

News Update | Autumn 2016

We respond to the devastation of Cyclone Winston in Fiji * Return to Vanuatu and to the Philippines * Attend a Rotary 'project' event in Colombia, SA * Launch *Disaster Aid Taiwan* ... and much more.

These News Updates are now prepared on a quarterly (seasonal) basis. Please remember that we also have regular editorial commentary in *Rotary Down Under*, news items on www.disasteraidaustralia.org.au as well as updates and comments on our Facebook page.

OUR RESPONSE TO CYCLONE WINSTON IN FIJI

Cyclone Winston in Fiji was "off the scale" as we all know. After an assessment, we soon had volunteer DARTs deployed in the affected areas: **Peter Hazel** (UK and Team Leader), **Wayne Beaumier** (USA), **Howard Bradfield** (Australia), **Steve Lister** and **Craig Roberts** (UK). They worked closely with local Rotarians and villagers; a vital aspect of our work.

Our response to the horrific event included provision of Home Repair Kits to nine villages. All materials were purchased locally, with Fijian Rotarians negotiating excellent prices for timber, galvanized iron and tools.

DART **Peter Hazel**, in his report from Fiji, says it all: "without wishing to blow our own trumpet, we are the *go-to* NGO for government officials; we are the only NGO stating its clear intentions, our area of operation and skill sets and providing exactly what is being requested by those in need.

"And, working with Rotarians has made all the difference."



Disaster Aid International was one of the first NGOs to become a member of **Shelter Cluster Fiji**, the Coordinator of Humanitarian Shelter following *Cyclone Winston*. It is part of the **Fiji Ministry of Local Government, Housing & Environment** and is under the auspices of the **United Nations**.



DAI's Craig Roberts at a meeting of Shelter Cluster Fiji

Thanks for supporting our appeal to assist us in Fiji: as always, we are there for 'the long haul'.

If you can help our ongoing humanitarian efforts there, and elsewhere, it will be *greatly* appreciated.

Please go to:

www.disasteraidaustralia.org.au

WE CONTINUE TO ASSIST IN VANUATU



Dianne at one of the houses

Dianne Holland (volunteer DART from Vic.) returned in February to assist with the ongoing construction of houses using timber milled from a sawmill rebuilt with **Disaster Aid** funds after *Cyclone Pam* last year. DART **Jenny Geer** (Vic.) also worked with us in Vanuatu recently.

As part of our commitment to the Vanuatu community, **Disaster Aid** also provided 74 *Sawyer* water filtration units for use in maternity wards and the Health Centre in Ambae.



Jenny demonstrates the Sawyer filter



A Sawyer water filter in use at the Health Centre

OUR WORK GOES ON IN THE PHILIPPINES

In the Philippines, we continue to deliver aid, primarily life-saving Australian designed and made **SkyHydrant™** water filtration systems. We have worked with our in-country partner and NGO, **The Balay Mindanaw Foundation** since 2010, and the provision of clean, safe drinking water remains an imperative for both our organisations.

⌘ **A CHILD WITHOUT CLEAN SAFE WATER IS A DISASTER.**

And in Manila, **Rhett Butler AM**, the Chairman of the Australian **SkyJuice Foundation™** and **David Langworthy**, Chairman of **Disaster Aid International** attended the Rotary Presidential **WASH** (Water Sanitation + Hygiene) Conference with some 800 Filipino Rotarians.



TAIWAN JOINS THE DISASTER AID GLOBAL TEAM



Australian Rotarian Bo Morse (centre) with Taiwan Rotarians at the launch of Disaster Aid Taiwan

Disaster Aid Taiwan is in the formative stages following a visit to our booth at the RI Convention in São Paulo last year. Informal meetings in Brisbane led to DAI Board member **Helene Bo Morse** attending the D3460 PETS in Taichung, Taiwan (107 clubs). District Rotary leaders recognise the opportunity of building this global project, especially the water projects. In July 2017, D3460 will become D3461 and D3462. Two clubs from each are accepting responsibility of building this project in Taiwan.



DAI IN CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA, SOUTH AMERICA



An invitation to attend this **Rotary Projects Fair** (D4271 and D4281) in **Cartagena**, the port city on Colombia's Caribbean coast, was extended by senior Colombian Rotarians who visited the **Disaster Aid International** booth at the RI Convention in São Paulo last year.

