

It is my pleasure to present the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Report of the RVIB Benalla Auxiliary.

Since our last annual meeting, members have worked very hard in fundraising activities and we have had another successful year, raising \$2,500 for RVIB.

The Christmas Luncheon held on Monday, 25 November was voted most enjoyable.

Our first meeting for 2003 was held in February, when fundraising was again discussed. Treasurer, Jean, arranged for a further \$1,500 (mainly from our door-knock) to be forwarded to RVIB.

Dolly and Jean attended Senior's Week at Government House on 14 March, where they enjoyed the entertainment.

It was arranged that we would hold a stall at the CWA Market on 29 March, which proved to be quite successful with \$185 raised.

April's meeting saw members plus ex-members (who are no longer able to attend meetings) join together for a light luncheon where Bob Izard (a long standing member) joined us. Gwen Joy also became a member. Discussions took place regarding a fashion parade by One Stop Fashions, later in spring.

Kath again did wreaths for Remembrance Day and ANZAC day, and we all appreciated her thoughtful gesture.

Josie De Fazio again provided quince jelly for us to sell. Jose has been helping our auxiliary for many years. Many thanks Josie!

Five members attended the Regional Conference at Beechworth on 29 May. We all enjoyed a pleasant day.

The June meeting saw arrangements being made for four members to attend Euroa's Christmas in July, which was a great success.

In July we welcomed new member Elaine Sedgman. We also discussed our September meeting which would be held at Win Fremantle's home.

There were a number of matters to be attended to at the August meeting. These included organising the fashion parade; arranging a stall to be held at the CWA Market on 30 August; finalising details for the student door knock in October; and organising details around our AGM.

Our September meeting saw members visit Win Fremantle who entertained us with a video and shared her travel memories of Norfolk Island. A delicious afternoon tea of Norfolk Island recipes was then served – very yummy!

The CWA Market in August, turned out to be quite successful, raising \$158. The October door-knock saw enthusiastic students in full swing collecting funds.

Also our fashion parade proved an excellent fundraiser with \$675 collected. A very successful and friendly day was enjoyed by all.

Our AGM was the culmination of our year's activities with Ian, Kerri, Carmel and a guest speaker joining us.

Sincere thanks go to all our members, especially Beth and Jean for their support over the year. Your willingness to work tirelessly for our auxiliary is just great. Thank you all.

*-Beth Hazeldene, President.*

## Did you know?

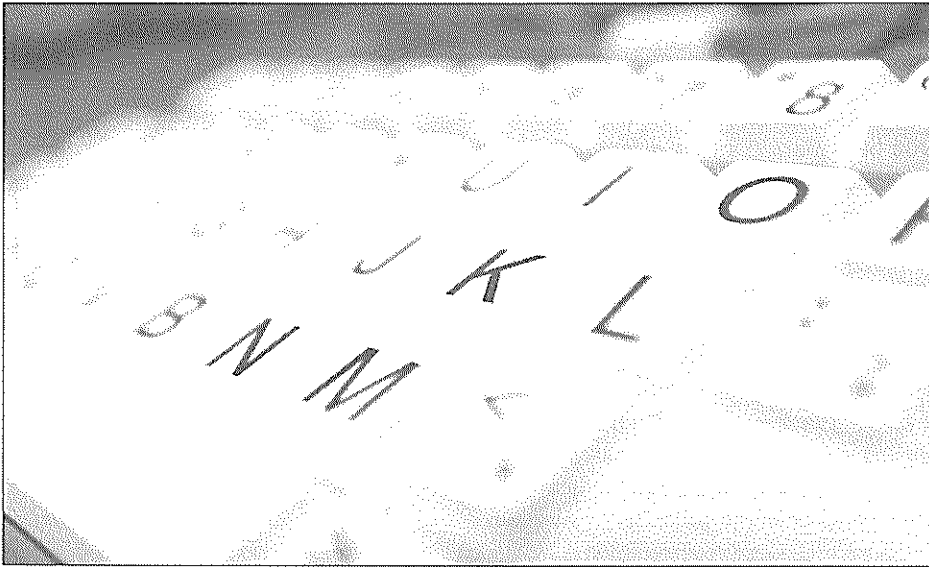


Did you know that RVIB once employed an academy award winner? Well, maybe not a Hollywood academy award winner, but a so-called 'Academy Award' of the dancing variety nonetheless.

Joan Delahunty, an accomplished ballroom dancer, was a student at RVIB and in the 1960s was taken on as a staff member of the public relations department. In an article from an edition of *Viewpoints* - a magazine once produced by RVIB, Joan details her interest in dancing:

"I love dancing and work very hard at it – hours of practice with my partner at times, to perfect one step or movement in a particular routine. I compete with my teacher, Mr K Sims, in the Medallist Section and have gained the highest awards possible in Old Time and Modern. I'm told that I'm the only person to hold these two academy awards. I expect to be examined before the end of the year for the Latin American Award – I hope I can pass. If so, my medal total will be 33."

# RVIB Bursaries give students a helping hand



▲ RVIB bursary winners can purchase adaptive technology from RVIB's extensive range.

Ten students who are blind or vision impaired have each been awarded grants by RVIB for the purchase of adaptive technology that will assist them with further study.

The RVIB Bursary Awards are made available each year to students who display a passion for their chosen fields of learning and who may be unable to meet the high cost of adaptive technology.

RVIB Education Consultant, Jo Webber says that the bursaries are designed to make tertiary education more accessible for people who are blind or vision impaired 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," Jo says.

"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."

Bursary recipient, Brandon Ah Tong, is currently undertaking a Bachelor of Social Science at RMIT. Brandon has already completed four subjects with excellent results, however minimal access to technology has made it difficult for him to complete the required course reading.

"I've got retinitis pigmentosa, and my sight has deteriorated over the last five years," Brandon says. "Reading, even with large text on a computer monitor has always been difficult and I often get headaches as a result of eye strain."

Brandon says that he is enjoying his course and looks forward to approaching the next semester with the software he will acquire through the bursary.

"I'm going to use the bursary to acquire the JAWS software program

so that I can audibly navigate my computer, have my computer read back my course materials and get through them faster," he says.

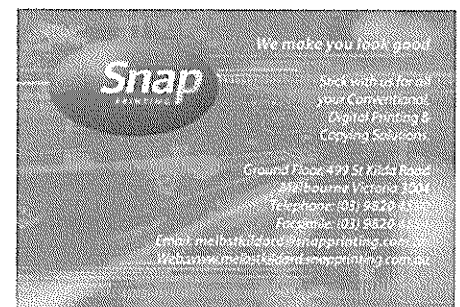
"RVIB have been such a help to me over the years and without their assistance I probably wouldn't be where I am at the moment. They've helped me get back to where I am now."

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

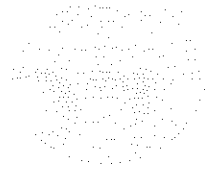
"As basic requirements, students who are blind or vision impaired need laptops, screen reading software and equipment to translate print into braille or audio formats just so that they are able to take and read lecture notes."

Up to ten bursaries – each valued at up to \$4500 – are awarded annually 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.

**Thank you to Snap Printing for sponsorship of Volunteer News!**







## News from Community Relationship Manager, Kerri Guyett

Hello everyone! Welcome to another edition of *Out and About*. The last few months have been busy for everyone, with Auxiliary members travelling far and wide to attend Annual Regional Luncheons and Annual General meetings; the end of the financial year and of course RVIB's voting day to decide on the merger with Vision Australia and Royal Blind Society of New South Wales.

RVIB is now entering a new and exciting era, as the merger resolution was passed at all four scheme meetings, and approved by the Federal Court on 6 July 2004. The new entity – RBS.RVIB.VAF.Ltd – came into affect on 7 July.

The next step is for the directors to appoint a permanent CEO and to develop the new organisation. During this process, I will keep you up-to-date with details as they become known. In the short term we are still trading as RVIB. Please note that all auxiliary membership fees and subscriptions will remain as those set by you at your previous AGM. I would sincerely like to thank all of you for your support and know that you will continue to focus on the needs of clients during this period of transition. It is an exciting time for all and there will be many benefits.

A very special thank you to auxiliaries hosting Regional Luncheons this year. I know how hard you work to prepare the venue and arrange catering. From the feedback I have received you have all excelled! If you would like to attend a Luncheon and would like details of upcoming dates, please let me know.

I have been keeping busy, attending many functions including:

- **Skipton Soiree:** A delightful day spent browsing artwork, listening to tunes from local artists and sipping tea from Royal Doulton china cups!

- **Kyneton Flowers, Food and Foliage day:** This was such a success that there may be another one held in spring.

- **Warracknabeal Casserole lunch:** Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the culinary delights! This annual event also provides local workers with the opportunity to attend lunch.

- **RVIB Tour:** Members from Ocean Grove, Barwon Heads and Geelong joined me on a tour of RVIB's main sites. If you would like me to arrange a tour for your group please let me know.

Our combined project "*Small Change can make a BIG Difference*" is underway. You will hear more about this soon, together with details about the search to find *Victoria's Best Yo Yo Biscuit!* Remember that this year's Christmas Party will be held at Ormond Hall on 1 December. Finally, I am compiling a list of all auxiliary secretaries' contact details for your reference. Please let me know if you don't wish to be included on this list.

I look forward to seeing you at your next function. Until then don't forget to keep the "fun" in "fundraising"!

Best wishes to all

Kerri

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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.*

# Around Victoria

## Yarrowonga reports

*Extract from the Yarrowonga Chronicle:  
"Regional conference of blind auxiliaries  
held in Yarrowonga."*

Mrs Jean Riches, president of the Yarrowonga Auxiliary extended a warm welcome to all those in attendance at the regional conference of blind auxiliaries and introduced local resident Mr Rex Wright, who officially opened the conference.

