

## News Update | Summer 2018

Welcome to this Summer Newsletter. Whilst Australia has been on holidays, Disaster Aid Australia has been hard at work. Our Disaster Aid Response Team (DARTs) have been busy in Mexico, Philippines, Bhutan, Nepal and we are currently assisting in Bali.

Lots of other Disaster Aid updates are included - take note of Disaster Aid Australia's Conference early May. *Please book soon as numbers are limited.*

### Philippines Tropical Storm Tembin

Just days after mudslides caused by tropical storm Kai-Tak left dozens of people dead in central Philippines a new storm, Tembin battered the Mindanao Region on 21st December 2017.

The storm hit with sustained winds of 100 km/h and gusts up to 150 km/h.

By 28th December, following an initial reconnaissance, two Balay Mindanaw Dream Teams began the work of installing Disaster Aid SkyHydrants™ in Barangay Dalama in Tubod and Barangay Mindalano in Salvador.



One of the teams at the Lanao del Norte Incident Command Post can be seen loading up their transport.

By the end of the day both units were installed and providing safe water to the residents of the two Barangays.

Subsequently, DART Dave Tuzurski travelled to the Philippines with additional SkyHydrants™ to enable Balay Mindaw to assist additional Barangays.

### Chiapas Earthquake Response Update

Australian DART members Helene Bo Morse, Peter Newton and Di Holland have been busy working in Chiapas late 2017.

#### HOUSING

Disaster Aid have been helping local people build back better by providing materials including steel reinforcing to make new houses much more resistant to earthquakes, at just over \$1,000 per household.



#### CHIAPAS HOSPITAL

A triple SkyHydrant™ unit at the Chiapas Hospital has been installed.

After testing by Mexican Authorities the water has been approved as suitable for consumption.

This will result in considerable savings to the local hospital which has previously had to rely on daily purchases of bottled water.

#### SCHOOL

The Ignacio Zaragoza Primary School has been re-opened following repairs to damaged classrooms.



#### SkyHydrant™ INSTALLED AT NUEVA PALESTINA

Nueva Palastina had been identified by our hosts the Rotary Club of Gutierrez as needing assistance in obtaining access to safe water.

The town has a population of 8,691 persons, including 4,990 children living in 1,952 dwellings.

Almost all of the local population are indigenous with 34% of the population speaking one of many the indigenous languages, but not Spanish.



## Mount Agung Evacuees, Bali

Although the Volcanic eruption of Mount Agung in Bali has dropped from the International News many Balinese people are still severely affected.

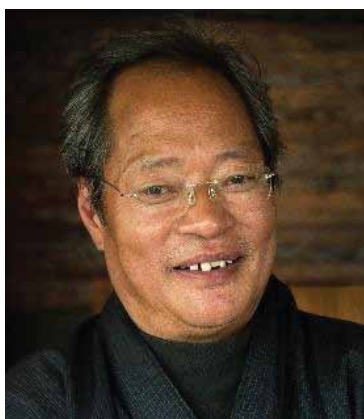
Currently there are 19 camps for evacuees from towns close to the Volcano that need to be supplied with food and bottled water.

**Disaster Aid Australia** has agreed to help the [East Bali Poverty Project](#) with their vital humanitarian aid to refugees from the volcanic eruption.

Two of our Disaster Aid Response Team (DARTs) will be flying to Bali with SkyHydrants™ in February to provide safe drinking water to four of the camps.



## Two of our Conference Speakers



### Yeshey Dorji - of the Rotary Club of Thimphu

Yeshey Dorji and the Bhutan Toilet Organisation (BTO) have been instrumental in supporting Disaster Aid Australia's project providing safe drinking water to communities in Bhutan.

Yeshey's early career has included the Bank of Bhutan, the Export Division of the Ministry in Trade.

He became Bhutan's first importer of computers in 1986 and started the first desktop publishing business in the country.

In 1999 he set up the first private website on the newly established internet service.

In early 2004 he gave up all business activities to focus on his highly successful photography career.



### Daniel 'Dan' Collins - A four times Australian Olympian.

Dan competed in the K-2, 500m sprint canoe event with a silver medal in 2000 and a bronze in 1996.

As a successful elite sportsman, now a management consultant, he is obsessed with taking that which is average and turning it into a winning culture.

