OUT & ABOUT







Welcome to the first edition of Out and About for 2005.

I hope you all enjoyed your break over the Christmas period and thank-you to everyone who sent thoughtful cards during my time away. I am now well, full of energy and looking forward to another year of successful fundraising.

It is shaping up to be an exciting year for the new merged organisation and I am pleased that you are continuing your journey with us. As an Auxiliary member, you play a vital role in our future and your support is essential.

As you may be aware, you are all invited to become members of the new organisation, which allows you to vote on major issues at special general meetings or at the AGM. The cost to join is \$25 per year, which is separate to your annual Auxiliary subscription / membership. If you

News from Community Relationship Manager, Kerri Guyett

would like to become a member or have any questions about membership, please contact Company Secretary Les Smith on Tel: (03) 9864 9237.

Annual Regional Luncheons for 2005 have begun, and thank you to Mentone Auxiliary for hosting the first function of the year. It was a wonderful day, with Councillor Mr Bill Nixon OAM officially opening proceedings, and members from Frankston and Sorrento auxiliaries in attendance. Auxiliary members were delighted to have CEO of our new merged organisation, Mr Gerard Menses, as guest speaker.

Mr Menses gave a comprehensive update on the merge and answered questions from members. His enthusiasm for the year ahead was truly inspiring. Although Mr Menses cannot attend all Regional Luncheons, I will ensure that you are kept up-to-date with any major developments for our new organisation.

Please continue to send in your articles for Out and About and advise me of dates for upcoming functions, so I can arrange to attend as many as possible. Dates for Regional Luncheons booked so far are included in this newsletter.

Auxiliaries have played a very important role in RVIB's history and you should be very proud of continuing your association with the new organisation. Your ongoing support is highly valued by our clients and staff. The difference you make to many peoples' lives is real and greatly cherished. I look forward to sharing the good news stories of some of our clients with you as the year unfolds.

Best wishes,

K. guyar

Kerri

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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 Gisborne

Last year was very successful for the Gisborne Auxiliary and resulted in \$5,000 being forwarded to headquarters. This money was raised from various activities including the doorknock, tin collections in shops, raffles and lunches.

In October our members did some fundraising at the local shopping centre. Raffle tickets for a hamper were sold, together with RVIB cards and calendars, raising a total of \$800. We were delighted to hear the hamper was won by eight-year-old Emma Lord who is the grand-daughter of Freda Jaroslawski, Wangaratta Auxiliary's treasurer for around 25 years. A bonus was that Emma's mum will join the Gisborne Auxiliary!

Sadly in November we lost Janet Currie, a very respected member, aged 96 years. Janet was a member for 20 years and had been President from 1987 until her retirement at age 90 in 1998.

In February, 18 of our members met to plan activities for this year. It was decided that in March the Anglican Op Shop would once again support us with a Friday Trading Table. Last year \$398 was raised from this event, where members donated cakes, jams and produce to sell.

For Tuesday, 5 April a "Bring and Buy" Morning Coffee will be held at a member's home in Macedon. There will be a trading table and musical entertainment.

In May we will host a special Product Presentation event, showcasing the latest and most interesting products available in department stores and supermarkets. Attendees will receive food and product samples. The event will take place on Tuesday, 17 May at 11:00am at St Paul's Anglican Hall. Entry is \$5.00 and includes a light lunch.

The annual "3S Lunch" will be held on Tuesday, 26 July. Soup, Sandwiches and Slices will be served at this function, which will be held from 11:00am at the Anglican Hall. Admission is \$10.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 28 June.

For further details about any of the above functions, please contact **Elaine** on **Tel: 5428 2522**.

Elaine Millar Secretary, Gisborne Auxiliary

Trentham/Woodend's

Humble Spud Luncheon



▲ RVIB client and talented musician Allan Taylor will again be leading his popular sing-along at the annual Humble Spud Luncheon hosted by the Trentham/ Woodend Auxiliary in May.

It's time again for Trentham-Woodend Auxiliary's annual Humble Spud Luncheon! Come and enjoy good food, great company and a sing-along by RVIB singer and musician, Allan Taylor. There will be a trading table selling various items including RVIB cards and a raffle will also be held.

The Luncheon will take place at midday on Thursday, 11 May at the Proctor's home – "Wahroonga" – at 718 Tylden Rd, Woodend. Entry is \$6.

For details call either Norma on Tel: 5427 1260; Kath on Tel: 5424 1583 or Allan on Tel: 5427 2003.

All are welcome and we hope to see as many of you there as possible!

Happy Easter

The clients, staff and Board of RVIB wish you and your families a safe and happy Easter break, and thank you for your continued support this year.



RVIB's cottage by the sea

Do you feel like a weekend getaway? RVIB's Lorna Lodge holiday cottage at Barwon Heads is available for rent to Auxiliary members, their friends and families.

The property is maintained by RVIB's Barwon Heads Auxiliary and can be booked for a reasonable rate.

For further information or to make a booking, contact **Irene Sumbera** at RVIB on **(03)** 9522 5222.

Try this tasty Yo-Yo recipe...

Following the success of last year's inaugural "Best Yo-Yo Biscuit" competition, RVIB's Southern Region would like to share their Yo-Yo recipe.

Ingredients:

6 ounces butter; 2 ounces icing sugar; 6 ounces plain flour; 2 ounces custard powder.

Method:

Cream the butter with the icing sugar. Work in sifted flour with the custard powder. Work the flour into the creamed butter. Roll into walnut sized balls. Place on a greased biscuit tray and press each biscuit lightly with the back of a fork.

Bake in a moderate oven (350F) for about 20 minutes, but do not allow the biscuits to brown. When cold, join together in pairs with butter cream.

Butter Cream Ingredients:

2 ounces butter; 6 ounces pure icing sugar; 3 dessertspoons of hot water; ½ teaspoon vanilla essence.

Method:

Cream the butter. Gradually add sifted sugar. Beat in water and vanilla one teaspoon at a time.

Enjoy!

Jean knits up a storm

Jean Parkinson has always devoted herself to helping charitable organisations.

She started by decorating cakes and donating half of the proceeds to the Warracknabeal Auxiliary and the other half to the uniting church. However, Jean wanted to do more. She therefore decided to give all money raised from cake decorating to the church and started selling knitted items, donating all money raised through this to the Auxiliary.

While staying in a caravan during one of her two-month sojourns to Queensland, Jean started knitting Gollywogs. Each Gollywog was unique with its own personality and very quickly proved to be popular with the tourists. So far Jean has created around 300 of these wonderful Gollywogs!