Auxiliaries from Beechworth, Euroa, Wangaratta, Wodonga and Yarrowonga were represented, with an apology from Benalla.

Also in attendance were two representatives from the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind and the Rural Services co-ordinator from the Wangaratta office.

Mrs Gina Schmidt from Chiltern, mother of three children blind since birth, was an inspirational speaker. People who visit their home remark that it oozes with love which you can see radiates from this mother.

Her five-year-old daughter who is a delightful little girl, was with her mother and won the hearts of all those present at the conference.

The other children aged nine and seven were running at the school sports on the day.

The Yarrowonga Auxiliary extends a special thanks to the St Andrew's Ladies Guild from Mulwala, who very capably handled the catering.

## Celebrations!



▲ Grace Brown receiving a certificate of achievement from RVIB CEO Doug Kent, on receiving her ANZAC Award.

**Congratulations Grace Brown**  
Congratulations to Grace Brown, president of Barwon Heads Auxiliary on recently receiving an ANZAC Day award. Grace received her award on 30th June at Government House. Well done Grace on this wonderful achievement!

**Happy birthday Ocean Grove!**  
Congratulations to Ocean Grove who celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in May. Diane Sapwell organised a delightful and interesting history display. Members and guests had a wonderful day reminiscing the old days.

**Happy 70<sup>th</sup> birthday!**  
Congratulations to Heathcote Auxiliary on celebrating their 70<sup>th</sup> birthday!

## Thank you Anglesea!

A big thank you to members of Anglesea auxiliary who took part in Alcoa's community day. The auxiliary set up an RVIB display at this well attended event to promote the organisation's services.

## Brailier's opinion

### *A poem by Felicity Joyce*

Braille gives blind people a chance to read and write.

You can also use it to read at night.

If Braille was gone and I couldn't read it,

I know I feel I'd suddenly need it.

I think in this kind of situation,

I couldn't get a good education.

I think I'd go pretty crazy,

I'd also become extremely lazy.

Listen listen all the day,

Would surely wear my life away.

I'm very lucky to know this code,

And to have been along this privileged road.

Braille is the key to a normal life for me.

## **RVIB Skipton Auxiliary AGM**

The meeting was well attended with 15 members present. President Eileen welcomed everyone, and extended an apology on behalf of Dawn. It was great to have our RVIB Relationship Manager, Kerri Guyett with us.

Kerri gave a very informative speech on the employment of people who are blind at RVIB Enterprises in Prahran. She also outlined the possibility of changes in the management of RVIB finances in the future. Ballarat Blind Services are assisted with finance, where Skipton patients would possibly consult.

Minutes from the previous annual meeting were read by Bessie who has held this office for 40 years. Fran, our treasurer, gave her report and announced that the balance was \$1584.39. A cheque for \$1,000 was presented to Kerri for RVIB.

The general meeting outlined activities planned from July 2004 to June 2005. All were thanked for their contribution towards the Soiree, which was a winner. Eileen presented flowers to all office bearers, and to Kerri as a thank you.

The usual, "non-Weight Watchers" cuppa and cream cakes followed. Happy birthday was sung to Bessie, June and Eileen.

And so ended another pleasant afternoon.

- DLM

# **Skipton Soiree success!**

What a wonderful day everyone present enjoyed. We had a financial result that was beyond our expectation, achieved by the willing members who gave a really true example of what working as a team meant. Thank you all for your contribution. There were 138 art pieces on display, varying in age and with a diversity and context ranging from Leonardo to Pears prints. The decor was of French influence which gave a special appearance.

Kerri Guyett, Community Relationship Manager for RVIB journeyed from Melbourne to open the Soiree.

Without the following participants, the Soiree would not have achieved the same result. Thank you to Lions Club gents who constructed the painting frames; Margaret Goodrope for the stage presentation; and organisers and providers of the food under the careful eye of Fran, who was also door keeper with Doreen. I am sure Celia was thinking of her poem, (Ladies, a plate). Thanks also go to Lucy and Helen for arranging the paintings in sections; and Foodwise supermarket and Terry the publican for their super raffle prizes. The visiting artists' for sales gave a lift to the sections.

The auxiliary thanks any person who helped in any way from providing flowers, to extra cakes or offering general assistance.

The entertainment was tops. We enjoyed listening to local organist Mike, and to young Harris Britten who has a real future in entertaining. Brenda also did wonders on the piano accordion. We also enjoyed the talented Beaufort Secondly School band and choir under the baton of John Hardman – solos were played by Laura (clarinet), Nicholas (trombone), Dylan (drums) and Elishia (trumpet). The Marion College Players also performed, with soloists Rachael (clarinet), Robert (flute), Claire (alto saxophone) and Lauren (flute). It was really a pleasure to see and hear the students keeping the music dream alive.

Jessie really is everyone's choice because of her piano ability while she accompanied Bryce and Trudy with their repertoire.

David, the Pied Piper of Skipton, was also a winner – as always.

We will never forget the Ballarat Talent of Choir harmony and Conductor Noel Craven. Well done, you are all to be congratulated.

Last but not least, thanks to the trusting generous people who loaned me their special items. Without your generosity, the show would not have begun.

Hope the broilga is nesting!

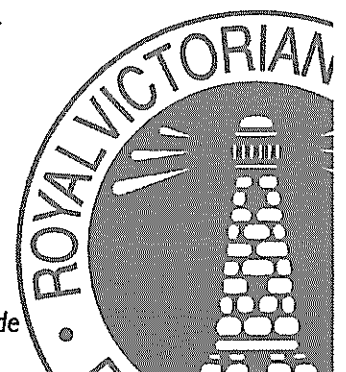
**Desma Meek, Organiser**

## **Share your Auxiliary's news!**

*The next edition of Out and About will be in September.  
Please send contributions by 27 August to:*

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

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



# Leongatha Auxiliary reports

## President's report 2003-2004

We commenced our year with the Regional Conference, which was hosted by the Korumburra Auxiliary. At our April meeting, we held a fundraising "No-Bake" stall which raises money without the chore of cooking.

A meeting was held in Melbourne between RVIB, Vision Australia and other organisations to discuss the reduction in the duplication of services to the vision impaired in our communities. We note, with sorrow, the passing of Irene Wisdom who had been an active member of our Auxiliary for over 10 years.

Our Annual Meeting in May was chaired by Kerri Guyett where Joan Michael took over the Treasurer's tasks from Pat Dodson, and Leanne Verboon replaced Glenice Griggs as Rose Show Secretary. During Rural Health Week, five of our members attended a local meeting where Dr Wang spoke about the problems of glaucoma.

Our annual 'Coffee Morning' was held in July and again was well patronised by our neighbouring Auxiliaries as well as community members and family friends. This event raised over \$500. We held our 'Christmas Luncheon' in August at the local RSL, which was enjoyed by members, family and friends.

At our September meeting we were entertained by the Meeniyan-Dumbalk Music Lovers Group and each member of the group was presented with a small gift from the Auxiliary. Our members attended Korumburra's annual Coffee Morning. A Community Meeting was held by the South Gippsland Shire Council to discuss the formation of a 'Progress Association' for Leongatha. In September Maisie Sing, Jeannie Baker and Margaret

Hyde embroidered, appliquéd and crotched a beautiful linen tablecloth with the RVIB motif which now takes pride of place at our meetings.

The annual Rose Show was again held and successfully raised over \$5,000, which included local raffle ticket selling days at the local supermarkets. Many thanks are due to all those who worked so hard to make this event so successful. Kerri Guyett officially opened the Rose Show and Wanda Egerton again judged the section for the 'Best Perfumed Rose'. However, at our November meeting it was decided, after much discussion, that we would not host the Leongatha Rose Show in the future as it involved too much work falling on too few members. The Rose Show will continue with the involvement of other community organisations.

Four of our members attended a very relaxed day at the RVIB Christmas Party at Ormond Hall, in Melbourne in December. A cheque for \$5,000 was presented to RVIB.

Our current year commenced with a "Garden Day" at Kongwak in the garden of Cheryl Pinns and Michael Bannick. Over 50 members and friends enjoyed great weather, great floral plantings, great friendship and of course, great afternoon tea. The afternoon raised \$400 for RVIB.

Throughout the year, we have visited both Korumburra and Kongwak auxiliaries to support their fundraising events, and they have reciprocated by assisting us. Many local organisations have assisted our functions during the year including notable donations from Mrs Benson's 'Meeniyan Card Players' (over \$300 for the year and were presented with an RVIB Certificate of Appreciation for their continuing donations), the Anglican Church Op-shop (\$500) and the local

Freemason's Lodge. During the year, Estelle Cook and Maisie Sing received their 25 year Service Awards. Estelle had held the position as Secretary for 17 years.

It has been another busy year with many functions and events, however the tasks of the President have been made easier through all the assistance received from Margaret Jerram as Secretary, Joan Michael as Treasurer, other members of the committee and indeed, all of the active members of the Leongatha Auxiliary.



33rd annual

## Leongatha Rose Show

Memorial Hall,  
Leongatha

**Thursday, 11 November 2004**

12 noon – 6pm (official opening at 2pm)

**Friday, 12 November 2004**

9am to 4pm

**Rose displays - potted  
roses for sale, cake stalls  
and plant stalls.**

**Lunch and refreshments  
will be available from  
Red Cross**

For further information contact  
**Kerri** at RVIB on **(03) 9522 5232**  
or **Josie** on **5657 3292**

# Portland Auxiliary reports

*RVIB Portland Auxiliary 73rd Annual Report for year ending 30 April 2004.*

Mrs Olive Williamson was elected President for 2003-2004. On her sudden and sad death, I was elected to take the position of President from Vice-President at a Special Meeting of the Auxiliary on 12 September 2003.

