



**Rotary  
Australia  
World  
Community  
Service**

*Sept. 2009*

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

## **KEN NICHOLLS MEMORIAL DINNER**

**Rotarians, friends and associates are to join in a commemorative dinner to honour the dedication, achievements and friendship of PDG Ken Nicholls OAM,**

### **EASTERN REGION EXECUTIVE COMM**

<b>Chairman</b> John Glass	9670
<b>Dep. Chairman</b> Harry Durey	9650
<b>Secretary</b> Ted Lewis	9670
<b>Treasurer</b> Jack Elliott	9690
<b>DIK: Co-Ord.</b> Miriam Jacka	9680
<b>Project Regist.</b> Len Bolden	9710
<b>Vol.Proj.Co-ord.</b> John Roberson	9700
<b>RAM Co-Ord</b> Bill Walker	9670
<b>Newsletter</b> Barry McConville	9690

### **JOHN'S JOTTINGS**

The new National website [www.rawcs.com.au](http://www.rawcs.com.au) is up and running. It has links to all regions and thus will require constant updating to remain relevant. We are asked to check current items for correctness and to contact Reg Emmett at [regemm@ozemail.com.au](mailto:regemm@ozemail.com.au) with any adjustments.

Following submissions from ER, the stated policy on Non Rotarian Teams is being further considered.

Discussion on tax deductibility for projects in Australia is progressing with documentation being supplied to the appropriate government departments.

Funding ER administration processes is still under consideration.

Over the past decade, Ken Nicholls has nurtured and expanded the unique Donations in Kind program that brings so much support to overseas nations in need.

Using his considerable persuasive manner, Ken opened up the program to Eastern Region clubs that had previously barely even heard of this RAWCS initiative.

His ever vigilant monitoring of DIK often had the depot being accessed day and night much to the detriment of Ken's personal interests and lifestyle.

To acknowledge and honour the superlative contribution that Ken has made to ER and in recognition of the many close friendships that his work has fostered, a tribute dinner will offered on Saturday evening 21 November as a part of the Eastern Region General Meeting weekend.

Further details can be obtained through D 9690 Chairman Greg Hoile.

#### **NATARBORA REPORT**

Neil Dawson reports on the successful work carried out in Timor Leste.

Over a 13 day schedule, roof trusses were installed, the roof finished, plumbing and tiling for the bathroom, sewerage and window frames were completed.

Local labour was available and well utilized.

Neil comments:

*From a work perspective, it is good to have people on your team with trade skills. Having had the opportunity to lead this team, I have learnt more about the importance of the cultural and relationship aspects of our work and these are not to be underestimated. My hope is that we have been successful on this front as well.*

#### **PLACE A DESK**

##### **What might you do with 2000 school desks?**

That's the question being asked by Elaine Lytle.

An approach has been made by a management group to see whether Rotary can handle a project of this size, from collection, shipping and distribution.

Latest news is that there could be government funding available for shipping costs provided that the over all management of the project is done efficiently and well.

Indications are that there could well be other school equipment available for despatch. Items such as chairs, boards, library books etc are being considered.

And if Rotary can handle the first shipment then there could well be an Australia wide project on offer.

How can your club help? Have you a school support program running that needs equipment? Would you like to get involved in an Adopt a School project?

This could be a great PR exercise if we can get it off the ground and keep it moving.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Our ER Project Coordinator, John Roberson, has accepted the role of National Project Coordinator and has already taken up his new assignment.

John has devoted countless hours to developing an efficient and effective system across our region and will, undoubtedly, be of major benefit to the nation wide program.

John likes challenges and he will be well equipped to deal with the broader aspects of national coordination.

This now creates a vacancy for coordination at Regional level.

## **Management Decisions**

1. A standard "thank you" letter will be made available to the treasurer for attachment to the receipt issued for donors to RAWCS programs.

2. Triple receipting as suggested by RAWCS Ltd. is proving to be burdensome so a request is to be made to review the requirement to allow the setting up of a more viable computer receipting system.

3. Standardisation of financial dealings by project leaders is to be pursued. It has been recommended that *Accounting Guidelines* should be prepared as an aid for Project leaders and the Treasurer.

#### **RANFURLY LIBRARY**

A move from Building 296 to Building 501 at Callan Park is to take place. This is adjacent to the Glover St entrance on the western side near Leichhardt Oval.

Recently a container of 400 cartons of books was despatched to Kiunga in western PNG. Costs were borne by Ok Tedi Mines who will also be responsible for the distribution to the schools in the area.

Assistance at the depot is most welcome. Call Richmond Manyweathers on 95244827 or Barry Moscrop on 96928460 for details on days and times.

#### **ASSISTANCE SOUGHT**

RAWCS help has been sought by The United Future Foundation in providing aid to a school project in Uganda. This is not the first such request from outside agencies seeking to use RAWCS experience, insurance and benefits. Management has offered support provided one of our committee is appointed to the board concerned. Treasurer Jack Elliott has volunteered to overview the UFF venture.

