



RAWCS

Northern Region Newsletter - June 2009

SOIBADA WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

Soibada is a remote village geographically in the centre of Timor Leste about 6 hours drive from Dili over tortuous roads into the mountains. Some 5000 people live in & around Soibada & water supply has been an ongoing problem for many years. There is a reliable freshwater spring about half a kilometre above the main part of the village. Numerous NGOs have attempted to rectify the water supply situation & now various water systems lead from this spring to different parts of Soibada like spaghetti across the landscape. Pipes made of plastic & steel in a variety of sizes have been illegally accessed & water diverted but most is wasted. Some water points exist however taps are broken & water is squandered at an alarming rate 24 hours a day.

The local school has 600 children attending with just one toilet operational. There are another 11 toilets requiring refurbishment, mostly unblocking & septic tank emptying. At the back of the school is a large bathroom/toilet block with girls & boys facilities which has been wrecked internally.



On a recent visit by the Rotary Liaison Officer the headmaster & other locals expressed the desire to once & for all rectify the water

supply. A suggestion to set up a Soibada Water Commission with relevant people involved was discussed & greeted with enthusiasm. The Water Commission would allocate water & control the system with penalties for villagers who illegally broke into the system.

The Save Water, Save Lives committee from Southern region has some funding available for the water pipes & toilet rectification but at least one water tank of about 5500 litres is required for a community some distance from the main village.

Another visit very soon will attempt to set up the Soibada Water Commission & work out the finer details including plumbing material required.

The opportunity exists to improve the health & wellbeing of the Soibada villagers through regular water supply, improve hygiene & stop strenuous water carrying.

Please help... tony_vanriet@optus-net.com.au





RAWCS Newsletter – content

Introduction

Susanne's Snippets

Project 85

Projects Volunteers Report

New Northern Region Projects

Donations In Kind Report

RAM Conference

Promotions and Development Update





Introduction

Rotary Australia World Community Service has no limit with regard to the geographical area in which Rotarians choose to work. However, because two of our Districts also incorporate other Nations than Australia, many of our Projects are designed to help advance these Nations.

My own District 9550 has a particular affinity with Timor Leste. Projects to aid infrastructure particularly water and maternal and child health are very much needed. The same is evident from the work of Rotarians in D9600 where PNG, and the Solomon Islands are an integral part of their District.

D9600 has a very strong RAWCS presence in these Nations through the great work achieved by their Project Teams. Donations in Kind also ship many containers of much needed goods primarily to these two destinations. Rotarians against Malaria through their Bed Net and Adopt a Village Programmes have made huge gains in reducing deaths from Malaria.

Two of Northern Region's Districts 9550 and 9600 have been selected by the Rotary Foundation to be part of a Pilot Programme. In 2010/11 the present way of obtaining Matching Grants will be replaced by an internal Grants Mechanism where funds raised by a District are returned for use by that District. That District will be able to facilitate their own Matching Grants.

In this Newsletter you will read of many Projects. Some involve Teams of Volunteers or Project Funding. All are worthwhile and deserving of support by all four Districts in our own Northern Region.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the help given by our own fantastic Project Coordinator Ailsa Hay who has been patient with me whilst I learn about RAWCS. My fellow Club Member Rotarian - Mick Evans of Talk to the Mac, 32 Grafton Street, Cairns has been equally patient and has been responsible for the layout of this Newsletter.





Susanne's Snippets

- There is an opportunity for a team of 4/5 people to visit Lata in the Solomon Islands at the end of July. Needed are people capable of building a steel prefabricated kit home. Accommodation and internal airfares will be provided by RAM so it is a matter of getting a Team to Honiara.
- Anyone interested please contact Roger Dennis: rogloeden@bigpond.net.au
- The Rotary Club of Townsville Sunrise has recently returned from a working on a water project in PNG. However the project needs further work to complete the provision of a clean water supply. Currently the villagers are required to heft 25 litre containers up the steep hill at Edavu. The existing supply is contaminated by a Timber Mill.
- The Rotary Club of Cairns Earlville is sponsoring a Water Project in Timor Leste.
- The Rotary Club of Mount Isa South West are prepared to send a good quantity of school desks to DIK and provide the onward freight cost necessary.
- The Rotary Club of Cairns is joining the "Adopt a Village" Programme.
- A visit will be made in July to the Ebenezer Child Trust Project- a Funding Only Project - photos next Newsletter.
- Our Featured Water Project at Soibada needs assistance - Tony Van Riet is the Contact at Jindalee Rotary Club: tvr1@optus.net.au