I would like to present to you the activities of our Auxiliary for the past year.

In May it was passed that we donate \$1,000 to the Glenelg Regional Library to purchase large print books, and \$2,000 to RVIB - \$1,000 for the purchase of two Felix Kits and \$1,000 for general funds.

At the July Meeting Mrs Pat Punch gave a comprehensive report on the Regional Conference held in Hamilton on 26 June 2003.

At the Conference Mrs Olive Williamson accepted the Lifetime Award for the Portland Auxiliary. Members who did not have their badges received them and it was

noted that Mrs Olive Stuchberry was due for her 30-year service badge.

In September we held a very friendly and successful coffee morning, raising \$289.

Members at the February meeting elected to purchase a large print book inscribed in the memory of Mrs Olive Williamson for the Glenelg Regional Library.

Once again in March our luncheon had a good attendance and raised \$918.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Committee Members for their support and tireless work over the past eight months.

I would also like to thank in particular Pat Punch and Mavis Jennings for keeping our books in order.

Congratulations to you all and all the best for a successful 2004 to 2005.

---

## News from Beechworth Auxiliary

The Beechworth Branch of the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind has had a busy, happy and successful year.

I am sure everyone will agree that raising money in a small town is not easy with so many organisations competing for the same dollar.

The RVIB is a respected organisation and people do support us.

After the winter break we held our usual Fashion Show in September.

The AGM in October was well attended and we had special guests from other clubs such as Red Cross, Senior Citizens etc.

In November we held a street stall and pre-sold raffle tickets in the street. This was most successful.

Members enjoyed a Christmas Dinner in late November before the summer break.

We were then back to work with a raffle and Autumn Street Stall in April. RVIB members attended and provided a wreath for ANZAC Day.

We may be a small group but we have some very willing workers and I do thank them for their efforts throughout the year.

- Gladys Thompson, President

## Centenarian celebrates!



▲ Mrs Bath from RVIB Donald Auxiliary celebrates her 100th birthday.

- Extract from "The Buloke Times", 10 March 2004

Nursing sister, musician, mother, home builder, gardener; worker for RVIB, the Red Cross, hospitals, Donald P&A Society, the National Party, Methodist and Uniting Churches, and Senior Citizens; croquet administrator and champion player...

All these descriptions and more can be applied to **Mrs Hannah Bath**, who celebrated her one-hundredth-birthday anniversary on 9 March.

Whilst the occasion was marked "on the day" with an open house at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Bev and Robert Gilmour, a slightly more "formal" gathering on Sunday attracted in excess of 200 friends and relatives to the Riverside Lounge at Donald's Goodwin Village.

There, with the assistance of two of Mrs Bath's great-grandchildren, the traditional cake was cut, and a tree was planted in the lawn adjacent to the community lounge.

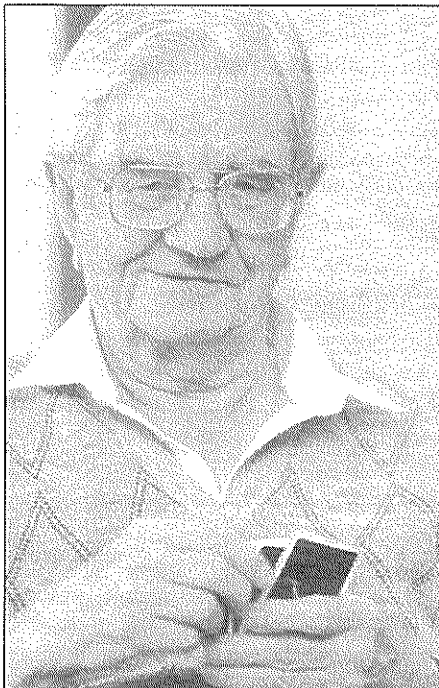
Expressing her own thanks to all who had contributed to the success of so memorable a day, Mrs Bath spoke of "the simple things that make life worth living".

# A little card play for good cause

-As reported in the Port Phillip/Caulfield Leader May 24, 2004

South Melbourne senior citizens did their bit for charity and came up trumps. They took part this month in a cards afternoon hosted by the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind (RVIB) at the South Melbourne Senior Citizens Centre. Participants chipped in \$3 for afternoon tea and cards, with funds raised going towards helping people who are blind or vision impaired.

RVIB community relationship manager, Kerri Guyett, said as well as helping to raise much-needed funds, the card afternoons provided a great social opportunity for participants.



## News from Barwon Heads Auxiliary

It was a proud day for our Auxiliary to attend Government House last February and Alice Donnelly to receive the "Achievement Award" from the Governor John Landy on our behalf.

A Wreath was laid on ANZAC Day and a successful "Golf Day" was held at Ocean Grove in May.

A Social and Video afternoon was held in June and in July we held a Soup, Sandwich and Slice Day.

In August Ocean Grove Auxiliary and Mr Ian McDonald and Kerri from RVIB Melbourne visited our "Lorna Lodge" – the cottage for vision-impaired people owned by RVIB and the maintenance done by the Barwon Heads Auxiliary.

In September 10 members travelled to the Windsor Hotel for afternoon tea. It was a lovely day and thanks to our driver Barry and the Geelong RSL.

In November another lovely event was held, with Barry driving the RSL bus to Werribee to see the Rose Garden.

Six members attended the Christmas Break up in Melbourne and we had a lovely meal together, which was catered for by Peppercorn (a local).

February and March 2004 were busy with a "Cliche Clothing" morning and a stall for the Festival of the Sea.

Thank you all for your loyal support and best wishes for the year ahead.

- Grace H Brown, President  
RVIB Auxiliary Barwon Heads

## OBITUARIES

### **MANN, Jessie**

Benalla Auxiliary is saddened by the passing of Jessie Mann, aged 96 years of age. Jessie was a member since 1994 and will be missed.

### **PROCTOR, Alan**

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Alan Proctor, husband of Norma, who is president of the Trentham/Woodend Auxiliary. His passing comes shortly after Alan and Norma kindly opened their home to host the annual Spud Luncheon. RVIB extends their sympathy to Norma and her family.

### **THURGOOD, Hilda**

Mentone/Mordialloc Auxiliary regret the passing of their long standing member, Mrs Hilda Thurgood in April, 2004.

Hilda was a member of the Auxiliary for over 20 years and during this time she served as Treasurer for years. Hilda took over this position when we were finding it difficult to fill this position. She continued in this position until the year before her death. She did an excellent job as treasurer.

Hilda was a hard working member of our Auxiliary and could always be depended upon to help in any capacity, whether it was with cooking her scones or making sandwiches when required. She will be very much missed by all in our friendly group. Our sympathy extends to her family in the loss of Hilda.

**Thank you to Snap Printing for sponsorship of Out and About!**



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# Donald Social Day



▲ Mrs Bath is pictured receiving a crystal clock from RVIB Community Relationship Manager, Kerri Guyett

A meeting and social day for members of Donald Auxiliary of the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind, was held at the home of secretary Win McClelland.

A pleasing part of "General Business" was the presentation to Mrs Hannah Bath, on behalf of the RVIB, on her achievement of the wonderful age of 100 years and still an active member of the Auxiliary.

Lorraine Pearse gave an account of Mrs Bath's involvement, before making the presentation of a suitably inscribed clock, and was thanked by Hannah for the wonderful surprise.

Guest speaker, Kerri Guyett, then brought interesting facts and figures and information from RVIB. She said that although some auxiliaries have decided to close, membership for Victoria has increased. Some former auxiliaries have become "Friends of RVIB" and do not hold meetings, but still work for the vision impaired. If

each town could have just one collection tin in a shop, this could bring in a yearly amount of around \$10,000 in small change.

A merger of associations which serve the vision impaired has been proposed, and is soon to be voted on by members of the three associations. These associations are Vision Australia Foundation, Royal Blind Society of New South Wales and the Royal Victorian Institute, and the merger has been proposed so that more money will be available to help the blind, rather than paying for the upkeep of buildings. The Victorian Headquarters will possibly be used for the cooperative association.

The Donald Auxiliary decided that it will vote in favour of the merger. Kerrie was given a gift of Kooka's Cookies, with thanks. Lucky tickets were discovered, and a well-stocked stall was patronised by all.

# Gossip from the Grove!

## Ocean Grove Auxiliary reports

On 10 May I had the pleasure of giving the 60th Annual Secretary's Report for the Ocean Grove Auxiliary - yes we have turned sixty and all doing well!

The past year has been one that has held on to some of the traditional ideas of the Auxiliary, but has also seen some new ideas take place.

We began the year with our Sausage Sizzle, which this time was held at the Senior Citizens Clubrooms. Then we had a very successful "Essential Additions" (handbags and accessories) presentation, which was a new idea.

In April we had the Pancake Luncheon, which proved to us that fundraising with food is not as easy as it used to be.

In May we hosted the Annual conference, which was a most enjoyable day held in the small meeting room at the Senior Citizens. On this occasion Kerri presented awards for 50 years of service to Emily McSween and Jean Powell!

June was a busy month with the "Queen" coming to our Coronation Luncheon on the 2nd and a fun day with afternoon tea prepared by the two male members of our Auxiliary on the 9th.

For the rest of the year we enjoyed a visit to Lorna Lodge at Barwon Heads, and had a social time with the Barwon Heads Auxiliary, a Fashion Parade, the Annual Fete in October and an entertaining afternoon with a floral demonstration by Barry Calcutt in November.

