



RAWCS ROVER

**Rotary
Australia World
Community
Service**

March. 2014

**LINKING EASTERN REGION CLUBS IN
9650, 9670, 9675, 9685, 9700, 9710**

What Difference Does Change Make?

Time marches on bringing changes to our ways of life. Can we change with it or must we just let it roll over us and try to live in the past? Most of ER Rotarians will know that change has brought about the need to consolidate resources as club membership fluctuates. Lost club charters and fewer members have impacted upon our region bringing on the need to re district forming new alliances and reorganising opportunities. So how has it altered the way that RAWCS thinks? Has it caused concerns and changed our outlook?

EASTERN REGION EXECUTIVE COMM

Chairman Harry Durey	9650
Secretary Ted Lewis	9670
Treasurer Jack Elliott	9675
DIK: Co-Ord. Miriam Jacka	9685
Project Regist. Lloyd Chatfield	9675
Vol.Proj.Co-Ord Karen Wyers	9675
RAM Co-ord. John Bennetts	9670
Webmaster Brian Goldstraw	9710
Newsletter Barry McConville	9675

HARRY'S HERALDING

You can join the RI Convention Team by registering as a volunteer for the RAWCS stand.

The National Committee has asked assistance for the stand from 31 May till 4 June.

Four volunteers per shift are required, dates and times to fit in with their movements.

Call Geoff Ellershaw on geoffellershaw@optusnet.com.au

Three ER districts have been consolidated into two bringing change to the personnel and program offered. It has opened up new avenues and caused consultation on others. Time will decide advantages and disappointments but the important issue is that our endeavours are intact and that service is still our mission.

How does RAWCS fit into this consolidation? To the majority of participating districts there is no change. To the "three into two" situation maybe a name or two changes but they do each year in any case.

The fact that most RAWCS projects are initiated from the club level has little effect upon what district may consider relevant. So the programs still operate in much the same way but can have a broader call for possible volunteers.

A case in point could be made from the recent report of activities in the newly formed District 9675. The projects are still active and offering much credibility to the clubs themselves.

Burwood Club notes its Gingoog Community Enterprise which aims at starting up ongoing local businesses. Four such activities have been commenced from initial loans employing over 15 people. The excitement generated has already encouraged others to undertake business enterprises for themselves.

Burwood has also offered support to 6 students to attend university and has further contributed both financially and physically to build houses for the needy. Their Sew Aid program has provided work for at least 27 women thanks to tuition and material supply. Thanks to such support the women involved are working on bags for the coming International RI Convention coming to Sydney in June.

Illawarra Sunrise, sharing projects with the Seaton Club in the UK, has a project of community support at Bacolod in The Philippines. They have shared resources by providing of two teams offering medical assistance and building expertise.

Liverpool West Club is focused on Cambodia with food, clothing, medical supplies and sponsorship for 5 orphans. Also organized is a visiting teacher scheme to assist both pupils and the local staffs.

Sydney Club set up a program, Vision Blue which has gone on to establish itself as a charity in its own right. Free eye surgery and medical aid is provided. Its Opportunity Cambodia project aims to support poor, neglected children, sewing lessons and materials for women, along with mosquito netting and clean water supplies.

Ingleburn Club has a School and Literacy Project having built a double classroom, library and supplied books.

HERE AND THERE

1. Our Region can be justly proud of its position in the overall national scene. Yes we process more teams, allocate vast financial support and deal with countries well beyond our sphere of influence. But we also have people working at the national level that make policy and control development. John Roberson has been the National Projects Manager for several years having served in the same role in ER for a considerable time as well. Now we can say welcome to Keith Roffey, IPDG of District 9690 as he steps up to take over the role of National Donations in Kind Management. We are in good hands and look forward to strong support in the years ahead.

2. Whether it is climate change, world warming or abnormal weather patterns, we will always be challenged with people in distress. Somewhere around the world there will always be groups of devastated people requiring assistance from those less affected.

RAWCS Philippines Disaster Response Accomplishment



In a full and most comprehensive report Grace Maano tells of the extensive work carried out after the catastrophic storms in the Philippines. She includes all financial data, lists of donors, letters of appreciation and a proposed budget for intended work at a later date as well as a graphic newsletter carrying pictures of teams at work

Nov 13-20, 2014 along with French Disaster Team:
4 cities and 5 clinics visited, 834 victims treated in Leyte
2 units of purification commissioning (Quinapondan and Barugo)

6 solar batteries donated to Barugo Leyte

8 tents, sleeping bags, 3 trunks filled with medicines,
one box of food offered at the RTR hospital in Leyte

Nov 15 up to present in coordination with Rotary Club
of Mactan:

\$5,000 AUD from RC Hall supported AFP medical centre
with medicines, equipment, generator,

\$25,000 AUD from DAK Foundation bought relief goods,
Medical supplies, equipment, generator,

tents to Barugo, Tunga, Carigara, San Joaquin Palo,
EVRMC and RTR Hospitals in Leyte

\$1,500 AUD funding support and several boxes of relief
goods sent from Australia and from Care and Share

Army Australia (CASA) sent to Barugo Leyte.

Grace adds the following note of appreciation to all those involved.

“On behalf of all beneficiaries of the Hope and Health Aid Program, our sincerest thanks goes to all people who supported and continue to support in one way or another.”

Worth Considering

We are all very much aware of the tremendous value of our Donations in Kind program. By receiving and shipping of needed items to ports around the world we are more than just achieving our International commitments but are offering a truly valued service to deprived communities. But are we missing something here? Could it be that there are similarly communities in Australia that are in similar situations needing support equally? At present the charter of DIK limits the supply of equipment to overseas destinations even though there are regular requests to send items inland. But needs are needs.

Pink Umbrella Foundation

RAWCS support from the Pink Umbrella Association has resulted in some long term and outstanding flow on for various projects from clubs across ER.

This Private Ancillary Fund has been offering financial assistance over many months now, these grants being directed to Rotary Club projects adjudged as being worthy of the monetary value offered.

Projects must be RAWCS registered. The most recent funding was presented to awardees at the General Meeting of RAWCS at Mittagong. The recipient must be present to receive the grant.

Judging is carried out by representatives from the Foundation in cooperation with a RAWCS nominee.

There is a required application form requiring a brief description (approx 200-250 words) available from your District Chair.

DISTRICT 9700 EYE CAMP REPORT..... Alan Chesworth

“From Darkness to Light” is the fully funded Project of the RC of Wagga Wagga. The Club’s fourth Eye Camp was held from 15/17 November to help restore vision of the very poor people of the Tumuna Nagar District in northern India. The fantastic team of 14 people from 6 District clubs enjoyed the exhilarating experience along with the pre and post tours of some Indian attractions.

The camp was attended by 2,200 people enabling 334 cataract operation, 471 glasses prescriptions as well as medications to be offered.