

And so another year of magic comes to a close.

This year we farewelled long serving volunteers Barry Douglas {23 years}, Neil Duke {2 years with the wheelchairs}, Frank Dri, Robyn Douglas, Gary Douglas and Andy Steinicke. Mr Long has relocated to assist in the book and stationery aisle replacing Barry. There are 10 new volunteers as well as clubs contributing additional days.



Last week we celebrated the end of year and thanked our volunteers with a festive lunch.



Many thanks to Bronwyn, Pam, Rosie and Nicky who spent several hours cooking, preparing and organising the delicious fare—and to Mr Long for the amazing vegetarian spring rolls. It was pleasing to see so many of our new volunteers coming along. Thank you to all our dedicated volunteers, especially those loading and packing containers, driving, loading and unloading the truck and reorganising pallets.

Our dedicated Tuesday team collects goods, drives 1000's of kilometres yearly and then loads containers.

The DiK trucks and van are out on the roads constantly, collecting treasure: hospital beds, hospital, medical and nursing home furniture and equipment, consumables, mobility aids, desks and chairs from schools and larger medical items.



DiK also receives deliveries weekly from the many school uniform manufacturers, from donors bringing books and school stationery and from the groups bringing items for inclusion into containers to Timor Leste and Ukraine.

Physiotherapists and occupational therapists from our partner hospitals and service providers are there weekly collecting wheelchairs and walkers, high back chairs, tables and toilet seats to name some. This is a service DiK offers and is invaluable.

As well as our international efforts, DiK continues to provide significant support to clubs for smaller and local community projects.

The DiK Constitution is being updated as are the ByLaws and David Whiting from RC Keilor is assisting the Committee with this task.

A new floor sweeper arrived this week and was quickly put through its paces: That will make keeping the floors clean much easier!

There are now **34 member clubs** with Colleen giving presentations to clubs around Melbourne. We welcomed Albert Park, Ballarat West, Bentleigh Moorabbin Central, Carlton, Traralgon and Yarraville. **Kew, Preston and Pakenham did not renew their membership.**



DiK will close on Tuesday 9th December and will reopen on Thursday 15th January 2026.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas, and a safe, happy and healthy New Year.

14 containers have been packed and sent to overseas countries this calendar year.

Country	Port	Content	Owner
Ethiopia	Djibouti	Medical	RC Footscray
Ethiopia	Berbera	Medical	RC Footscray
PNG	Pt Moresby, Kiunga	Hospital Educational	RC Brighton
Solomon Is.	Honiara	Medical and Dental	RC Ballarat East
Somalia	Berbera	Medical and School	Financial Charity Aid Group
Timor Leste	Dili	General	DIK Consolidated
Timor Leste	Dili	General	DIK Consolidated
Timor Leste	Dili	General	DIK Consolidated
Timor Leste	Dili	General	DIK Consolidated
Timor Leste	Dili	General	DIK Consolidated
Timor Leste	Dili	200 school desks 400 chairs	RC Melbourne/Spend It Well
Ukraine	Gdynia, Poland	Medical	Association of Ukraine
Ukraine	Gdynia, Poland	Medical	Association of Ukraine
Zimbabwe	Harari, Zimbabwe	Medical	RC Yarraville

Earlier this year, a team from the **Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine** visited DiK and were given a tour and presentation by Colleen and Kayleen.



They were very impressed by the work DiK does and have committed to continue their donations, to advocate for and volunteering at the warehouse. They have already sent through more donations of medical/forensic equipment. One of their team put together a promotional video from their tour which they have shared with us. Check it out:

Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sgDEO_A1lbg&t=35s

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/victorian-institute-of-forensic-medicine_nationalrecyclingweek-planetark-donationsinkind-activity-7393506640471322624-RyHG/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAACQqtKtYBbJb4UqJVYnQswqc50hN55Y4xfo

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1BNmq8uHHB/>

Insta: https://www.instagram.com/reel/DQ3IM1AjQpS/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

Friends of Venilale, Bacau, Timor Leste and Rotary Brighton North:

Rotary received appreciation from Anne Eldred, Friends of Venilale for facilitating an introduction to the Rotary Donations in Kind (DIK) Warehouse in West Footscray, provision of goods from the warehouse and the allocation of space in the recent container to Timor-Leste. Shipping costs were borne by Brighton North Rotarian Ian Marchment.

