



RAWCS ROVER

**Rotary
Australia
World
Community
Service**

July, 2010

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

GETTING THE LOWDOWN

Joining an overseas Volunteer Project can certainly lift the excitement level. It can also raise a few queries, especially for the first time team member. From the ER Training Manuals come the following helpful items.

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. Bill Little	9690
RAM Co-Ord Irene Jones	9700
Webmaster Brian Goldstraw	9710
Newsletter Barry McConville	9690

WELCOME

Meet Irene Jones and Bill Little. They have both joined the Management Team and are ready to assist you with their extensive experience.

Both Irene and Bill are PDG's and have been working with Volunteer teams over a number of years.

Irene takes over RAM and Bill has accepted the Project Volunteer Coordinator's role.

Welcome to all the incoming District RAWCS Chairs also.

Of course, no extract can replace the reading of the full manual which is available to all team members as an aid in preparation.

1. It is imperative that as a visitor to another culture, the volunteer takes stock of his/her prejudices and refrains from imposing them on the host culture and its people. Remember that lack of access to education, training and economic opportunities do not equate to lack of intelligence or competence.

2. All air bookings will be made in consultation with the Regional Project Coordinator who will arrange your outward and return journeys.

3. Please make your project cost cheque payable to Rotary Australia Overseas Aid Fund. You will be issued with a receipt which can be submitted as a taxation deduction under Income Tax Act (S.78 (1)).

4. Maybe you would like to take a few small personal gifts for the locals. The following are suggestions Rulers, pencils, biros, tennis balls, first aid items, T shirts, footballs

5. Supply and transport of materials is a difficult problem but remember that the locals are living with this concern constantly.

6. Wherever you go you will find that English is spoken by a few only. Using a few simple words here and there in the local language will indicate your interest in the local culture.

7. Drink plenty of fluids. Seek out pure rainwater for drinking. Boiling of water and use of sterilising tablets is recommended. Always was well before meals.

8. It is a requirement that all bodily injuries including minor injuries, site related illness, chemical spills, property damage, dangerous occurrences or near miss incidents be reported immediately to the Team Leader.

9. The Team Leader should do a risk assessment of each volunteer's related tasks.

10. Women volunteers are not automatically assigned kitchen duties. All volunteers share equally in the performance of tasks related to the project.

YOU'VE READ THE EXTRACTS, NOW READ THE FULL UNEXPURGATED VERSION OF THE VOLUNTEER INFORMATION MANUAL

ALSO AVAILABLE
Team Leaders Manual
Dist. Chairman's Manual
Project Contact Manual
Reg. Coordinator's Manual.

ON THE WEB

Management Decisions

Funding will always be a major concern with RAWCS.

Treasurer, Jack Elliott, suggests that we require \$20,000 plus the earned interest to service projects.

All Individual Project Volunteers are to pay a fee of \$10 additional to their "Travel Donation"

All other Donations made to the Overseas Aid Fund will be required to pay a "Fee" as follows:

- Up to \$10,000, the fee is .05% of the total.
- Above \$10,000, the fee is \$50 + .025% of the balance above \$10,000

The DIK warehouse continues to run well and keeps Miriam Jacka very busy.

David Waterhouse, has now produced Draft Version C 11/1/2010 of the Operational Procedures and Health and Safety Plan for the DIK warehouse and the Ranfurly Library warehouse. Implementation of this Policy has now been put in place. A copy is to be loaded on the Eastern Region Web Site.

Brian Goldstraw has now established a new RAWCS Eastern Region website: <http://www.rawcseastern.org.au/>

A GREAT NEW YEAR FOR ALL RAWCS PERSONNEL.

MAY IT BE ANOTHER ONE JUST AS SUCCESSFUL AS THOSE IN THE PAST.

Whilst not from our Region this newspaper report welcomes the assistance of Rotarians in Vanuatu

The Rotary Club of Benalla, Victoria, has been for some years now 'a helping friend' to several primary schools in Port Vila and surrounding villages, including Mele, Mele Maat, Pango, Erakor, and Eratap.

The Independent has met up this week with the group's team leader, Kelly Macnamara while he and other members of the team, with the Central School handyman, Nelson Bong, were working on a door to be installed at a newly built house by teachers of Suango French School at Mele.