After a death in the family, Jean stopped going to Queensland and started going to Urunga in NSW.

Not one to remain idle, Jean placed a notice in the local laundry and was soon taking orders for two-way dolls. Jean now has a booming cottage industry selling items including toys, rugs, slippers, hats, scarves, mittens and bedspreads.

Unfortunately Jean's hands don't work as fast as she would like them to, and she says she gets frustrated because she can't work fast enough!

Over the years she has raised thousands of dollars for the Auxiliary.

Jean has many stories to tell – some funny, some sad – but all very interesting.

Jean has been a member of the Warracknabeal RVIB Auxiliary for many years and was made a Life Governor in 1997.

Well done Jean - your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Annual Regional Luncheon Calendar

Mentone: I | March St Augustines Hall, Como Parade, Mentone

Kongwak: 19 April Kongwak Hall

Anglesea: 2 May (Venue TBC)

Euroa: 18 May St John's Hall, Binney Street, Euroa

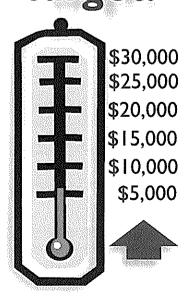
Glenthompson: 16 June (Venue TBC)

Portland: 21 July (Venue TBC)

Rainbow: 23 July (Venue TBC)

Dates and venues are to be confirmed for meetings in Swan Hill, Dimboola, Trentham/Woodend, Colac & Sale.

Fundraising target!



"Small change can make a big difference"

Charity ball raises funds for RVIB

An institution on the Melbourne social calendar, this year's Precious Metal Ball, was in support of RVIB.

The ball was held on 17 February at the Regent Theatre in Melbourne and was hosted by TV personality Richard Wilkins. Brian Doyle, 'Dislocate' and Rhonda Burchmore provided entertainment for guests throughout the evening.

The annual black-tie event for charity is staged by the Myer Community Fund - the charitable arm of the retail chain.

The event was a tremendous success and proceeds have been donated towards RVIB's Children's Services, in particular the Feelix Project, which encourages early literacy in children who are blind or vision impaired.

Share your Auxiliary's news!

The next edition of Out and About will be in June 2005. Please send contributions by Tuesday, 31 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.

To arrange Out and About to be posted to your home, please contact Kerni

Guyett on

(03) 9522 5232.

Awards give equal opportunities to students



Bursary Awards: From left to right (back row) Frank Skeggs, Bridget Jolley, Deanne Diamandis, Manager RVIB College Chris Edwards; and (front row) Kate Barrett, Lauren Hayes, Maranatha Sao-Mafiti and CEO Gerard Menses.

Eight students from Victoria who are blind or vision impaired were awarded grants by our organisation at a ceremony at Melbourne Town Hall in February.

The annual Further Education Bursary Awards were established by RVIB in 1995 and have already provided over 50 Victorians with the training and adaptive technology to undertake further study. As a result of our merger they are now being offered to people studying in NSW and the ACT.

Our Chairman, Graeme Innes, hosted the ceremony with guest speakers including the Member for Melton, Mr Don Nardella.

Mr Innes said the awards would help people who were otherwise unable to afford the technology for reading and writing, enabling them to participate in

further education and pursue their chosen careers.

Bursary recipient Lauren Hayes, who performed on the day, is looking forward to studying a Bachelor of Music with a major in voice.

For Lauren, whose vision is limited to light perception as a result of Retinopathy of Prematurity, moving out of home has been a major change. "Getting used to living in college has been quite an experience, but I have already met some great people and am more excited about my course each day," she says.

Students from NSW and the ACT received their bursaries at Sydney's Government House on 17 March, during a presentation hosted by the Governor of NSW, Marie Bashir.

Carols captures the Christmas spirit



▲ Crowd favourite Marina Prior lights up the stage at Carols by Candlelight.

Carollers joined a host of stars at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl on Christmas Eve, celebrating the festive season with song in support of people who are blind or vision impaired.

RVIB Carols by Candlelight has been a tradition for 67 years. Now, with the recent merger of the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind, Royal Blind Society and Vision Australia Foundation, it will continue to be a premier event into the future.

A sea of flickering candlelight filled the famous venue with a soft glow as family and friends gathered to share in

the magic of Christmas and sing carols with their favourite celebrities. Children jumped for joy when their idols, Hi-5, took to the stage while the grown ups sang along with entertainers including Marina Prior (pictured) and Australian Idol's Anthony Callea.

Even warmer than the electric atmosphere, the commentary of host Ray Martin and the radiance from thousands of candles was the spirit of giving that spread throughout the annual extravaganza. Funds raised will make a difference to many people who are blind or vision impaired, especially children. "It's reassuring to know that this support will be there in the future," said the merged organisation's chairman, Graeme Innes, in his address to the huge crowd.

More than 10,000 people came along on the night, with another 20,000 enjoying the experience in nearby Kings Domain Park.

A further two million people tuned in to Channel Nine's live national telecast, making it one of the year's highest rating programs.

Mr Innes thanked partner, Kodak, for generously supporting Carols by Candlelight, and praised Channel Nine, 3AW Southern Cross Radio, Magic 693 and the many other supporters who made the event possible.



The music of 'Nature'



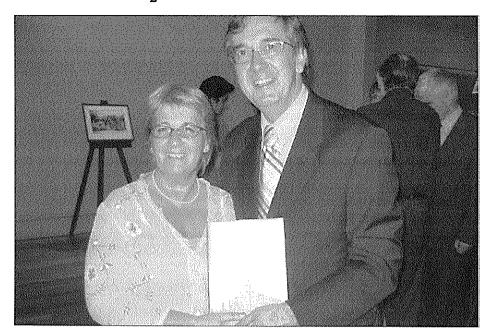
Feed your ears with Nature Nature's latest CD Bush Feast, \$20. Inspired by the outdoors, each track blends David McBurney's clarinet, flute and percussion with didgeridoo played by Henry Phineasa, who is blind. The pair who hail from Sydney performed at the 2000 Olympics and are the subject of an upcoming ABC-TV documentary. Proceeds support people who are blind or vision impaired. Orders can be placed by calling Tel: 1800 335 353.

Books you can hear

You can now buy popular, unabridged Australian books on cassette tape or CD from our talking book publisher, Louis Braille Audio.

New releases include actress Kate
Fitzpatrick's memoir Name Dropping
and Steven Carroll's novel The Gift of
Speed. For enquiries Tel: (03) 9864
9645. Proceeds support library and
information services to people who
are blind or vision impaired.

History book launched



▲ Author Dr Judith Buckrich and CEO of our new merged organisation Mr Gerard Menses at the launch.

