

Off to Africa

Our team is heading to Uganda in June as part of Rotary Club of Woy Woy's Vocational Training Team project.

The purpose of the visit is to facilitate care advancement, networking and training opportunities for medical professionals working specifically with delivery of care to HIV+ clients.

On the trip will be Di Schwarzl, Joan Redmond and Sue O'Neill from the club along with Dr Debbie Allen (Central Coast District Medical Director of HIV and Related Programs) and Michael Williamson (Sexual Health Clinical Nurse Specialist) from the Holden Street Clinic, a centre of excellence for sexual health care here on the Central Coast.

We will visit several projects our club supports in Uganda including Alive Medical Services (AMS) in Kampala. AMS serves 16,000 HIV+ clients. Dr Debbie and Michael will be able to witness activities in a high volume sexual health clinic and offer advice and support as well as learn from the team at AMS.

We will visit "Pure Joy", the tailoring workshop sponsored by our club that Di and Joan recently facilitated the setup of. We will visit several schools including Walukuba West primary school for day and boarding students that has many students with disabilities. We



Dr Debbie Allen, Michael Williamson and Sue O'Neill at the Holden Street Clinic

recently sent funds to construct a kitchen at Walukuba West Primary School, so we will see the completed building. We will also see some teachers houses funded through our RAWCS project at Luwero, which are now completed and occupied.

We will visit a project of the e-Club of Greater Sydney, "School for Life" who are opening their 2nd school campus in Mpigi District and we will be a part of the celebration. And we've scheduled some leisure time too with a weekend at Murchison Falls made famous as the backdrop of that wonderful Humphrey Bogart movie, African Queen.

We hope to have Dr Debbie and Michael as guest speakers following their visit. The VTT members from AMS were chosen during our visit to Uganda in August last year. All going well, they will complete their exchange to Australia in November.

[Sue O'Neill | RAWCS Eastern Region project registration officer Rotary Club of Woy Woy](#)
4 April 2017



Pure Joy tailoring workshop, Jinja



SfL new building under construction, Mbazzi Riverside School, Mpigi District



Below: AMS celebrating 10 years serving the community
Left: AMS Clinic, Kampala

'Pure Joy' shows positive results

Community Sewing Workshop, Jinja UGANDA

Less than a month after funding was received from our club, project Pure Joy is up and running with strong support from the local community.

Below is the first report from the Project Managers...

We have a well established workshop, through funding from the Rotary Club of Woy Woy's RAWCS [Rotary Australia World Community Service] project which donated USD 2,947, equivalent to 9,429,000 Ugandan Shillings, to Pure Joy.

Out of these funds, we were able to procure two tailoring machines, one over locker, fabric materials, scissors, tape measures, press button, studs and a stud machine, ribbon rolls towels, plastic bags, knickers, flat iron, working table, bench and threads. Corn threads packing suit case, beads, and chairs (tailoring seats) are all installed in the workshop.

We enrolled women to join in the production making of the sanitary pads. We have an instructor to help the women attain the tailoring skills and making super amazing re-usable sanitary towels for the girl child.

As well as developing new skills, we have observed emotional and psychological improvements for all involved during implementation of the workshop including high self esteem and expression, positive attitude towards initiating new ideas, and active participation in group processes. Community spirit has bonded us more through the workshop and schools in which we do these activities.

The project intends to reduce the rate of high school dropout caused by lack of proper sanitary products for the big girls that have reached this menstrual stage, by allowing them to freely be at school all the time, even during their menstrual period, and improve on their



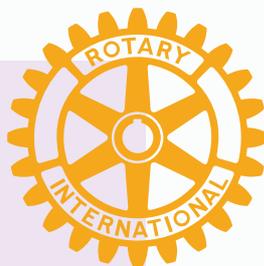
academic performance. The project's training programs also helps to promote life skills to the children in the targeted partner school, Walukuba West Primary School.

