

## RAWCS Rover November '20

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

Due to covid, we are still not meeting in person but are using Zoom to stay in touch. Please join us Sunday November 15th at 9am. Details p3.

Please remember to update your RAWCS Achievements 2020-21 document as you go along, to make it easier to submit in June so that RAWCS can really know what we are achieving together.

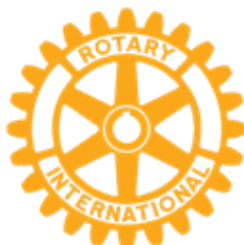
**The Achievement Inventory Form, can be downloaded [HERE](#)**

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**Rotary**

Australian Districts



**ROTARY AUSTRALIA  
WORLD COMMUNITY  
SERVICE**

## *Ted Lewis Honoured*

*I was delighted and flattered to have been awarded the “Len Avarad Award – 2019”, which was presented to me by Brian Coffey at our Club’s Changeover earlier this month.*

*I realise how prestigious this Award is and of course know just how large the contribution was to RAWCS, of the other Rotarians whose names appear on the trophy.*

*I am honoured to have my name next to theirs on the Plaque.*

*Please pass my best wishes on to the membership of Eastern Region RAWCS*

*Regards,*

*Ted Lewis OAM*

*The Rotary Club of Newcastle*



Ted Lewis OAM was elected as RAWCS Eastern Region Secretary in 2001 and has served in the position for 16 years. During that time he has provided support for 5 Eastern Region Chairmen, PDG Alex Gow, Len Bolden, PDG John Glass, PDG Harry Durey and John Roberson stepping down from the Secretary role in 2017.

During the 16 years as Eastern Region Secretary Ted always ensured he attended both the General Meetings and Management Meetings, (they were not held on the same day so this involved a commitment of 8 days each year). He efficiently made sure the notice of meeting and agenda papers were distributed early prior to the meeting and that the minutes were distributed promptly afterwards.

Ted was thorough in maintaining the database of people associated with RAWCS, i.e. the RAWCS project managers and meeting attendees to ensure that everyone received the meeting papers and minutes.

Because of his experience and in depth understanding of the operations of RAWCS the Regional Chairmen relied on him to ensure that they were fully prepared for the meetings and that all items were addressed during the meetings.

Ted was always able to contribute to discussions with his understanding of the processes of RAWCS and his detailed understanding of previous decisions made by the management committee and of the National Board.

At the end of Ted’s term of being Secretary he provided his successor the complete and meticulously maintained records for the full 16 years of his stewardship.

The fact that everything ran so smoothly for the full time he was doing the job really is testament to his contribution to RAWCS Eastern Region. He was a truly efficient and effective secretary for Eastern Region.



## *A Word from the Chair*

Despite many projects, particularly our overseas projects, being hamstrung by Covid restrictions, I was able to participate in a very rewarding event during October as I was invited to assist David Pearson and RAWCS Pauline Lane in the Drought Community Outreach Events at Quirindi, Scone, and Coolah.

We all accept the drought that rural areas are enduring is the worst on record with Western Queensland in their eighth year of drought, and North-West NSW are in their third and fourth year.

Many clubs have responded on individual basis and are to be commended, while RAWCS were behind the memorable fundraiser on Channel 9.

With households, business and farms affected in our communities as people struggle to put food on the table, children unable to shower and even a lady unable to boil a kettle for a cup of tea of coffee for Rotarians delivering hay! Stress and health issues quickly compound.

In June 2020, Rotary Australia World Community Services (RAWCS) signed a partnership agreement with the

Commonwealth Government to assist in delivery of the Drought Communities Outreach Program (DCOP), an initiative of National Drought and Northern Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency. RAWCS received a grant of \$5 million to fund its role and rolled out with the support of Rotary clubs in Quirindi, Scone, Merriwa, Coolah (RC of Coonabarabran), while Carol and myself were allowed the moving task of providing drought impacted farmers, farm workers, suppliers and contractors with \$500 vouchers for goods and services as well as that important friendly ear. David, Pauline, Carol and myself assessed, processed and distributed 235 debit cards to eligible families, allowing us to inject \$117,500 into the town economies.

The program is scheduled for Tasmania, South West Queensland and South Australia in December. When it comes to your area I can only highly commend that District Governors, RAWCS Chairs, teams and Club Presidents support and engage in this event – the personal reward is priceless.

Brian Coffey

RAWCS Eastern Region Chair

## *Quarterly Meeting by Zoom*

The next quarterly General Meetings of the RAWCS Eastern Region will be/was held on Sunday 15th November 2020 starting at 9:00am.

For members of the Management Team this will be followed by the Management Meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82188726826?pwd=UW1lZTZSTDh0Mjl4T3BLZXVSeGRkdz>

09 Meeting ID: 821 8872 6826

Passcode: 391095



## *World Community Service Above Self...*



The covid pandemic has disrupted everyone's lives at once, to a degree that calls into question our usual priorities, even those that truly deserve reaffirmation!

So, this quarter's Rover is taking a stroll through some ways of thinking about the good we, and our donors, are able to do in the world.