We finished the year off with our Christmas Breakup at the Clifton Springs Golf Club. For this year we have concentrated on street stalls, a smaller sausage sizzle in the gardens of a members' home, a fun day for members only and now we have just had our Annual Meeting and 60th birthday celebrations.

It was once again a pleasure to have Kerri Guyett with us for our birthday, and I must thank her for bringing down some of the memorabilia of RVIB that enhanced our own display.

In closing I would like to thank all the members of the Ocean Grove Auxiliary for the work they have done in the past year in order that we may once again make a considerable financial contribution to the work of the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind.

Thank you,  
- Dianne Sapwell, Secretary

# High Tea at the Windsor!

As a fundraising event to celebrate the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind (RVIB) and its work over the past 138 years, you are invited to attend the Windsor Hotel on **Thursday, 9 September 2004** from 2pm to 4:30pm for high tea in the Grand Ballroom.

You will be served with a traditional Windsor afternoon tea in the historic hotel on Spring Street, Melbourne.

There will be a guest speaker and other entertainment to add further highlights to this day that we know you will enjoy.

The cost per person for high tea at the Windsor is **\$40**.

**Bookings are essential and can be made by calling Ian McDonald on (03) 9522 5218 or Kerri Guyett on (03) 9522 5232.**

# Euroa Auxiliary reports

On behalf of the Euroa RVIB Auxiliary, I would like to give a report on the past twelve months fundraising efforts by our band of hard-working members.

Our Auxiliary has a total of 42 members – 34 wonderful working members and eight non-working members.

Fundraising this year involved garden parties, morning teas, raffles, street stalls, the Ruffy Sheep Dog Trials and club exhibits at the Euroa Annual Show.

We also held a St Patrick's Day morning tea, with the theme being everything green. This was well attended with 65 people dressing in their favourite green outfits. They dined on an array of green delicacies, including green lamingtons and green drinks.

Our Auxiliary has been working very hard this year and I congratulate them all on the time and effort they so freely give. Thanks should also go to the Euroa and district community, for their generous support throughout the year.

Our fundraising total this year was \$4,000. At the Christmas Luncheon in December we presented a cheque for \$2,000 and today we will present another cheque for \$2,000.

We wish all the country auxiliaries all the best for the next year and hope that they are successful in their fundraising efforts for the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind.

- Debbie Ellis, Secretary,  
Euroa RVIB Auxiliary



## South Gippsland Regional Conference

On Tuesday, 20 April 2004 RVIB Leongatha Auxiliary Members were hosts to approximately 40 people. Present were RVIB members from Kongwak and Korumburra., Councilor John McIndoe together with his wife June, and representatives from local Red Cross and CWA.

Guest speaker, Kathy Westaway held the audience spellbound with the story of her son, Ayden, now aged 11, who from birth has experienced eyesight problems and has received wonderful help from RVIB.

Fiona Smyth, RVIB Rural Health Campaign coordinator, showed us many aids used to assist people who are blind. Auxiliary reports were presented. One group had a beach picnic and musical sing along - that made us envious.

Cheques were presented and then Kerri Guyett, our CRM, gave us a most informative talk and answered many questions.

Kerri spoke and congratulated LBA President Glenice Griggs for her dedication of 13 years and especially with the running of the Leongatha Rose Show. This has been a very successful annual event for many years but unfortunately it has now grown too big for LBA to handle on its own. The LBA has joined with other interested organisations to form a new Rose Show Committee to keep the festival alive.

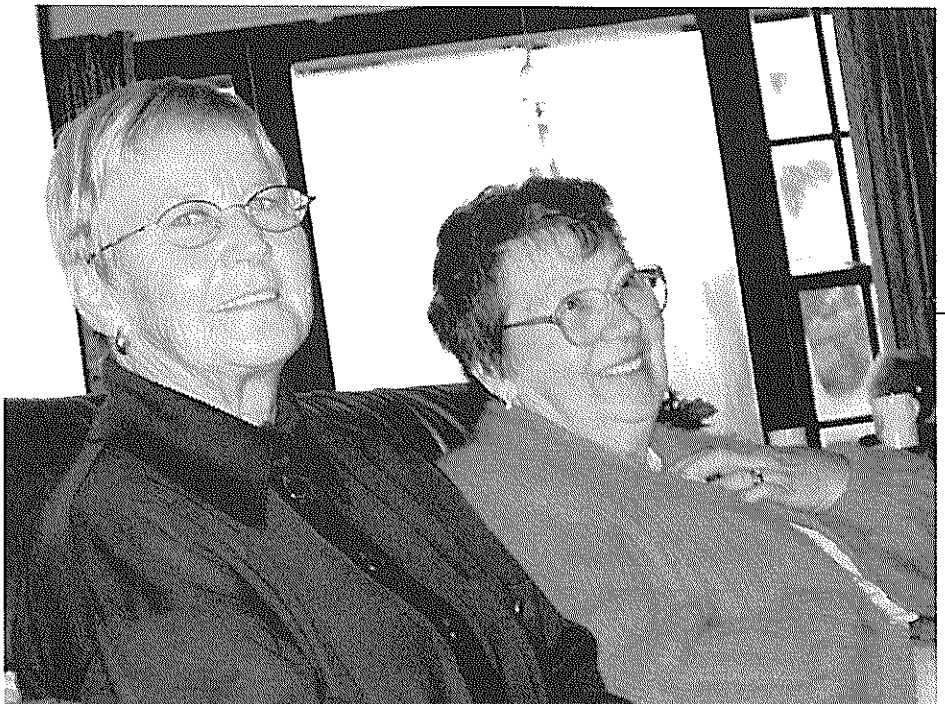
Later in the afternoon Kerri presented Glenice with a lovely plaque decorated with white roses to thank her for her commitment and support to RVIB over the years.

- Jan Donaldson

# All smiles at the Trentham/Woodend 2004 Spud Luncheon



▲ Guests were thrilled with the entertainment provided by talented singer and keyboard player, Alan Taylor.



▲ The 2004 Spud Luncheon was a great success and the perfect way to warm up a on a cold winter's day. Well done to the hard workers at the RVIB Trentham/Woodend Auxiliary!



# The story of Louis Braille

---

Louis Braille was born a sighted child in a small town called Coupvray about 30 miles from Paris.

His father was a harness maker and young Louis loved to go into his father's workroom and watch him. Louis was not allowed to touch anything in the workroom but one day, when he was three years old, he went into the room and picked up an awl – a long tool for punching holes. He began punching holes into some leather when suddenly the awl slipped and plunged into Louis' eye, leaving him blind.

When Louis was six years old, a priest arranged for him to attend school.

The school day lasted from eight in the morning till five at night. He had to listen very hard so that he would remember everything. Louis could work out arithmetic problems in his head as fast as the other students could using paper. But Louis was not able to read.

When Louis was 10, Father Palleuy found a new school for him in Paris called the Royal Institute for Blind Youth. The school taught many subjects, including how to read.

In February 1819, Louis went to the school. He was the youngest in the school but from the beginning he was often at the top of his class.

In 1820 there was only one way for a blind boys to read – by using raised print. Each letter of the alphabet was raised from the page so that it stood up from the paper background.

This sounded easy, but it wasn't. Some of the letters were simple to feel but others were almost impossible to tell apart. Louis was determined. He kept on tracing the raised letters until he could tell them apart but he often forgot the beginning of the sentence and then had to go back to the start. It would take months to read a single book.

Louis became frustrated and knew there had to be a better way.

In the spring of 1821, Captain Charles Barbier came to the Institute. He had worked out a way for his soldiers to send messages to each other in the dark. He called it Night Writing Using Raised Dots. At first the blind boys were very excited but soon they began to realise that this was not a great system. There was no way to make capital letters or to write numbers. There was also no way to make commas or exclamation marks. It was also hard to learn.

Louis became determined to develop his own system. The Captain heard that someone was trying to change his night writing letters, so he visited the Institute. However, the Captain was not interested in listening to the ideas of a 12-year-old boy, and therefore Louis realised that from then on he would have to work alone. Louis used every spare minute developing his ideas. He kept simplifying Captain Barbier's pattern of dots but still found that as Night Writing was based on sounds, it sometimes took almost 100 dots to write a simple word. This was far too many

to feel easily with the fingertips. This is when Louis came up with the idea of dots standing for letters of the alphabet.

First Louis took a pencil and marked six dots on a heavy piece of paper. Then he took his stylus and raised dot number one so that it would stand for the letter "A". He raised dot numbers one and two to stand for the letter "B" etc. Soon, he found that all the letters of the alphabet could be made out of six dots used over and over again in different patterns.

News of the alphabet spread quickly and Louis was greatly praised by the director of the school.

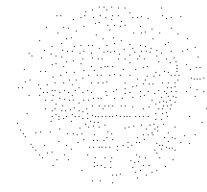
When Louis was 19 he graduated from the Institute, and won prizes in nearly every subject. He then stayed on as a teacher at the school.

In 1844 at the age of 35, Louis contracted tuberculosis and was confined to his bed. He died on 6 January 1852, a relatively unknown man and no newspaper in Paris reported his death. But in 1952 – 100 years later, he was known by all.

Louis' coffin was moved from a little cemetery in Coupvray to Paris. He was then laid to rest in the Pantheon – France's burial place for the country's most honoured men. Today, France and the rest of the world honours a great man - Louis Braille.

■ *NOTE: Thank you to Norma May from Anglesea Auxiliary for sending in this wonderful story.*

# OUT & ABOUT



RVIB

## News from Community Relationship Manager, Kerri Guyett

Welcome to our spring edition of *Out and About*.

