



RAWCS Rover April 2020

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

There's no invitation to a quarterly meeting this time, but plenty to read, do, and think about in your isolation!

If you haven't done it yet, **please complete your project's RAWCS Achievements for 2019**, which can be downloaded [here](#) and submitted [here](#)

If you have done it already, **thank you** very much - we really need to know all the good we are doing so that we can help and attract more helpers!

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A Word from the Chair



Rotary is closely monitoring the pandemic of COVID-19, and continuously assessing the potential impact on Rotary operations, events, and members.

On 6 March, Rotary International President, Mark Daniel Maloney advised that “The health and safety of our members are our top priorities”. The RAWCS Executive has reiterated this, taking measures to ensure member and volunteer health and safety, by implementing the following actions:

1. Currently, RAWCS will not be accepting or approving any applications for registration of new fund-raising projects in relation to COVID-19 until further notice. However, there is an exception where projects involving COVID-19 within Australia have been submitted, if these projects relate to a specific need within Australia and are fully funded by the project sponsoring club. e.g scrub hats for nurses, providing food for families & individuals.

2. ALL travel by RAWCS Project Volunteer Teams is suspended until further notice. You can keep updated on the Government restrictions at <https://covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/leaving-australia>. Although there is a clause that

you may apply on compassionate or humanitarian grounds, this would be highly unlikely for any RAWCS projects as there should be processes in place in the recipient country. No doubt recommendations of the WHO may come into play for some areas accessibility in coming months.

As community funds are likely to be stretched on our return to ‘normality’, now is an ideal time to look at local projects that meet the criteria mentioned above for RABS/RACG project or analysing and reassessing your overseas projects. Perhaps there is an opportunity for one of the various grants from The Rotary Foundation either to respond to COVID-19, District grants to support local activities, Disaster Response Grants and Rotary’s Disaster Response Fund are a fast and effective way to respond to local events, while the Global Grants have always been an excellent way to make a transformative impact in a community.

RAWCS Eastern Region Meetings

The May meeting (D9670) at Ports Stephens was cancelled, it is too early yet to decide on the D9675 planned meeting for 15-16 August as we do not know the relaxation of gathering rules. We must respect that if venue numbers are capped in licensed premises, then we may be rejected, as meeting for several hours reduces the number of patrons who are likely to be providing their income.

RAWCS - Emergency Response Kits - Cyclone Harold - Vanuatu

RAWCS and RNZWCS are working collaboratively allowing Rotarians in either country to support activities in the other. The project is listed on the RAWCS website to enable Australian Donors to receive tax deductibility. <https://donations.rawcs.com.au/86-2019-20>

Brian Coffey, Eastern Region RAWCS Chair

Many of our projects are struggling under yet another layer of pressure and worry in the face of the pandemic.

Hard times can breed hard hearts, and an attitude that charity can jolly well begin and end at home, but this excellent article from [The Economist](#) provides a useful perspective on the importance of our global efforts to help.

The coronavirus could devastate poor countries

[It is in the rich world's self-interest to help](#)

THE NEW coronavirus is causing havoc in rich countries. Often overlooked is the damage it will cause in poor ones, which could be even worse. Official data do not begin to tell the story. As of March 25th Africa had reported only 2,800 infections so far; India, only 650. But the virus is in nearly every country and will surely spread. There is no vaccine. There is no cure. A very rough guess is that, without a campaign of social distancing, between 25% and 80% of a typical population will be infected. Of these, perhaps 4.4% will be seriously sick and a third of those will need intensive care. For poor places, this implies calamity.

Social distancing is practically impossible if you live in a crowded slum. Hand-washing is hard if you have no running water (see article). Governments may tell people not to go out to work, but if that means their families will not eat, they will go out anyway. If prevented, they may riot.

So covid-19 could soon be all over poor countries. And their health-care systems are in no position to cope. Many cannot deal with the infectious diseases they already know, let alone a new and highly contagious one. Health spending per head in Pakistan is one two-hundredth the level in America. Uganda has more government ministers than intensive-care beds. Throughout history, the poor have been hardest-hit by pandemics. Most people who die of AIDS are African. The Spanish flu wiped out 6% of India's entire population.

Dozens of developing countries have ordered lockdowns. India has announced a "total ban" on leaving home for 21 days (see article). South Africa has deployed the army to help enforce one. They may slow the disease, but they are unlikely to stop it.

Many places are still in denial. Street markets in Myanmar are packed. Brazil's populist president, Jair Bolsonaro, dismisses covid-19 as just "a sniffle" (see article). Some leaders are clueless. Tanzania's president, John Magufuli, said churches should stay open because the coronavirus is "satanic" and "cannot survive in the body of Christ". Many autocrats see covid-19 as a handy excuse to tighten their grip. Expect some to ban political rallies, postpone elections and extend surveillance over citizens' daily lives—all to protect public health, of course.

