

News Update | Spring 2017

We report from Nepal, where two Disaster Aid Response team members Andrew Gunn & Phil Gribble install 2 SkyHydrants™, DAA long standing Chairman Bob Powell announces his retirement and new board members are appointed, DAA helps to rebuild Puerto Rico and Dominica after Hurricane Irma, and more....

SkyHydrants in Nepal

Disaster Aid Response team members Andrew Gunn and Phil Gribble recently travelled to Nepal with 2 SkyHydrants™, and supervised the first installation at the Janek School in Bhakundebsi. This unit was sponsored by Norman Disney & Young, Engineering organisation.

The Janek school caters for 800 students from pre school to year 12.

The students were drinking the well water and the canteen was preparing food with the same water which is contaminated with pathogens.

The school currently runs at 5 to 10 per cent absenteeism due to the well water causing sickness.

A team of about 6 locals including school staff and a local plumber worked with Andrew and Phil on the installation of the header tank and filter.



Get a Speaker

Every month speakers from Disaster Aid speak to Service Clubs and other organisations around Australia that may be interested in supporting our two initiatives of:

- Smart Aid, and
- Safe Water for every Child

If you are interested in your club or organisation getting an update on the Disaster Aid Story why not host a speaker at your next meeting.



SkyHydrants in The Philippine Star

A recent front page in the Philippine Star newspaper showed SkyHydrant™ units, provided by Disaster Aid, used to supply safe water at Evacuation Centres in Mindanaw.

The people in the Evacuation Centres have been displaced from Marawi City as a result of an armed uprising by Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) who pledged allegiance to the Islamic State of Iran and Syria (ISIS).

Our local partner, Balay Mindanaw Foundation, has been operating the hydrants as well as providing other aid to the refugees.



Chairman Retires

At the recent AGM of Disaster Aid, a long standing Chairman, Bob Powell, announced his retirement from the role.

As it was Bob's 82nd Birthday the same week, he was presented with a cake.

David Langworthy will be taking over the role of Chairman in the short term.



New Board Members



Dr Angeline Low - Director

Angeline has more than 25 years on Boards of Directors in international charity and development organisations. In addition, she has many years of professional and business experience.

Her last corporate appointment was as Director of Asia Pacific Consulting of Deloitte Australia based in Sydney.

She holds a PhD in entrepreneurship research.

Today Angeline manages her private investments and spends the rest of her time in philanthropic work.



Brian Ashworth - Director

Brian is a recently retired Water Engineer with 40 years experience in the UK and Australian water industries.

He owns and is the author of the anewhouse.com.au website.

Previous board experience includes Maffra Hospital Board and the South Gippsland Health Service.

He has been a Rotarian for more than 20 years including being a Past President of his Club and volunteers in the Disaster Aid Offices 1-2 days a week.

Other Board movements

Dave Tuzewski, Bo Morse, and Darren Mayne have stepped down from their Board positions.

Colombia

In conjunction with the Rotary Club of Cartagena Empresarial, Colombia three Sky Hydrants™ have been delivered and being installed.

Global Grants

A Rotary Global Grant has also been completed to assist in the funding of 50 SkyHydrants™ for schools in Colombia.

Other Global Grant projects currently being considered include installations in

- The Philippines
- Myanmar
- Mumbai, India

Hurricane Irma

The devastation throughout the Caribbean of Hurricane Irma has resulted in considerable activity from Disaster Aid UK in both Puerto Rico and Dominica.

Puerto Rico

At the request of Disaster Aid USA one of the experienced British Disaster Aid Response Team (DART) volunteers travelled to Puerto Rico to head up a team providing aid to the community.

The big issue in Puerto Rico is a lack of safe potable water and the frustration of limited electrical power to filter water.

Dominica

Disaster Aid UK & Ireland's second deployment is to Dominica.

The Rotary clubs in Dominica have been instrumental in helping get this deployment underway and the DARTs are working with them throughout their time on the island.

Mexico

DAI has been asked to work with World Vision and the local Rotary Club to support the rural communities.

Our aid includes;

- Assist the local population with materials for home repair kits.
- Provide safe water utilising the SkyHydrant™ water filtration system.

An initial Disaster Aid Response Team (DART) of Peter Newton and Bo Morse are on their way to Chiapas to fully assess the local needs.



A second 2 person DART will then project manage the implementation.

Disaster Aid Australia has budgeted to support this project with AU\$100,000 of aid.

Improving the water for San Christobal Hospital, Mexico

Following the Chiapas Earthquake the DAA Response Team has identified a significant project at the San Cristóbal Public Hospital in Mexico.

The hospital, which treats the poorest families, has 100 beds.

Every year they treat 15,000 emergencies cases with 12,000 surgical procedures a year.

Water from the town supply is currently unfiltered so is unfit for drinking, and is often contaminated which even makes it unsuitable for cleaning and laundry.

Currently the hospital has to buy twenty-five 20 litre containers of drinking water every day for potable use. Three SkyHydrants are currently on their way to the hospital which should meet the entire hospital water requirements.



These will be installed by our Disaster Aid Response Team working with the local hospital staff.

Safe Water for schools in Bhutan

Disaster Aid Response Team members Andrew Gunn and Phillip Gribble are currently in Bhutan.

They are supplying and installing 4 SkyHydrants™ in Bhutan and 2 in Nepal. Most schools in Bhutan and Nepal have unsafe drinking water which can be contaminated with dirt in the rainy season and bacteria such as E Coli, Typhus, and other diseases which cause respiratory illnesses and blindness.

Student absenteeism averages around 5-10% due to waterborne illness.

As education is one of the best ways these generations will improve their own lives and help to continue building these nations.

Keeping these kids healthy and at school through the provision of safe water to drink and cook with is our challenge. In selecting the sites DAA liaised with the Bhutan Education and Health Departments and also received a request from the King of Bhutan's Welfare Office.

Thanks to our in country contacts Mr Yeshey Hoopilla of the Rotary Club of Thimphu, and the Bhutan Toilet Organisation (BTO) we have received great local support.

These children were delighted to try the clean water at our first installation at their school in Bongo a small village with a population of around 300. This hydrant was possible thanks to the sponsorship of Ayr High School Interact Club



DART A Gunn and Bhutanese Volunteers



Bongo High School Bhutan



Interact Club Ayr High School

Save a date

DAA Conference Fourth Conference Fri 4 – Sun 6 May 2018 at the Dandenong Club, with exciting presenters including former Medal winning Olympian Dan Collins, great stories of aid delivered and future goals discussed.

Will you please help support the work of Disaster Aid?
It is a Rotary Club project that really is ... making a difference

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE at www.disasteraidinternational.com

For more information, including DONATIONS (tax deductible), please contact us at:

Jan Burney

✉ admin@disasteraidaustralia.org.au

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