



RAWCS ROVER



**Rotary Australia
World
Community
Service**

May.2011

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

Long Time Benefit–Short Term Neglect!

So what happens when a project has been completed, the team departs and the locals take over the running of the venture? Where does the responsibility begin and end and who should be concerned with the ongoing development, maintenance and administration?

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

A meeting of the National Committee was held in April attended by myself accompanied by our Projects, DIK and Promotions coordinators.

ER has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Aust. Catholic University and Ministry of Education in Vanuatu to permit the acceptance of student placements in local schools.

As we weren't registered for fundraising in NSW the National body has listed ER as a branch of the National organisation thus allowing us a license for State functions.

My three years as Chairman have now elapsed hence I warmly welcome our newly elected nominee.

Great ideas for new projects arise from all sorts of situations... visits to overseas counties, GSE team reports, YEP students, visits from nationals, students undertaking vacations and so on.

An enthused club accepts the challenge of an o/seas project, approaches RAWCS, files a project number, plans the development of a great team adventure and gets away on a valuable humanitarian project.

There are reports to write, information to share and generally, club life settles back into normal routine.

Back there on the project a government official turns up asking questions but not interested in the ongoing upkeep of the work carried out. There is no offer of maintenance on machinery installed and service personnel don't visit that part of the country.

Money for the initial installation has come from the club and has been fully expended so the locals don't have any back up funding, nor experience to undertake repairs or eventual maintenance problems.

What was a truly exciting and important project starts to look like a neglected "white elephant".

For want of paint, piping, fuel, tools, but more likely, manpower, the innovative project has become neglected and credibility strained.

There can be few worse promotional aspects for Rotary than a neglected project with a Rotary logo indicating a once proud achievement.

Is there any answer other than repeated visits back to the site at club cost and member inconvenience?

Perhaps viability and longevity of projects are subjects that need airing with local officials before work commences.

Reviews of local and governmental agencies with regard to acceptance of ongoing responsibilities needs assessing.

Memos of Understanding may be possible thus allowing the signing off of projects to recognized authorities.

It may well be that the RAWCS country coordinator could be in a knowledgeable position to negotiate appropriate terms for the successful handing over.

Management Decisions

1. When seeking tax deductibility for club projects the correct contact is **Rotary Australia Overseas Aid Fund...Eastern Region.**

2. New RAWCS banners are now on sale at \$10 each. All districts are to be notified of their availability.

3. Negotiations are being conducted with McDonalds for the production of placemats advertising projects around the region.

4. Consideration is being given by National for the production of a DVD outlining the achievements of RAWCS around the world.

5. New projects are always on the program awaiting team acceptance. Len Bolden has approved another seven projects for consideration.

6. Supply and demand for Ranfurly books are always hard to match. At the present the warehouse is in over supply so please hold any contributions till a clearance can be made.

7. A call from the secretary for the cancellation of hard copy materials in lieu of emailed versions has been initiated with few exceptions. Where difficulties are being experienced with the non receipt of items, then contact with Ted may solve the problem.

**ARE YOU READY
FOR THE AGM ?**

THE AMAZING FURNITURE GOODWILL PROGRAM

In a final report Graeme Boler outlines the hugely successful humanitarian project of shipping equipment from various locations around the State to schools and hospitals across the Pacific at minimum expense to Rotary and major benefit to needy communities. His final report contains a truly remarkable account of great community spirit in mobilising resources to containerise medical equipment at the decommissioned Orange Bloomfield Hospital and transport all to Sydney ready for shipment. Hansen Yuncken management had agreed to finance the supply, cartage and shipping of the 12 containers and was under pressure to exit the site within a week.

