



RAWCS Rover January 2020

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The Rover aims to support our project teams to form, learn, grow, succeed, share, collaborate and inspire each other.

We hope that you can join us in Mittagong for our February networking weekend.

Included in this newsletter are notes and photos from a couple of the excellent project presentations at the last meeting, and some preliminary feedback from the first completed "Achievement Inventories".

If your project has not reported yet, please do it now!

Here is the link to the page where you can [download it](#).

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You are invited



to the RAWCS Eastern Region meeting to be held on the weekend of 16th and 17th February 2020 at the RSL club in Bessemer St in Mittagong.

On Saturday afternoon, there will be presentations about RAWCS Logistics and an update on matters referred to RAWCS National, and Disaster Relief. There will be an hour dedicated to answering any queries which are sent to [John Macpherson](#), with a brief background, by Friday 7th February.

There will be a couple of free hours to mingle with fellow RAWCS project people. If you bring items to sell or show from your project, this is a good time for people to take an interest.

The dinner speaker is Dr Alfred Chidembo, from Aussie Books for Zimbabwe. Dinner costs \$45 and morning and afternoon teas are provided.

On Sunday morning there will be the General Meeting of RAWCS Eastern Region with committee member reports, Morning Tea and the “Have your say” session from all attendees.

You can start for home at 11 am or stay to listen to the Management Meeting for Eastern Region Management Committee. Places to stay can be explored [here](#). The closest motel is [Mineral Springs Motel](#).

A Word from the Chair

Mittagong sees us in our fire ravaged southern tablelands – John won't let his stop him and the show goes on – please encourage support for the weekend and come along for a fabulous weekend with RAWCS – the flagship of international and national service in Rotary – the reason most people are attracted to us.

There is currently the National Bushfire Appeal managed by the District Governors and some 9 other local projects that were registered prior. There will be no more projects registered and our DG's will be responsible for allocation of funds to the clubs at the coalface. Donors have the opportunity to either donate to the local funds, or the National fund and include a 'Comment' as to their desired distribution. This comment will be conveyed to the relevant DG for distribution. To date (20 Jan) over \$500k

This appeal has once again raised questions over the application of the 2.75% Administration fee; quite simply without the fee there would be no RAWCS, just as without our Membership dues there would be no Rotary, RDU or Districts. The application of the 2.75% fee is measurably the lowest in Australia, and one that is disclosed up front and prior to the donor agreeing to the transaction; a disclosure benchmark not apparent with any other NFP or charity that can be identified off hand – some of which have administration fees of 30% or more!

This fee is necessary to function with overheads such as the back end systems and processes by way of support services to all Australian Rotary Clubs for project accounting, management, regulatory compliance, volunteer registration and communications and marketing provide by RAWCS. The company delivers these services through nationally consistent systems in line with the ethical behaviour and values of Rotary international.

Most importantly, donors, members, clubs and Districts can be assured that RAWCS systems provide full disclosure and transparency through well documented governance, comprehensive, and costly, audit and quality assurance, acknowledged by the likes of the ACNC.

Members, clubs and Districts engaged in fundraising are reminded to ensure that they promote that it is RAWCS offering tax deductibility – not them, unless they hold the appropriate DGR status. Also, please do not promote that 100% of funds raised is going to victims, (unless you are making up the shortfall), as the 2.75% admin fee is taken out prior to allocation. However, you **CAN** say that 100% is going to **the fund**. To comply with charitable fundraising guidelines the correct name for the relevant fund should be used, along with current Rotary Masterbrand and RAWCS logo to identify our registered organisation.

At the recent RAWCS Planning weekend, training was identified as an area we need to be more active in as Region Coordinators and District Chairs. We have an abundant resource of project managers and members, Clubs and Districts with compelling stories of national and international humanitarian service achievements made possible through RAWCS. We need members to champion these at Club and District events where you may be a guest speaker. Clubs unfamiliar with our impact will certainly be impressed with what we can do locally, while District Governors as the members of RAWCS are committed to our sustainability.

Lets look forward to showcasing our efforts at Mittagong and then in my own neighbourhood at Port Stephens in May.

Brian Coffey, Eastern Region RAWCS Chair

Tracking Our Achievements

Thank you to those project managers and deputies who promptly completed their project statistics on our recent "Achievement Inventory".

If you haven't done it yet please download it [from our page](#). Fill in your numbers as well as you can, estimating if necessary, add your details, scan and email it in, or put it in an envelope and post it.

The inventory is very important for raising the profile of RAWCS in the Australian community and thus encouraging both volunteering and financial support for the important work that RAWCS does in the world.

The full value of the Inventory will not be available until all our 500+ projects share their input, but even the reports received so far add up to some impressive figures.

The first 10 responders reported (amongst other things) donation of:

635 major pieces of medical equipment and **253** hospital beds.

