

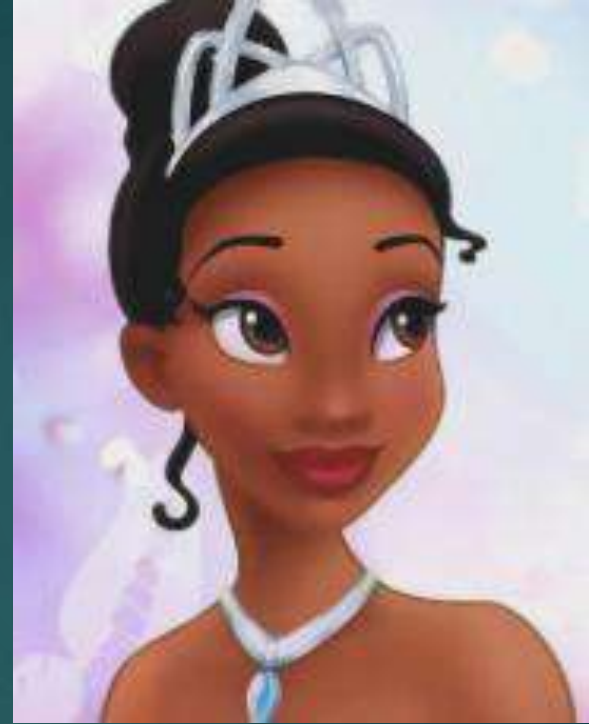
The Surfers Sunrise Wheelchair Trust

Geoff Croad - Chairman

Franz Huber - Director, Club Administration



Once upon a time,
in a land far, far away,
there was a princess...



Actually, TWO princesses

Their deep, languid eyes had that sad expression that could only come from loneliness.

The loneliness of being stuck inside all day.



Not just two, a lot more... As well
as princes

Girls, Boys of all ages...



Girls, Boys of all ages,
with severe disabilities



Girls, Boys of all ages,
with severe disabilities,
and NO wheelchair, no mobility.



Their parents could hardly afford to buy enough food, not to mention a wheelchair.

Not that a normal wheelchair would be any good; when it rains, the earth around their home is soft and muddy.





A white knight
had visited from another land,
far, far, half an ocean away.



A white knight
had visited from another land,
far, far, half an ocean away.

He saw the abject misery of these children
And decided that he must find a way.
Something had to be done.



That man is Des La Rance OAM.

And, as they say, the rest is history.



A fairy tale?

No. It's very real.

Since that time in 1997, over 11,200 disabled children have been given the gift of mobility.

And it is an ongoing project. We have another 300 ready to go



Here is a timeline:

Mid 1990's: Des La Rance visits Fiji on holidays, saw these severely disabled children and, upon returning, decided to invent a low-cost wheelchair that would be suitable for unpaved, muddy areas.



Use the
frames and
wheels of two
discarded
bicycles



Some plywood, a heavy
duty castor, a cheap plastic
seat, some paint, and a lot
of elbow grease...

And hey presto!









Yeah, right.

If it only had been as easy.



Can't use
original wheels,
Tyres deflate and
get punctures
Pump and repair
kit gets lost or
stolen
Nobody can
repair



Answer:

New BMX style
wheels, BMX
style tyres and
solid tube inserts

= higher cost!



Two years later, about
March 1997, at the

Rotary District 9640
Conference

Ray Martin (Channel 9, A
Current Affair)
is guest speaker



He saw, and he sent a reporter with a camera crew.



The first ten wheelchairs to Fiji was recorded



The delivery of the first ten wheelchairs to Fiji
was filmed, people were interviewed



At various
locations, including
the Frank Hilton
Special School



And broadcast on national TV

Result: sufficient funds to establish the
‘Wheelchair Shed’,

We set up a Charitable Trust, the
Surfers Sunrise Wheelchair Trust
(ABN: 41 523 872 051, Tax deductible – DGR status)



Donations to the trust can only be applied to
the purchase of materials for wheelchairs.

No wages, no admin fees.

