

A COIN-DRIVEN REMEDY FOR MALARIA

GEOFF SELL



*Geoff with his magic
foreign-coin-collection box*

For Rotary Clubs or others wishing to be involved in this program, more about the FCRP can be found at the Club's website:

*<https://hornsbydistrictrotary.org>
or call Geoff Sell on 1300 582 665.*

Geoff would also like to thank John and Barbara Rafter, RC of East Keilor VIC, Ian Bradshaw, RC of Wanneroo WA, Chris Durie, RC of Cooroy QLD, John Steele RC of St Ives NSW and RC of Woden ACT for being part of the FCRP team

The Rotary Club of Hornsby District was one of the first contributors to the Malaria Vaccine Project and it continues to be one of our greatest supporters. The Club's first donation dates back to December 2016 and they have now given more than \$25,000 to the development of Professor Good's promising malaria vaccine. They also support RAM's many malaria endeavours (bed nets, water treatment and education) as well as Rotary international projects in health education and welfare in poorer regions of the world. How do they do it!!

The first ingredient is to have a passionate Rotarian like Geoff Sell and the second is to have a creative idea that provides substantial and ongoing funds. Geoff has been a member of the RC Club of Hornsby, now RC of Hornsby District, for 42 years and has always been keenly interested global and humanitarian projects that improve people's lives. Geoff is the General Manager of Mitten Vinyl Australia, a business he established in 1986 and one that imports cladding products from Canada and USA and sells them in Australia and New Zealand. Geoff and his wife admit to having had little experience in the building industry back in 1986 but his penchant for challenges has generated a very successful business and that expertise flows onto his Club's fundraising for malaria projects.

The Foreign Coin Repatriation Program (FCRP) began over two decades ago when Rotarian Adrian Garton (now RC of Orange NSW), working in the flight crew industry, saw an opportunity to make "big change from small change". The program has since been championed by Ian Vacchini, and more recently Geoff Sell, who stepped into the role of FCRP Committee Chair. Over a number of years, with the careful stewardship of Geoff and the team, the RC of Hornsby District has collected and repatriated unwanted foreign coins and notes that travellers have brought back to Australia. The coins are of too little value to be changed back into Australian currency so the travellers are happy to donate them to Rotary. The Hornsby District Club, assisted by other Rotary clubs, collects the unwanted coins and notes from perspex collection boxes placed in AMEX and Bendigo Bank branches and currency exchange facilities in various Australian cities. Finally the coins and notes are sorted and returned to their country of origin where they are converted into Australian dollars. Sounds like a complex process but more than \$560,000 AUD has been raised by this coin program over the last 24 years. Participating Rotary clubs receive a pro rata percentage of funds, directed to their choice of international projects.

What a great project! We are indebted the RC of Hornsby District, their FCRP Committee and dedicated team of collectors and coin sorters for their wonderful support of the Malaria Vaccine Project. We also receive parallel support from the RC of Goolwa (South Australia); it is one of the clubs assisting Hornsby in the foreign coins program. Special thanks to Kevin Hales who works with Geoff in coordinating the Goolwa coin collection. They have donated nearly \$15,000 to the Malaria Vaccine Project.

We are very thankful that Geoff truly lives the dream of a malaria free world!