Granted, there are some reasons for hope. Poor countries are young—the median age in Africa is under 20—and the young appear less likely to die from an infection. The poorest are very rural: two-thirds of people in countries with incomes per head below \$1,000 a year live in the countryside, compared with less than a fifth in rich countries. Farmers can grow yams without breathing viral droplets on each other. The climate may help. It is possible, though far from certain, that hot weather slows the spread of covid-19. Some places have useful experience. Countries that endured Ebola learned a lot about hand-washing, contact-tracing and securing public trust.

Alas, even the good news comes with caveats. People in poor countries may be young, but they often have weak lungs or immune systems, because of malnutrition, tuberculosis or HIV. Rural folk may get the virus later, but they will probably still get it. Lockdowns will be hard to sustain unless governments can provide a generous safety-net. Firms need credit to avoid laying off staff. Informal workers need cash to tide them over. Unfortunately, poor countries do not have the financial muscle to provide these things, and covid-19 has just made it much harder.

Demand has collapsed for the commodities on which many emerging markets depend, from crude oil to fresh flowers. Tourism has tanked. No one wants to visit the Masai Mara or Machu Picchu just now. Foreign investors have pulled \$83bn from emerging markets since the start of the crisis, the largest capital outflow ever recorded, says the Institute of International Finance, a trade group. Remittances, usually a safety-net in hard times, may tumble as migrants in rich countries lose their jobs.

Many poor and middle-income countries face a balance-of-payments crisis and a collapse in government revenues as they need to raise health-related spending and imports (to reduce the death toll) and welfare (so that workers can isolate themselves without running out of money). Whereas governments in rich countries can borrow cheaply in a crisis as investors flock to safety, poor countries see their borrowing costs soar. The trade-off between saving lives and saving livelihoods is excruciating. The worry, as Imran Khan, Pakistan's prime minister says, is that "if we shut down the cities...we will save [people] from corona at one end, but they will die from hunger."

Far from helping, many better-off countries have taken a nationalist turn. Some places, such as the EU, are restricting the export of medical kit. That goes against the values they profess to hold. Other countries, such as Kazakhstan, are curbing exports of food, which is not in short supply. If global trade is gummed up, the economic damage will be far greater. For poor countries that rely on imported food, it could be deadly.

Since so much remains unknown about covid-19, any response must be based on imperfect information. But some things are both urgent and obvious. Governments in poor countries, as elsewhere, should supply people with timely, accurate information, by any means practical. No cover-ups, no internet shut-downs, no arresting of those who share unwelcome news.

Time to be generous

The rich world, meanwhile, should help the poor world swiftly and copiously. The IMF says it is ready to deploy its \$1trn lending capacity. Much more may be needed. As *The Economist* went to press, the G20 was about to set out a plan. It should be generous. Some of those vast rich-world bail-out pots should be used to cushion the suffering of the global south. China is winning influence with high-profile deliveries of medical equipment. Poor countries will remember who helped them.

As past campaigns against malaria and HIV showed, it takes a co-ordinated global effort to roll back a global scourge. It is too late to avoid a large number of deaths, but not too late to avert catastrophe. And it is in rich countries' interests to think globally as well as locally. If covid-19 is left to ravage the emerging world, it will soon spread back to the rich one. ■

Global cooperation may help other poor countries from being hit as hard as Ecuador: You can read more about that crisis [here](#).

Counting Your/Our Achievements

If you haven't told us yet what valuable outcomes your project had last year, please do.

Compiling annual data on 500+ projects is a challenge, so asking everyone to write an essay is not practical, either for the project managers or the collator.

What we can both manage is a check list in which you enter the numbers that apply to your project. If you didn't distribute wheelchairs, write zero or leave it blank.

If you did, write how many. It will be easy for us to add up all the wheelchairs from all projects and to compare it with other years or other agencies for impact.

The same applies for all other outcomes too, of course!

You can download the form [here](#).

The form is 3 pages long, but don't let that scare you - I wrote a lot of words so that you don't have to!

You just need to fill in the numbers that apply to your project, and some contact details.

If you are doing something that we didn't anticipate then there is space to add an extra heading in each section. That way we'll evolve the form we ideally need.

When you are done, you can scan and email it in, or put it in an envelope and post it to Eastern Region Communications 50 Victoria St Cooma. 2630.



We will add your numbers to all the others, find out how we're doing and share the news with you and with potential donors and volunteers.

Please make sure that someone in your team responds to this call and plays your part. This will be a group effort to be proud of, indeed!