Your invitation to **Ormond Hall** for our **2004 Christmas Party** is enclosed and I would love to see as many of you there as possible. I know that transport can be difficult but I urge you to try and make the trip to Melbourne. Some members may be able to car pool, or arrange a mini bus to do a pick up from town to town. If you are travelling by bus or train, and would need to be picked up from Spencer Street, this can also be arranged. This year's party will be very exciting. Not only do we have **Philip Brady, Denis Walter** and the **students from RVIB School** attending, but **Allan Taylor**, an RVIB client will also be there to lead a "Christmas carol sing-along". As an added highlight, RVIB is holding its inaugural "**Best Yo-Yo Biscuit Competition**". There are some fantastic prizes to be won so start warming your ovens and present your best yo-yo for judging on **1 December at Ormond Hall**. Further details are enclosed.

To all of our 2004 Regional Luncheon hosts, thank you! I have received many requests from members and guests to pass on their thanks and appreciation for an enjoyable day. Changing the name to a "Luncheon"

proved to be very successful. Attendance rates increased in many regions. If you have any suggestions for changes to the format for next year, please let me know.

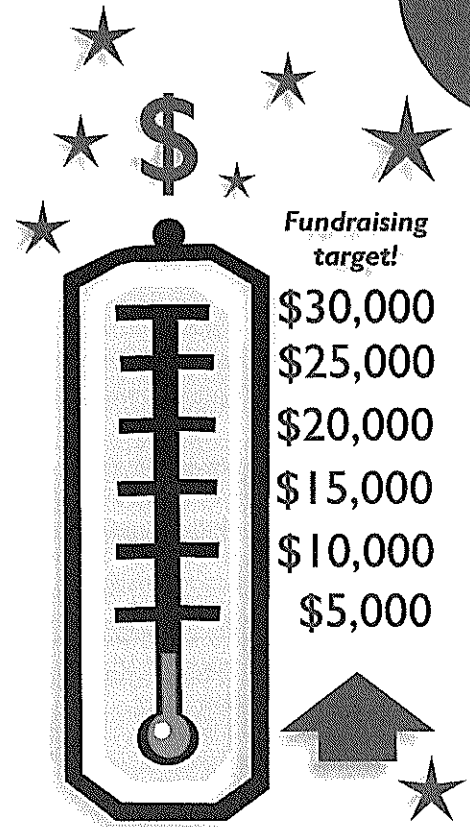
Some of our auxiliaries are celebrating 75<sup>th</sup> birthdays this year! I would love to help you celebrate so please contact me to discuss some possibilities.

It is with regret that I report that Ian McDonald has decided to move on from RVIB. Unfortunately Ian was unable to speak to many of you prior to his departure. He has asked me to pass on his thanks to each and every one of you, for always making him feel most welcome. Ian is now working for the Shrine Foundation, and says he is pleased to know he's leaving RVIB "in safe hands".

Our "**Small change can make a BIG difference**" campaign is well underway. If you haven't ordered your collection tins yet then please do so soon. It's nearly time for Christmas shopping and there will be lots of change around! Watch that barometer grow!

Best wishes,

**Kerri**



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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.*

# Around Victoria

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## Jeparit's update

At our Annual General Meeting 2003, Irene Schmidt was elected as President; Nell Smith as Vice President; Myra Waters as Secretary Treasury; and Norma Werner as Assistant Secretary Treasury.

We currently have nine committee members and hold four meetings per year.

Client Day in November raised \$192.70 and our Bingo afternoon raised \$52.70.

Correspondence at our May meeting informed us about the RVIB merger which caused much discussion.

On 23 July we held a Winter Luncheon, followed by the AGM at Hindmarsh Hotel.

**Irene Schmidt**  
President

---

## Warracknabeal Auxiliary news

In the year 2003 to 2004 we held two street appeals, one charity bowls night and a casserole luncheon. One of our members raises a great deal of money knitting items such as toys, rugs and beanies. In total we have sent \$3,700 to Melbourne.

I would like to thank all of our members for their dedication and hard work.

**Norma Close**  
Secretary

## News from Rainbow Auxiliary

It is my pleasure to report on another year of fundraising for RVIB. We have 12 members and meetings are held every second month with good attendance levels. Our carol evening was held in December and again was our biggest fundraiser. This night is very popular in our town thanks to the many artists who give their time and talents so willingly. Admission is by donation and this year we received \$424.85 for the evening.

Other fundraisers have been street collections, grocery raffle, hotel tin collection, sale of pens, calendars and

profit from last year's conference. We were pleased to forward \$1,450 to RVIB this year.

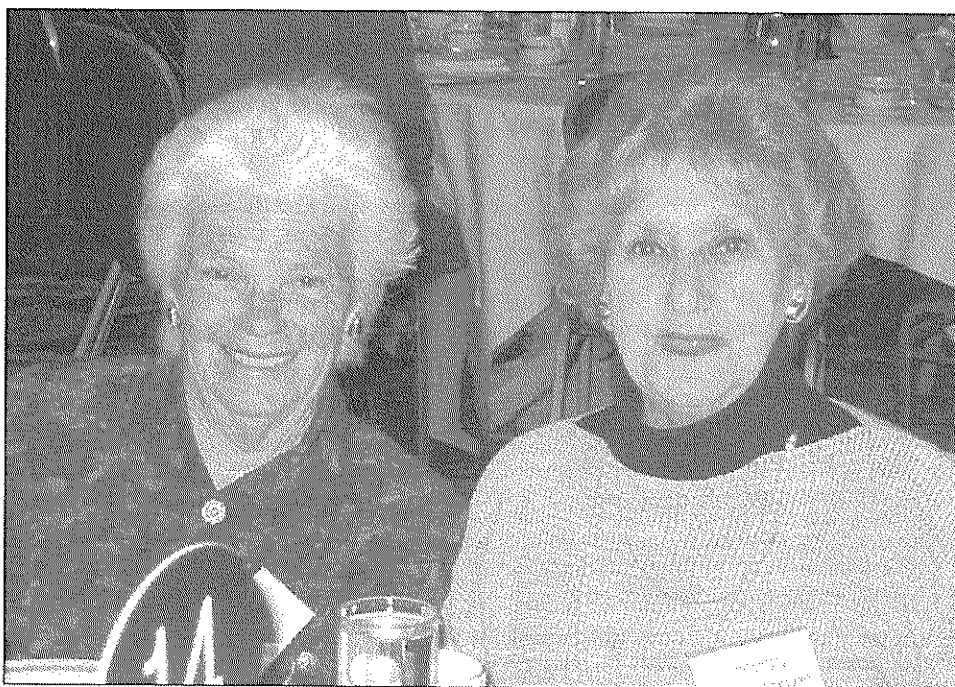
Although we are only a small group, our members still enjoy the challenge of fundraising to help those less fortunate. Thanks to Kerri for her help when needed.

We hope to be blessed with good health for many years to enable us to carry on this important work.

**Joan Nante**  
Secretary

---

## High Tea at The Windsor a wonderful success!



▲ Thank you to everyone who attended the Windsor High Tea in September in support of 4sight Week. It was wonderful to see auxiliaries come and enjoy this wonderful annual event.

## Heathcote Auxiliary's 70th birthday!

To celebrate the 70th birthday of the Heathcote Branch, a meeting was held in Budd Hall.

President Beryl Ross welcomed Kerri Guyett, Community Relationship Manager and Beryl recounted the founding of the Auxiliary, when Mr Van Aasche visited Heathcote on July 1933. The first objective was to raise 59 pounds (\$118) for a half share in teaching a blind child for a year. By 1983 collectors had raised \$2,080 for RVIB funds and \$65 for talking books. The amount needed to run RVIB in 1982 was \$6.5 million. Today it is \$17 million.

We were most interested to hear Kerri's talk, especially regarding the proposed merger between RVIB, Vision Australia and Royal Blind Society of New South Wales. Vocal solos by member Nancy Cornwallis were most enjoyable. A gift was presented to Kerri for once again visiting our branch, and answering various questions. The meeting concluded with afternoon tea featuring a splendid birthday cake brought by Kerri. Having left the district, our secretary Ellen O'Sullivan has resigned after 15 years of service. She will be greatly missed. A presentation was made from RVIB to Ellen at the farewell at Axedale to her and her husband Pat.

Our annual collection will shortly take place and we hope for a good result. We were saddened by the loss of our member Dulcie McKenzie who died at the age of 91.

**Beryl Ross**  
President

# Update from Colac Auxiliary



▲ Colac Regional Luncheon in June. Pictured (from left) are Mary Lourey and Joan Grayland of Terang, Rhonda Walters of Cressy, RVIB community relationship manager Kerri Guyett, Colac Auxiliary president Audrey Rankin and Cressy Auxiliary treasurer Sonia Plant.

We held our Annual Meeting on Monday, 16 August in St Johns Church Hall. We raised \$2,454 this year through donations from members and friends' trading tables at our meetings. We held a Luncheon in a member's home and hosted a Regional Conference, which was attended by Cr Helen Patch who was our guest speaker. We have good support from the local community.

**Ruth Lucas**, Honorary Secretary

## Dimboola Auxiliary reports

In the last twelve months, we have had three meetings, two Blumes fashion shows and held three raffles. Our Christmas Luncheon was held at the local golf club and was well attended. In June we sent \$2,000 to RVIB in Melbourne.

Since our last Annual General Meeting we have made a few changes to our normal meetings. For instance, if a member forgets to wear their badge, they pay a fee of ten cents, which we save up for our Christmas Party. Also we have a little raffle at our meetings. Tickets are ten cents each and the person who wins, provides the mystery parcel for the next meeting. This money also goes to our Christmas Party.