We plan to do more marketing strategies for Pure Joy's products, since we aim at project sustainability. We also aim to increase production to meet the need and growing demand overtime.

Okello Collins, Anyeno Grace and Adhiambo Emmanuella
31 January 2017

ABOUT PURE JOY

Pure Joy sewing workshop in Jinja, Uganda was established with funding from our club. The project involves sewing re-usable sanitary pads for distribution to schoolgirls in Jinja and to marginalized groups of women in the Njeru municipality, educating the girls and women on hygiene and sanitation during and after their menstrual cycle, and promoting self esteem.



This girl says thank you



This girl is smiling.

This girl has a sanitary kit.

This girl's future is brighter because she can attend school when she has her period.

And through your wonderful support of our movie fundraiser Queen of Katwe last Wednesday, you will help change the lives of many hundreds of girls in Jinja, Uganda who will benefit from having a local supply of washable sanitary products.

And these girls say thank you



These girls are smiling.

These girls have sanitary kits.

These girls' lives are healthier because they know more about reproductive health and hygiene

Fifty girls at Walukuba West Primary School in Jinja received kits in August and are being taught how their kits should be maintained and how to plan for their menstruation days, using the bracelets and the cycle calendars they received.

So we too say a big THANK YOU to those who bought a ticket, supported the raffle or made a donation towards our project. Watch this space for updates.

Di Schwarzl | Joan Redmond | 29 November 2016

Project grateful for club funds

UGANDA

During their visit to Jinja in August 2016, Sue O'Neill and Diane Schwarzl identified a need to provide girls and women with locally made reusable sanitary products. We raised half the funds required to establish a sewing workshop by holding a movie fundraiser and a raffle and through receipt of personal donations and a donation from Days for Girls Avoca Beach. The Club donated the remaining funds which were distributed through our Rotary Australia World Community Service project and received by the Project Managers, Grace and Okello the week before Christmas.



Above: Sue and Di with Okello, Grace and their daughter Emma and students at Walukula West Primary School in Jinja

17 January 2017



Ahead of our trip to Uganda in August 2016, we sent funds to provide some desperately needed resource materials for students at the Nabirye community Hands of Grace School. The children (pictured) were so thrilled to receive two exercise books and a small packet of pencils.

Phase 1 of kitchen project completed

Walukuba West Primary School UGANDA

When Di and I visited Walukuba primary school, a school for children with disabilities, in August last year the headmistress told us the difficulties the school faced with their open cooking area.

The school caters for day and boarding students so cooking meals is a difficult daily activity out in the open, with few utensils.

Our club's **Rotary Australia World Community Service** project agreed to raise the funds to build a kitchen. Following is a report from our project supervisor Okello Collins.

Sue O'Neill
RAWCS project manager
14 March 2017



Objective: to improve the poor cooking area and improve food hygiene

RCWW RAWCS project sent funds to purchase construction materials such as cement, burnt bricks, timber for roofing and beam support, sand (lake and plaster) iron sheets for roofing, we procured the engineer/contractor. We have finished the first phase which includes, purchase of materials, procurement of the engineer, laying the foundation and raising the wall of the kitchen shelter and roofing it which was done in 3 weeks as we agreed with the contractor.

Regarded as phase 2 pending work, will be procuring and fitting the kitchen doors and windows, plastering internal and external walls, working on the floor, installation of 2 kitchen fire saving stoves, procurement of 2 boilers, final payment of the engineer/contractor's labour, purchase of the foundation stone and final handover of the kitchen to the school management.

