



**Rotary
Australia
World
Community
Service**

Nov. 2009

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

LOW ON A HIGH

PDG Danny Low has long been known for his entrepreneurial skill. An expert in South East Asian affairs, he has used his talents to bring material aid and medical resources to needy people in a number of regional countries.

**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

The down turn in the economy has had an affect upon ER. Keeping up all our services is becoming increasingly difficult. RAWCS Ltd. has advised that ER contribution to the national body will be:

\$1750 per district. \$12,250 for admin. and a further \$420 per district...\$2940 for ROAF making our contribution \$15,190.

With only two of our districts paying \$2 per head contribution ER will find it increasingly difficult to meet its commitments.

RAWCS Ltd has been offered 2 large donations from private companies but until the tax deductibility status has been clarified no action can be anticipated.

All Volunteers will be receiving the ER Certificate of Appreciation.

Previously having been recognised by RI for his interest in this part of the world by being appointed to the Extension of Rotary Committee, Danny has now been invited to accept the role as the Special Representative to Vietnam for a 3 year period with the specific purpose of pursuing official registration of Rotary Clubs in that country.

There is no doubting of Danny's long term involvement in this region.

His recent reports of current projects being undertaken in Vietnam and Cambodia not only emphasise the humanitarian aspects of his work but also highlight the passing on of skills to locals to ensure their continuity.

Danny's Vietnam Vision started to take shape in 2003.

Now in its 7th year the program that takes volunteer professional and lay people to work in the villages, has provided over 3500 free cataract replacements.



In 2007 the team extended its work into Cambodia with equal success.

Through the Mosman Club wheel chairs have been donated to elderly people with disabilities since 2004.

This is a follow up program on various other equipment projects using DIK resources and plenty of club muscle power.

Teams make regular trips to Vietnam and Cambodia and would welcome other club members to join them.

SHIP A DESK

With much more information yet to be received, the prospect of RAWCS becoming engaged in this major project is becoming more definite.

The Education Stimulus Package has offered schools options of replacing many items. Whilst negotiations are still being undertaken as to the disposal of current items, RAWCS has been approached to gauge interest in processing shipments of equipment to o/s schools that could benefit from such donations.

The project has been initiated by a private company working through established government guidelines.

It has been estimated that there could be 7000 desks and chairs in the SW Sydney region alone. Suggestions to date include the placement of containers in schools themselves, the use of contract labour to carry out loading and the provision of transport to the docks.

Rotarians would be asked to supervise processes and to provide destinations for shipments.

The suggestions that this project would be ideal for the establishment of sister school relationships with Pacific neighbours could be an added bonus.

Already some of Eastern Region clubs are showing interest in using this project to further develop ties with existing projects.

The alternative to shipping of course, is to consign all items to the local tip.

**Management
Decisions**

1. A recommendation that Accounting Guidelines should be prepared for the assistance of Project Leaders and the Treasurer was accepted.

2. The use of Periodic Detention personnel to assist with warehouse duties has been rejected as it does not comply with Salvation Army policy.

3. Agreement was reached on the preparation of a Standard Letter noting procedures for volunteers travelling to Vanuatu. It is now in use.

4. The adoption of the OH&S Risk Assessment Policy used by the Salvation Army at Michinbury was discussed and accepted.

5. The Funding Fee previously noted is currently being employed.

6. The supply of a Certificate of Thanks to all volunteers is to be discussed at the coming General Meeting.

From the National Board

The Overseas Aid Fund has been found not to be a registered charity. Steps are being undertaken to resolve this so that tax exemption will be available.

Tax deductibility is also being sought for RAWCS projects within Australia. No answers yet.

All Project Volunteer teams are encouraged to have at least one Rotarian included. Professional and non Rotarian teams will be accepted as long as a briefing and training module has been undertaken.

The large amount of school furniture becoming available through the government stimulus package has presented RAWCS with opportunities to ship items thru DIK to needy countries. A MOU is being sought by the Dept of Education with RAWCS to establish guidelines across Australia for efficient processing.

RAWCS Ltd is now on line at www.rawcs.com.au with links to all regions. Check it out.