Exciting Fund Raising WALKS for RAWCS:

- Kokoda 13th- 24th September 2009 – see: <http://www.kokodaspirit.com.au>
email: rbsydes@bigpond.com
- Sandakan Death March - 19th - 24th May, 2010 see: <http://www.sandakan-deathmarch.com>
email: marlou@tassie.net.au

Snippets are sought for this part of your Newsletter:

After sending in your Project Report to Ailsa Hay, please also send stories for inclusion in this Newsletter in word doc. and high resolution photos to: susanneatbeach@hotmail.com





PROJECT 85 APO 030/06

RAWCS Northern Region- Funding Only - Sponsoring education for children in Indonesia.

This Project is a partnership with the Salvation Army, Indonesia.

Over 19 years D.9640 has promoted the sponsorship of children. The aim is to educate and therefore provide the young people with the opportunity to achieve their full potential. Without Education there is unemployment. Many successes have been achieved and Alan Still has a CD available.

To assist with this worthwhile endeavor please contact:
PDG Alan Still, P.O. Box 1200, Burleigh Heads, Qld 4220

Phone: 07 55760669 Email: alan.still@bigpond.com or to donate direct please deposit funds and advise Alan accordingly so that he may provide your receipt.

National Bank of Australia -
Tree Tops Branch - Burleigh Waters.
Account - Rotary Australia Overseas Aid Fund
BSA No 084 572
Account Number 52570 6700



Lillian Melattie Estelle Nore

Lillian, with the help of funds from Project #85, has graduated from medical school and now has become a doctor.

She is very active in the Salvation Army corps activities. She is a youth Sergeant and a Sunday School Teacher





Project Volunteers Report

The work of Rotary Australia World Community Service is many and varied and I am now going to give you a short snapshot from the Project Volunteers Report.

Project Volunteers: Project #25

Brisbane Planetarium have an ongoing Project in the Solomon Islands - recently a small team led by Errol Richardson were at Babanga Island. Whilst there the team attended the Opening of the School, inspected the Construction of the Ablution Block, discussed the construction of a future Rest House and prepared the design for Water Reticulation on the Island.



Project #57

This ongoing Solomon Island Project, which began to repair areas and infrastructure damaged in the Tsunami of April 2007, was again visited by Cliff and Shirley

Weder, Trevor Taylor (The Glasshouse Mountains and David and Desley Magee (RC Ashgrove/The Gap).

Cliff and Shirley were there first and set up the visit which had tasks to achieve in the area of assisting the Secondary School in Gizo with Library Books and other materials, which also had to be sent to outlying schools. A huge task of classifying, recording and packing these books was achieved by Shirley and Desley.

Teacher Workshops were conducted in the areas of phonics, storytelling, sourcing and photocopying of teaching aids. Demonstration lessons were also held to benefit senior science students to complete assignments.

Recommendations from Shirley include the need for only good quality books to be sent as resources and whilst desperately needed must be suitable for their purpose. It is pointless to send containers full of useless items and so waste money and resources of the D.I.K. network.

There is a need for professional Teachers and Librarians to become

ongoing Mentors. It is important to build trust and an ongoing relationship is very valuable.

Computing - Information Technology is completely lacking for these students of a developing nation and this important element needs to be incorporated.

The men meanwhile were building a school in Karaka a small village on Vella La Vella Island. This school is to be used as a Primary School in the mornings and an agricultural study centre in the afternoons. Villagers, especially young people are being taught how to grow their own fruit and vegetables.

The task proved quite difficult in the hilly terrain and whilst this is the second school built for this purpose time is needed before building others for these to be working well.





Project #50

There is an active group that packs Birthing Kits to be sent in containers as they become available.

Each Birthing Kit contains:

1 sheet of plastic 1.5 sq. m.

