



NOTICE OF TEMPORARY CLOSURE

As the impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to grow across our communities, Rotary Australia World Community Service Donations in Kind Northern Region has made the decision to suspend activity at the Donations in Kind premises at Kingston until further notice.

This decision has been made in response to directives and policies as issued by the Government and Health Authorities as well as advice from Rotary Australia World Community Service.

The following will come into effect from midday on Thursday 2nd April 2020;

The Rotary Australia World Community Service Donations in Kind Northern Region premises at Kingston will be closed from midday on Thursday 2nd April 2020 until further notice.

No deliveries will be accepted into the store after midday on Thursday 2nd April until further notice.

New combination locks have been fitted to both gates. The new combination will not be issued at random and for security and safety reasons, nobody is to access the site after midday on Thursday 2nd April 2020 without prior approval of the management of Donations in Kind Northern Region.

We will continue to monitor the directives from Government and the Health Authorities and a notice will be issued as soon as it is deemed to be safe to resume activities at the premises at Kingston.

We thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this unprecedented time.

We look forward to the date when this closure will be lifted and we can get back to work on the realisation that changes will have to be made in our work environment.

DONATIONS IN KIND NORTHERN REGION FACTS & FIGURES

Facts and Figures as at 30/04/20

Summary of Consignments

Total Number of Containers: 991

Estimated Value of Donations: \$58.0 million Total Cost of Freight: \$3.0 million

Summary of Common Donations Consigned

Hospital Beds 8,838	Mattresses 5,630	Patient Trolleys 442	Bedside Cabinets 1,422
Wheelchairs 3,909	Hospital Linen (bags) 17,616	Hospital Medical Supplies (cartons) 48,275	
	School Desks 33,606	Books (cartons) 92,931	

Recent Consignments

Since the last Newsletter, the equivalent of another 10 x 20' containers has been sent from the RAWCS Donations in Kind Northern Region facility at Kingston.

Details of these containers are as follows

1 x 20' to the Ministry of Health at Nadi Hospital in Fiji - a project of the Rotary Club of Archerfield in District 9630

1 x 40' container of hospital equipment to the Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka - a project of Ajit Abeyewardene and the Federation of Sri Lankan Organisations in Queensland.

1 X 40' container to the Magdro Secondary School in Fiji— a project of the Rotary Club of Tenterfield and the Satellite Club of Tenterfield—The Granite Belt in District 9640

1 x 20' container to Catholic Diocese of Lae in PNG - a project of Albert Benfer and the Rotary Club of Cleveland in District 9630

1 x 40' container to the Rotary Club of Honiara in the Solomon Islands - This container was paid for by the Rotary Club of Honiara

1 x 40' container for Nuba Mountains in Sudan - this was a project of the Nuba Orphanage and Widows Home, a charitable organisation registered in Australia to support the disadvantaged in the Nuba Mountains in Sudan

Future Consignments

Details of containers that are either packed and waiting on funding or containers that are partially packed are as follows

1 x 20' to the Mission in Mogulu in the Western Highlands of PNG. This is a project of the Rotary Clubs of Kippa Ring and Bribie Island and is ready for consignment as soon as funding is finalised

1 x 20' container for Honiara in the Solomon Islands. This container is packed and ready for consignment

1 x 40' for Dili in Timor Leste—a project of Bren Milsom and Rotary Clubs of District 9640

1 x 40' for Rabaul in PNG—a project of the East New Britain Queensland Community

1 x 20' for Timor Leste—this another project of Brendan Ryan of the Rotary Club of Toowoomba South

Requests for containers have been received from the following

Kimbe—the Rotary Club of Kimbe has asked for a quote for a container of hospital beds

South Sudan—a group of local Sudanese are working on funding for containers of health and Educational equipment

Philippines—a container of hospital beds requested by the Philippines Inland and Island Missions

Mozambique and Vanuatu—The Rotary Club of Rockhampton Fitzroy has sponsored two RAWCS Projects to raise funds to meet the cost of containers to these two Countries

Rotary Club of Boroka has requested a container of books and school equip.