Many of you have been eagerly awaiting the launch of the much talked about RVIB History book.

We are pleased to report that the book, which chronicles the 138-year history of RVIB, is now available for purchase.

Melbourne author and historian Dr Judith Buckrich spent two years researching and writing Lighthouse on the Boulevard: A History of the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind 1866 to 2004. Speaking at the launch at Ormond Hall in February, she said RVIB had played a key role in the development of Melbourne.

"The book is not just a story about RVIB, but also a reflection of many aspects of the history of this city," Dr Buckrich said. "The treatment of people with disabilities has changed so dramatically since the 1870s and the book clearly illustrates this shift."

Fellow speaker David Blyth, a member of our board and representative of the History Project, said the timing of the launch fitted in well with the beginning of a significant new chapter for RVIB.

Following our merger last year, "it is an important time for the blindness sector in Australia and to reflect on the history of one of our oldest non-profit organisations shows us all just how far we have come," he said.

The book covers key milestones and events including the establishment of the RVIB asylum and school in 1866, the first Carols by Candlelight in 1938 and the wartime secondment of the St Kilda Road site for military purposes in 1943.

Speakers at the launch included CEO of the new merged organisation, Mr Gerard Menses, and Mr Gary Singer, the Deputy Lord Mayor of Melbourne.

Lighthouse on the Boulevard is a hard-cover book retailing for \$40 through RVIB's VisEquip store in Prahran. If you would like to purchase a copy of the book, complete the order form enclosed with this edition of Out and About or telephone VisEquip on Tel: (03) 9520 5588.

OBITUARIES

SHAW.Jean

We regret to report the sudden passing of Mrs Jean Shaw on Tuesday, 15 February 2005.

Jean had been a keen member of the Trentham/Woodend Auxiliary for 50 years, and held a position of office for many of those years.

Although Jean had been frail for some time, she still managed to reach the wonderful age of 88.

Last year Jean was nominated for a Life Governors Award due to her outstanding commitment to RVIB. As a result of the merger, nominations were not progressed although Jean will be remembered for her invaluable contribution to the organisation over so many years.

She will be dearly missed.

- Norma Proctor Trentham/Woodend Auxiliary



Thank you

RVIB would like to thank Snap Printing for continued sponsorship of this newsletter.







News from Community Relationship Manager, Kerri Guyett

Welcome to the June edition of Out and About.

It was only recently that I wondered if winter was ever going to arrive and suddenly the days have become shorter and the mornings frosty and cold. We have even had some rain in the city — hopefully you too have had the much-needed rainfall.

Over the past few months I have had the pleasure of joining many of you at various functions including AGMs and Annual Regional Luncheons. Thank you to everyone who hosted Annual Luncheons — the food and hospitality were exceptional as always. The "biscuit bakers" will be pleased to hear that I think I have acquired a taste for their Yo-Yo's!

In this edition we share latest auxiliary news, details about RPH Print Radio and other interesting articles for you to enjoy over a "cuppa" in front of your warm fire.

Enclosed with this edition of Out and About you will also have received a letter from CEO Gerard Menses, revealing the much anticipated details of the organisation's new proposed name and logo.

Out and About is wonderful way for everyone to keep in touch and to be kept up-to-date with current activities. If you haven't shared something recently, you might like to send me a note or photo for the next edition. Remember, your news is as interesting to others as theirs is to you!

Happy reading and I look forward to seeing you at a function in your area soon.

Best wishes,

K. guyar

Kerri Guyett



▲ Community Relationship Manager Kerri Guyett has been on the road again, visiting auxiliaries across Victoria. She's been from Portland to Yarram, Glenthompson to Donald and everywhere in between.

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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 Wangaratta

We are pleased to report that the Auxiliary raised a total of \$1,900 for RVIB last year.

The Auxiliary consists of 11 members who are Joan Tripp, President; Marjory Sartori, Secretary; Frieda Jaroslawski, Treasurer; Mary Ambrosio; Marjorie Blackwell; Dorrie Elliott; Ivy Ellis; Lila Hughes; Helen Slater; Thelma Tripp and Eve Wise.

Our main fundraisers are now our street stalls, which are held in May and October. This year we will not hold a card party due to a drop in the number of players.

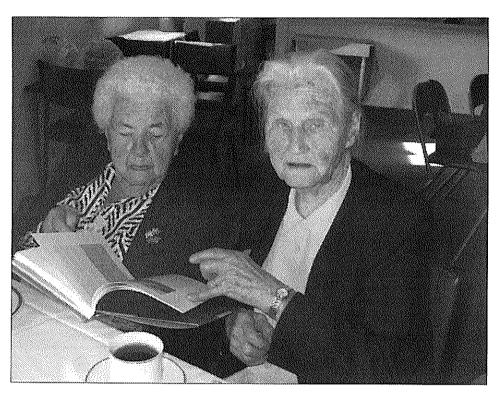
Auxiliary members were busy with preparations in the lead-up to our street stall on Friday, 20 May and as a result, were not able to attend the Annual Conference. Hopefully attendees enjoyed a social and informative day.

RVIB's Regional Services Coordinator in Wangaratta, Carmel Sait, will attend our AGM in July to present 20 and 30-year service badges to six of our members. We plan to invite the local newspaper to take photos and perhaps write an article on the RVIB services available in our region. This might also help promote the Auxiliary's work and even attract new members, which are much needed.

Hopefully, we'll see you all next year at the conference. Maybe it will be our turn to host the event!

Kind regards from all.

Marjory Sartori Secretary



▲ Looking back in time: Members of the Euroa Auxiliary flip through a copy of RVIB's history book: "Lighthouse on the Boulevard". The book was written by Melbourne writer and historian Judith Buckrich and chronicles RVIB's rich and colourful 138-year history. The book can be purchased at the introductory price of \$34.50 plus postage and includes a free copy of Vision Australia Foundation's history "No Sight — Great Vision". To order your copy phone RVIB VisEquip on (03) 9520 5588.

Kyneton Auxiliary update

As our financial year draws to a close, we are thrilled to be sending RVIB a cheque for \$1,520.

This adds to our previous cheque of \$5,000, bringing the total raised this year to \$6,520 — a record for our Auxiliary.

We held a wood raffle outside the local supermarket for two days in May and raised \$1,119. Thank you to Jose and Joy for this great idea and for their help. Thanks also to Helen, Elaine and Doug for their valuable assistance. I believe everyone had fun selling the tickets.

We are also grateful for the generous support received from the community, who donate to a number of charities.