David Langworthy (DAI Chairman, Aust.) and **William Sommerville** (DANZ Director, Wellington, NZ) attended.

From the strong interest shown in what DAI is doing, firstly in São Paulo and then at the Rotary Projects Fair in Cartagena, the Rotarians in Colombia are working to obtain a Foundation Grant to install Australian *SkyHydrant*™ water filtration systems in 79 rural schools. The RC **Bogotá Teusaquillo** has been asked to manage this project which has an initial value of US\$170,000.



David Langworthy and **William Sommerville** (who lived in Venezuela for some years and is fluent in Spanish) are excited by the interest in DAI at the **Rotary Projects Fair** and are confident of an ongoing relationship – especially with safe water projects – with fellow Rotarians in that part of South America.

L-R: William, Raul and Diego (RC Bogotá Teusaquillo), David and a visitor.

The **Rotary Projects Fair**, a uniquely Central American annual event, was a first for Colombia. Rotary Clubs are invited to showcase their projects to other Rotary Clubs, with Rotarians from other countries, particularly the USA invited to attend. At this one, there were 60 Rotary Clubs attending, with international visitors from the USA, Spain and of course Australia and New Zealand. And the number of projects? ... 187! **Well done David and William – Ed.**

OTHER NEWS SNIPPETS

- Firstly, some Board changes at **Disaster Aid Australia** (DAA). Long-serving Board members, **Geoff Brown** and **Brian Crews** (both members of RC Endeavour Hills) have stepped down, with DAA Chairman **Bob Powell** paying tribute to their highly valued and active commitment over many years. DARTs **Dave Tuzewski** (SA) and **Helene Bo Morse** (Qld) have recently been appointed and welcomed to the Board of DAA.
- In January a busy group of twelve people (mostly from RC Endeavour Hills) packed a 40 ft container with a collection of goods kindly offered to us by Rotary's **Donations-in-Kind** for our use internationally. The goods have been gratefully received by **The Balay Mindanaw Foundation**, an NGO in the Philippines who partners with DAI in that country.
- **DAA** has been represented at District Conferences. **D9820** in **Wangaratta** and **D9790** in **Bendigo** on 27-28 February; **D9685** in **Canberra** on 11-12 March; **D9500** in **Barossa**, SA and **D9465** in **Bunbury**, WA on 17-20 March, and, coming up, **D9520** in **Renmark** on 28 April-1 May. And DAA was represented at the **RC Chadstone/East Malvern Fun Day** (by Office Manager **Jan Burney**) at *Central Park*, Malvern East on 20 March.
- Finally, **DAI** is pleased to report that **Creative Cooperative Banepa** in **Nepal** has been providing blankets to needy persons, a **project sponsored by DAI** earlier this year. Our commitment to help in Nepal is ongoing, and more details will be in a future News Update.

DES WATTS ... *almost* home

In early February, **Des Watts**, from Berri SA, set out to travel the eastern part of Australia – as far north as Cairns – to visit as many Rotary clubs as he could (some 40) to promote the work of **Disaster Aid International**.

Des will conclude this extensive, selfless journey with a special, '**WELCOME HOME DES**' at the meeting of the **RC Endeavour Hills** (D9820 Vic.) on **14 April**. A report of his travels will be in the *next* News Update.

The vehicle used by Des was kindly loaned by a member of the RC Endeavour Hills



A NOTE FROM JAN BURNEY AT THE DAA OFFICE



"Do we have *your* email address?"

Although we make the job a lot of fun, please take the time to let us know your email address so that we may send the News Updates etc. to you electronically.

DAA volunteers, Carmen Powell and Shelley Stewart helping with mail-outs and records.



Will you please help support the work of Disaster Aid Australia?

It is a Rotary Club project that really is ... *making a difference.*

Do you have a question, a comment, or need information about items in this News Update?

Office Jan Burney
 admin@disasteraidaustralia.org.au
 1300 881 913

Editor PDG Ray Stewart
 rstewart@westnet.com.au



An **Australian Rotary Club Project**, with international associates in Rotary Clubs in Malaysia, New Zealand, Taiwan, UK & Ireland, and the USA.

Please look for news on our website: www.disasteraidaustralia.org.au



<https://www.facebook.com/disasteraidaustralia>



Patron
Max Walker AM