Okello Collins | project supervisor



Sue o'Neill and Di Schwarzl visiting the School on the Hill, Lake Victoria, Jinja, 2016

ROTARY CLUB OF WOY WOY supports communities in UGANDA



Alive Medical Services, Kampala who provide treatment and support to HIV+ clients



Children in Namuwongo, Kampala



Walukuba West Primary School, Jinja 300 students - 82 special needs students of which 51 are deaf

A little goes a long way

Divine Mercy Primary School, Buwampa Village, Njeru Municipality
UGANDA



This was one of the schools visited by Sue O'Neill and Di Schwarzl on their recent trip to Uganda. Below is an activity report by Okello Collins on the distribution of scholastic materials and writing chalk boards and chalk for the school management and pupils...

This activity was conducted to equip the school with some tools that they lacked such as the chalk board and chalk and also to issue the scholastic materials to the pupils. Pupils received books and writing pencils and the school received 2 chalk boards to help them in the teaching of these pupils which was handed over by Okello, Grace and Emma to Charles, the school head teacher in the presence of other two teachers.

Divine Mercy Primary School has increased in number of enrolment from 33 of last term to 50 pupils this term, 32 girls and 18 boys. The school has got another volunteer teacher to join Mr. Charles and his wife to teach the children. This has motivated more children in the community to come back to school.

The community too has also appreciated the support and love shown to them by Sue, Diane and Marian who visited the school and indeed appreciated the difficult condition the school was facing. They offered 400,000 UGX (AUD 155) to purchase the scholastics for the pupils and the writing board for the school.

Monitoring and follow up visits will be conducted on a regular basis to ensure that there is improvement in the quality of education, to establish the learning conditions and also encourage the pupils and provide social support where need be.



The school community, parents and children together with Okello Collins, Anyeno Grace and Adhiambo Nicoline Emmanuella are grateful to the Rotary Club of Woy Woy, Australia and the Pink Umbrella Foundation for their support. Any future support in anything is welcome.

*Top: the delighted smiles of the pupils who received new schoolbooks and pencils
Middle: the school. Middle top and inset: new chalkboards replace old
Bottom: pupils at Divine Mercy Primary School*

11 October 2016

OUT OF AFRICA

Our trip has been amazing, really hectic and very productive. We visited six schools, a small clinic, Alive Medical Services and two sewing workshops, all supported by our club's RAWCS project.

The schools ranged from a well resourced private school to a small community school where students were writing in the dirt to do their lessons. Generally poor community schools are more common. Government schools are filled with dedicated teachers working against extreme odds to deliver education. Since the election in February many Government teachers have not been paid.

We met and travelled with a range of amazing people including our fabulous driver Moses who has been with us the entire trip.

On Tuesday 16 August we attended a meeting at the Rotary Club of Mengo, Kampala. To our surprise Sam Owori, Rotary International President Nominee Designate 2018-19, attended too. We were given 10 minutes to speak, so we explained two-up and played a game. We taught the Mengo members the Aussie Aussie Aussie Oi Oi Oi chant. Then RIPND Sam spoke; he is a very inspiring speaker and very friendly.

We concluded our trip with 2 days Murchison Falls Game Reserve and had the most incredible drive through the game park. We saw so many animals close up including a lion couple who refused to move from the road, and a hippo that got out of the water and began to walk towards us. Our driver advised we should return to the car because if the hippo got us it would hurt their reputation! We had a big bull elephant approach our car, forcing our driver to reverse back up the road until the elephant causally wandered back on the grass.

It has been the most amazing experience and easy to understand why Uganda is called the Pearl of Africa.

[Sue O'Neill, RWW and RAWCS project registration officer](#)
[Di Schwarzl, RWW Treasurer](#) | 23 August 2016



Tue 16 Aug at Rotary Mengo: Di and Sue meet RIPND Sam Owori



Distributing washable sanitary kits to girls at Walukuba West Primary School in Jinja



Sue, Di and Marion (midwife) at Nakigo Community School where they donated exercise books and school resources



Di joins the welcome dance at Alive Medical Services, Kampala



On safari: a big bull elephant approaches the car. On the attack, or just curious?



Nabilala children's clinic received eye glasses, foetal Doppler, pulse oximeters and solar lights