A visit by Anne and Ian to the warehouse on 27 November 2025 highlighted the extensive range and volume of goods available through DIK, reinforcing the value of this long-standing Rotary project. During this visit, five boxes of medical supplies were packed for shipment, along with 24 sets of single bed sheets, pillow cases and other fabric, with additional packing to occur during a subsequent visit.

Friends of Venilale supports a Friendship Village in the mountains near Baucau, approximately one hour from the regional centre. The organisation funds two local coordinators and provides 22 scholarships for junior and secondary students, along with scholarships for four university students and four medical students.

The medical supplies included in the shipment are destined for the midwifery wing at the medical centre in Mansfield's Friendship Village of Venilale.



A recent visit to the village in July revealed significant shortages of basic medical supplies and a deterioration in the clinic's condition compared with previous years. At the group's recent AGM, the committee expressed strong support for continuing assistance to the medical centre. Friends of Venilale, a small volunteer organisation with a 20-year history of community support, continues to fundraise to improve educational and health outcomes for the village.

Collection and delivery of the donated goods from Dili to Venilale will be coordinated locally by Candida Belo, one of the project's village coordinators.

Donations in Kind Leads Collaborative Effort to Deliver Drought Relief Across Western Victoria

Donations in Kind recently played a central role in delivering critical drought relief to farming families across Western Victoria. With support from a Rotary Foundation District Grant and the Rotary Clubs of Brighton, Brighton North, and Central Warrnambool, DIK coordinated the sourcing, packing, and dispatch of essential goods to communities experiencing severe hardship.

The initiative began when Colleen d'Offay learned that the Victorian Government, in partnership with the Country Women's Association (CWA), was distributing financial support to farmers in crisis. Recognising an opportunity for DIK to add value through donated goods, she connected with local Rotary leaders in Warrnambool. From this spark grew a coordinated, whole-of-community response.



On 7 November, DiK dispatched 15 pallets of carefully selected household items, clothing, and children's gifts — all aligned with needs identified by local families. As well as funding from the Rotary Clubs and The Rotary Foundation, we also had GOOD360's provision of \$24,000 worth of toys. DIK donated stock included a pallet of gumboots, sports bags, clothing, disinfectant, kitchen supplies, children and adults' shoes and pamper gifts.

"Many families are finding it difficult to afford Christmas presents this year," Colleen noted. "We wanted to ensure every child receives something special."

The operation was made possible through strong partnerships. Sargents Transport generously collected the pallets from the DIK warehouse in West Footscray and delivered them at no cost to Bega Cheese in Koroiit for temporary storage. The CFA assisted by creating space for the goods, demonstrating the collaborative spirit that defined the project.



Local community volunteers also played a vital role. Members of the 6C's Community Cupboard sorted the supplies into tailored groups, which were then loaded into trailers provided by the Rotary Club of Central Warrnambool, with support from the Rotary Club of Brighton. Deliveries were made to halls coordinated by the CWA, where volunteers helped distribute the items to families in need. Communities supported included Winslow, Nullawarre, Ellerslie, Caramut, Bessiebelle and Toolong.

Through this effort, DiK and its Rotary partners demonstrated the power of coordinated service. By combining logistics capability, volunteer effort, and community partnerships, DIK helped deliver not only essential goods but renewed hope to families across Western Victoria — a reminder that in challenging times, community connection makes all the difference.

[Read more](#)

Call to Action—Cambodia

Be Part of a Lifesaving Rotary Project for Cambodia:

Rotary District 9800 and Donations in Kind (DIK), supported by The Rotary Foundation, is launching an urgent and impactful humanitarian initiative — and we are inviting Rotary Clubs across the District to join us.

We aim to fund and dispatch a **shipping container** filled with **critically needed medical equipment, instruments, and consumables** to an NGO hospital in Cambodia. These items will be carefully selected from the hospital-generated wish list to ensure that what we send has immediate and measurable clinical impact — particularly in surgery, trauma, diagnostics, and critical care.

Why Your Club's Participation Matters:

Cambodian public hospitals operate with minimal government funding and face severe shortages of even the most basic medical resources. Life expectancy is around **10 years lower** than in Australia. Modern diagnostic imaging is rare, surgical instruments are limited, and many beds date back to the 1970s — some without mattresses. Diseases such as tuberculosis and leprosy remain present, while trauma from road accidents accounts for a high percentage of avoidable deaths.