We welcomed a new member recently, Mrs Nancy John, who we hope will be with us for a long time.

We started a new program this year. All our members receive a birthday card on their special day. All the cards and envelopes were provided by the

President and were printed and designed by Mrs Gladys Schwarz, as her contribution to RVIB.

Our Blumes fashion shows are a great success and are well attended. Everyone seems to enjoy themselves and quite a lot of garments are sold.

One of our members, Mrs Una Borgelt, turned 90 on 25 August, which was a great event.

Flowers were presented to Rona Schilling and Marilyn Bridgewater in appreciation of their many years of service as Secretary and Treasurer. Rona will still attend our meetings and I am sure will be a great help to us all in the future.

Finally I would like to thank all the members for their support, help and friendship over this last twelve months and I hope that our branch of RVIB continues to grow.

**Joyce Hallam**  
President

# The Dorans in Chicago

*RVIB Speaker Jan Doran reports on her recent trip to Chicago*

Patrick and I were the au pairs for our family in Chicago. The reason for our visit was to hold the fort when our grandson was born. Little Joshua was born 7lbs and 20 inches long on 3 May. He is so cute and cuddly, which we took advantage of. I am afraid we spoilt him but why not?

Our stay was for two months so having done the tourist scene on a previous trip we were like Chicagoans for the duration.

It was a good opportunity to experience the more pleasant side of American culture. I felt very at home in Chicago. To me it is like a big Melbourne. Larger buildings, more traffic but it has the wonderfully cultural feel that Melbourne has and the people are very proud of their city and are so friendly.

Like Melbourne it has many parks and gardens in close proximity to the city. Joshua's big sister, Ashley, 2 1/2 years, was a tad jealous. One day she suggested to her mother we put Baby Josh "in the trash." However towards the end of our stay Ashley settled and we had some wonderfully special times with her.

Since our return, "Nanpop" as Ashley collectively referred to us, have remained in her dear little mind and we are looking forward to them visiting us in September to show off Baby Josh to family and friends. It was such a privilege to be with them and experience the birth and development of Joshua and bond with Ashley.

Cheers to you all  
**Jan Doran**

## Ode to Kerri

Untirelessly, the state traversing  
For she is truly human  
Our willing help, support and friend  
Is Kerri (she should be snoozin').

Our dinner guest she once has been  
Must not forget a luncheon  
How many cuppas she's knocked down  
The number would be somethin'!

But she'll press on, while press she can  
A powernap will help her  
To stir the hearts and minds of those  
Whose interest might raise moolah!

If you, dear reader, desire to help us  
Perhaps you should consider  
Resourcing more of Kerri's class  
To grant her some siesta!

**By Gina Schmidt (Rutherglen)**

## Sale Auxiliary turns 73!

Sale Auxiliary has had another busy year. Our President Norma Harper has been a great inspiration to us all, with her energy and great fundraising ideas. We have a continuous lamington drive in progress; make visits to the Aged Care Hostels where we provide afternoon tea and our friends perform musical items; and we hold a soup and sandwich luncheon.

In July we received a visit by Kerri Guyett, Greer Bland and members from Maffra Auxiliary. A light luncheon of soup and sandwiches was served. Maffra and Sale presented our yearly reports and our donations to RVIB. Our guest speaker, Mrs Truss, spoke about her vision impairment and the assistance given by Greer, and about how she manages to travel overseas.

This year Sale Auxiliary is celebrating 73 years of existence. Once again our enthusiastic President, Mrs Harper, has led us through another year.

**Jean Garley**

## OBITUARIES

### **HATCHER, Vera Jean**

Woomelang Auxiliary was very saddened at the death of Vera Jean Hatcher.

President of the Auxiliary ever since it started in 1957 to her death on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2004. 47 years of service to the blind.

- Mrs Jean E Russell, Secretary

### **LEMON, Mark**

We report with sadness, the passing of Mark Lemon at 92 years of age.

Mark was a long-serving member of the Merbein Auxiliary having been with the group for over 40 years. He joined the Auxiliary in 1952 and became Treasurer in 1954. Then he served as the Secretary/Treasurer from 1962 to 1985 and from 1994 was the Secretary.

During this time, Mark was ably assisted by his late wife Elspeth, and their commitment to RVIB work was recognised in 1994.

Mark was also responsible for the placing and annual collection of RVIB Collection Boxes in district Hotels and Clubs and retained a keen interest in RVIB work up until the time of his death. Vale Mark.

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# Gisborne Auxiliary AGM Report September 2004

We have had another happy, successful and fulfilling year. There are 30 affiliated members with a further ten supporters who attend our functions and assist with the October collection.

An average of 22 members attend each meeting and this year we gained three new members.

Our doorknock in October 2003 involved 12 collectors. The number of collectors has decreased in recent years as most of our members prefer to sell tickets for a hamper raffle together with RVIB Christmas cards and merchandise at the local supermarket around this time of year. 24 members participated with collections on a roster system for the whole week. The amount raised totalled \$3,046. Our top door collector was once again Dorothy Hatch with \$329.90. We maintain eight tins in local shops.

Our annual cheque to headquarters was \$5,000. There were 13 members at the Christmas Party at Ormond Hall where we were entertained by Philip Brady and Denis Walter, together with the RVIB children who sang beautifully.

Seven of our members travelled to Trentham to the Spud Luncheon and seven members attended the Regional meeting at Maldon. Two of our members, Graeme Millar and Terry Poor, continue to do voluntary work for the RVIB by placing and

emptying boxes and tins in various city and suburban hotels and optometrists.

The annual July 3S Luncheon was attended by 80 people and we raised \$1,000 including the donations later received, which totalled \$195. Speakers were Ian McDonald, Kerri Guyett and talented pianist and singer Alan Taylor. Other events during the year were a "Bring and Buy Morning Coffee" which raised \$300 and a trading table held at St Paul's Anglican Op Shop, which raised \$388.

Appreciation was extended to the office-bearers and for the support given by members. A special thank-you was given to Kerri Guyett for her support to us by constantly keeping in touch and attending our events and meetings. Her personal involvement, interest and support means a lot to us.

**Elaine L. Millar**  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Gisborne RVIB Auxiliary

PS: On a sad note, one of our supporting members, Betty Robjant, lost her husband Fred recently. Betty regularly collects a tin for us from the Sunbury Football Club and only recently celebrated her 60th wedding anniversary with Fred, choosing to take up a collection in lieu of presents for RVIB.

## News from Mentone/ Mordialloc Auxiliary

On Friday, 10 September, the Mentone Auxiliary held a lunch to celebrate the presentation of a Life Governorship of RVIB to our esteemed and long serving member, Tess Bone.

Tess had been a member of our Auxiliary for over 20 years, 14 of these she served as President. The Auxiliary continued to expand under her leadership and she continued to lead an active role in our Auxiliary to this day.

Tess was born on 4 November, 1914 in a house where she still resides today. She married, but sadly has no children, but fostered a daughter, Coral.

Tess loves her piano and had provided much enjoyment with her playing at many of the local groups and special accommodation facilities in the area and of course our Auxiliary meetings.

RVIB has been a special interest of Tess' and it was with great pleasure that Kerri Guyett was able to present her with a Life Governorship Certificate. Several members of Tess' family joined us for this day, as did several members from Sorrento Auxiliary. We always welcome members from other auxiliaries and we have a special affinity with Sorrento and Frankston. We hope to continue this association.

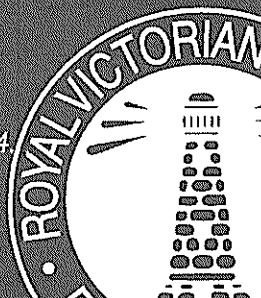
Our thanks go to Tess for her good work with our Auxiliary and we hope she continues her association for many years to come.

**Barbara Round**  
Honorary Secretary

### Share your Auxiliary's news!

The next edition of *Out and About* will be in December. Please send contributions by 12 November to: The Editor, *Out and About*, RVIB, 557 St Kilda Road, Melbourne VIC 3004. Tel (03) 9522 5232 or Fax (03) 9529 6382.

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



## Hamilton Auxiliary voices bring local news

Unlike Melbourne and other larger regional centres, Hamilton is not served by Radio for the Print Handicapped (RPH), which features newspaper readings. Instead, a dedicated team of volunteers from the RVIB Hamilton Auxiliary produce the **Talking Spectator** on audio cassette each week. The service began in February 1985 and is part of a statewide network of talking newspapers that has been developing since 1983 when the RVIB began producing the first Australian talking newspaper. **Keep up the wonderful work ladies!**



▲ Volunteers Mary Hicks, Iris Schultz, co-ordinator Laurel Nagorcka (sitting) and Fay Aarons.

## ...More from Leongatha!

This is my debut as the writer of the Leongatha Auxiliary News. I have had some experience at writing a column for the Cobram Courier. When I lived in Katamatite, which is in Northern Victoria, I wrote a column called Katamatite Korner. I wrote for about four years until I moved back to Ruby.

I haven't had a lot of time to gather much news so I thought I would give you a profile of myself, Leanne Verboon, and my husband Bill. Bill actually joined our Auxiliary before I did. I took on the role as Rose Show Secretary in 2003. It was a challenge but it was satisfying when the Show continued to be very successful. Bill and I are dairy farmers at Ruby, which is about eight kilometres from Leongatha. We have seven children, aged between 11 and 26. Our eldest

daughter married this year. As you can imagine we have been kept fairly busy over the years raising our children and farming. That's enough about us, now onto Auxiliary news.

