



RAWCS ROVER



**Rotary Australia
World
Community
Service**

Feb.2011

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

CHALLENGING TIMES AHEAD

The November decision of the RI Board to phase out the World Community Service and Rotary Volunteers Programs has created wide ranging interest around the world. Where to go next is the question being asked. RAWCS and RNZWCS have the model already in place and activated.

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

JOHN'S JOTTINGS

Insurance has been under considerable attention nationally. Medical equipment and supplies are not covered by Public Liability. We are not covered if such equipment is faulty or wrongly used. Hernias are not covered by insurance.

We need to increase our Fidelity/Trustee Cover as the OAF now exceeds \$12m. but who is to pay excess?

Still waiting National's answer to insurance cover for youngest and oldest volunteers.

A National Promotions Committee is to be set up. Each Region is to be asked to nominate a representative.

Our DIK containers have been greatly increased due to the BER commitment.

Indications are that the RI programs will be moving from a "program based" model to a "resource based model" signifying a dropping of the hands on application and an introduction to a funding capacity. Just what this will mean to our well established RAWCS programs is still to be explored.

National RAWCS Chairman Lou Johnson views the evolving situation in positive terms

"...the more I think about the announcement, the happier I become as they will create a much needed debate about the role of RAWCS and its achievements over recent years."

He further notes, that with the increasing interest in providing access for Charities and Private Ancillary Funds to use the services that we provide, the current activities undertaken through OAF will be greatly maximised and funding levels increased accordingly.

Some concern now surfaces about the use of the word "Rotary" in our operation. No doubt a strong debate will emerge around the terminology and already

there has been a suggestion that we return to the use of the previous title of *FAIM*. Consider also... Should the use of the term *World Community Service* now have to be reviewed in the light of a non-existent RI program? Director Stuart Heals regards the inevitable changes in a most encouraging comment...

"This change MUST enhance the work RAWCS does and allow you the freedom to meet the needs of the communities you work with." In the past there has often been confusion in the cross over work of RAWCS and the RI Volunteers Program especially when funded teams met volunteered teams in shared localities.

This recent Board decision will resolve past dilemmas and, hopefully, offer financial support to a much wider program base.

TAX DEDUCTIBILITY

If a volunteer derives a benefit from a donation, this negates a tax deductibility status. It is important NOT to link the donation to the airfare. The project must be the main reason for travel. If half the time is spent on holiday activities, the donation will not be tax deductible.

Management Decisions

1. A link to DFaT has been established on our ER website. Team Leaders should avail themselves of current travel warnings
2. All Minutes and Agendas will be forwarded by e-mail in future following a survey by the secretary.
3. The Eastern Region account is now operating under the title of **Rotary Australia Overseas Aid Fund Eastern Region.**
4. New RAWCS banners are now on sale at \$10 each. All districts are to be notified of their availability.
5. Webmaster Brian Goldstraw has indicated that all forms and project details are now available on the National website.
6. The response for books for Ranfurly has been pleasing with the depot slowly filling. The demand is still current for books directed for primary school level and associated interests.
7. Treasurer Jack Elliott reported that there has been an increasing number of large donations being forwarded for overseas projects.
8. Proj. Coord Bill Little noted that 190 volunteers in 39 teams have undertaken work this year so far.

FUTURE MEETINGS

1. **D. 9670 Dubbo**
5/6 February
2. **D.9680 North Sydney**
May 2011
3. **D. 9690 Western Sydney**
August 2011

ARE YOU A GOOD SWOT ?

The Management Committee would like to check out your response at the Dubbo meeting. So brush up on your SWOT ANALYSIS technique and share in the inner most thoughts of those wishing to explore the depths of RAWCS management.

**Know thyself
and
Us as well.**

REMEMBER GAMPONG ANAK

The TSUNAMI of 2004 ?

The world was shocked with the devastation wrought by the 2004 tsunami to our northern neighbours. Rotary was quick to respond through financial and physical assistance.

Disasters further afield at ever frequent intervals divert attention to other projects but the RC of Turramurra has remained stoically with the task it undertook in building permanent premises for abandoned and orphaned children left homeless by the tidal wave. Their ongoing interest has been far from superficial. Every six months a representative of the club visits the project for guidance and encouragement.