Manhandling the equipment fell to PDG Geoff Bargwanna who assemble a team of over 40 Rotarians from the four Orange Clubs working through rain, trying conditions and delayed transport to load containers. They were assisted most readily by a team of regular Army fellows who relished the work. Graeme estimates that some 45 people assisted with the manhandling and packing of the equipment. Overall this mammoth project has enabled upwards of \$1.5 million of valuable equipment being shipped overseas. Noted also is the fact that shipping cost was 6% of the total value which is considerably less than carrying out mandated disposal programs had items been left in Australia.

The 9670 Furniture Goodwill Program is a magnificent tribute to Graeme Boler who has masterminded and supervised the operation throughout its entirety, ably supported and encouraged by the generous support of the Hansen Yuncken organisation. We “dips our lids” in appreciation.

Another Rotary year about to begin. Another RAWCS AGM to be held and a new team to be considered. Congratulations on the outgoing team for providing another truly inspiring year of service to our neighbours around the world.....

ANOTHER OF OUR QUIET ACHIEVERS

Bob Young has been a member of the Rotary Club of Taree since 1973 serving as President in 80/81 then District Governor of D 9650 in 84/85. During his DG year he embraced FAIM activities and since then has logged up 43 trips to PNG, The Solomon Islands and Indonesia.

Professionally Bob was a Tech. College teacher in the building trades becoming Principal of the Taree College. With his Clerk of Works certificate and background Bob had valuable skills to utilise in Rotary projects for international service.

PNG has claimed Bob's principal interest. In 1994 he travelled to Kokoda with an architect to ascertain the potential of building a village hospital. The Director of Australian Veteran Affairs, Air Vice Marshal Alan Heggen was aware of a need to provide a tangible Australian gesture to the local people for their assistance in the New Guinea campaign of WW2. He determined that funding would be made available if Rotary would provide the necessary skills.

Work commenced in 1995 moving to a completion when PM Paul Keating officially opened the hospital in Sept. 1996 in front of a crowd of locals representing some 32 villages throughout the Oro Province.

Trips since that period have been associated with maintenance and the extension of the nurses' quarters.'

Villages close to Kokoda have benefited also from Bob's commitments also in that he has supervised the supply of water to Waju, Sengi and Wairope. Bulolo and Port Moresby hospitals have benefited from Bob's experience.

Beyond PNG, Bob has led teams to Bundung in Indonesia. Hospitals and schools in The Solomons have seen major renovations through his numerous overseas visits.

VILLAGE AIDE PROGRAM

Bill Little Reports

During December Bill visited Cebu to work with local tradesmen on the day care centre at Sitio Crossing. Together they finished recladding the exterior walls with Hardiflex and built a small outdoor stage.

Travelling on to Tibugon on the island of Bohol he participated in a two day medical/dental mission which treated 1000 patients and carried out 90 cases of minor surgery. Village Aide provided all the medicines and meals for the staff.

On to the jail at Lapu Lapu where he investigated a request for the building of a classroom for inmates.

Some 85% of inmates are illiterate needing a place to work. He is returning to The Philippines in May to commence work on this project.

DISTRICT NEWS

D. 9670: East Maitland Primary School is hosting students from PNG for 4 weeks in July/Aug. The local children have raised \$2000 to help support the venture. Two containers of school furniture have already been sent to Nondugl.

Five water tanks are being supplied and installed.

Sewing machines are ready for despatch with a team heading north to help in instruction.

Cessnock Club is holding a PNG International Night with the High Commissioner coming from Canberra.

“The Golden Oldies”, average age 65, have returned from The Philippines. The surgeons attending were 78, 80 and 82 (Good on you Bill).

In Bangladesh, 180 children were viewed for cleft lip and palate anomalies....118 were treated with many being turned away.

D. 9750: Rotarians travelled to Thailand to check on water filtration in poor rural areas. This project has been running for 6 years and is expecting a new Matching Grant soon.

PP. Janice Reid is coordinating the distribution of a \$5000 donation from a Rotarian in the UK directed towards setting up a micro credit project in Nepal. 50 women will be able to purchase either goats or pigs for breeding purposes as well as contributing to the biogas project through animal dung.