If you have any questions, you can contact me on 0429170739 or comms.eastern@rawcs.org.au

Penny Vos
Eastern Region Communications

Annual Outcomes Report for RAWCS Projects

Section 3: Small Things Which Mean a Lot.

(Compiled responses from first 10 projects to respond)

This year, our project distributed:	Number Distributed
Wheel chairs	12
Eyeglasses	278
Hearing aids	1
Days worth of Contraception	5000
Vaccinations	478
Reusable feminine hygiene products	1791
Single-use feminine hygiene products	20
Solar lights	10
Books	22500
School meals/meals for the homeless	220 010
Exercise books	8000
\$100 value of minor dental/medical equipment	30320
\$100 value of medicines	61
\$100 value of educational equipment	132
\$100 value of microfinance	200

Sample of what we learned from the first 10 projects to respond



*RAWCS
Activity in
Pictures*



Some serious service and some silliness and fun for RAWCS folk and others in Sydney, just before the pandemic closed us all down.

Malaria in Our Area

In Australia Malaria Awareness Day (MAD) is held on 30th April. It is a day to reflect on the impact of malaria on the world, and the progress that Rotarians and others are making in fighting and controlling malaria our countries of focus; namely Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Timor Leste and lately, West Timor. Cross border collaboration is essential to achieve malaria free status for the whole island of Timor.



The battle against malaria continues to be waged on many fronts. We should be very proud that Australia is at the forefront of world research in developing new anti-malarial treatments, and in seeking to find a suitable long lasting, cheap and easy to administer vaccine. Developing such a vaccine is imperative, because in some areas the malaria parasite transferred by an infected mosquito is developing increasing resistance to sprays and drugs.

Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM) works closely with several leading malaria research institutions. One example is the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute in Melbourne where researchers have discovered a way to stop the malaria parasite invading healthy red blood cells thereby stopping malaria infection.

A major project that Rotary supports financially is the “PlasProtect” Vaccine which is under development at Griffith University, Queensland. Malaria parasites that are grown in their laboratory under strictly controlled conditions, are treated so they can no longer replicate or cause infection. The Malaria Vaccine Project research programme instigated under RAWCS has expanded its original \$500,000 target to \$2M to allow human clinical trials in Australia. More financial support is needed.

Malaria Awareness Day is a very important day in the RAM calendar for it is a great opportunity to promote community understanding of the global campaign to eradicate malaria by 2040. The international Rotarians Against Malaria-Global Action Group is working with like research groups with similar aims, particularly in Africa.

Malaria Awareness Day gives us a chance to highlight the outstanding contribution that RAM has made in the last 26 years, and to reinforce the need to maintain momentum.

Please ask your Clubs to hold a special event on 30th April to recognise Malaria Awareness Day and encourage Clubs to plan/budget to contribute \$500 (or more!) per Club per annum to RAM (RAWCS Project 32/2010-11).

MAD flyers and RAM brochures are available to support your activity. For more support, or ideas for activities, contact your District RAM Coordinator.

D9650 Gil Padarin-Innes (gilparadin@hotmail.com), D9670 Steve Carroll (stedor98@bigpond.com)
D9675 Malcolm Brown (dugeh_style@hotmail.com), D9685 David Perabo (david.perabo@bigpond.com)
D9700 tba, D9710 Lynne Koerbin (lkoerbin@gmail.com)

The usual list of suggested activities is going to be rather restricted due to Corona Virus this year but it might still be possible to:

- * Set up a poster or display in a local shop or business;**
- * Place an article in your local press**
- * Arrange an interview with your local Community Radio Station.**

Spot Survey and a new Expo?

20 people at Mittagong answered a spot survey about how we might increase participation at the Quarterly meetings. 4 people said that nothing needs to change.

Suggestions included:

Cheaper food/accomodation options x4

Closeness x2

More about projects x2

More networking options x2

More focus on volunteers

Skills -something to encourage members to come

Display of all projects and invite community

Need to get all international directors

Project managers to share their sources of funding

Speak on more projects- bring out emotions and fun

More fun

An annual RAWCS Expo

If you would like to add your thoughts, you can send them to Penny at comms.eastern@rawcs.org.au



HEERA Closed for Now



Please note that until further notice the HEERA (DIK) Warehouse at Castle Hill is closed and all container movements have been suspended.

The situation will continue to be reviewed and we will be advised when operations are back to normal.

RAM National Deputy Manager - - Expression of interest - by 29 May 2020

There is a vacancy for the National Deputy Manager for Rotarians Against Malaria.

For more information please contact Jenny Kerrison, National Manager for Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM) Australia:

Email: kerrison_jenny@yahoo.com.au Mobile: + 61 400 769 632

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Stay in Touch

Got a Question or Suggestion?

You can find the right person to ask here:

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Special thanks to Lucy Hobgood-Brown for the cover photo.