## SOME RELIEF FOR ORO PROVINCE

Much of the devastation of Cyclone Guba back in Nov. 07 is still to be addressed. There are over 50 schools, 20 teachers houses and as many aid posts to be rebuilt. Approaches to our Govt. have met with frustration and statements that no funding is available to assist.

RAWCS has initiated a number of moves to help alleviate distress in several areas. In November Rotarians from Newcastle worked on restoring the Embogo High School that had been flooded with over a meter of water. This enabled students to return to school though further work is still required. This month a combined District project from 9750, 9690 and 9710 provided money and workers to support the despatch of 2 containers of books, desks, chairs, literacy kits, teaching aids, filing cabinets, plumbing equipment en route to Embogo.

Richmond Manyweathers notes that he was told a teacher broke down and cried when the tables and chairs arrived in her classroom.

*"What we take for granted is manna to so many who live without" he commented.*

## RAM PROGRAM EFFECTIVE AND NECESSARY

Australia is in the forefront of malarial research with laboratories in Qld, Vic. & Tas.

A vaccine is not expected to be available in less than 15 years so preventative programs are most necessary. Global funding money and Ausaid funding are now becoming available for the Solomons and PNG. Adopt a Village program may extend to cover breeding areas and education.

## MIRIAM'S MUSINGS

Reporting on the 08/09 activities at the depot, Miriam notes that 336 volunteers spent the day at Minchinbury clocking up in excess of 4.5hours per person . A truly great effort and one that all clubs should try to join if only for the social aspects of the day.

The new forklift has arrived and is making a considerable improvement to the efficiency of depot movements. Thanks go to Howard Grigor for his assistance in sourcing this valued item.

The assessment of the depot in OH&S terms is anticipated in line with industrial demands.

With the reduction in working time at the depot due to injury, the DIK van was placed on loan to the ARH for its magnificent promotional exercise in the bike ride around Australia.

The depot is open almost every weekend. Deliveries, however should be by appointment so contacting Miriam on 0409717973 or by email on [ljacka@zipworld.com.au](mailto:ljacka@zipworld.com.au) is essential.

*Stay a day at DIK*

*It's the international way*

## FUNDING OF EASTERN REGION

The introduction of an Administration Fee to cover all RAWCS operations was accepted by the Management Committee following a submission by Treasurer Jack Elliott. It reads:

1. All individual Project Volunteers are to pay a fee of \$10 in addition to the "Travel Donation".
2. Donations to the Overseas Aid Fund will engender a fee as follows
  - Up to \$10,000....a fee of .05%
  - Over \$10,000..a fee of \$50 +.025% of the balance.

## D.9750 PROFILE

### Richard Mason Reports

Brahman Boarding School is about to have extensions added thanks to volunteers and a grant from Kiama Club. Further teams will be sought to complete this work. In the same village a suspension bridge has collapsed and efforts are being made to find an engineer to draw up plans for replacement.

A District Matching Grant has been initiated to replace 60 water tanks in Oro Province villages. A call is being made on all 9750 clubs to respond.

King Cross Club is seeking funds to assist the Ridley Smith appeal for the Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia.

Caringbah Club sponsored to the tune of \$5000 a computer networking project in a college and a school. The work extended to dental team working and tree planting.

Ingleburn is continuing in developing its program on Emae in Vanuatu.

A project at Welkom in South Africa (orphanages) initiated by Kiama Club is underway. It is being developed jointly by Rotary and Lions and sponsored by the Welkom Club in South Africa.

## FOLLOW UP ON FOMU

In an earlier edition of the Rover a report of the work undertaken at Fomu in PNG by Sue O'Neill from Kenthurst was noted. An update tells of a visit by Sue and Rotaract President Elyse Zaccai and visits with mining officials with the hope of extending their support for local village projects. Water tanks have been provided but assistance is now required with the clinic, the library and the headmaster's office. Staffing at the school continues to be a problem, being plagued by staff absences and the need to appoint volunteer teachers from the community. So impressed with the work of the young volunteers, Sue has organised a trip to Australia for four of the young people to attend a RYLA seminar for which funding is now being sought. Whilst the school is structurally secured the challenge now is the appointment of permanent teaching staff.

## IS IT ALL WORTH IT ?

**In her report on a recent trip aiding the Mando Project, Wilma Simmons writes:**

*We gained an insight into the educational facilities in PNG where there has been no Rotary presence. The difference is remarkable. I now understand why so many villages want contact with RAWCS teams while they are in PNG. It is obvious that Rotary does in fact "make dreams real". I was also asked to address a group of provincial leaders who are interested in chartering a Rotary Club in the new province I am currently pursuing this idea with D 9600.*

The visit to Mando was essentially a review process of work previously commissioned. This also drew attention to the initiative being exercised by the locals in providing additional extras beyond those provided by Rotary. The team was impressed with the villagers' friendliness, honesty, appreciation for Rotary support and the genuine affection they have for Wendy Stein and Rotary volunteers.