HAND SANITISER AVAILABLE AT DONATIONS IN KIND

A number of cartons of personal hand sanitiser are available at Donations in Kind. Each carton contains 100 personal packs (pictured below). These are available for distribution to local groups in need. Any Club that is aware of such a group, should contact RAWCS Donations in Kind Northern Region



SPECIAL ROSTERED DAYS

Early in the year, we called for volunteers to come forward to assist with housekeeping at the Donations in Kind premises. This was planned for one Saturday morning each month and was separate from the normal monthly

Saturday roster for the packing of containers. The response was great and our sincere thanks goes to the Rotary Clubs and volunteers that responded.

Good progress was made by the groups of volunteers who attended in February and March. More days were planned, but unfortunately we were forced into lockdown before we were able to complete tasks such as maintenance in the yard along the adjoining building

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to our neighbours at SubStation 33 In return for allowing them to park their vehicle and trailer on our site, at no request from us, they have kept the grass in the container yard down by regularly cutting it with their whipper-snippers



SUCCESSFUL WORKSHOP

to discuss strategies for the future direction of RAWCS Northern Region Donations in Kind

Due to the increased demand for the services being provided by Rotary Clubs, Rotary Clubs can no longer provide the same financial support and volunteer base that was provided up to a few years ago.

There is also increased requirements from external influences such as insurance requirements, Import and Export requirements both here and at the receiving end as well as meeting the requirements of the Australian Charities and not for Profit Commission.

RAWCS Donations in Kind Northern Region has to change to meet these challenges. Donations in Kind is a business and as such, we need to adopt "Best Practice Principles" in setting up a business model for the future viability of Donations in Kind Northern Region.

There was a very good attendance at this Workshop held at the Donations in Kind premises at Kingston on Sunday 1st March was very well attended with others logging into the Workshop through "Zoom"

Issues to be discussed at this Workshop included:
Management Structure/Succession
Future Permanent Home for Donations in Kind
Workplace, Health and Safety
Funding

Documentation for Control of Goods In and Goods Out
Insurance – Public Liability
Thursday Volunteers for Sorting, Packing and Store Maintenance
Volunteers on Rostered Days for Packing of Containers

A small group has started to assess the Workplace Safety and Health Management System and giving consideration to the requirements of this system and the decisions from the Workshop, a draft paper outlining site specific policies and procedures for Donations in Kind Northern will be circulated within the next week for comment.

OPERATION NEW PREMISES

We have almost reached the half way point of the three year lease by Rotary Australia World Community Service over the Kingston site for Donations in Kind Northern Region. We need to identify and secure a site for the future operations of RAWCS Donations in Kind Northern Region. A prospective site has been identified and we are putting together a committee of experts to assess the site and to prepare a submission to secure the site. If successful, this committee would also be responsible for the planning and management of any works required to make the premises suitable for the operations of Donations in Kind.

If successful, this has the potential of being a permanent home for RAWCS Donations in Kind Northern Region.

Areas of expertise where input will be needed are as follows:

- Town Planning to assess the use of the site
- Engineering to assess the availability of services and to address any infrastructure that will be needed on the site
- Surveying for the design of connection of services and new infrastructure needed on site and possible lease surveys
- Building expertise to assess the current buildings and advise on possible alterations or renovations.
- Experience in preparation and documentation of submissions addressing the criteria as set out in the calling for any Expressions of Interest

The structure of the Committee will not be limited to the above expertise and anyone interested on serving on this Committee should submit their interest by email to dik.rawcsnorthern@gmail.com

PRESENTATION TO ROTARY CLUBS

While most Rotary Clubs in Northern Region are presently meeting on-line due to the restrictions enforced because of the Coronavirus, now is the ideal time to ask for a presentation on Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) and/or Donations in Kind.

If interested, contact us on 0466 556 042 or dik.rawcsnorthern@gmail.com