



ROTARY APPEAL FOR JANUARY 2021 CYCLONE ANA – FIJI

FOLLOW UP REQUEST FOR DONATIONS OF CASH

Just 7 weeks after Cyclone Yasa devastated Fiji resulting in some **345 ERKs** being distributed, Fiji was struck by Cyclone Ana at the end of January. Whilst its intensity reached only Cat. 2, the rainfall before and since has been relentless. A further **600 ERKs** have been released to the most vulnerable families in the Western Division. The cyclone season still has 10 weeks to run and we retain a small supply for another eventuality. The depletion of stock will require replenishment during the off season and our assembly team leaders have commenced putting a plan of action in place. Our appeal for donations following Cyclone Yasa was stricken by its timing coinciding with the Dec/Jan holidays. We are grateful to the clubs that did respond.

It is now more than 35 years since Rotarians in Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere together with the NZ Govt. and the public began to provide first response support to our Pacific neighbours who almost annually are affected by cyclone, flood and on occasions tsunami. Rotary always collaborates with the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs Emergency Task Force in Wellington and the Emergency Disaster Management Office in country to ensure that the Emergency Response Kits and other supplies are directed for best possible advantage to those affected. Rotary and supporters provide logistical support where they are able, often themselves faced with destruction to their own homes.

Retired NZHC endorses Rotary's response.

"I experienced first-hand the real value of the ERKS in 2012 in Samoa as New Zealand High Commissioner and as a member of the Apia Rotary Club. Cyclone Evan hit Samoa in December that year with surprising fury, deluging Apia with tsunami-like force as a level three cyclone. It caused fourteen deaths and extensive damage in both Apia and the southern coast of the main island Upolu. Our Rotary Club was out there delivering much needed Emergency Response Kits on the first day after the disaster. Fortunately, we were able to use kits that were already pre-positioned in Apia just for such an emergency. Families who had lost everything were extremely grateful. The ERKs were delivered in close collaboration with the National Disaster Management Office which coordinated the overall disaster response including the engagement of international partners (including the New Zealand Government), the local community and NGOs. The ERKs were and remain a key part of the Samoa Government's strategy for disaster responses. I was New Zealand High Commissioner in the Cook Islands in 2015 and 2016 and I supported the pre-positioning of over 600 ERKs in Rarotonga as both New Zealand government representative and local Rotary Club member. Fortunately, the Cook Islands missed any significant cyclone damage during that time. But the Cook Islands is well prepared thanks to Rotary and MFAT. I was in Nuku'alofa as Acting New Zealand High Commissioner just before Cyclone Gita hit the main island of Tongatapu and the nearby island of 'Eua. In anticipation of the cyclone, before I left, I made sure the local Rotary Club was ready to distribute hundreds of ERKs that had been prepositioned for just such disasters. It was the most powerful cyclone to hit Tonga since detailed records began with winds of over 230km. It damaged or destroyed almost 2,000 homes, caused the evacuation of over 4,500 people and left more than 80% of homes in Tonga without power. The local Rotary Club, working with a local NGO, subsequently delivered ERKs to badly affected families."

Donation options: 1) **Westpac Bank** 03 1702 0192208 01 Ref. 111

International Donors: **SWIFT Code WPACNZ2W**

2) Credit or Debit Card - www.rnzwcs.org 3) Give a Little at - <https://givealittle.co.nz/org/rnzwcs>

As a Registered Agency with Charitable Services CC26860, donations qualify for a tax credit.

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