Such has been the success of the project that the Board of Governance set up by Turramurra is about to hand over its responsibilities to a Rotary Youth Centre Board of Management under local control. Turramurra will still retain control of the remaining finance which is estimated to continue for another three years and provide a member of the new board. Currently there are 40 adolescent orphaned or abandoned boys in care with planned courses for business ventures on graduation.

Gamong Anak is fast moving to a self sustaining community thanks to the support from Turramurra. It now grows vegetables, has a fish farm, community ladies sew uniforms and conduct a kindergarten.

Chairman Ian Howden has stepped down from the GA committee and is being replaced by Brian Plain.

Thirty five Volunteer Teams have been sent to 15 different countries so far this Rotary year. Bill Little applauds the standard of applications.

Combating Malaria.

Irene Jones alerts all clubs to note down the 30 April as **Malaria Awareness Day** and to promote the work of RAWCS in moves towards eliminating the virus carrying mosquito. Africa is the most endemic of malaria affected countries with 43 countries suffering illness and death. Some 350 million insecticide nets have been distributed over the past three years. Residual spraying is also proving effective. Some countries are reporting reductions of 50% in confirmed malaria cases.

Nearer to home in PNG, RAM has been working with health teams to survey the results of bed net distribution in the central provinces. 25,000 nets have been distributed ensuring that every person has been protection. This is to be a test case for the rest of PNG as early results are promising.

The University of Queensland has been given a grant from Bill Gates of \$7m. to develop a vaccine for mosquitoes thus preventing them transferring viruses.

ANOTHER QUIET ACHIEVER

The name Ron Sommers may not be as well known as others associated with RAWCS projects but in achievements, his reputation is truly monumental. Some 25 visits to Simbu Province in the PNG Highlands have brought him absolute respect and trust by the communities that he has served through his professional expertise. Accompanied by his wife Rae as his midwife, Ron, an obstetrician and gynaecologist, has brought modern medical practice to the Highland province. Based normally at Kundiawa, Ron has trained staff, extended the professional capacities of local residents, provided opportunities for inservicing for nurses both in Australia and PNG. Remarkably, Ron has successfully completed over 500 major procedures ranging over the Kundiawa, Mt Hagen and Goroka hospitals.

Such has been the success of Ron's influence in making change happen that the Kundiawa hospital is said to be performing with the highest number of surgical cases and has the most equipment available for diagnosis thus achieving an accreditation of five stars which is the country's ultimate distinction held by only three hospitals in PNG.

Ever mindful of the welfare of the local community, Ron notes the problems facing future development in the nation. Cultural change influenced by TV and western standards is of genuine concern. Deterioration of hygiene has broken barriers to disease carrying vector and immunisation standards are not regulated. Poor communication is still a major concern. Ron offers a challenge to all Rotarians to address these issues through combined Rotary District programs assisting Village Volunteer groups.

D.9670 RAWCS PROFILE

Chairman Greg Bowen reports

Cessnock, under Trish Davies, has undertaken an educational training program in Popenetta PNG. Its aim is to assist teachers in skills and knowledge as well as training adult leaders from surrounding areas to work with their communities.

Wendy Stein has returned from another of her successful trips to the Losuia Rural health Centre

Howard Grigor has completed another grand tour of the western NSW covering thousands of km. delivering items from DIK.

Adrian Roach has survey the need for classrooms and a water supply for Nondugal. A team is proposed in the near future.

Bill Walker is off again for 2 weeks in Bangladesh. He will follow this up with trips to the Philippines and Vietnam later in the year.

Lyn Thorpe is setting out to promote ROMAC in the district. In the meantime she will be off to West Timor and Bangladesh on surgical trips for RAWCS.

Harvey World Travel has taken an interest in the district's RAWCS projects. Two representatives have made themselves available to assist the travel plans of Volunteer Teams leaving from the district.

HOW DO WE RATE

In a recent RAWCS National review a list of Regional achievements was offered. It noted that there had been a slight decrease in overall national participation in Project Volunteer activities.

Central; 5 teams 7 volunteers 5 countries
Western; 1 team 20 volunteers 1 country
Southern; 33teams 233volunteers14countries
Northern; 20 teams 146volunteers 9countries
Eastern; 80teams 382volunteers 16countries

There have been 77 new projects registered with RAWCS in the past year. By the end of November this number had been increased to over 300. This year 15 new projects have been registered by ER.