Meanwhile, Australian hospitals routinely replace equipment that, while no longer current for us, is considered **state-of-the-art** in Cambodia. Without Rotary intervention, much of this equipment becomes landfill — yet in Cambodia it becomes **hope, dignity, and survival**.

Our Key Partner Hospital:

This project will directly support the **Children's Surgical Centre (CSC)** in Phnom Penh — a reputable tertiary teaching hospital with more than 100 local staff providing **free or low-cost specialised surgery** for disadvantaged patients.

How Clubs Can Take Action:

Rotary Clubs are invited to participate through a **financial contribution** toward container costs (any amount is meaningful) as well as **volunteer assistance** via DIK in West Footscray

DIK will manage sourcing, packing, and shipping, and Rotary Phnom Penh will ensure safe transport and coordinated distribution from port to hospital. Funding will be coordinated by District 9800

This Is Rotary Collaborating and Doing Good in the World!

Together, we can turn surplus into survival and transform thousands of lives through practical, measurable, ethical humanitarian action.

We invite every Club in District 9800 to commit:

A bank account has now been established for this project:

ROTARY DISTRICT 9800

BSB 033-181

Account Number 382 669

To register interest, for more information or to pledge support, please contact:

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District Governor 2009-2010

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Bronwyn donating blood.



Spend it Well—Edini school, Timor Leste

Kris Webb sent through a report of the furniture delivery to the Edini school. The container also has a new home.

Furniture for 75 children: chairs and tables, and a couple of the cupboards were distributed yesterday (a fair trade as Ediri School is where we've put the container).

We built a new school building at Ediri a few years ago. This furniture has gone into their old classrooms - we saw the furniture when we visited earlier in the year, it was broken and falling apart and not enough of it. The teaching standards are particularly good at this school so we are very happy to be able to support it.

I've also attached a photo of the container's new home. The school building we built has the silver roof, the one on the right is an old building that is still used. The container is sitting on the pad that was for the terrible old school building that was demolished when we built the new one.



Kris also sent photos of the most amazing delivery we have ever seen through DiK—by boat!

We think this delivery wins the prize. Spend It Well gave 20 tables and 40 chairs to an NGO working on Atauro Island.

The village is called Berau (see red arrow) It has no road access from the port on the island, so the boat took it straight from Dili across the water to the school.

They also gave solar buddy lights to the 80 kids at this school.



Rotary Club of Footscray—Horn of Africa Project:

The 19th container sent of essential goods has now reached its destination in the Somali Regional State of Ethiopia.

The Horn of Africa project was commissioned to provide those living in the Horn of Africa region with the resources and materials that would make a positive difference in their lives. In particular, the project aimed to provide medical equipment to local hospitals that were in dire need, and to support locals who would otherwise travel long distances to receive the basic medical care that they needed. The beneficiaries of these donated resources can now boast of much improved facilities and vastly superior patient care.

We are pleased to report that this container has reached its final destination of Jigjiga Primary Hospital in Jigjiga, the capital city of the Somali Regional State of Ethiopia. The container was loaded on the 13th of May 2025 and unloaded on the 30th of August 2025, in a ceremony that was attended by the Somali Regional State of Ethiopia Health Bureau Vice Head Mr. Mohamed Ayanle, Mayor of Jigjiga City Eng Shafi Ahmed Moalin, Jigjiga Primary Hospital CEO Dr. Mohamed Muhumed Ibrahim, Somali State Olive Welfare Association General Manager Mr. Aden Ahmed Hirsi, various Somali Region Clan leaders including Ugaas Muhyadin Sh Ismail, and many members of the Jigjiga community.



We have enjoyed tremendous support from far and wide. First and foremost, we would like to highlight the incredible work of the DIK manager Colleen d'Offay and the DIK volunteers, without whom this project would not have achieved the success that it has had, and the members of the Rotary Club of Footscray. The current president Elizabeth Drozd OAM of the Rotary Club of Footscray, has provided essential support throughout the lifecycle of this project.



Our deep gratitude is with Western Health and Austin Health, who have generously donated an abundance of vital equipment that is much needed in the Horn of Africa region. Footscray Rotary Aged and Community Service Fund, headed by Darcy Brennan, have also made a significant financial contribution to the Horn of Africa Project and we would like to express our utmost appreciation.