1 pair gloves

1 razor blade (or equivalent)

1 small piece of soap

2 pieces of heavy cotton, 8 in. long (to tie cord)

1 packets of gauze square

All sealed in a plastic snap lock bag. Whilst many items are donated funds are needed for others.

Project #36

An active group continues to raise funds for the Ebenezer Child Trust - to acquire land, construct buildings and run a School and Orphanage. To date this Rotary Year this Group has sent \$117,210.

Project #55

The Construction of a School in Cambodia. The Rotary Club of Beaudesert has opened a school for 400 children and

almost immediately a building for older children began.

Project 55/2008/09

A Member of the Rotary Club of Glen Innes, who is a dentist, has seen the need for a Clinic in Luang Prabang - Laos. A Clinic will be set up - and staff and equipment sourced to provide low cost dental care.

Project 58/2008/09

Joe Forgione will lead a team to build a second storey onto the Gizo Community School - R.C. Sunnybank Hills.

Project 59/2008/09

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Cairns Sunrise in partnership with the Queensland based Charity Destiny Rescue. A Second Home, next to a School, will be built to house children from a remote hill tribe village.

These children are from homes where sometimes the parents introduce them to Drugs or sell them into prostitution.

Project Funding

Funding only

<http://www.destinyrescue.org>

or direct deposit

**Cairns Sunrise Rotary Club
BSB 034 167
Account Number 122 056.**

For a tax deductible receipt contact susanneatbeach@hotmail.com from whom a dvd of the Project is also available.

Project 64/2008/09

The Rotary Club of Maclean - District 9640 - with support from the Rotary Club of Phnom Penh - District 3350 will establish a self sustaining village called Green Kids Global, Cambodia. The village will provide, housing, health support, education and skills for orphaned children in Cambodia.

Project Connect:

A worthwhile Project is looking for an Australian Rotary Club or Clubs to Sponsor the funding of a SlumKids School. In Phnom Penh the children go half days to school. The Project which costs about \$12K per annum to support has three classrooms and teachers in a rented building. The Project feeds and educates children from the Slums by caring for them in the other half of the school day.

To find out more about this Project - please contact

susanneatbeach@hotmail.com





Donations in Kind Report

Donations in Kind Report by John Paskin.

Since the last meeting of Northern Region RAWCS, a couple of issues have been brought to my attention. It would be appreciated if the appropriate person could forward the following to the Clubs within your respective Districts:

On Saturday 16th May, NRDIK hosted a Northern Region Rotary Australia World Community Service Ltd meeting as well as an open day for interested Rotarians and friends at the new premises at Durack.

Both functions were very well attended and it is evident that there is still keen interest in the DIK Activity within the Districts and Clubs of Northern Region. My sincere appreciation to all who supported the functions on this day and the interest shown gives us the incentive to strive to get this activity functioning in a manner that will continue to be viable.

I do have some dis-heartening news for those Clubs who are supporting "Project Uplift" (provision of bras to women in developing countries within the Pacific Region).

At a recent forum of the Rotary Clubs Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, Clubs indicated that they had not been approached with regards to this project and generally do not support the project. The other main issue

is that DIK cannot support this project by including shipments of bras within containers as Rotary can only get exemption from duty for goods that are classified as aid for health or education purposes. Shipments of bras are considered to be second hand clothing and would attract duty in accordance with government policy.

Rotary has an excellent relationship with the governments of both countries and we cannot jeopardise this relationship by including these items within our shipments. NRDIK has a policy of not sending any clothing to either of these countries.

NRDIK does have a quantity of bras in the store at the moment. These bras have had to be repacked in sturdier boxes as a number of the original cartons had collapsed and broken open. Anyone who has sent bras to the store should contact NRDIK to make arrangements for temporary storage until such time as they can be collected and alternate arrangements made for sending to the final destination. Any bras not claimed within a reasonable time will be disposed of.

Recently a number of items have been received from Clubs marked for a specific destination packed and labelled with the DIK label. NRDIK cannot take responsibility for the quality and appropriateness of consignments where we have not

been involved in the sorting and packing of the goods. NRDIK does request that in these instances, Clubs stop using the NRDIK label, particularly those with my name on them.

