



RAWCS rover

Linking Eastern Region Clubs in Districts;
9650, 9670, 9675, 9685, 9700, 9710

NEXT RAWCS meeting
August 29th & 30th
GOULBURN, NSW

Host District: 9710
RSVP: Secretary Ted Lewis:
lewisted@ozemail.com.au

Chairman's Report

I would like to record my thanks to PP Alan Chesworth and the Rotary Club of Leeton Central for the excellent venue and the organisation of our very successful meeting at Leeton on the weekend of 16th & 17th May. As many have said Alan has set the bar high for other Districts organising our future quarterly meetings. Well done to all concerned.



RAWCS National Meeting

The RAWCS National Board meeting was held via phone on Sunday 24th May. The following Board decisions were made:

- All regional administration accounts have now been centralised and the Regional Treasurers are operating their accounts on imprest cash system.
 - A new strategic plan for RAWCS Ltd. was adopted.
- The website committee made many recommendations. The major elements of the changes are:
- Change to WordPress
 - Complete redevelopment of site– the visual look and appeal and usability of the site will change.
 - We will move all to the (national) domain;
www.rawcs.org.au
 - The current RAWCS logo will remain in use until RI approve a new one.
 - Development of better search pages on the website for the public and those maintaining the site.

In addition we have recommended that written criteria for Donations in Kind activities needs to be published on our website so it is clear what are allowable activities.

As of 1st July 2015 the fee to register a project of \$50 and \$10 volunteer fee will cease and be covered by the National 3% service fee on non-Rotarian donations.

We are continuing to develop online Team Leader Reports and Project Manager Reports:

Team leaders will receive a link to the report 2 days after their return home to filled in online and be able to upload up to 4 photographs. Portions of these reports will be sent to our Promotional Team for possible publication.

Report from Chairman John Roberson continued page 2

Please join us

for the next RAWCS Eastern Region meeting to be held in Goulburn on August 29th & 30th 2015.

Venue: Goulburn Workers Club



Saturday evening 6:30pm
our Key Note Speaker will be:
Ms Kate Neely
on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WaSH

Please join us for a presentation from **Kate Neely** a specialist in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). Kate has been working in East Timor

Kate has just completed her PhD researching Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in developing countries, at Deakin University, Melbourne.

Kate will give us an update on what's new and what other agencies are doing in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.

Rotary Australia World Community Service Limited's AIM is to: "Support Australian Rotarians and Rotary Clubs in assisting disadvantaged communities with humanitarian aid projects."

Our objective is to:

"Enable Australian Rotarians and Rotary Clubs to undertake humanitarian aid projects."

Visit RAWCS Eastern Region website: www.rawcseastern.org.au/ Visit RAWCS National website: www.rawcs.com.au/

Report from Chairman John Roberson continued



Project Managers will receive a link to their online report every 6 months. They will need to fill it out online, and will be able to upload up to 4 photographs.

Fostering Future RAWCS Leaders

The seeking out of future leaders for RAWCS Eastern Region needs to be discussed openly and personnel

found and educated in the process and products that RAWCS offers. RAWCS is now a \$30million plus business and growing. We need highly qualified accounting, legal and administrative, corporate leaders. Eastern Region must have Rotarians of the calibre and education that we can attract to work firstly with Eastern Region and possibly be considered for positions on the RAWCS National Board. With the RAWCS Head Office here in Sydney this Region should have at least one of the RAWCS executive in our Region. We have duty to seek out these personnel and attract them to become involved in RAWCS.

RAWCS is now a \$30million plus business and growing.

Training

The training of Team Leaders and Project Managers is a high priority. The Region would like National to produce PowerPoint presentations and online training modules for use by individuals and at meetings to help achieve this.

Strategic Review of Projects

The National Projects Coordinator is sending out a list of current Eastern Region projects that have been deemed to not meet the RAOAF Criteria. We are asking those projects to re-assess the project and ensure that they are supplying sustainable development aid, not welfare. They will be requested to re-word their name and description to comply with the RAOAF criteria and liaise with the National Coordinator to have the website amended.

Projects need to supply sustainable development aid not welfare.