We are extremely grateful to the Ethiopian State Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador H.E. Hadera Abera, the Executive Director of the Ethiopian Diaspora Service Ambassador Fitsum Arega, the Ethiopian State Minister of Health H.E. Frehiwot Abebe, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Minister of Finance H.E. Ahmed Shide, and the Commissioner of the Ethiopian Customs Commission H.E. Debele Kabet, for their generous exemption of fees and charges normally applied to imported goods.

Thanks are due to H.E. Mr. Anwar Muktar Mohammed, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Ambassador in Australia, the Diaspora Engagement Affairs Minister for the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Australia Mr. Awlache Masre Zeru, and Counsellors Mr. Yalelet Getachew Ashenafi & Mr. Odaa Gemechu

Wahelo, who have been very considerate in helping us to smoothly deal and communicate with the various levels of governments involved.

Thanks are due to the Somali Regional State Chief of Cabinet Dr. Hussein Kasim, Special Advisory to the Somali Regional State President Amin Ahmed, Head of Somali Regional State of Ethiopia Health Bureau Dr. Mussa Ibrahim, and especially Somali Regional State Urban Development and Construction Bureau Head Ahmed Shukri Abdi for liaising with Bolidid General Construction Company, Gama Crushing & Construction Partnership and the Mayoral office of Jigjiga for the payment of the cost involved with the transportation of the medical equipment from Berbera Somaliland Berbera Port to Jigjiga, with sincere thanks to Somali State Olive Welfare Association General Manager Mr. Aden Ahmed Hirsi for doing the majority of the groundwork involved to ensure the success of the project.



We would also like to give our thanks to Gargaar Integrated Logistics Berbera Somaliland Berbera Port Operation Coordinator Yusuf Khadar Abdi for their invaluable support in facilitating the Berbera Somaliland custom clearance and transport of the medical equipment, and we would like to mention in particular Somaliland Clan Leader, Ugaas Muhyadin Sh Ismail for organising the custom exemption paperwork with Somaliland Ministry of Finance Director General Mr Mohamed Hasan Saleban.

We would like to acknowledge Infinity Custom Clearing and General Trading PLC Kindhun Workalem and the Ethiopian Customs Commission Jigjiga Branch Manager Zinaw Derebe Mulugeta Alene for their cooperation in the clearance of the medical equipment. The Somali and Harari communities in Australia and abroad, have shown unbelievable generosity in their contributions to the transportation of the medical equipment. The General Manager of the Australian Light Foundation, Fatih Yargi, has provided immense support in offering additional assistance whenever needed. The Hararian Organization Inc. has shown us great kindness in providing storage space for donated medical equipment, in particular Amir Shash and Mohamed Jami who have many times lent us a hand in loading and unloading equipment, and Imran Abdoush Ibrahim who made many sacrifices to make a video documentary of the success of the project.

We have also received communications from H.E. Dr. Peter Hunter, Australian Ambassador to Ethiopia, and the Hon. Tim Watts MP, Special Envoy for Indian Ocean Affairs and Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, to note their appreciation of the Horn of Africa project for addressing healthcare needs in the Horn of Africa region, establishing healthcare facilities in response to urgent demand in the spirit of service and compassion, and wished us continued success in our efforts to improve access to life-saving medical care.

To conclude, we should all feel proud that we have made a positive difference for those who were in sore need of our assistance. It is truly remarkable to see how much we have achieved through our determined and warm-hearted efforts, and it is important to reflect on this success and understand that we are capable of great things.

We soon plan on sending our 20th container of essential medical equipment since we started the Horn of Africa Project to the Dilchora Referral Hospital in the Dire Dawa City Administration of Ethiopia. The significance of this next destination is that Dire Dawa City is one of the most multicultural and cosmopolitan cities in Ethiopia and is a melting pot of different ethnic groups, with many languages spoken by the multilingual citizens, including Amharic, Somali, Oromo, Harari, Guragigna, Arabic, French, among many others. We hope that we will be able to sustain our success going forward and ask that you continue on this journey with us.

Jama Farah International Chair Rotary Club of Footscray—September/2025

Linen offer:

Amongst the many special offers facilitated by DiK was that of linen supplied from the Roy Hill Mining Company in Western Australia and facilitated by Gerry McGann and his team at the Rotary Club of Mill Point.

