



RAWCS ROVER

**Rotary
Australia
World
Community
Service**

Feb. 2009

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

FINDING THAT TEAM

Just how do Project Teams get themselves together? Who initiates the project and how would your club set about organising a team that will provide much needed assistance to a deserving community whilst offering great satisfaction to the providers ?

EASTERN REGION EXECUTIVE COMM

Chairman John Glass	9670
Dep. 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. John Roberson	9700
RAM Co-Ord Bill Walker	9670
Newsletter Barry McConville	9690

JOHN'S JOTTINGS

At the national RAWCS AGM the new constitution was introduced. The RAWCS Australia Fund has been approved in principle. The NZ chairman expressed his appreciation of work being done in Pacific areas covered by NZ districts.

Thanks to the leadership from Miriam Jacka, a better understanding of our work in Vanuatu has been gained by government officials following their visit to DIK. It would seem that ER provides 90% of the projects in that country.

Congratulations to Lyn Thorpe of Newcastle Sunrise in receiving the Lake Macquarie Citizen of the Year Award. Lyn has visited Peru, PNG, Uganda Fiji, Cambodia and Tanzania on projects.

True, we have District Chairmen and they can be greatly supportive walking you through the exercise but they cannot be everywhere and set up local teams.

It is the club member, inspired by knowledge of previous teams' achievements and excited about contributing to those in lesser circumstances than themselves that really get things moving.

Having heard of projects that have already been approved and in process or learning about a new and equally challenging project in a new area, an approach can be made to the District Chairman for further information. In the case of a new proposal the Regional Projects Chairman is the contact.

So you have the project identified, now you need a team to accompany you.

Club members are the first place of call but by no means the only one. They may be able to suggest skilled people outside the club willing to be sponsored by the club. There could be family members, neighbours, friends work colleagues prepared to spend a couple of weeks in a new and exciting environment. And don't forget the apprentices and TAFE students.

Advertise your project across the district for other clubs to become involved. It will be advertised in the Projects Listing sent out to all districts across ER so others will have the opportunity to approach you.

ER will provide you with manuals to assist you with team preparation should you undertake the role of Team Leader. Should you not feel confident enough to undertake the leadership role then your Dist. Chairman will offer advice on seeking such a person or assist you in gaining the additional skills required.

But then, don't only restrict your team membership from Rotary Clubs. It may well be that another similarly interested group in the community would like to share in the project providing additional members for the team.

A recent case in point has been the partnership between the Illawarra Sunrise Club and the Wollongong Church of Christ working on building a preschool in the Philippines. They completed their task in 9 days from slab up to the painting of the internal wall murals. Through a matching grant with the RC of Metro Bacolad they provided a water tank in Kabugwason and finished up visiting other projects involving Rotary. Contact John Bilboe for details as the work will be continuing.

Are your team applicants too old or too young to participate? ER has a policy to assist here especially when it come to insurance cover.

Got an idea about a project? Trot it out and see how others react.

Management Decisions

1. OH&S procedures are to be identified and documented for all aspects of the DIK operation. They could be based on similar guidelines used by the Salvation Army.

2. New Volunteer Medical Forms and release Forms have been submitted to the committee for approval. They will require approval from our Insurance providers.

3. District Chairmen are requested to inform the Regional Coordinator immediately a team is being formed to allow sufficient time to carry out all necessary procedures.

4. It is no longer a requirement that a full medical certificate signed by a doctor must be presented with applications from Volunteers. Where pre existing medical conditions have been indicated then a full medical check up and notification must be appended before insurance cover will be offered.

5. The national body is to set up a PR committee to assist with RAWCS promotion. The intention is to enlist the aid of one member from each of the regions.

6. Training materials relating to Project Team Leaders and Volunteers are being reviewed.

7. There is an updated Insurance Power Point presentation available. A copy can be sent to those seeking its assistance.

DIK IS NO DUMPING GROUND

The change over from Prospect to Minchinbury involved a great deal of garbage disposal. Many large bins rolled out of the depot carrying broken and useless items. Let's not have to do it again. Ensure that all items are required and intact.