Financial Reports to Project Managers

I request Project Managers and their committees who do not agree with the balance presented please contact Belinda Griffen at the RAWCS National Office with documented evidence to prove the difference and all efforts will be made to rectify the discrepancy. Belinda Griffen - belinda.griffen@rawcs.org.au - (02) 8833-8317

Donations in Kind

Eastern Region has been informed that the lease on our present Donations in Kind depot at Minchinbury Salvation Army premises will have to be vacated by December 2017. It was agreed by the Management Committee that the Region should



search for a suitable premises to relocate and that the relocation take place as soon as we can organise for it to occur. We will relocate before we are expected to vacate if we find a suitable site.

**Eastern Region
Chairman John Roberson**



RAWCS meeting in Goulburn

The next RAWCS meeting will be held in Goulburn hosted by District 9710

29th & 30th
August 2015



PROGRAM:

Saturday afternoon - from 2pm

Venue: Goulburn Workers Club, GOULBURN

- ◆ Update on response projects working in Nepal and Vanuatu following the tragic natural disasters.

Saturday evening Dinner: 6:30 pm

Our Key Note Speaker will be:

Ms Kate Neely on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene WaSH and....

Presentation of Pink Umbrella Foundation Grants

Sunday morning - from 9:00 am to 12:30:

RAWCS Eastern Region Annual General Meeting
with election of Officers for Rotary year 2016-17.

Immediately followed by,

RAWCS Eastern Region General Meeting:
featuring "Have your say" everyone gets an opportunity to talk about their project or special interest.

Hope to see you there - YOU ARE INVITED

RSVP: Secretary Ted Lewis: lewisted@ozemail.com.au

Are you looking for a Deductible Gift Recipient?

RAWCS Overseas Aid Fund is a **Deductible Gift Recipient** so is able to offer **tax deductible donations** to support organisations with worthy projects outside Australia. Rotary Australia Benevolent Society (RABS) can provide a similar service within Australia.

Our **Rotary Australia Overseas Aid Fund** ABN: 21 388 376 554 holds the following registrations which will enable it to accept tax deductible donations and grants from all sources in Australia including **business corporations** and **not-for-profit organisations**.

- ◆ **Deductible Gift Recipient**
- ◆ **Tax Concession Charity**
- ◆ **Income Tax Exempt Fund**

Visit www.rawcs.org.au or talk to your District RAWCS officer.

Why not Volunteer?

Volunteering Opportunities

Many RAWCS projects welcome volunteers.

If you are looking for an experience of a life-time think about joining a team working on an International project. Following are some projects that welcome Rotarian and non-Rotarian self-funded volunteers.

Making a Difference - MADAGASCAR: project # 20/2011-12

Teams from Rotary Club of Gosford North have visited Madagascar on several occasions and rolled out many projects. Last trip a container of wheelchairs were distributed to handicapped and disabled people. Previously teams have run training in building school desks by supplying tools, timbers and skills.

A project trip is planned for mid 2016 and volunteers are welcome. A 40ft container will be loaded and sent over to be distributed by the team. With each trip the Rotary Club of Woy Woy has donated medical equipment to be distributed at various medical facilities.

For more information contact Project Manager **Peter Pearce**
email: peterpearce48@hotmail.com **Rotary Club of Gosford North**



Low Power Consuming Computers - VANUATU project # 31/2011-12

This is an ongoing project. Installations have been made in Fomu, Papua New Guinea, Sola, Hog Harbour and Tanna, Vanuatu. Additionally systems have been sent to Philippines, other sites in Papua New Guinea and several to African countries. A good relationship has been developed with TAFE who recently won an award from TAFE for their relationship with Rotary. Many Rotarian and non-Rotarians have travelled with this project and achieved fabulous results.

If you are interested in this volunteering opportunity contact Project Manager **Phill Isaacs**: email: pisaacs@bigpond.net.au

Rotary Club of Upper Blue Mountains



Smart Villages Sustainability Project - CAMBODIA

The project aim is to turn around the plight of remote villages in Cambodia from poverty and despair to self sustainability over 4 years using a proven model developed by Cambodian NGO "Build your Future Today" (BFT).

It is a holistic approach addressing health, education food sustainability and clean year round water.