With the opening of the new premises, there was an initial rush of goods being received into the store. The receiving of goods has now slowed down to the point where we are actively seeking goods that can be sent to areas of need within the Pacific Region.

Please remember, that when accepting goods, quality is important.

The old rule (if you are not prepared to use the goods yourself, don't send them) still applies.

Also, please remember that NRDIK requires funds to send these goods (average cost of \$4,000 per container).

To send donations please contact.

JohnPaskin:

npaskin@bigpond.net.au

D.I.K. Address

142 Freeman Road, Durack





RAM National Conference

RAM National Conference, St Columban's, Caboolture
The Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM) National Conference, was held at St Columban's Catholic Secondary College, Caboolture on Sunday 30 May 2009.

Attendees at the conference dinner Saturday night were treated to a presentation from Guest Speaker Dr Katherine Trenholme, who has studied overseas and in Australia and is the current Senior Research Fellow, Malaria Biology Laboratory, Queensland Institute of Medical Research.

Her presentation 'Starving malaria parasites to death' took the non-medically trained into the realm of aminopeptidases, which we all use to digest our food, and which the parasite needs to digest up to 75% of the gamma globulin in the blood of the victim.

There has been some success in developing inhibitors that prevent the malaria parasite from producing this protein, without which it cannot digest its food, and starves to death. However global application is still at least 15 years away.

RAM in the meantime gives prior-

ity under its 'Adopt a Village' program to providing \$10 insecticide-treated bed nets for villages in PNG, the Solomon Islands, Timor Leste and other Pacific countries. Treated bed nets kill mosquitoes on contact and prevent mosquito bites.

Globally, there are between 1.5 and 2.7 million malaria deaths each year, mostly children under five and pregnant women. Around one million of those deaths occur in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Adopt a Village program has reduced the incidence of malaria in some villages by up to 80% and maternal deaths by up to 30%.

Just think – your \$10 could save the life of someone you will probably never meet.

Malaria was eliminated in Australia in 1985, but malaria is spreading and reintroduction could occur.

RAM Coordinator PDG Bill Dethlefs with Dr Katharine Trenholme, Senior Research Fellow, Malaria Biology Laboratory. QIMR.





Rotary Australia World Community Service



Rotary Australia World Community Service – Promotions and Development Update

To all of you who have so kindly come along I would like to update you on a Meeting held in Melbourne to discuss the National Website.

For those of you who have been waiting years I can assure you that the website is in progress and should be available to us from 1st July 2009 as a nominal date.

The site is based on the Western Region model and is certainly user friendly. Northern Region should have a dedicated page listing our Office Bearers and Contacts.

There is a National Projects List as you know and it is in this area that I have been pushing for a more exciting presentation to be on the site. I personally would like to see fuller descriptions of the Projects listed and links to other websites for interested Rotarians to access for the purpose of Fund Donation or for the purpose of joining a Team.

I need to know from you however, as I am now your representative, on a National Committee, that this is what you would or would not like. Indeed I would like to hear from you personally or by email to represent you properly with your wishes and concerns.

The other main task and believe me there are many is to think of and possibly change the name of the organization – not the legal name but the common name. In a similar way we know the shorter name ARH as being user friendly, it is felt that the acronym RAWCS is clumsy and unattractive.

So the National Promotions and Development Committee has been asked to report to the Board with suggestions for a new name for use and recognition in context by Rotarians. I would therefore be grateful for your comments and suggestions if any for a new name.

The previous Promotions and Development Officer produced a quarterly Newsletter. I would like to do the same but am dependent on you to submit reports and photographs to publish.

Equally distribution is critical and if you feel that a Newsletter is not the best way of reaching Members perhaps you would like to contact me also in this context. I think that short articles on particular projects aimed at Bulletin Editors would be another means of communication.