We have donation boxes on several counters in Kyneton businesses, which help raise significant funds.

Our AGM will be held on Tuesday, 20 September at 2:00pm in the Uniting Church Hall. Members please note this date — we would love to see you there.

Jean Hedington Hon. Secretary / Treasurer

Leongatha Auxiliary news

Last year commenced with the Annual Regional Conference and Luncheon, which was held in mid-April at the Leongatha Uniting Church Hall. Members from Korumburra and Kongwak auxiliaries attended the conference and among guest speakers was Cathy Westaway from RVIB. A local florist, SignatureBlooms, donated floral bouquets for speakers. Service awards were also presented.

Our Annual Meeting was held in May and chaired by Kerri Guyett. President Glenice Griggs received an award for services to the community and to the Leongatha Auxiliary for the past 13 years. A special mention of Glenice's involvement with the Annual Rose Show was made.

The Manager of the Leongatha Cinema was sent a thank-you letter and certificate of appreciation for donating numerous theatre tickets to the Auxiliary, which were used as prizes in fundraising activities. We were pleased to forward a cheque for \$600 to RVIB.

Our annual Coffee Morning was held in July and was again well patronised by our neighbouring auxiliaries, community members and family friends.

Our Annual Luncheon was held in August at the Leongatha RSL and was enjoyed by all. A further cheque for \$1,000 was sent to RVIB, which included \$700 raised from the Coffee Morning. We noted, with sadness the passing of Lyn Willis, one of our long-serving and dedicated members.

In September we held a Soup and Sandwich Luncheon at the home of one of our members, Nowlle Griggs. The 46 diners who attended had a delightful day. There was a wonderful floral art demonstration by Lorraine Reeves and Robert Saunders from Signature Blooms, who donated the five finished products as fundraisers.

The well-stocked cake and plant stalls added to the proceeds for the day, which totalled \$600. A further cheque for \$1,800 was forwarded to RVIB.

The Auxiliary came together again in October, where guest speaker Sue Thompson gave a very informative talk on her recent trip to the UK.

Our November meeting was held after the Leongatha Rose Show, where over \$1,500 was raised through our annual raffle.

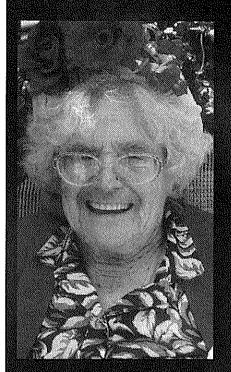
We kicked off the new year of fundraising with a wonderful 'Garden Day'. The event was held on the property of Yvonne and Rob Williams — winners of the Leongatha Horticulture Society's local garden competition. Over 80 members and friends enjoyed lovely weather, beautiful floral plantings, great friendship and of course a delicious afternoon tea. The event raised over \$750.

So far this year we have visited both Korumburra and Kongwak auxiliaries to support their Morning Coffees together with other fundraising events. They have reciprocated by assisting us also.

Many local organisations have again generously supported our functions during the year, including the Anglican Church Op-shop and local Freemason's Lodge. Mrs Benson's Meeniyan Card Players again donated over \$300 this year. Unfortunately however, the group are now disbanding due to age and attrition of players.

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

News from Skipton



▲ Joyce Wilkie from the Skipton Auxiliary gets into the festive spirit with her Easter Bonnet.

The Skipton Auxiliary hosted a successful Garden Party Open House on 20 March.

The Garden Party, held at member Desma Meek's home, was the Auxiliary's major fundraiser for the year and raised a very pleasing \$500.

The event included some great entertainment and various wonderful prizes were awarded. These included the Easter Bonnet prize and dinner for two, which went to our Ballarat guests.

The Auxiliary thanks local businesses for their support as well as Tobin Brothers and Eye Care Ballarat who sponsored the event. Thanks also to our tireless troop of ladies who made the I Iam to 4pm food parade the best.

Organiser Desma Meek

News from Anglesea Auxiliary

We are still actively fundraising for RVIB and holding monthly meetings attracting around 15 members.

Many of our member's husbands are also part of the Auxiliary and provide their help when needed. We would welcome the involvement of a few younger people.

Each month our members contribute items for our trading table and this year we held an Easter Raffle.

One of our male members, Bob Kent, is a gifted craftsman and has been a wonderful asset to the Auxiliary. Bob has made various wooden items, including fruit bowls and a beautiful clock, which can be used for our raffles. We would like to thank Bob most sincerely for all the wonderful work he has done for the Auxiliary.

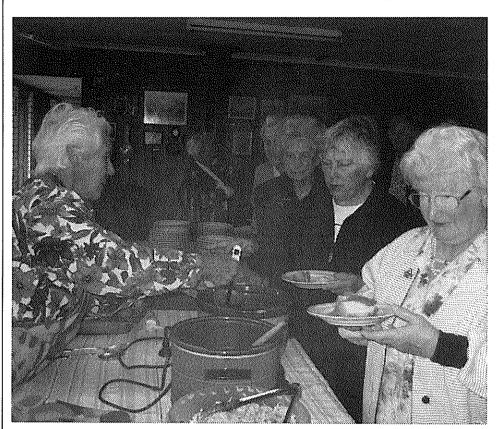
The services of RVIB were recently called upon by one of our own members. Jim Buckley contacted me and asked if he could access RVIB services as he was loosing his sight, and as an avid reader, he faced a big hurdle. I rang Kerri Guyett and she immediately organised talking books for Jim, for which he was most grateful.

Jim was later interviewed by someone from Vision Australia Foundation in Geelong. He now has a machine that reads his mail and he received other items which have been very helpful. Jim speaks very highly of RVIB and the staff he has met. He especially thanks Kerri Guyett for putting things into motion.

Anglesea Auxiliary members are a most generous and happy group.

Mary Dupe Honorary Secretary

Gisborne Auxiliary reports



▲ Gisborne Auxiliary members enjoyed the annual Trentham Spud Luncheon held in May.

Pictured: Lunch guests line up as Norma dishes up her tasty spuds.

We started the year with a meeting to discuss what fundraising activities we would like to undertake in 2005. There were a total of 21 members in attendance, who gave us lots of ideas.

So far this year, we have already held a number of successful fundraising events.

The Anglican Op Shop once again sponsored a Trading Table for the Auxiliary and raised \$200.

We also held a very enjoyable "Bring & Buy Morning Coffee" at Nin Hardiman's home in April. Nin's husband, Robert, gave an interesting address on his experiences as an RAF fighter pilot during the Second World War. The event raised \$285, which was a great result.