Kelly said that they have assisted those schools in doing repair works on buildings, chairs and desks, doors and windows. In Port Vila, the team has donated sport shoes and paints to Kawenu School, done repairs at Central school and other donations to Vila North.

There are 7 members of the Rotary Australia World Community Service Ltd who have spent the past two weeks in doing generous jobs to these schools. Among the group, there are 4 women, one who helped pupils of Central School in reading at the renovating library and one Helen Ellis, a midwife who was attached with the VCH maternity ward. A highlight of her assistance, was a baby girl born and named after her. For the Central School, the principal Jennifer Bird said that her school has been fortunate to have these visiting Rotarians from Victoria, renovating and painting their school library.

"They have also repaired furniture and electrical fittings in our classrooms," Jennifer said.

The Rotarians visit is self-funded and during their stay the Rotarians have been housed in accommodation at the Vila Central Hospital.

ER SNIPPETS

1. Two teams of volunteers made up of combined Rotarians and Lions Club members from D. 9680 have undertaken dental work in remote villages of Timor Leste.

2. RAWCS promotion is always on the agenda. Being considered at the moment are three suggestions.

i. Provision of a RAWCS Banner.

ii. Reviving the Dinner Badge Sticker project.

iii. Contacting corporate bodies to stimulate interest and support.

3. Shelterbox UK and Aust. Shelterbox are supported by ER. Money for SBUK will be forwarded on to the UK whilst SBA (\$1000) will be retained in this country.

4. The ER Training Manuals have been accepted enthusiastically as official Training material for Australia.

NEW CONTACT FOR PROJECT VOLUNTEER COODINATOR

BILL LITTLE: 49 Chancery St. Canley Vale NSW 2166

Ph. 9728 1679 0408 448 1288 littlebil@bigpond.net.au

VOLUNTEERS EXCEL

AGM's produce interesting facts. For the last Rotary year we sent out 79 teams to 16 different countries. In all 371 volunteers undertook projects of many varying types, from dental work, sight correction, maternity care, teaching, banking, water provision, building construction, sanitation, equipment provision, to providing scholarships to study in Australia and funding numerous other projects.

The most popular destinations for volunteers were Vanuatu, Timor Leste and PNG in that order. The African continent is a relatively new venue and growing.

WHAT'S A DISTRICT CHAIR

Just got the job and not sure of what is expected of you? Check out the ER Dist. Chairperson's Manual for some helpful advice.

VANUATU AGAIN IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Thanks to Sue O'Neill for her reporting of extensive work.

On June 8th members of Kenthurst Rotary and other volunteers completed work on the Vuth-Er Makenzie Health Centre in Hog Harbour, on Espiritu Santo Island, Vanuatu. Rotarians worked with the local community to plan and construct the 6 bed health centre which has been 3 years in the making. With financial support from sister Rotary Clubs in Japan, Kenthurst Rotarians Bob Thorne and Neville Smerdon took on the challenging role of project coordination and made the commitment to ensure the project was completed. The building is of solid construction featuring reinforced besser block walls and fully rendered. There are earthquake protection pillars and stabilizing rods designed to withstand the frequent earth tremors. The clinic has a functioning toilet and tiled shower and working septic system. It has a laundry room and storeroom and has been fitted out with hospital beds. The Rotary Club of Kenthurst donated a portable Ultra Sound Unit to the Santo Health Services. Kenthurst has donated several of these Ultra Sound units to hospitals in developing countries.

CAPITALISING ON THE BER

Across Australia the effects of the Building Education Revolution have been well documented. Graham Boler has recognised a truly exciting possibility in this govt. initiative to promote Rotary, RAWCS and at the same time provide a greatly needed resource in deserving countries overseas. By setting up a program to collect, ship and distribute replaced school furniture Graham has hit upon a project that is finance and labour free for Rotarians though high on the public relations agenda. To date 7 containers of furniture have been despatched, 4 more are in the pipeline and another 10 set for shipping later this month.... and this is only the pilot program. In NSW there is potential to send out 10 containers per week and something like 1000 per week across Australia should all Dept of Education adopt the program. "Furniture, surplus to requirements, is usually consigned to the furnace and the tip, an utter waste of resources", says Graham. "Rotary has a much more satisfactory solution." Graham can be contacted on 02 57079521.