All labour is voluntary and honorary

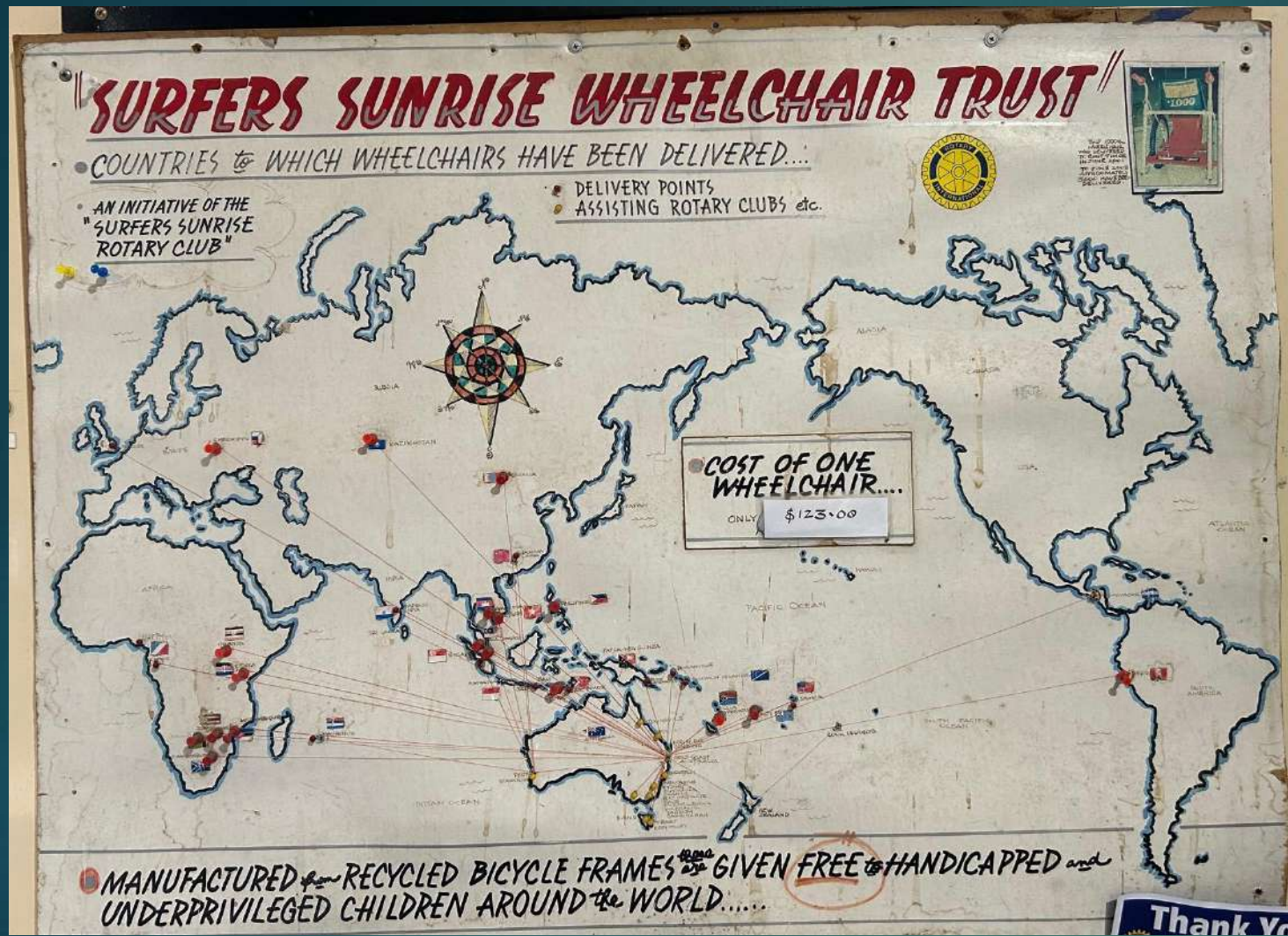
Overheads (rental and maintenance of the
shed, electricity, freight etc) are covered by the

Rotary Club of Surfers Sunrise



Since then...
Factory (near
Arundel
Community
Centre)
has manufactured
over 11,500
wheelchairs.





Which were
despatched to
provide mobility for
disabled children in
all corners of the
globe

Since then...
Despatched to
provide mobility for
disabled children
in all corners of the
globe

Thank you Rotary!

Rotary  Club of Surfers Sunrise



How an old bicycle in Queensland, Australia gave mobility to a young boy in Africa and helped him get to school for the first time !

We need another load of bikes!



Since then...

Over 30,000
discarded bicycles
have been
collected, with
unused
components
recycled for scrap

Since then...

Yes, even the old tyres get recycled...



The materials for a wheelchair cost
approximately \$123.00

2 x BMX Wheels, with
2 x BMX Tyres and solid tubes
Heavy Duty Castor
Marine Plywood base

Bits and pieces, paint, packaging material

Plus overheads (rent, electricity etc) – total
about \$160.00

But wait! There's
more.

Boxing Day 2004:
Major Tsunami in
Indonesia and
Thailand



Surfers Sunrise Rotary
built a 'flat pack' Primary
School building and
installed it near Phuket.



But wait! There's
more.