FOMU IS FABULOUS

From Sue O'Neill (Kenthurst Club) comes the following overview of another highly successful project carried out in the Eastern Highlands of PNG.

"My village really puts on a superhuman effort. This is a community that has endured decades of tribal unrest. A cease fire was called in 2004 and a peace agreement was established. The warring clans had gone from spears and bows and arrows to using high powered weapons causing massive loss of life on all sides. Given that they are still in the process of re-building, they have embraced the opportunity to work with Rotary to establish the school. It is wonderful to see that neighbouring villages that were once enemies are now working side by side with the people of Fomu to help development for the entire region. It is extraordinary what the village has accomplished. The 5 classrooms are almost finished. There is still painting, footpaths and some details to attend too, but they have done a remarkable job. When you consider most of the village men have not had any experience with this type of building, they have learned the skills quickly and worked very hard. There were some other big wins on this trip. We now have a nurse at our village clinic 2 days a week. We met with the Provincial Administer and he has said if I fund 3 teachers' houses, he will fund the other 3."

WHERE TO NEXT

**Check your diaries for the coming Eastern Region General Meeting.
Wollongong: Sunday 22 Feb 09. Salamander Bay: Sunday July
Everyone is welcome to attend the Training Sessions on Saturdays.**

MIRIAM'S MUSINGS

The new arrangements for DIK operation have been well received. Clubs are very much welcomed on Saturdays for working bees and Wednesdays are the additional options. Efficiency is the key word for all movements as the number of open days are now limited

Containers have been despatched to PNG, The Philippines and Vietnam.

We must stress the acceptance of goods which are in working order and within date limitations.

A new industrial vacuum cleaner has been purchased and in commission.

Setting up a link between DIK and Team Leaders on projects should assist in the timely arrival of items needed on site.

A meeting at Minchinbury with Vanuatu Gov. officials has aided in better understandings.

RAWCS HOME PROJECT

Interested in an Australian outback project? Perhaps you might consider supporting the Kintore Aboriginal Cooperative in the Western Desert (30/2007-8).It's in our backyard so it could be very interesting

D.9670 PROFILE

Howard Grigor Reports

Some 45 volunteers have undertaken projects over the past six months.

Newcastle Club raised \$4000 in a month to provide 330 gift packages for PNG.

From Nelson Bay, Scott Jarman has raised some \$30,000 for Shelter Box projects.

D.9670 Rotarians have been involved in a variety of overseas projects, from building and painting schools and hospitals to teaching and training hospital staff in new strategies. RAM and water projects have also been on the agenda.

The district meeting queried the involvement of Rotarians in too many different projects suggesting that one person should concentrate on only one project at a time.

A microscope has been forwarded to the nursing staff at Gouno Health Clinic.

FUNDING ONLY PROJECTS

Clubs unable to consider Volunteer Projects may wish to extend their International Service work through channelling cash to specific needs. From Len Bolden come the following listings that may be of interest.

Scholarships to Students in Tonga; These are directed towards qualified applicants who are unable to finance their further education.

Secondary Education Sponsorship in China: Assistance for locally selected village children to attend up to three years in high school.

Lotus Children's Centre in Mongolia: Funding for abandoned and orphaned children to undertake vocational training and gain life skills.

Ginghri Solar Cooker Project in China: Funding for the manufacture of low tech solar heaters in Qinghai Province.

Other projects are available in The Philippines, Cambodia and Bangladesh.

ETHIOPIAN ROTOPLAST MISSION

Accompanied by volunteers from The Netherlands, USA, Columbia, Canada, Britain and Australia, Lyn Thorpe and her 29 helpers spend long hot days of 16 hours bringing aid to 116 patients in 7 days undertaking cleft palate and lip repairs mainly without general anaesthetics. Conditions were deplorable with filthy operating rooms and inadequate water almost causing them to abandon the work. 200 patients had to be turned away, hopefully for future treatment.