Susanne Rea, please contact me at susanneatbeach@hotmail.com





RAWCS-NORTHERN REGION

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held at the DIK Shed at 152 Freeman Road, Durack, on 16th May, 2009

Attendees: PDG John McLaren (Chair), Tony van Riet (Treasurer), PDG Margaret Hayes (Secretary), DG Tony Hayes (D9640), DG Wayne Morris (D9600), DG Phil Dempster (D9550), John Paskin (DIK), PDG Ailsa Hay (Project Volunteers), PDG Craig Bowen (D9550), PDG Charles Guesdon (D9600), Ron Seddon (RAM – PNG), Susanne Rea (Promotions & Development), DGE Nick Curry (D9630), PDG Bill Waterfiled, Ed Ahern, DGE Walter Buchanan (D9600), PDG Max Wortman, PDG Alan Still (Project 85), DGN Anne Brand (D9630), PDG Ray Brand, Vince Brooker, DGN Erice Wood (D9600),

Apologies: DG Chris Wright (D9630), Bill Jordan, Trevor Taylor, Gerry Meijer and DGE Brendon Porter, Peter Davidson.

Minutes of the Last Meeting held 22-2-09: It was moved Craig Bowen, seconded, Ron Seddon, that the minutes be passed as a true and accurate record. PASSED.

Business Arising: Any business would be moved to general business.

Correspondence: Correspondence was itemized in the meeting agenda and tabled at the meeting and the business of the timber equipment in SI Western province was moved to general business.

Chairman's Report: The national Board is working on the problem of tax deductibility. An invitation was received to the annual RAM Conference to be held again in Caboolture. Numbers and requirements are required as soon as possible please.

Susanne Rea has been appointed as the new Promotions and Development Officer. She handed out her business cards. She is going to Thailand to visit her District's project and would like to visit any others if possible. She would also like any information sent to her so she could publish in a newsletter.

The RAWCS website is due to be up and running on 1st July and each region will be on roster for information.

The national board would like to develop a consistent approach to risk management for all RAWCS projects. They are trying to develop the company and would like to find a business name.

John Paskin has been appointed as the National DIK Co-ordinator and congratulations are due. This was a recognition of his hard work over many years.

Treasurer's Report: The report was emailed to all concerned and Tony spoke to his report.

There was a request from DIK for assistance to the tune of \$5,000 so it was moved – Tony van Riet and seconded Phil Dempster, that this be given to DIK with no expectations of any refunding. PASSED.

Tony also moved that NR-RAWCS financially support Daryl Mills to the tune of \$10,000 annually to cover his administration costs. Moved Tony van Riet and seconded Eric Wood. PASSED. Daryl's insurance is covered by the RC of Dili and we will have no formal contract with him so we are not beholden. RC of Melbourne has been supporting Daryl since 2001 and are now looking for assistance. Charles Guesdon queried whether Daryl could be employed by AUSAID but John McLaren said they do not employ anyone in that capacity.

Tony van Riet moved his report be accepted and this was seconded by Phil Dempster, PASSED

Activity Reports

Project Volunteers: Ailsa had circulated her report prior to the meeting and that included Alan Still's report also. She mentioned that there were new forms out though they are specifically for Eastern Region and will need to be adapted to NR. They are on the website and she asked for agreement to use these forms for Northern Regions. Moved – Ailsa Hay, Seconded – Max Wortman. PASSED They eventually will be used by all regions. She pointed out there is no mention of blue cards on the form and she will follow through with that for the next national meeting. Ailsa moved her report be accepted, seconded by Wayne Morris. PASSED.

Project Funding: Alan Still mentioned that the Project was down on funding this year, that it was only \$110/child/year and asked everyone to promote it. Bill Bonner and Stephen Tancred from RC of Stanthorpe are ready to take over when Alan retires. He thanked Tony van Riet for his support and moved acceptance, seconded by Max Wortman. PASSED.

DIK: John Paskin had also circulated his report prior to the meeting. The DIK shed is up and running at last and the purpose of holding the meeting at the shed was to allow people to see what happened. He says that we are still looking for a permanent 'home' for DIK but offered sincere thanks to the RC of Acacia Ridge for all their hard work. In future there will be no pharmaceutical section but John would like to build up the birthing kit section as there is a huge demand for it. He mentioned that PNG really relies on DIK and they are looking forward to the donations resuming.





