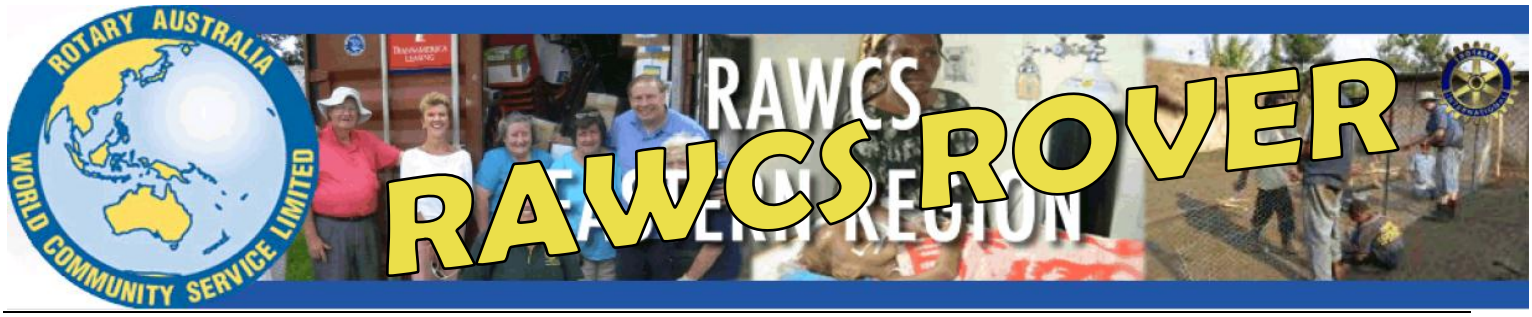


**Rotary Australia World Community Service**

*Feb.2013*

**LINKING EASTERN REGION CLUBS IN 9650, 9670, 9680, 9690, 9700, 9710, 9750**

# What's this RAWCS Thing All About?

**When was the last time you visited a club and was asked just this question ? And as often as not, it is from a Rotarian of some years standing! Rotary is a complex organisation with many programs, projects and humanitarian considerations most of which deserve our attention and seek various degrees of assistance. So where does RAWCS fit into the continuum?**

Back in 1964 PDG Keith Hopper, one of our own Eastern Region icons, proposed a program to support developing countries in the fields of Health Hunger and Humanitarian aid programs.

He came up with a name which identified the vision, FAIM (First Avenue in Motion) and set about encouraging Rotarians to set up overseas work teams to make his vision a reality.

Today the RAWCS organization is nationwide, having been set up as a company limited by guarantee and overseen by a board of directors from regions around the country.

And yes, we are talking about millions of dollars being transferred from individuals, clubs and regional committees to a vast number of deserving community projects around the world.

To the regional committees this is not just a one off situation. It is not a case of a project is completed so wait around till something else eventuates. At all times there is planning, communication, training, administration documentation, liaison with government and reporting.

And all is done with *esprit de corp* as our voluntary code requires.

So now we have identified programs that deal with specific targets.

There's **Project Volunteers** that visits needy parts of the world to assist with hands on commitments:

**Donations in Kind** that collects and despatches surplus materials where required;

**Safe Water Save Lives**, aimed at providing potable water and sewage to communities;

**Rotarians Against Malaria** dealing with education and bed netting projects in the tropics ;

**Ranfurly Book Aid** distributing books to schools and communities across the Pacific.

So if by some chance you meet up with the same old question about RAWCS, suggest that involvement is the best way to learn about new items and that the choice is theirs with such a wide spectrum of interesting programs available.

## EASTERN REGION EXECUTIVE COMM

| | |
|---|---|
| **Chairman** Harry Durey | 9650 |
| **Secretary** Ted Lewis | 9670 |
| **Treasurer** Jack Elliott | 9690 |
| **DIK: Co-Ord.** Miriam Jacka | 9680 |
| **Project Regist.** Len Bolden | 9710 |
| **Vol.Proj.Co-Ord.** Karen Wyers | 9750 |
| **Proj.Reg.Co-ord Len Bolden** | 9710 |
| **RAM Co-Ord.** Irene Jones | 9700 |
| **Webmaster** Brian Goldstraw | 9710 |
| **Newsletter** Barry McConville | 9690 |

## HARRY'S HERALDING

1. RAWCS has approached the Govt. Dept. re taxation deductions for Volunteers especially as it relates to airfares.

2. A Training Development Committee needs to be established to fit in with new national regulations. There is a specific need to update requirement for Project Managers.

3. Ten documents were forwarded to committee members for comment with a request for discussion of same at the coming Management Meeting.

## Management Decisions

**1. A number of Position Statements relating to roles held by ER committee members have been received.**

**2. Tax deductibility is still very much of an issue. It has been granted to projects being conducted in Australia**

**3. A Training Development Committee has been established consisting of Jack Elliott, Irene Jones, Karen Wyers, Ron Marcus and Barry Silburn.**

**4. Assist Treas. Janis Harvey will commence filing Treasury documents associated with Overseas Aid projects. There will be some cost factors to consider.**

**5. The funding associated with setting up a filing of Volunteer Forms via an online process, is being explored by Kenthurst Club.**

**6. The most recent report of Volunteer Project Teams indicates that 42 teams have been active involving a total of 132 volunteers . The number of "status unknown" reports indicates some need for clubs to update ER on progress being made towards completion**

**7. Solar Lights for to Samoa have been delayed due to cyclonic conditions.**

## SUBMISSION RELATING TO TAX DEDUCTIBILITY

**RAWCS National has made a strong case for tax deductibility for overseas volunteers. The Proposal reads as noted.**

**"That section 78A(2) of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936 be amended to allow a deduction for donations to an Overseas Aid Fund where the donor travels overseas to work as a volunteer and for whom expenses, such as flight tickets or accommodation, have been paid by that Overseas Aid Fund."**

An anomaly to the current situation is demonstrated in the fact that Volunteers paying their own fares and accommodation are currently not entitled to tax concessions but if they had made a donation to the OAF as a straight donation then deductibility would have been an entitlement.