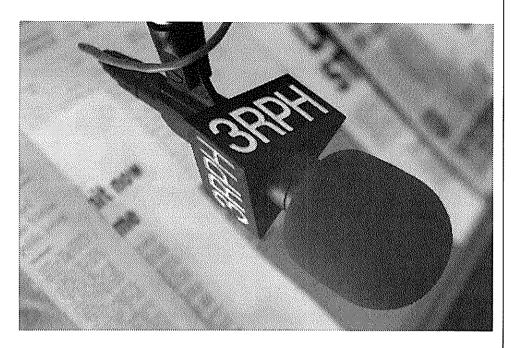
In May we attended the annual Spud Luncheon at Norma's in Trentham. There were 12 members in attendance and all had a wonderful time. We enjoyed Alan's entertainment on the piano together with the sing-a-long and were reluctant to go home at the end of the day! We sincerely thank Norma for her efforts and kind hospitality.

Another highlight this year was the Product Presentation Expo, which saw 40 people in attendance. The presentation included food sampling, giveaways and a rundown of new items in our supermarkets. The cooking demonstration using the latest microwave oven was particularly popular. A successful raffle was held and we finished the day with a light lunch. We were pleased to have raised \$270.

Our next event will be our 3S Luncheon of Soup, Sandwiches and Slices to be held on **Tuesday**, **26 July** at St Paul's Anglican Church, Fisher Street, Gisborne at 11:30am. Other auxiliaries and friends are welcome to join us. For details phone **Elaine** on **5428 2522**.

Elaine Millar Secretary/Treasurer

Winter radio programming launched



RPH Print Radio has swung into winter mode, turning print into sound with the launch of its new series of programs for the season.

Programs cover a variety of topics including the news and book readings, as well as the popular AFL team lineups, which are announced each Friday evening at 6:30pm.

Copies of the comprehensive RPH Winter 2005 Program Guide can be obtained by calling Lynne Kells at

RPH Melbourne on (03) 9864 9338. Audio and Braille versions of the program are also available.

RPH can be heard at the following locations: in Melbourne on 1179 AM; in Mildura on 107.5 FM; in Albury/Wodonga on 101.7 FM; in Shepparton on 100.1 FM; in Bendigo on 88.7 FM; in Geelong on 99.5 FM; in Warragul on 93.5 FM; and in Warrnambool on 94.5 FM.

Rose show set to bloom



The Leongatha Rose Show is now in its 34th year and will be held on 11 and 12 November.

We are pleased to report that members of the former

Leongatha Auxiliary will continue to be involved with this wonderful event, which is a highlight on the calendar for locals each year. This colourful event is an opportunity for rose growers to show the results of their hard work and put the famous flower, in all its varieties, on public display.

This year's festival will include rose displays, potted roses for sale, an open garden and cake stalls.

RVIB would like to extend special thanks to the Leongatha Ward Councilor for his support of the event.

SPECIAL THANK YOU

RVIB staff and clients would like to express their thanks and appreciation to members of the Leongatha, Essendon, Korumburra, Greensborough, Wodonga and Kooweerup auxiliaries for their outstanding contribution to RVIB.

After many years of supporting RVIB, these auxiliaries have made the difficult decision to retire.

Their fundraising efforts have helped make a difference to the lives of thousands of people who are blind or vision impaired, and RVIB values and recognises the contribution of each and every member of these auxiliaries.

As the Auxiliary Coordinator, I would like to express my personal thanks to all of you. On many occasions you welcomed me into your homes, and never let me leave without a plate of "goodies".

This isn't goodbye as I know many of you will become Friends of RVIB and will continue to stay in touch through this newsletter.

I wish you good health and happiness, and thank you again for your outstanding support over the years.

Kerri

Congratulations Kyneton!

Congratulations to Jean
Hedington and members of the
Kyneton Auxiliary on their
outstanding fundraising result for
the year. The success of their recent
wood raffle helped boost their
annual total to \$6,520 – a record
for the Auxiliary.

Well done everyone!

Society boosts fundraising effort

The Chewton Domain Society has announced they will be holding a door-knock later this year to help raise funds for RVIB.

Secretary Betty Exon said the society will hold the fundraiser in memory of Margaret Renolds, who was a dedicated supporter of the RVIB Castlemaine Auxiliary for many years.

RVIB thanks Betty and the members of the Chewton Domain Society for this wonderful show of support.

Share your Auxiliary's news!

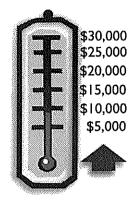
The next edition of Out and About will be in Sept 2005. Please send contributions by Wednesday 3 I August to:The Editor, Out and About, RVIB, 557 St Kilda Road, Melbourne, VIC 3004. Tel (03) 9522 5232 or Fax (03) 9529 6382.

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

To arrange for Out and About to be posted to your home, please contact Kerri Guyett on (03) 9522 5232.



Fundraising target



"Small change can make a big difference"

Barwon Heads reports

The Auxiliary has had another enjoyable year of fundraising.
Activities included hosting a Product Expo and two Cliché Clothing sales – one in conjunction with Ocean Grove Auxiliary – which were both very successful.

Ocean Grove Golf Club put on a Charity Golf Day for us and raised over \$500 which was a wonderful result. This is the second year this event has been run, so their efforts were very much appreciated.

Lorraine Gleeson

Honorary Secretary

RVIB thanks Snap Printing for sponsorship of this newsletter.



OBITUARIES

HARROD, Ellen

We regret to report the passing of Mrs Ellen Harrod on 16 May 2005. Ellen was a member of the **Park St Ladies Auxiliary** and regularly participated in the card afternoons at the Senior Citizens' rooms in South Melbourne. She will be dearly missed.

BALMER, Norman "Eddie" 2-11-1905 to 31-3-2005



We are saddened to report the passing of RVIB Life Governor and doyen of Melbourne radio, Norman Balmer, Mr Balmer, who helped launch the careers of numerous Australian artists and broadcasters during a 33-year career with 3KZ and then worked tirelessly for the community, died in Melbourne. He was 99. Mr Balmer enjoyed a highprofile career and presented Carols by Candlelight when it was conducted by 3KZ until taken over by television, and a Christmas Day fundraising appeal for RVIB and the Austin Hospital.

Mr Balmer was held in high regard by his colleagues and was a role model to many of his peers and successors.

He is survived by his three children, nine grandchildren and seven greatgrand children.



out and about











vision australia

blindness and low vision services

SPRING 2005

News from the Community Relationship Manager

Happy springtime to all! The new leaves are starting to appear and the sun is shining. It's such a beautiful time of year.

Welcome to our first edition of *Out* and *About* for our newly merged organisation, Vision Australia.