This includes partnering with people to implement the right programs where extraordinary results are inevitable and delivering skills and insight to achieve goals to live out values.

**Make sure you Register Today!**

## Keep up to date on the Web

For up to date news about Disaster Aid why not visit [www.disasteraidinternational.com](http://www.disasteraidinternational.com) we regularly post news items, at least once a week.

You can also see videos of our DART's talking about their experiences, as well as finding out how a SkyHydrant™ works.

Our facebook site Disaster Aid Australia also has regular items so why not like the site for automatic updates.

Sharing our posts also helps us spread the message about 'Safe water for Every Child' and 'Smart Aid'



## A Message from Bhutan

We recently received a message of thanks from Yeshey Dorji of the Rotary Club of Thimphu

### WATER – GIVER OF LIFE

Our planet earth is sometimes called the Blue Planet – a name derived from the color and abundance of water.

All life forms on earth are sustained by water; it is a life giver, it purifies and is a great source of strength, but it can also cause great destruction.

The most important use of water is for drinking purpose.

Water is central to healthy growth of children and adults alike.

While Bhutan has the highest per capita availability of water in the region, access to clean and safe drinking water is a huge challenge.



Disaster Aid Australia's (DAA) recent partnership with the Rotary Club of Thimphu to augment its efforts to deliver safe and filtered water to schoolchildren in rural Bhutan is a welcome intervention.

Five SkyHydrants™ have already been installed in five schools spread across the country.

It is our hope that DAA will continue to contribute towards the Rotary Club of Thimphu's ongoing endeavors to safeguard the health of school children in rural Bhutan.

Thanks is also being offered to Andrew Gunn and Phillip Gribble, the DAA Members who travelled difficult terrain to install these systems.

## Ban Chaikuan, Police Border School

Disaster Aid Malaysia have been busy working toward improving the water supply to the Ban Chaikuan Police Border School.

This 'Safe Water for Every Child' project involved replacing existing non functional equipment with a compact SkyHydrant™ GEM unit.

The project also involved re-purposing their clean water dispenser, tank and pump to work with the new SkyHydrant™.



## Report from Green Gecko

We have just received an update on a SkyHydrant™ installed through the Green Gecko Project in Cambodia.

The SkyHydrant™ was supported by generous Rotary donations.

This unit has now been installed for several months and is working well with the maintenance program being adhered to.

It supplies hundreds of litres of fresh drinking water to the children and their families every day.

The children love the drinking taps and it encourages them to drink more water.

Green Gecko Project supports former street children and their families in Siem Reap, Cambodia.





# Disaster Aid Conference 2018

## Sat 5th - Sun 6th May

Hosted by the Rotary Club of Endeavour Hills – District 9820  
at the Dandenong Club, Corner Stud and Heatherton Roads, Dandenong 3175

**The Board of Disaster Aid Australia extends an invitation to attend our Annual Conference. It is a great opportunity to:**

- meet the directors, staff, volunteers (including our Disaster Aid Response Team members – DARTs – who will give some “in field” reports) and fellow Rotarians;
- be updated on our activities around the world, and our vision.
- see demonstrations and illustrations of our aid items, the SkyHydrant™, Sawyer filters, and Smart Aid;
- Find out how to become a DAA supporter or volunteer.

**You will need to pay for:**

Own transport to Melbourne and a \$100 registration charge.

**DAA will provide**

Meals and refreshments from Saturday through to a light lunch on Sunday, plus transfers from and to Melbourne (Tullamarine) airport. Interstate and regional Vic visitors may also receive accommodation.

Can't make the conference?  
Come along Saturday night (\$40 per head)

**Join us?**

Registration on Disaster Aid website.  
[www.disasteraidinternational.com/news/news.html](http://www.disasteraidinternational.com/news/news.html)

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE

**Yeshey Dorji** - Of the Rotary Club of Thimphu

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This includes partnering with people to implement the right programs where extraordinary results are inevitable, and delivering skills and insight to achieve goals and live out values.

"It's the feeling of looking back on what you've achieved as a leader and a team collective, as well as reaping the benefits of success."



**For the delegates coming from a distance, arrival on Friday the 4th May will include an invitation to a meet and greet gathering at the Dandenong Club for an evening meal in the bistro (at your expense).**

**WE ARE A ROTARY CLUB PROJECT THAT REALLY IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

**For further information email:**

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