John will look into whether RAWCS-NR needs to sign a sub-lease with RC of Acacia Ridge. He is aiming for about 30 containers in future per year with only top quality donations being accepted. Funding is still a major issue. National RAWCS has knocked back the offer from X-potential for funding but he still feels we need to access outside funding somehow. He also mentioned that DIK cannot help with the "Bras" project as it classified as clothing and as such is not acceptable for DIK.

Birthing Kits – 1 sheet of plastic 1.5 sq. meters. 1 pair gloves; 1 razor blade (or equal); 1 small piece of soap; 2 pieces of heavy cotton 8 inches long (to tie cord); 1 packet of gauze squares; all sealed in a plastic snap lock bag.

John moved his report be accepted, seconded Ron Seddon. PASSED

Ron Gibson President of RC of Acacia Ridge is now the Store Manager and John McLaren presented him with a framed certificate of appreciation.

RAM: Progressing well and have invited all to their annual conference in Caboolture on 30th May. Please let Rosemary Worthington know of attendance and accommodation requirements. Moved John McLaren, seconded Charles Guesdon, PASSED.

Ron Seddon – RAM-PNG – PNG celebrated World malaria Day on 24th April with quite a procession of floats and opened by the Governor General of PNG. It was well covered by TV and the media. They are now up to the last 15 districts in PNG to be covered with bednets and now it is important the 'Adopt a Village' project keeps going to keep PNG well covered into the future. Global Funds will not keep funding the project – we now to sustain the excellent coverage we have achieved. The goal of RAM is to keep malaria controlled and have no mortality. PNG has the highest coverage in the world now and we need to sustain that.

Promotions & Development: The national website is most important and as the NR will be on it Susanne asked for short and punchy stories for inclusion. She handed out her business cards and asked anyone to contact her at any time with information. She asked whether members would like a DVD or a CD for use in their Districts as a promotional tool and members were keen to access that information tool. Cliff Weder suggests this may help access local funding. Once the board has resolved the business name for RAWCS-National which they hope will be by October, then this can go ahead. Michael Perkins will develop drop-down menus for District websites.

District Reports: D9550 – Craig Bowen gave a short report.

D9570 – No report as their District conference was on that weekend.

D9600 – Charles Guesdon said the impact of all the natural disasters leads to a loss of food gardens among other things. There is a project called 'Learn Grow' promoted by the RC of Deloraine in Tasmania to encourage education in proper nutrition. This has been picked up by D9600 and Charles expects RAWCS will do so too.

D9630 – report emailed

D9640 – report was emailed and presented by Ed Ahern. The teacher project in Timor Leste is being run by RC of Stanthorpe NOT Glen Innes. He mentioned that we need to educate clubs as to what we want of them as it is hard to garner any information about activities.

General Business: About \$80,000 was collected for timber processing equipment in SI Western Province to clear up after the tsunami in 2007. Some of this equipment is not being used because there is no 'home' to house it. Trevor Taylor and Cliff Weder have visited the area in March and investigated the problem. With the RC of Gizo and RAWCS-NR he suggests that we could get about \$20,000 if we sold it. Charles Guesdon moved that we sell the equipment by offering it to private enterprise and apply these funds to building reconstruction lost in the tsunami. This was seconded by Walter Buchanan. PASSED

John Paskin would like some feedback from clubs as to what they are doing with containers. He gets reports back if the contents are inappropriate or poor quality but he is not in charge of these containers and cannot do anything to alter the problem. If clubs would just let him know what they are doing then he can encourage everyone to work through RAWCS and improve the quality of good going overseas. Wayne Morris commented that no goods should be sent to private individuals in these containers. John would like to develop some co-ordination throughout Australia because there is a lot of work that goes into loading a container and it would be nice to make it all useful to the recipients.

Walter Buchanan wanted to support John with a national approach and suggested that other Districts be informed as to what is happening.

The meeting closed for all to gather in the Shed for a barbecue lunch provided by Sandra Paskin and her helpers which was a nice way for everyone to have a chat before leaving for distant parts.

The next meeting is to be held on 22nd August starting at 10.00am. It will be held again at the DIK Shed at 152 Freeman Road, Durack and it will be the Annual General Meeting.

Signed (Chairman)