What a busy time of year it is too. In the past few months I have had the pleasure of seeing many familiar faces at various functions. Recently I travelled far and wide throughout western Victoria, from Mildura to Portland and everywhere in between. I experienced emus running beside my car on one side and kangaroos on the other. I even witnessed a calf being born, which is an amazing sight for a city slicker like myself.

Dimboola held their annual regional luncheon in August, which was a great success. Janet Robins, Rural Services Coordinator, attended along with two clients from Natimuk (a suburb of Horsham).

I promised all at Dimboola that I would find Natimuk – and I did! Unfortunately I don't have the photo to prove it but for those of you who have visited Natimuk, I had my photo taken near the historic marker and the big map.

In other news, all Secretaries should have received a letter with details regarding the change in stationary including raffle tickets and receipt books. Further supplies will be available soon.

I also met with the Central Council Ladies. Sadly, Mrs Trudi Westh, President, and the remaining three members made the difficult decision to retire. Trudi began working at RVIB in 1939 as a mothercraft nurse. She continued working through the war years and later married a teacher at the school for children who are blind or vision impaired. Trudi has been a tireless worker for auxiliaries and a wonderful advocate for many years. The staff and clients of our organisation would like to sincerely



▲ Chairman Graeme Innes (right) with CEO Gerard Menses and the Board's Maryanne Diamond.

thank Trudi, together with Mrs Olive Williams, Ms Margaret Jeram and Miss Ellen Ramplin for their dedication and support during their time in office. I would personally like to thank Trudi and her hard working team for all the support they have given me.

Don't forget to tell me about all your wonderful fundraising ideas and to send me all your news.

Best wishes and happy fundraising!

K. Guyar

Kerri Guyett

Around Victoria

News from Jeparit

Our AGM was held in July 2004 at the Hopetown Horne Hotel.

Kerri Guyett was our guest speaker and we were pleased to have three ladies from Warracknabeal join us for the day. Everyone had an enjoyable time, despite the weather being cold and showery.

Auxiliary membership costs \$3 and there is a 50c charge for attendance at meetings, except on special occasions. This year our Auxiliary and the Red Cross combined our meetings on the same afternoon every second month. This is on trial for 12 months.

In April we held a "Cent Day" fundraiser in the street, which raised \$246.

We currently have seven financial members. Last July we raised \$320 for RVIB (Vision Australia) and this year we forwarded \$250 to head office.

Our AGM this year was held on Friday, 22 July.

Many thanks to Secretary/Treasurer Myra Waters; Vice President Nell Smith; Assistant Treasurer Norma Werner; all members of the Auxiliary and the general public for their help. We could not continue our work without their wonderful support.

Irene Schmidt President

Santa visits Christmas in July



▲ Community Relationship Manager, Kerri Guyett (left) and auxiliary member Debbie Ellis enjoyed Santa's surprise visit to Euroa.

Nearly 50 members and guests took part in celebrations for the annual RVIB Christmas in July luncheon at Euroa.

Guests particularly enjoyed the wonderful entertainment by Geordie – a remarkably talented young lady who is a Vision Australia client.

Geordie is a singer and guitarist and performed many well-known classics including some Irish tunes. She has been blind since birth and brought her guide dog Illigen, a black Labrador, to the luncheon. He is seven years old and Geordie has had him for nearly six years.

Geordie teaches adults how to read and write Braille and she also transcribes music into Braille once a week at the centre for sight impaired musicians.

Santa made a surprise visit to the luncheon, distributing sweets and shortbreads to guests. He also drew the winning ticket in the raffle, which was a lovely hand-crocheted rug made by Betty Harrison, won by Glen George.

A wonderful time was had by all.

Upcoming Events!

Make sure you mark the following upcoming events in your diaries:

- The 34th Annual
 Leongatha Rose Show
 on Friday 11 and Saturday
 12 November 2005,
 Memorial Hall, Leongatha.
 Admission is \$3.00. Rose
 plants for sale. Light
 luncheon and afternoon
 tea available. For details
 call Josie on
 Tel: 5657 3292.
- Barwon Heads Golf Day on Monday, 24 October 2005. For details call Jill on Tel: 5254 3272.
- Kongwak's 50th birthday on Thursday, 17 November 2005, 1:00pm at Kongwak Hall. For details call Joan Clark, President, on Tel: 5674 9209
- Door knock in Kyneton, Heathcote, Skipton and Benalla.
- AGMs including Benalla, Beechworth and Heathcote (Sorrento and Kyneton have recently held theirs as have many others).
- A big event is being planned by Skipton to be held in February 2006.

Relocation of offices

We would like to inform you about the change in location of our Ballarat office.

By the end of October, RVIB's lease at 33 Little Bridge Street will expire. In order to improve our efficiency, we have decided to move into the Vision Australia premises at 1300 Howitt Street, Wendouree. This office is much larger than our current building, is close to public transport and fully staffed during office hours Monday to Friday.

The move also means that we will avoid paying rent for two premises

in Ballarat and this will help to cut back on expenditure. It will place us in a better position to put more resources into client services.

Also relocating are the Mt Eliza and Brighton offices. Our leases on these premised have now also expired. The two centres will be combined into a new location at Seaford.

With the launch of our new company at the same time, it is certainly a very exciting new start for our next 100 years!

News from Dimboola

Our Dimboola Unit has raised over \$35,000 for RVIB (Vision Australia) since 1988. However, we are finding it harder to raise money and awareness for this good cause due to drought.

Many of our members can no longer attend our meetings or take part in our fundraising events due to ill health and advanced age.

Our Blumes fashion shows have unfortunately not been as successful as in previous years. This is due to a clash between the dates given to us by Blumes and other events happening around the town.

Four of our members and their guests attended the afternoon tea at the Windsor Hotel. Everyone enjoyed themselves and the food was delicious.

Our Christmas raffle raised \$258. We had two Christmas stockings and a lovely Santa Clause doll,

which was knitted by member Joy Nelson.

We had our Christmas luncheon at the Dimboola Golf Club, which was very well attended.

We have some new ideas for raising money in the next few months. We have a beautiful hand made quilt that has been donated to Vision Australia by our local craft group. Each member of the group candle wicked a square, some members doing several squares. The lace was purchased by our members, whom I thank very much. Thank you to Gladys Schwarz for providing all the fabric and stitching it together.

We intend on having a meat raffle with a \$100 prize from our local butcher, valid until Christmas.

Thanks to all the members for their help, time and money.