Interested in this project contact Project Manger **Tony James**: email: tonyjamesnsw@gmail.com

Rotary Club of Pittwater



RYLA - EAST TIMOR project # 20/2011-12

D9685 organisers have been working with Rotary Clubs in East Timor to establish RYLA for several years. The program has been extended to include RYPEN. Now the project is working to ensure the leadership training continues post RYLA. Last year East Timor RYLA Alumni formed RYLarian Community service committees.

Volunteers are welcome to participate in this annual event contact project manager **Theo Glockerman**: email: theo-geo@bigpond.net.au

Rotary Club of Pennant Hills



REMI Project - LAOS

Rotaract Club of Lower North Shore

RAWCS project number #12-2014-15

The REMI project aims to highlight the advantages of combining multiple technologies with local skills to help achieve environmental sustainable outcomes.

Like many developing countries Laos PDR faces the challenge of providing cheap, renewable and reliable energy to isolated areas of the country. Lower North Shore (LNS) Rotaract is supporting the Renewable Energy and Materials Institute (REMI) in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) to conduct a pilot study of how sustainable technologies can support community development. REMI is implementing the use of renewable energy technologies, in several rural villages and studying how these initiatives affect the local environment, economy and society.



Above: Volunteers from LNS Rotaract recently visited REMI in Lao PDR and travelled with them to meet with local officials in villages where the pilot will take place. This was an important step in gaining the support of the local authorities and they were interested in the international partnership. It was an eye-opening experience for the volunteers who had never visited SE Asia or a developing country before.

LNS Rotaract is currently focusing on fundraising for the next stage of this project – community needs, resources and capability assessments of the villages; and the grant would go towards this.

Danielle Fogarty Project Manager
Rotaract Club of Lower North Shore D9685



Water filters drying in LAOS

Rotary Solar Lights - WORLDWIDE

Rotary Club of Sutherland

RAWCS project number #36-2011-12

The Rotary Solar Light Project aims to provide solar lights to disadvantaged communities in developing countries. The project offers a unique, affordable, lightweight, robust solar light that is easy to use, hard to break and gives 8 hours of light per charge. It has a clipping system which allows the lights to be clipped together for greater lighting capability.

One quarter of the world's population live without grid-connected electricity which make us very aware of the importance of our Rotary Solar Lights in developing countries. The recent events in Nepal and Vanuatu, have left many of these people with nothing so the basic needs of food, water and shelter are in great need. Our Solar Lights would provide basic light at night. This would help to enable cooking, be a comfort for young children and provide more security.

It is estimated that 780 million women and children are breathing toxic kerosene fumes. Kerosene lighting costs up to one third of the household income in many countries and kerosene lamps are the leading cause of household fires in developing communities.

Other benefits of this project include:

- A new dimension - provide lights to communities that don't have any light at all.
- Reduce poverty - by replacing existing kerosene lamps and reduce household costs dramatically.
- Increase health - by reducing the harmful effect of the fumes from kerosene.
- Reduce fire - less fire means fewer accidents.
- Enable students – gives greater opportunity for study at night.

The lights are a relatively low cost at \$10 per light.

Pam Boler Project Manager
Rotary Club of Sutherland D9675



Children in UGANDA



Students in FIJI



Share your project reports online

Have your RAWCS project report posted on-line at Eastern Region Website www.rawcseastern.org.au/

Check the website for these great reports recently loaded:

BANGALDESH - Women's Health Mutaleb Community Hospital - #19/2011-12

CAMBODIA - Poverty Aid - May 2015 - #58/2012-13

KENYA - Maternal & Child Health Project (MACH) #17/2014-15

NEPAL - Bright Futures Children's Home #10/2012-13

NEPAL - Earthquake Report - RAWCS Volunteer

NEPAL - Mera School Report - #54/2011-12

Solar Lights Newsletter

PHILIPPINES - Humanitarian Medical Missions - 79/2013

EAST TIMOR - Learning Centre for Youth - #33/2014-15

RABS Project - Leg up for Marney - #4/2014

If you would like your project report posted online contact:

WEBMASTER – Brian Goldstraw

email: brian.goldstraw@bigpond.com

Rotary Club of Hall D9710

or **Assistant Webmaster** - Bruce Gendre

email: jbknight@bigpond.com

Rotary Club of Raymond Terrace D9670.