They point out that people who identify the need, register the project and donate funds are those who are most disadvantaged in that they are denied a deduction for their donation when the Fund pays expenses deemed to be of a benefit to the donor.

## FUTURE GENERAL MEETINGS

**All Rotarians are invited to attend the General Meetings of Eastern Region RAWCS. Check below for details:**

**D9680 Kariong in 16/17 February 2013**

**Then will follow in sequence D9690 , D9700, D9710 and D9750**

### PROJECT MANAGERS & TEAM LEADERS

**National Project Volunteer Coordinator, John Robertson makes the following request.**

Project Managers and Team Leaders are asked to ensure that all volunteers use the most up to date ***Volunteer Application Form*** available from both the National and Eastern Region websites – www.rawcs.com.au or www.rawcseastern.org.au. They are regularly updated and the information requested allows the regional coordinators to fulfil their roles on your behalf. Older versions of the form do not supply all the necessary information now required to authorise the registering of new projects.

Likewise, new Project Registration forms should be used when being prepared for submission. They too are available on the websites .

### CURRENT EASTERN REGION VOLUNTEER HOTSPOTS

**Have you considered joining a Project Team and offering your talents to help a needy community?**

Most of what is on offer probably won't offer a five star tourist ratings but consider self satisfaction and goodwill engendered.

Currently we have projects running in:

East Timor, Philippines Indonesia
Kenya, Vanuatu Madagascar
Uganda, Tansania Nepal
Mongolia, Fiji PNG
The Solomon Islands

### IS OVERSEAS TRAVEL THE ONLY WAY ?

**Even the most dedicated Rotarians may not always be in the position to take time off to join a Volunteer Project Team. So consider some alternatives.**

1. The Penrith Club addressed this issue by linking with the RC of Tanauan in The Philippines by setting up a Microfinance Program. With an initial advance of $3,000 backed up by a further DAK contribution of $3,5000, they were able to set up a cycle of monetary support for a group of 50 borrowers.

Currently there are two groups of 50 borrowers rotating through the microcredit cycle with some excellent results arising from seaweed farming and a variety of small shop front businesses.

Continuous monitoring and assistance of the program has greatly helped in avoiding problems with repayments and delinquencies.

2. Get your club to turn up for a day at DIK where you can see Rotary aid in action. It's a social day as well as assisting in the distribution of needed equipment to communities overseas.

3. Approach your local library/schools to see whether they have educational materials that are no longer required but could be sent on to Ranfurly Book Aid for distribution around the Pacific.

4. Check the Overseas Project List and find a program that seeks finance rather than labour.

5. Ask your local doctor/dentist/optician/architect or teacher whether he/she has an interest in joining a team undertaking projects overseas.

6.Sponsor a medical practitioner from a needy country to do additional training in local hospitals.

7. Set up a sister club project with club overseas.

8. Suggest to your local school that a link with an overseas school is possible based on cultural, social and material benefits.

9. Invite your District RAWCS Chair to address clubs on projects being carried out around the world.

10.Bring along a couple of club members to the next Easter Region meeting being held in your District. Get the message first hand.

Yes.... RAWCS is BIG, EXPERIENCED and EFFECTIVE and you don't have to leave home to be part of the team.

### HERE & THERE

There have been reports of some containers being shipped without the home or overseas DGs being aware often with distressing results for needy people.

Five year ago 10 girls from Inverell High accompanied by a uni student and teacher and led by Bob Neich, conducted computer training for teachers and students in Timor Leste. They also took with them a generator ensuring the computers continued to work.

John Bennetts has a RAM website www.ramaustralia.org and has offered his services to speak to clubs about the progress being made across the Pacific.

RAWCS sponsoring of the third RYLA in Timor Leste resulted in 694 applications having to be vetted with a final acceptance of 85 attendees. D 9680 supervised the program and worked with a dedicated TL committee.

Out of Wagga Wagga comes the *Little Paths Australia* project aimed at supporting street orphans overcoming numerous difficulties towards pathways to education and citizenship. It operates in Mwanza, Tanzania, & Cambodia.

Be it computer, solar, electrical, carpentry or just hand on efficiency the RC of Kenthurst has the skills. They relocated the library at Fomu, PNG renovating buildings to accommodate new furniture, computer terminals, flooring and shelving. Solar panels were then set up to power the computers for the training.

Did you hear that that Bob Carr recently committed A$14.75M to fund malaria work in The Solomons.

Credit cards are now acceptable by RAWCS .

### CAN YOU HELP ?

Here is a project that can be easily accessed and prove valuable to the people of Vietnam. It is aimed at the poor and less able people of Ho Chi Minh City who have major hearing loss deficiencies.

Help is sought in collecting second hand hearing aids, fund raising and the recruitment of volunteers, especially audiologists. A process is in place to service units collected prior to shipment.

This project began small but plans to extend available services across much wider area of the Pacific basin.