Joyce Hallam President

News from Cressy

The Cressy Auxiliary holds meetings three times per year in March, July and October. Members Joyce and Ray Horne graciously open their home for the meetings, for which the Auxiliary is very thankful.

Last year, the Auxiliary saw the return of the Blumes Fashion Days, back by popular demand. The days were held in June and November, raising a total of \$650. The event will again be held this November, with new season fashions being showcased at 10:30am followed by a light lunch at midday. All are welcome to attend.

Although we are only a small group with around six attendees per meeting, we hope to continue supporting Vision Australia in the future.

Nerine Sanders

Murtoa's update

Our Auxiliary has 10 members and we meet twice per year, in March and September.

Our current fundraising activities include two street stalls and collections in the street.

We try to attend Regional Conferences as well as the Christmas party in Melbourne.

Over the past year, two of our members have sadly shifted.

This year we have given \$1,750 to RVIB (Vision Australia).

Gwen Blandthorn Secretary

Client story:

Karen's roller-coaster ride – Living with diabetes

When Karen Nelson first began to lose her sight she felt she had no future. With the help of services from RVIB she began to rebuild her confidence, and her life has since taken on a brand new meaning.

After losing my vision to Diabetic Retinopathy in 1998, my first reaction was that I had no purpose in life. I thought I would be a burden to everyone.

However things started to change after meeting the local Regional Rehabilitation Officer from RVIB's Swan Hill branch.

My first introduction to the team was with the Orientation and Mobility officer from the Northern Region. I had some instructions on sighted guiding and on safely going through doors and negotiating stairs.

I also began using a white cane. This took some getting used to but soon became second nature. I learnt how to get around local streets, and to know where I was simply from smells and noise.

I also had several visits from an Occupational Therapist and learnt tips on preparing food and using electrical equipment.

In the kitchen I found it hard to determine what was in canisters or tins so I learnt Grade 1 Braille at RVIB's Prahran site. I then went into a labeling frenzy, marking everything from tins to CD's, videos and paperwork!

Then two years later I took up the challenge of learning Grade 2 Braille. This was very fulfilling, particularly when I completed reading my first Braille book.

Joining the talking book library took me to many places around the world. I learnt more about history, people, travel and discovered many new authors.

I also joined a local group in Bendigo called "Visionaires" and tried my luck at horse riding, ten pin bowling, canoeing and even driving a car around Sandown Raceway! These days I'm joint Secretary for the group and type their newsletter.

My life took another major turn when I purchased a computer, printer and scanner through RVIB's VisTech. Over a period of six months I traveled to RVIB for computer training in Microsoft, Internet and e-mails. These skills became vital in 2002 when a chance encounter led to the publication of a book on my life.

Many thanks go out to the various agencies that helped me make changes in my life and regain my confidence.

■ To purchase a copy of Karen's book, "Karen's Roller-coaster Ride – A Journal of Living with Type 1 Diabetes" you can forward a cheque or money order for \$33.50 (\$30 for book and \$3.50 postage) to: Karen Nelson, PO Box 71, Maldon, 3463. For further details please phone: (03) 5475 1715.

End of an era for the Central Council of auxiliaries



▲ President of the Central Council of Auxiliaries Mrs Trudi Westh (left), with Nurse Pearce, during her time as a nurse at RVIB in the early 1940s.

The final meeting of the Central Council of Auxiliaries was held on Wednesday, 17 August 2005 at the home of Mrs Trudi Westh.

Meeting attendances had been dwindling over the last few years, until only three executive members were present each month.

So, it was with great regret that Trudi Westh, Hon President; Olive Williams, Hon Secretary and Margaret Jeram, Hon Treasurer unanimously agreed to retire. Trudi Westh has been associated with RVIB for 63 years, Olive Williams for 45 years and Margaret Jeram for 17 years.

Kerri Guyett attended the meeting and thanked those present for their truly outstanding work over so many years.

The Council's legacy to people who are blind or vision impaired will live on and their hard work over so many years will not be forgotten.

News from Warracknabeal

We have 22 members in our Auxiliary who are a very hardworking and cheery bunch.

Our fundraising efforts have included two street appeals – one in October 2004 and one in February this year. We also held a charity bowls night in February and thank members of the bowling club for their support. In May we held a Casserole Lunch. We also had collection tins in various businesses around town.

We were very pleased to receive a healthy cheque from Jean Parkinson for proceeds from sales of her knitted items. There was an article about Jean in *Out* & *About*, which made us proud.

The Regional Luncheon was hosted by Warracknabeal. In November members attended our break up Luncheon at the Royal Hotel.

At year's end we sent \$4,500 to RVIB. Thanks to everyone for working so well together.

Norma Close Secretary

Mayor of Dimboola makes a stand

I opened RVIB's Regional meeting at Dimboola recently and listened to two vision impaired ladies from Natimuk speak of their lives.

Both have relocated from Melbourne and are enjoying their lifestyles in the country.

One mentioned how the Council, with the best intention, put in a new table and seats in the main street.

but omitted to tell her or have any warning around it. After falling over it, she now laughs and says, she won't fall over it again.

I will take this issue up on their behalf at the Municipal Association of Victoria and have a uniform rule (RVIB's suggestion) brought in statewide that street furniture will be a minimum of a meter and a half away from the shop front. This will allow vision impaired people to walk within a meter and a half of the shop and know they won't fall over anything.

They were two inspirational ladies and I acclaim the work that RVIB (Vision Australia) is doing for its people.

Darryl L Argall Mayor, Hindmarsh Shire Council

Donald's Social Day

Our Auxiliary's Meeting and Social Day was held at the Donald Hotel on Thursday, 19 May.

There were 24 members in attendance, together with Community Relationship Manager, Kerri Guyett.

Highlights of the day included the Baby Boomers Festival Street Parade and seeing the garden of members Roma and George Stebbins in full bloom. Special thanks to John Fraser for making these activities possible. We presented Kerri with a cheque for \$350.

We were pleased that Maree McClelland, Manager at Wings Away Travel, collected \$75 from her recent Tasmanian tour group.

Lucky Spot and Door prizes were won by Jean Melican and Joan Golding. Raffle winners were Ruth Wyllie, Ron Biknell and P Selleck. Congratulations to all winners!

Win McClelland Secretary

Update from Minyip

Last year we raised \$820, which was sent to head office.

Money was raised from collectors in town, and from Paul's Cash-a-Cap.

Thank you to everyone for their continued fundraising efforts.

Eunice Landwehr Secretary

New opportunities to help make a difference

Carols by Candlelight

Celebrate this
Christmas with
song at the 68th
Vision Australia's
Carols by Candlelight,
at the Sidney Myer Music
Bowl on 24 December.