22 500 books and **8000** exercise books.

Over **3 million dollars** worth of small medical and dental equipment.

83 new rooms in hospitals, educational institutions, community workshops and shelters...

in the last year.

Is our total impact 50 times as much?

Or are we doing more of other things that did not even make the list for these particular 10 projects?



Is our impact constant over the years, waxing or waning?

We will only know if we cooperate in collecting the data!

Please make sure that someone in your team sends in your numbers.

Penny Vos
Eastern Region Communications

Where RAWCS works:

Afghanistan	Papua New Guinea
Australia	Peru
Bangladesh	Philippines
Bolivia	Samoa
Cambodia	Sierra Leone
Cameroon	Solomon Islands
China	Somalia
Colombia	South Africa
Ethiopia	South Sudan
Fiji	Sri Lanka
Ghana	Syria
Honduras	Tanzania
India	Thailand
Indonesia	The Democratic Republic of the Congo
Kenya	Timor-Leste
Kenya	Tonga
Laos	Uganda
Madagascar	Ukraine
Malawi	Vanuatu
Malaysia	Vietnam
Mongolia	Zambia
Myanmar	Zimbabwe
Nepal	



At Baler Aurore in Quezon Province from 13th to 20th February next year and at San Jacinta Pangasinan from 20th April till 1st May next year, it is expected there will be up to 50 volunteers for the missions and volunteers are encouraged to apply to go.

Nelma said the missions lacked money and the Philippines Government was not helping. In the last 10 years, a total of \$80,000 had been spent on the Caluya project., the equivalent of one dollar per patient!

(Thanks to Malcolm Brown for this report)

The Caluya Medical Mission

Nelma Galas is a nurse and midwife, and member of the Rotary Club of Castle Hill.

Nelma gave a presentation, at the Oberon meeting, about Project 44/2009-10, on Caluya Island in the Philippines.

The project is supported by the Rotary Club of Blacktown City, the Philippines Health Association Australia and a Philippines-based charity foundation.

The project provides fee medical consultation, dental extractions, minor surgery, health education and nutrition training, basic life support, first aid and obstetrics emergencies for a population of 45,000.

The health professionals screen for cataract surgery and do ultrasound training, issue glaucoma kits and provide diabetes treatment.

Nelma said the area had suffered terribly from the cholera epidemic in 1902 (which wiped out most of the population), a typhoon in 1908, a massacre by the Japanese in World War 2 and famine in 2014.

However, things were now moving on, both at Caluya and elsewhere in the Philippines.



HEERA Helps

Ever considered sending a container to your project?

In New South Wales, approximately \$350 million worth of hospital and health equipment goes to landfill each year and our educational institutions also dispose of significant quantities of useable materials.

Health & Education Equipment Repurposing Activity (HEERA) sends goods valued at around \$10 million overseas every year, in an average of 200 containers.

For more information on HEERA please contact KEITH ROFFEY
e: keithroffey@bigpond.com m: 0419 046 688

The Meru Project, Kenya



Father Jason Nyiri is from the Rotary Club of Meru, in a remote region of Kenya, which has a project (52/2007-08) dedicated to providing infrastructure, water and food for the local peasant farmers who work the slopes of Mt Kenya.

Between 150 and 200 very poor families were totally at the mercy of unreliable rains. The farmers had no tractors and few tools. Many children suffered from malnutrition due to lack of variation in their diet and not enough to eat.

Jason was ordained a Catholic priest in 1992 and became a Rotarian in January 2007, after meeting an Australian Rotarian on a hospital building project in Kenya.

The Meru Project has received a \$US80,000 Rotary International global grant as well as \$US12,800 from Rotary International and an \$11,000 grant from local Rotary District, 9212. The money was used for:

- Clothing, education and welfare of the young people.
- Acquisition of milking cows and goats to supplement local nutrition, especially for children.
- Production of maize and bananas.
- Purchase of a tractor and multiple accessories.
- Hay storage for the dry season.
- Liberating children from farm work so that they can attend school.

“We want to improve the food supply for years to come,” Fr Jason said.

One of the students was now attending medical school, where without the opportunities provided by the project, he would not have had a chance.

\$US40,000 is sought for the next phase of the project.

(Thanks to Malcolm Brown for the notes for this report).

Rotarians Against Malaria

The global decline of Malaria is an encouraging reminder to us all that the sum of small efforts over time can have a huge impact of human lives.

The dangerous red parts of the world are shrinking as people of good will apply science, technology, good sense and diligence to the challenge.



Stay in Touch

Got a Question or Suggestion?

You can find the right person to ask here:

[Eastern Region Contacts List](#)

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[HEERA/DIK](#)

[RAM on Facebook](#)

[DIK on Facebook](#)

The page one photo this month is from Aussie Bangla Smile in Bangladesh.

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