FOMU MARCHES FORWARD

Sue O'Neill (Kenthurst Club) reports on another highly successful journey to Fomu in the Eastern Highlands of PNG. Accompanied by Judy Richardson, Des Gomez and Lisa Krigas much was achieved in a short time.

"In what seemed like a whirlwind trip we managed to receive on time, unload and distribute a container of educational and hospital items. We unloaded specially designed infant chairs for children with disabilities. These chairs have been a project for Judy and took one year in the making. Last year while working at Goroka Hospital she was able to identify the need for the chairs and rallied support of her club to produce several chairs. It was wonderful to see them put into use immediately.

We set up a community library in Fomu village and helped with planning for 2010. We distributed literacy packs to the students.

I would like to thank sincerely all the clubs, schools and organizations that contributed so many valuable items for the school, hospitals and clinics. Special thanks to Lyn Thorpe, Wendy Stein and Lynn Moore for their huge support."

WAS YOUR CLUB THERE ?

From July through till November 172 volunteers have departed on 33 different teams from Eastern Region and only half the year gone. Eleven countries have benefitted from this tremendous support.

MIRIAM'S MUSINGS

The new forklift is up and running thanks specifically to Howard Grigor.

Keeping track of so many incoming items is an ongoing concern. To assist in the identification of stores, a register is being placed at the front desk to record what is being received, from where it has come and the donor.

An inventory of all items stored in the depot is being established. This will be computerised and maintained regularly.

Special thanks are directed to Noel and Karlene Armstrong (Winston Hills) for constant weekend support and to Allan Grady who seems to anticipate needs and resolves them.

So far this year 5 containers have been despatched overseas with another 5 in the planning.

Please ensure that all items arriving at the depot are in full serviceable condition. Failure to do so means that DIK has to pay the dumping fees.

It is great to see country clubs like Orange Daybreak booking in at Minchinbury for a day's work.

RANFURLY SETTLES IN

Storage space in the new building is at a premium so please cull materials before delivery. Infants, primary and secondary level materials are always needed but adult fiction is not required at the moment. The new building is NO. 501 at Callan Park, entry from Glover Rd. adjacent to Leichhardt Oval. Delivery of more than 10 boxes can be a concern so call 9692 8460. Donations in cash are always most welcome.

SEERING HEAT DOES NOT DELAY PROJECT

Working in temperature from between 45 and 48 degrees at Brahman in PNG members from Kiama, Berry Gerringong, and Sutherland exceeded their expectations and voted that no more teams would be needed to complete the project.

The project entailed installing 6/7 metre steel beam foundation piers, the first stage of an extension to a girls' dormitory building. With the help of a local team of carpenters and the use of specialised equipment, the team set out to install beams and joists, fit a temporary floor and set everything up right. Further progress will be limited by the lack of suitable timber.

A survey was taken of a destroyed suspension bridge with specifications noted for its rebuilding. Discussions with the local Provincial Governor resulted in approval and funding to directed for the project.

A happy relationship has been established with the local school and Jambaroo. Discussions are underway for an exchange of pupils some time in the future.

CATH LABS BOOST HEALTH RESOURCES

Ron Marcus is ever on the move leaving behind him centre of medical excellence and many grateful people. He reports on the successful commissioning of another Cath Lab in Fiji, already under way and diagnosing patients. He has organised the hand over to the Fijian authorities thus absolving further involvement from Rotary. In Shastin Hospital, Mongolia he is planning to upgrade the facilities that were installed back in 2003. Other suitable units are being sourced for future placements.

D.9680 PROFILE

Miriam Jacka Reports

The Aceh Project is still a major project with the Turramurra Club.

A medical dispensary at Hog Harbour on Santo is the current project being undertaken by Kenthurst Club. Their attention is also turning to a new project in PNG

Rotohomes in Fiji continues to involve Brookvale.

Health and Education projects in Fiji and Dental clinics in East Timor have been undertaken by members of Dee Why/Warringah.

Some 132 Shelter Boxes have been purchased by district clubs over the past year.

Across the district Volunteer teams have made a great showing. 51 Rotarians have volunteered for work in Indonesia, Fiji, Vanuatu, P N G and East Timor.