Our July meeting is our Coffee Morning on the 20<sup>th</sup> at the Uniting Church Hall, Peart Street, Leongatha, 10:00am to noon. There is a lucky door prize; and plant, cake and handcraft stalls. Everyone is welcome. Our August meeting is our Christmas in August lunch at the Leongatha RSL.

Our September 21 meeting was at 1:30pm at the Uniting Church Hall.

Get well wishes go to Sue. We look forward to seeing you soon.

**Leanne Verboon**

## Leongatha Auxiliary reports

Our June meeting was held at the Uniting Church Hall. Numbers were down, but the weather was very wet and cold.

Our July meeting was our Annual Coffee Morning at the Uniting Church Hall. Everyone enjoyed a lovely morning tea. Numbers were up on last year, which was encouraging. We had a raffle and a "Guess the Amount" competition. It was great to have members from neighbouring auxiliaries enjoying a very social morning. The cake stall was well stocked also. A short meeting followed the coffee morning.

During August, we enjoyed our Christmas Luncheon at the Leongatha RSL.

Our September 21 meeting was a Soup and Sandwich Luncheon at the home of one of our members, Noel Griggs. There was a Floral Art Demonstration, floral art prizes and lucky door prizes and a cake stall of course.

We have had members attend functions at neighbouring Korumburra and Kongwak auxiliaries.

Although our Auxiliary is no longer organising the Rose Show, we will still be actively involved in many areas. Our "Rose Raffle" will again be held.

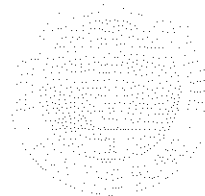
To members who have not enjoyed good health lately, I hope you are feeling better now. Birthday greetings to members who have celebrated during the last three months.



**RVIB**

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## News from Community Relationship Manager, Kerri Guyett



**Merry Christmas from the RVIB Board, staff and clients**

Welcome to our Christmas edition of *Out and About*!

It is hard to believe that it is nearly time to hang the stockings on the fireplace once again!

The past 12 months have again been very busy. The Regional Luncheons were a great success and I look forward to attending these again in the new year. If you have decided on dates and venues could you please pass these on to me as soon as possible, and I will include them in the first edition of *Out and About* for

2005. The more notice given to members, the more people are likely to attend and the easier it is to arrange guest speakers.

As promised last year, secretaries have been sent a contact list of all RVIB auxiliary secretaries. This will make it much easier for you to communicate with other auxiliaries in your region. So next time you are holding an event or function, you may like to send them an invitation.

Our membership database is now up-to-date. Thank you for your patience and hard work – this certainly has been a big exercise! If you have not yet sent back your information, please do so as soon as possible. In the new year I will send you a copy of past and present members for your records.

The merger between RVIB, Vision Australia Foundation and Royal Blind Society of NSW is moving along and a new CEO has been appointed. You can meet him later in this edition of *Out and About*.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued support, enthusiasm, dedication and hard work. Your fundraising efforts and the obvious display of friendship that I experience as I travel around visiting you at your meetings or functions is inspirational.

As many of you know, I have been on sick leave this month but I am pleased to report that I will be back in the office on 4 January 2005. During my absence, Sharon Torney has been overseeing my work. If you need any assistance before I return, please do not hesitate to contact Sharon on (03) 9522 5205.

I wish all of you a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year.

Best wishes

Kerri

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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.

# Around Victoria

## RVIB Kyneton Auxiliary reports

Sixteen of our members journeyed to Melbourne for the annual Christmas dinner on Wednesday, 1 December.

We all had a most enjoyable day and renewed some acquaintances. For four of our members it was their first visit and they found it all very interesting. We all particularly enjoyed the junior choir, who were excellent, and Allan Taylor who always pleases.

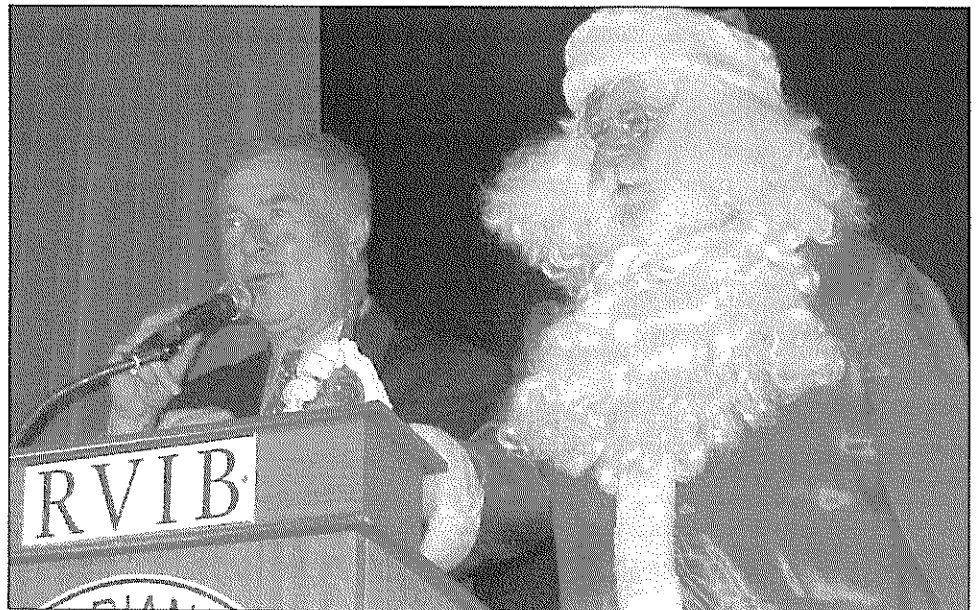
We presented a cheque for \$5,000, which comprised our door knock so far (\$4,045) and proceeds from our garden party (\$995). Marj and Bill Tangey of "Barringo Valley" Mount Macedon generously provided us with a food, flowers and foliage outing in September.

We were lucky to have had a good day in a week of inclement weather, which enabled us to enjoy a lovely garden tour and a delicious lunch in a treed setting. Thank you to Marj and Bill and their keen helper, Elaine. Their efforts swelled our funds for this year.

Merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year to all who work to assist people who are blind or vision impaired.

**Jean Hedington**  
Hon. Secretary

## 2004 Auxiliary Christmas party



▲ 3AW personality Philip Brady was MC at the Auxiliary Christmas party. He is photographed sharing a joke with Santa, who delighted children on stage from the RVIB School.

RVIB auxiliaries from across Victoria came together on Wednesday, 1 December at Ormond Hall to celebrate the annual end of year Christmas party.

The luncheon was hosted by 3AW's Philip Brady, and guests were treated to musical performances by Denis Walter, the RVIB School choir, pianist Allan Taylor and soprano Jordie Howell.

It was wonderful to see Auxiliary groups enjoying the festive spirit and celebrating their fundraising achievements for the year.

For the first time this year, RVIB staged the "Best Yo-Yo Biscuit" competition. Our panel of judges had a very difficult task, sampling and grading all the entries which at first glance were equally worthy winners!

First prize was awarded to **Marjorie Bond** of Yarrowonga, whose Yo-Yos

were exquisite in every way. Congratulations Marjorie!

Seems like Yarrowonga was having a lucky day, as **Kath Kelly**, also from this Auxiliary, took out the first and third prize in the raffle! Well done Kath!

Thank you to all auxiliary members throughout Victoria for another outstanding year of fundraising.

Auxiliaries form such an important part of RVIB's history, and the organisation continues to be proud of the work carried out by members throughout Victoria.

We wish you all well for another bumper year in fundraising. Every little bit helps! Know that your hard work is very much recognised and appreciated by the Board, staff and clients of RVIB.

# New CEO appointed

We are pleased to announce that Gerard Menses has been appointed Chief Executive Officer to take our newly merged organisation into the future. Gerard has the vital leadership abilities and experience in the not for profit sector to pursue our strategy of building a stronger, combined organisation to provide services to people who are blind or vision impaired.

Gerard is an energetic and experienced CEO with significant experience in managing large and diverse operations which was recognised when he was presented with the "Professional Manager of the Year 2001, Queensland" award from the Australian Institute of Management.

Most recently Gerard has held the position of Chief Executive Officer, Endeavour Foundation in Queensland – the largest state based not for profit organisation.

In his role at RBS.RVIB.VAF Ltd Gerard will be focusing on combining the strengths of each of our business units to meet the needs of our clients while preparing the organisation to meet the challenges associated with changes in society and technology. Under his leadership, we will continue building an organisation that will provide better and additional services to our clients while maximising our ability to raise funds into the future.

Gerard Menses joined the organisation on 13 December, 2004 and will be based in Kooyong.

Outgoing CEO has left RVIB with a proud record of achievement and was a key supporter of the merger.

The year 2005 promises to be an exciting time for all associated with our new organisation.

## News from Sorrento Auxiliary 75th AGM, 2003 – 2004

How quickly a year passes! It is heartening to know that as a group, we have managed to keep the Auxiliary going, without saying that it was too hard, or that we would have to shut down.

**October:** We had an interesting talk from Amanda Lecke on the workings of the CFA and some personal safety tips for around the home.

**November:** What a lovely scene greeted us for our spring garden luncheon, with David Trim having magnificently decorated the room. The mystery buckets were again a wonderful success and enjoyed by all. We thank Kerri and Ian for their help on the day. Our friends from both Frankston and Mentone auxiliaries joined us together with many members from local groups.

Unfortunately Jean fell on the way to her car and broke her wrist in two places, which resulted in a hospital stay.

On a brighter note, I had the wonderful experience of attending my primary school with RVIB client and paralympian Russell Short; a vision impaired RVIB staff member Jayson Hanrahan (together with his guide dog, Iggy); RVIB staff member Trish Hardy and Kerri. It was with pleasure that I returned to school for an assembly to be presented with a cheque for \$300, which was raised from a casual clothes day. We were very grateful for the school's support.