A 20 ft Container stuffed to the brim arrived at DiK on a wintry day and was quickly unloaded and organised. It was all in blue/gray colourings and totalled 12,500 pieces of single bed linen all laundered {doona cover, flat and fitted sheet, 4 pillow cases} with limited quantities of queen size fitted and flat and double flat, Shower Curtains and Mattress protectors – single.



The linen was made available FREE of charge to DiK Inc members and by a donation from non DiK Inc clubs.

RC Castlemaine	Uganda and Local Community Outreach Programs
RC Footscray	Ethiopia- Hospital
WERN	providing emergency relief and assistance
RIMERN	providing emergency relief and assistance
RC Central Melbourne	Local Community Outreach Programs
RC Lilydale	Local Community Outreach Programs
RC Cranbourne	Local Community Outreach Programs
RC Brighton North	Timor Leste
Community Care Centre Ballarat	affordable and quality health and well-being services.
RC Bendigo Sandhurst	Local Community Outreach Programs and Refugee Support
Samoan Community	Samoa Hospital
South Sudan Community	Maternity Hospital
RC Brighton	PNG –Remote hospitals in Tabubil

The following clubs took up the offer for distribution to local community projects.

There are limited amounts remaining if clubs wish to consider this offer in 2026.



Lego from Good360:

Christmas has come again with another 15 pallets of Lego available. This was quickly snapped up with pallets offered as a whole in 2 age groups: 1-7 years and 7-14 years. The approx RRP of a pallet is \$12K.

The Rotary Club of Cranbourne again took the opportunity to assist the Transit Soup and Food Kitchen, their local community partner.

In addition, they collected toiletries, brand-new socks and children's undies, clothing, sanitary items, laundry liquid, and bed sheets! These are the things families genuinely need and they'll be put to use straight away.



Rotary Club of Bentleigh Moorabbin collected 3 pallets of Lego for their community projects.

President Grant Perry was joined by Ian Ballantyne and Peter and Linda O'Brien and they were very grateful to Colleen for her assistance.

Lego and small gifts were distributed to the Vietnamese Women's Association, the Scouts, Emerge, Family Life and Glen Eira Support Services.



The **Rotary Club of Bendigo Sandhurst** collected a pallet of goods which was part of their Christmas Drive.

Beneficiaries were Karen Community FoodShare and Kangaroo Flat Community Meals team.

They also collected t-shirts, toothpaste, shoes and assorted gifts.



The Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington collected items to use in the Share the Dignity bags. Members donated personal hygiene items and DiK supplied soap, toothpaste, tubes of hand sanitiser, caps and socks, water bottles, notepads and pens. 40bags were filled by volunteers at the Op Shop.

Once again, we have been delighted to welcome corporate volunteers from Telstra and students from Caulfield Grammar.



There are currently 34 DiK Inc members across several districts but there is always space for more.

Do you know who these clubs are?

Albert Park, Ballarat West, Balwyn, Balwyn North, Bendigo Sandhurst, Bentleigh Moorabbin Sunrise, Berwick, Brighton, Brighton North, Camberwell, Canterbury, Carlton, Castlemaine, Central Melbourne, Cranbourne, Dromana, Essendon, Flemington-Kensington, Footscray, Hawthorn, Keilor East, Lilydale, Melbourne, Mornington, Port Phillip, Prahran, Toorak, Traralgon, West Footscray, Williamstown, Wyndham.

The Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations has now joined as a member. District 9800 is also a member. Kew, Pakenham and Preston did not renew their membership.

They each pay \$3500 pa with a **minimum 2 year commitment** allowing them free access to the services and goods in the store for their international and local projects. This fee goes towards the rent and outgoings: rent and operating expenses continue to rise!.

We are also very grateful to clubs and districts who make a donation of a lesser amount. These donations help keep the store viable and pay the rent. In recent months we have received donations from the Rotary Clubs of Bendigo South, Carlton, Dromana and Lakes Entrance. THANK YOU!

Membership of DiK Inc allows clubs to access goods in the store for their international **AND local projects. Not a member, then a financial contribution will be asked from you for goods.**

Colleen is available to do club visits and share the presentation with your members. This explains how Donations in Kind receives donations and then shares goods with clubs for local and international projects.

Contact Colleen at Colleen@rotarydik.org

Please share this newsletter with your networks, especially those who could consider donations.

Donations in Kind is located at Shed 39, 400 Somerville Road West Footscray.

It is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays. <https://rotarydik.org>

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