

International Seminar at the SAN, Sunday 21st September

I only went to the International Seminar to support my friend and great Rotarian Theo Glockemann, and was joined by Ryde Rotarians Artin and Nora Etmekdjian and Rtn Erdem Toner. Somewhat to my surprise I learned a lot about International Projects, and thought I would share them as bullet points:

- Don't send containers to South East Asia. A container containing \$11,000 worth of dental supplies for a Rotary Project was held on the wharf, awaiting a \$40,000 bribe to officials to release it. This is not an isolated incident, it is standard practice throughout the region. RAWCS eventually abandoned the container rather than pay the bribes. Buy the supplies locally; that also helps local businesses.
- I finally get RAWCS (Rotary Australia World Community Service) - it provides Tax deductibility for corporate and private donors to International projects through their Rotary Overseas Aid Foundation. They can also provide local contacts and advice for every country they have worked in.
- RABS - Rotary Australia Benevolent Society does the same for projects within Australia. Both have criteria; which can be easily complied with.
- RAWCS and the Rotary Foundation can work together for any International Project, to give Tax deductibility and matching Grants. We should use them both.
- Each Zone in our District has a TRF Zone Coordinator whose role is to assist our Foundation Director to qualify for Matching Grants.
- Clubs should update the District Website with our current Projects, otherwise Theo cannot know what clubs are doing.
- Donations in Kind is run by DIK Head PDG Keith Roffey, who is more enthusiastic about their work than the acronym!
- Grants from DFAT or TRF require that the correct forms are filled in correctly, that auditable records are kept and that required reports are submitted afterwards: in other words they require us to be good corporate NGO citizens. TRF Zone Coordinators can assist with the paperwork.