**December:** We enjoyed lunch together at the Rye RSL. Our meeting in December was a lovely way to finish off the year with everyone receiving a gift from the basket and enjoying a lovely, festive afternoon tea.

**January:** The street stall was well attended, raising \$584.50. We thank Mr Mick Gallace for his wonderful

donation of 30 punnets of strawberries to sell. Our raffles were again very popular.

**February:** A lovely beach picnic was held in Sorrento and we all enjoyed the "box raffle".

**March:** The conference this year was at Frankston, and six of our members attended, together with Mentone.

**April:** Easter Saturday again saw us in the Main Street selling huge, delicious strawberries. Thank you to Mick who donated 48 punnets.

**May:** We did not hold our usual Christmas lunch in June as too many of us were unwell.

**June:** We decided to donate \$500 towards the Felix Braille Book Library cases and a further \$3,000 to RVIB School to enable a child to have a piece of equipment at home which normally is only available at the School. Our cheque for this year's donation totalled \$3,500.

**July:** We enjoyed our month off.

**August:** Our luncheon was very effective. We thank RVIB client Allan Taylor for entertaining us and thank Ian for his help with transportation.

**September:** We are now 75 years old and I think sometimes we feel it! Our first thank you is to the members of the Sorrento Fire Group who continue to allow us to use their beautiful meeting room and to Andrew Croad for all his help. We also thank our family and friends for their assistance, and the community. Special thanks also to Henry and Anne Mack for providing us with such wonderful raffles this year, and to Richard Davies for all his computer help. We send our get-well wishes to those auxiliary members and their families who are unwell or coming to terms with recent bereavements.

# Volunteers help light up RVIB Carols by Candlelight



▲ Carols stars Peter Brocklehurst and Rhonda Burchmore at the launch of RVIB Carols by Candlelight.

Each year an army of volunteers are a driving force behind the success of RVIB Carols by Candlelight.

This year, we again have approximately 100 volunteers who will play a key role in the running of the event.

Presented by Kodak, RVIB Carols by Candlelight is Australia's favourite and most recognised Christmas Eve tradition and is seen each year by more than two million people through the Nine Network.

Volunteers are the 'face' of RVIB on the night, and their enthusiasm each year is fantastic. Some volunteers have been helping with Carols for over twenty years, and it is wonderful that again this year we have a group of such dedicated and motivated helpers. Volunteer duties range from selling programs and RVIB

merchandise such as candles; to conducting audience surveys and providing general information.

The official launch of Carols was held in Federation Square on Monday, 6 December.

Hosted by **Ray Martin**, Carols will once again capture Australia's Christmas spirit, led by performances from: Marina Prior, Caroline O'Connor, Silvie Paladino, David Campbell, Rob Mills, Peter Brocklehurst, Hi-5, Rhonda Burchmore, Sarah Storer, Human Nature, Paulini, Denis Walter, Kate Ceberano, Emmanuel Carella and the cast of Saturday Night Fever.

RVIB Carols by Candlelight will be telecast on the Nine Network and simulcast on Magic693 from 8:30pm on 24 December 2004.

# News from Merbein

Our two-day street collection was down this year. An amount of \$496.55 was received. Collection boxes resulted in a further \$205.75. I express appreciation to the community members who contributed and to management of hotels and clubs willing to have boxes placed in their premises. The Auxiliary is also especially grateful to the helpers who have manned the tables on collection days.

This brings us to the point of whether we continue as an Auxiliary as there don't appear to be any younger people interested in joining. For some years now we have only just been able to keep the RVIB flag flying and with the increasing age of members it may be time to consider ceasing operating as an Auxiliary. If the decision to disband is made it will be with much regret. Many Merbein citizens have given excellent service over the years.

One such citizen was Mark Lemon who sadly passed away on 24 July 2004. Mark gave a great deal of his time to this Auxiliary. Mark began as a member in 1952, was Treasurer from 1952 to 62, then was Secretary/Treasurer from 1962 to 84, and was Secretary until 1993. This was a wonderful commitment by Mark, who during this time was ably assisted by his late wife, Elspeth.

Another member I must mention is Norm Oakes who has retired from active service due to ill health, but still retains a keen interest. We commend Norm on his many years of service and wish him well.

Thank you to all Auxiliary members for their support. Special thanks also to Roma Pinniger for her excellent work as Secretary/Treasurer.

With the amalgamation of RVIB with Vision Australia Foundation and the Royal Blind Society of NSW, Auxiliaries may be facing change.

## Share your Auxiliary's news!

The next edition of *Out and About* will be in March 2005. Please send contributions by Friday, 25 February to: The Editor, *Out and About*, RVIB, 557 St Kilda Road, Melbourne VIC 3004. Tel (03) 9522 5232 or Fax (03) 9529 6382.

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



## Rose show bursts into bright new future

As reported in "The Great Southern Star" on 16 November 2004, page 38.

The RVIB 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Leongatha Rose Show was held last Thursday and Friday with the Memorial Hall at Leongatha bursting with colour and scent.

It was the first year that the show has been run by a new committee keen to give the show a bright new future.

Last year the Auxiliary decided the task was beyond them and although the Leongatha Horticulture Society was happy to support the show they were not interested in taking over the running of it.

The new committee known as "The Friends of the RVIB" is made up of members of the Leongatha Auxiliary, Leongatha Horticulture and individuals committed to the continuation of the show.

The committee would like to thank local businesses that have generously donated trophies again this year for the winning entries.

At a time when it is getting harder to find volunteers we would like to thank all helpers and exhibitors who brought their flowers to the show to make such a wonderful display.

---

## Get well soon Kerri!

Many of you asked about Kerri Guyett at the Auxiliary Christmas party, after hearing that she had undergone an operation.

All your well wishes were passed on to Kerri who is recuperating and well on the road to a full recovery. She will be back at work on Tuesday, 4 January.

## Volunteer recognised with service award



▲ Award winner Claire Davidson (right) with Mrs Hartman at the presentation.

RVIB has recognised the outstanding efforts of volunteer Claire Davidson by presenting her with the Leo Hartman Young Achiever Award during the Auxiliary Christmas Party at Ormond Hall on Wednesday, 1 December.

Over the last 12 months, Ms Davidson has been volunteering at RVIB School on a weekly basis, assisting with the art program. She worked closely with art teacher Michael Donnelly and helped make art come alive for the children. She also assisted with the music program and accompanied students on school excursions.

Ms Davidson has extensive experience working with children, having

previously been employed as a nanny and worked with emotionally disturbed children in her home country of Scotland.

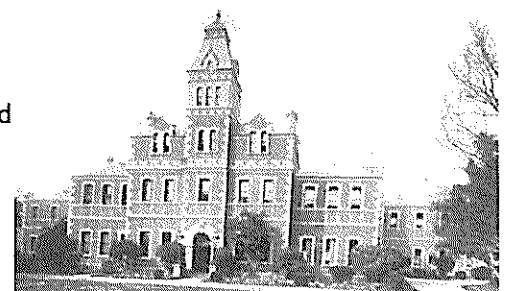
It has been a pleasure to have Ms Davidson as part of RVIB's volunteer program. Her practical assistance and willingness to help out where required has been a wonderful support to students, teachers and other volunteers at the school.

Ms Davidson is a very valued member of our volunteer team and we were thrilled to present her with the Leo Hartman Young Achiever Award for 2004.

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## "Lighthouse on the boulevard – a history of the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind"

A book detailing RVIB's 138-year history will be available for purchase in February 2005. Entitled *Lighthouse on the Boulevard – a history of RVIB* and written by Dr Judith Buckrich, the book weaves together RVIB's remarkable history. For details call Archive Officer **Michele Prentice** on **(03) 9522 5238**.





▲ Head of the Auxiliary Central Council, Trudi Westh and Community Relationship Manager Kerri Guyett enjoyed catching up at RVIB's Celebrations Day, held at Ormond Hall on Wednesday, 17 November. The event was an opportunity to thank RVIB staff, volunteers and auxiliaries for their efforts and to reflect on the organisation's proud 138-year history.

## News from Frankston...

The RVIB Frankston Auxiliary was formed on 9 August 1929.

The Chairman at this time was Mr WP Mason Esq; the organiser was Mrs K Sutherland from RVIB Melbourne; and the Honorary Secretary was Mrs L Utber.

We would like you all to know that we recently celebrated our 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. We didn't have any special celebration as we are now such a small group (seven members) but we would like to thank all the wonderful people who contributed to the development and success of the Auxiliary over all the years. These people have left their spirit as a legacy and have spurred us to continue on in recent years, despite only being a small group.

I remember many years ago, before I was a member, attending the RVIB

Annual Concert at the Villa St Clare in Frankston. Mr Ian McNeill was the guest artist and my aunt Miss Evelyn Broomhead was Treasurer. At the time the Auxiliary had many members, and although I'm sure it will never again be as large as previously, at the moment we endeavour to carry on knowing that RVIB in the city are happier to receive small amounts of contributions rather than no money at all.

We would like to send our congratulations and best wishes to all auxiliaries who have turned 75, or who will do so before the end of the year.

We also warmly welcome new member **Mrs Clarice Artis** to our Auxiliary.

**Anne E Booth**  
Honorary Secretary

## Auxiliary Christmas party photos...



▲ It was wonderful to see so many auxiliaries celebrating their successes over the year and getting into the festive spirit. Christmas hats were donned and crackers were pulled at this fun-filled annual event.



▲ Lucky day! Kath Kelly from Yarrawonga Auxiliary takes out first and third prize in the RVIB raffle.

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