A line up of top entertainers will perform a mix of the season's contemporary and traditional favourites. Proceeds will support Vision Australia's services. Tickets are on sale from 12 November. To book phone Ticketmaster7 on 1300 136 166 or log onto www.ticketmaster7.com.au.

Christmas cards that change lives

Get into the Christmas spirit this year when you give your loved ones Christmas cards from Vision Australia and help a worthy cause.

Choose from 10 attractive designs plus largeprint calendars.

All proceeds will support Vision Australia's essential services.

To order or for a copy of our catalogue, phone 1800 422 077 toll free.

Update from Hamilton

This year we again held a range of fundraising activities to help raise funds for RVIB (Vision Australia).

The Auxiliary held a fashion parade on 11 November 2004 at *Murf's Classic's*, followed by supper at *Gilly's*. Following the success of the event, we held another fashion parade on 21 March at the Masonic Centre with fashions provided by *Dressin' Up*.

On 20 May we held our enjoyable Film and Lunch at the Cinema day, featuring the movie *Bride and Prejudice*.

We were pleased to have purchased a Garden Seat for the Sensory Garden at the Hamilton Botanic Gardens. A plaque was made and fitted to the seat acknowledging our donation.

We are also hoping to donate \$500 to the Hamilton Library for large print books.

Future planned activities include a Morning Coffee and Rotary Raffle.

I would like to thank Jenny for her secretarial work and Helen as Treasurer. They have done a great job. I also thank the members for all their fundraising efforts, selling tickets and providing lovely food when needed.

I would like to wish our members all the best for the coming year.

Fran Barber President

News from Euroa



▲ Carmel Sait spoke about her role as Vision Australia's Hume Region Service Co-ordinator.

Euroa Auxiliary's AGM was held on 21 July at Currie Park Homes.

President Fran Williams read a report on the year's activities, in the presence of Auxiliary members and Carmel Sait, the RVIB (Vision Australia) Service Coordinator for the Hume Region.

The Auxiliary raised \$5,000 and Fran thanked all members for their contribution to this great effort.

Kathleen Kelly chaired the meeting for the selection of the new Committee, where Fran Williams was re-elected as President. Other positions include Glen George as Vice President and Press Correspondent; Debbie Ellis as Secretary; and Lyn Squires as Treasurer. Also continuing their many years of service on the Committee are Glad Anka, Jean Hodges and Lorna Smith.

Kathleen gave a very interesting talk on the large print version of the *Euroa Gazette*. This publication was initiated by George Hunter many years ago and has since been adopted by Rotary, who cover any associated production costs.

To produce this great resource, a volunteer group of Probus and Rotary members meet each Tuesday morning at the Library. They select top news articles and photos from the *Gazette*, which are then cut out, rearranged and photocopied into large print format.

This 16-page paper is eagerly awaited each week by residents of Euroaville, Currie Park, Amaroo, Gilburn Daycare, the local hospital and the Violet Town Nursing Home. Copies are also kept at the Library for interested readers.

Carmel Sait also spoke during the meeting about her work with the Hume Region. She discussed the voting process on RVIB's new name, which at the time was impending.

She also talked about her involvement with a live-in school holiday program for vision-impaired country teenagers held at the Burwood Education Centre. This was usually the first experience being away from home for most attending and a wonderful opportunity to meet other teenagers from around Victoria.

Thanks again to all members of the Auxiliary for their hard work.

Here's to another terrific year of fundraising!

Update from Rainbow

The Rainbow Auxiliary has 12 members and meetings are held every second month.

There are usually eight to tenmembers in attendance.

This year our fundraising activities included a street collection, street raffle and an annual carols evening.

We also held a social afternoon where we viewed slides from a recent overseas trip by member, Mrs Jenny Solly.

We were pleased to have raised a total of \$1,400.

We place collection tins in hotels and at the local newsagent. We find this is an easy and very effective way to fundraise. Large print calendars and pens are also in great demand and contribute to our overall fundraising effort.

Rainbow is only a small town and there are many good causes and charities for locals to support. We are very grateful to the people of Rainbow and from the local district who so willingly continue to support our fundraising efforts for people who are blind or vision impaired.

Joan Nuske Secretary

Obituaries

HANLAN, Edward Joseph (Ted), AM 28 June 1916 to 18 July 2005

(Extracts taken from the "Herald Sun", 10 August 2005)

Ted's association with RVIB began in 1931 when he began schooling at the St Kilda Road site.

He was involved in all RVIB activities and his parents would come to watch him play cricket.

Being tall and very fit, Ted became involved with gymnastics. He became successful in the sporting arena, winning many trophies for wrestling, high jump and other events. He went on to win Australia titles in weightlifting and managed the 1960 Australian Olympic weightlifting team.

Over the years, Ted successfully campaigned for the rights of people who are blind or vision impaired and in 1960 joined the RVIB Board. He served as president of RVIB from 1973 to 1987. Ted was instrumental in extending the services available through RVIB and helped guide the organisation through a period of growth and prosperity.

Ted's sporting and RVIB positions were honorary and to this end he was awarded the Order of Australia (OAM) in 1987 for services to people who are vision impaired and to international weightlifting.

Ted's passing was greatly felt in the RVIB community and beyond. His legacy will live on for many years to come.

BUBB, Arthur Anglesea Auxiliary

Arthur was the loving husband of Betty and member of the Anglesea Auxiliary for 20 years. He was proud to have recently been present when Betty received her award for 50 years of service to the Auxiliary.

Arthur was a wonderful help to the Auxiliary, always there to help set up for events, and nothing was ever too much trouble. He will be sadly missed by all.

RENDELL, Josie Anglesea Auxiliary

Josie was a member of Anglesea Auxiliary for 10 years and enjoyed her time with our group. She died peacefully in her sleep on Saturday, 6 August 2005. We will miss you, Josie.

BUSH, Rhoda Anglesea Auxiliary

Rhoda joined the Anglesea Auxiliary in 1999. Even after moving closer to Geelong with her husband, Rhoda continued attending our meetings. Rhoda passed away on 14 August 2005 and will be missed by all.



Well done!



▲ Don Walker of the Anglesea Auxiliary was recently nominated for a Herald Sun Pride of Australia Medal. Don was a finalist in the "True Blue Lifetime" category, which recognises Australians who have dedicated their life to inspiring others. Congratulations to Don on this outstanding nomination. We are proud and very fortunate to have you as part of the Anglesea Auxiliary.

Share your news!



Please send contributions to: The Editor, *Out* and About, Vision Australia, 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.

Thanks...

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