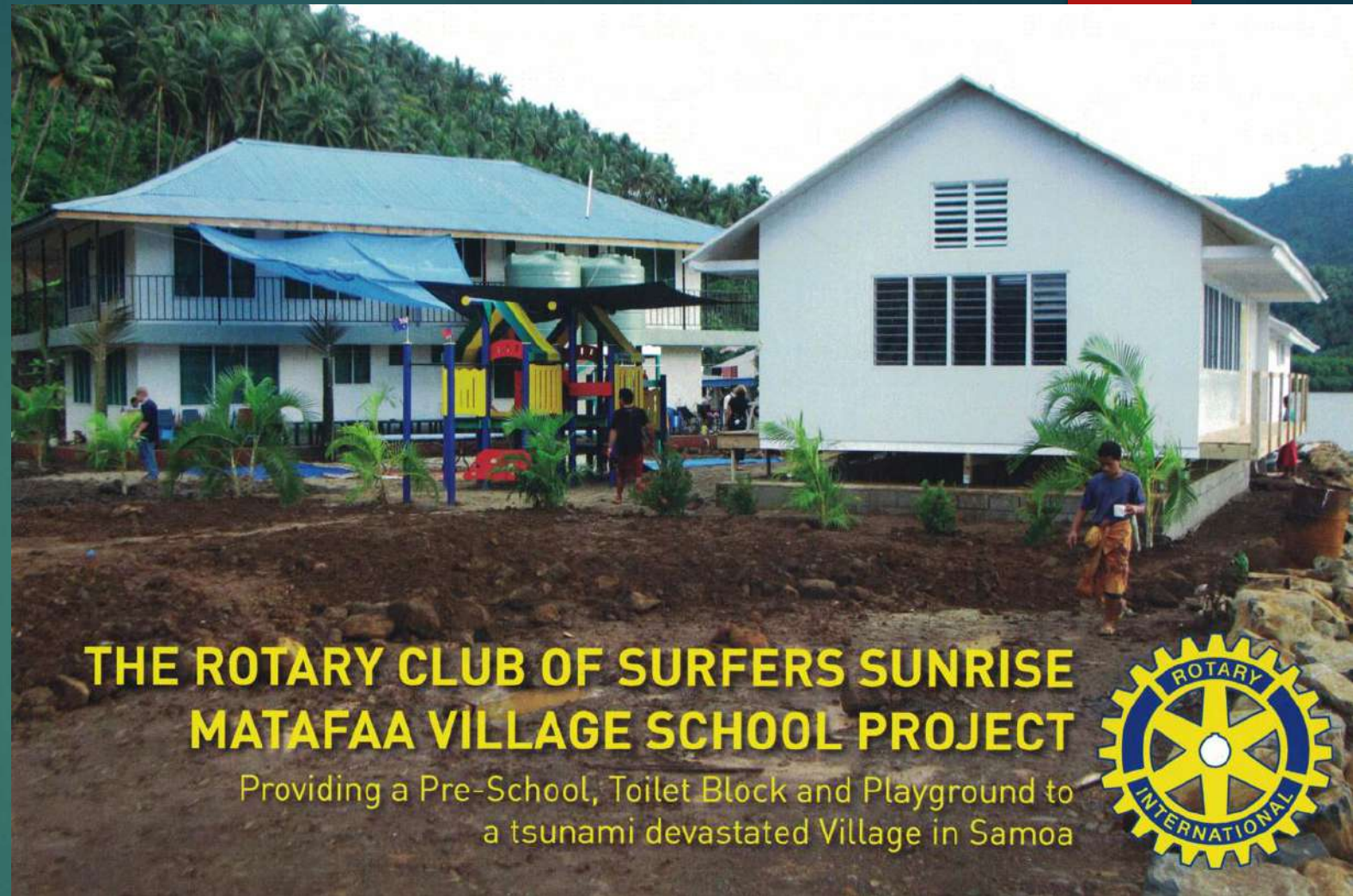
2009: Major Tsunami
in Samoa



Surfers Sunrise
Wheelchair Trust
“flat packs” another
primary school and
sends it to Mata’faa
island to replace a
Primary School
building



Surfers Sunrise
Rotary built a 'flat
pack' Primary
School building
and playground
equipment and
installed it on
Mata'afa Island.



This is followed by
our largest project
to date:

2012 – 2014
The House of
Hope
in Apia, Samoa.



2020 - 24: (COVID
interruption)

Flat pack
construction and
installation of an
X-Ray and Blood
Analysis Unit
at Mauna Hospital
on Pentecost Island



How can you help?

Do you have any bikes you don't need anymore? Or know of any, e.g. your residential community, High-Rise etc

Donate your empty bottles for
Containers for Change
(Account C10199443)





How can you help?

We need more volunteers at the
wheelchair shed



IMG_8100.CR2

And it's not all hard
yakka!

Very social and
relaxed,
coffee / tea break at
09:00 – 09:30
Yes, real coffee!



Surfers Sunrise Wheelchair Trust

ACNC Registered (fully tax deductible)

www.rotarysurferssunrise.org

www.wheelchairtrust.org.au

info@wheelchairtrust.org.au