Though Rotarians are united in a commitment to Service Above Self, that still leaves a lot of room to wonder "Which service?"

No-one can do everything, so what will we do?

Here are three perspectives which may matter to you and/or your donors.

Nearly half of Australians identify as Christians, and both the Old and New Testaments are replete with calls to care for the poor, often specifically widows and orphans, the sick or imprisoned.

In Luke 14, Christ addresses the specific question of whom we should serve, when we can't serve everyone:

<sup>12</sup> Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, <sup>14</sup> and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

We certainly have plenty of RAWCS projects that are serving those who will never do us any favours back!



*...Charity begins at home,  
but it doesn't end there!..*

"Charity begins at home" is wielded like it has some kind of authority but Thomas Browne's 1642 book Religio Medici, was already railing against a motto that was apparently - even 350 years ago - being used to avoid giving to charity. He said:

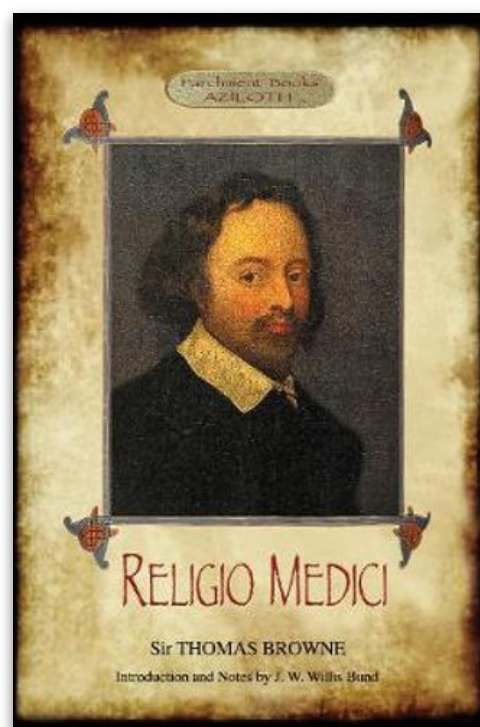
*"That a man should lay down his life for his Friend, seems strange to vulgar affections, and such as confine themselves within that Worldly principle, **Charity begins at home.**"*

I suppose that the original "worldly" expression referred to the importance of children learning to be compassionate and kind in the home, in order to be our charitable best outside the home, in adulthood.

Have you ever heard the phrase used to commend values education in early childhood? I haven't. I only hear it from people who want to keep people who are out of sight, out of mind.

A blogger called Melinda Cousins expressed her frustration with the expression this way:

*"I don't want to get bogged down in 'ranking' needs, but to me there is a qualitative difference between people struggling to afford the costs of living in Australia and people dying of preventable diseases because they don't have access to clean drinking water or basic sanitation in other parts of the world. I understand that I am generalising here, and I know there are people in my own backyard who are doing it tough, but mostly I think that our perspective is a little off.*



Just for one example, the current Australian single pension is [\\$751 per fortnight](#). We have widely available free health care and education. On the other hand, 1.3 billion people in developing countries live on [less than \\$7 per week](#), 768 million people do not have access to safe drinking water and over 1 billion have [no access to basic sanitation](#).

[In 2013](#), the Australian government spent 27 times as much on welfare/social security as it did on foreign aid. Whatever you think about the adequacy of Australian unemployment or pension rates, I think it is clear we are not comparing apples and apples here."

If you are questioning, or responding to questions about why charity can't just begin and end at home, I hope this provides a bit of support to keep you going.

Melinda's blog is [here](#).

## ...The Greatest Good For The Greatest Number...

Jeremy Bentham was a progressive British philosopher and jurist of the Enlightenment period who believed that the concept of good could be reduced to one simple instinct: the search for pleasure and the avoidance of pain.

He created an ethical system based on it, called utilitarianism, which was refined by John Stuart Mill who expanded it to include human rights.

During Bentham's lifetime, revolutions occurred in the American colonies and in France, producing the Bill of Rights and the *Déclaration des Droits de l'Homme* (Declaration of the Rights of Man), both of which were based on liberty, equality, and self-determination. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels published *The Communist Manifesto* in 1848. Revolutionary movements broke out that year in France, Italy, Austria, Poland, and elsewhere.

Bentham rejected religious authority and wrote a rebuttal to the Declaration of Independence in which he railed against natural rights as "rhetorical nonsense, nonsense upon stilts."

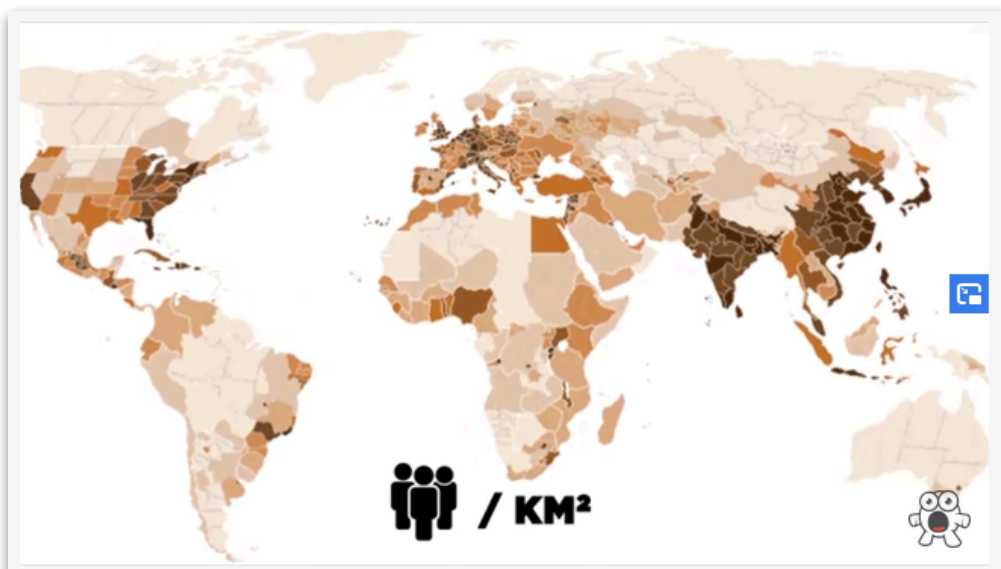
Instead, the fundamental unit of human action for him was **utility**—solid, certain, and factual.

Bentham's fundamental axiom, which underlies utilitarianism, was that **all social morals and government legislation should aim for producing the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people.**

Utilitarianism, therefore, emphasizes the consequences or ultimate purpose of an act rather than the character of the actor, the actor's motivation, or the particular circumstances surrounding the act.

It can be a useful standard because of its:

- (1) universality, because it applies to all acts of human behavior, even those that appear to be done from altruistic motives;
- (2) objectivity, meaning it operates beyond individual thought, desire, and perspective;
- (3) rationality, because it is not based in metaphysics or theology; and
- (4) quantifiability in its reliance on utility.



Source



## ....What works for you?

Whether it is your religion, or your personal upbringing or philosophical considerations about doing as much good as you can, that keeps you going as a RAWCS project team member - keep it up! It has never mattered more.

The table below shows some ABS statistics about charitable giving in Australia and I'm proud to think that RAWCS projects help channel at least some of Australia's generosity into highly effective projects which might otherwise be overlooked.



	Male	Female
<b>Number of people</b>	2.19 million	2.24 million
<b>% of taxpayers</b>	29.79%	32.29%
<b>Total Amount Donated</b>	\$2.15 billion	\$1.60 billion
<b>Average Donation</b>	\$982.39	\$712.64
<b>Average % of Income</b>	0.41%	0.46%

## *To Afghanistan with love, from MAfO*

From Medical Aid for Oceania and Worldwide (MAFO) – Project Manager John Macpherson :

'Now in its tenth year, the Rotary Club of Berrima District's Medical Aid for Oceania (MAfO) Project continues to ensure that offers of suitable medical and hospital equipment find new homes across Oceania and further afield.



The Oceania region destinations covered by ANZGITA and MAFO.

Created after a response to an offer of 27 beds by the then Rotarian CEO of the Ramsay Health Care (RHC) Southern Highlands Private Hospital in Bowral (NSW), the project has involved RAWCS DIK depots in the Regions as well as a number of Rotary Clubs near RHC hospitals, and NGOs with similar objectives to MAFO.'

MAFO can now add Afghanistan to its ever-growing list of destinations. During the month we were approached by Mahboba's Promise, an Australian incorporated association which provides various forms of aid to the people of Afghanistan. It wants medical supplies for an existing clinic serving infant, maternal and women's needs, and for a new, general health clinic being developed in the war-torn country next year. MAFO has sourced a number of items for their immediate needs and will allocate 13 of the Ramsay Health Care ECG machines for their new clinic.

In addition to the ECG machines, six dialysis machines were donated by Ramsay's Sunshine Coast University Hospital and nine by Nambour Selangor Private Hospital. All 15 dialysis machines have been accepted by RC Mooloolaba for shipment to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

Donations of hospital equipment and furniture were offered by Nucleus Network and Fresenius Kidney Care. As both donation sites are also in Queensland the offers were referred to DIK Northern Region, which is assessing the items for suitability.

Barry Barford

International Director Berrima District Rotary





## Malaria in Our Area



Bill Gates spoke on the [Goalkeeper Report 2020](#) and flagged the worse-case scenario for malaria due to the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic [Press Release >>](#) Statistical modelling revealed that the pandemic could reverse gains made over the last two decades in malaria elimination, and almost double the malaria deaths ([Weiss et al., 2020](#)).

A challenge to RAM is how can Rotarians act with "speed and scale"? A couple of ideas are included in [this Newsletter](#).

Undoubtedly, to speed up and scale up, RAM needs to increase our capacity.

To do this, we need help from ALL Rotarians.

RAM is a great activity for us to live our Rotary mantra of "People of Action".

## 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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