*Please note: **File Size Limit** - The web server for the Eastern Region Website has a file size limit of 2MB which limits to size of reports that can be uploaded.*

Online Volunteer Registration

Since July 2014 we have registered more than **610 volunteers on 110 teams travelling to 25 different countries.**

The online volunteer system has been available for 16 months now. This system has seen tremendous change to the amount of time spent processing volunteer applications, the storage of data and notifications to the stake holders. Those being DFAT, ACE Insurance, Club Presidents both in Eastern Region and the visiting countries, District Governors again both in Eastern Region and the visiting countries. In the main, users of the system have been very proactive and positive in their approach to using the system. The user's guide can be of great benefit to assist when using the online system for the first time. The stand out issue of confusion for volunteers is the downloading, uploading and emailing of forms and the Working with Children document. With time we hope we stream line the system even further making it as user friendly as possible.

RAWCS notifies key stakeholders for you!

Ranfurly Book Aid - PACIFIC IS countries

Rotary Club of Sydney Cove

RAWCS project number #57-2013-14



The Ranfurly Book Aid funds pallets of books sent to schools and libraries for RAWCS projects and other organisations operating in developing countries in South West Pacific Region. Ranfurly Book Library is staffed by volunteer Rotarians and friends. They sort, cull and ship approximately 4,000 books fortnightly. They have shipped almost 4,000,000 books. The highest cost is sea freight. Rotary Clubs, organisations and individuals gather and transport donated books to Rozelle where volunteers pack them in designated size cartons, place on pallets and shrink wrap making the shipment one cubic metre. Books are only sent on

request by in-country Rotary Clubs.

RAWCS legends Graham (Morph) Morphett and PDG Jack Elliott champions for Ranfurly Book Aid.



the working
with children
check

Working with Children Check

RAWCS requires all NSW overseas volunteers aged 18 years & over to be registered with the new working with children. For more information follow this link:

<https://wwwcheck.cyp.nsw.gov.au/Applicants/>

Application# It is a simple process. It requires completing the online application and then an identity check at your local RTA. It is important process for Rotarians and volunteers working with children locally or overseas to complete.

RAWCS National is looking at a standard approach that is legal in all states for RAWCS Overseas Volunteers.





Above: Brad Fleming building benches for the computer classroom

Rotary Club of Hall D9710 asks MBA Group Training apprentice to help in Vanuatu.

After seven years of supporting Port Resolution, on Tanna Island, Vanuatu with many projects, the most recent enhancement was to install solar power, lighting and 15 computers and to provide IT training for the teachers at the local school.

An integral part of the project was also to build computer benches and seats in the library. The Rotary Club of Hall was looking for a skilled carpenter to take with the team to undertake this part of the project. John Kenworthy of the Rotary Club of Hall, approached the MBA to make available a third year apprentice for the two week project. The MBA selected Brad Fleming. The Rotary Club of Hall paid for the airfares and accommodation and the MBA Group Training covered Brad's wages whilst on the project.

Pictured: Job well done: Students try out the newly established computer classroom, Tanna Island, Vanuatu.



DONATE NOW

All RAWCS and RABS projects in all Regions are now registered for online donations.

If you have an inspiring project or any RAWCS or RABS news we would welcome a report to include in a future RAWCS Rover. Please email RAWCS Rover editor: Sue O'Neill: sue_oneill@hotmail.com



Editor's Comment

Welcome to another RAWCS Rover!

There is so much news this quarter.

RAWCS is building comprehensive frameworks to allow Rotarians and Rotary Clubs to undertake humanitarian Aid projects overseas and in Australia. It is an exciting journey as we transition to more automated systems and streamlined guidelines.

When you read about some of the projects you can't help but be inspired. Opportunities for volunteering are enormous, if you are interested in volunteering check out the project listings on the RAWCS website for more information: www.rawcseastern.org.au/

All Rotarians are welcome to attend the RAWCS meetings. If you can make it we would love to see you there. It is a great chance to hear about some wonderful Rotary work undertaken and meet some inspiring Rotarians.

RAWCS is all about ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

Yours in Rotary Service, PP Sue O'Neill
Rotary Club of WOY WOY D9685



Eastern Region Executive Committee



Chairman: John Roberson

Secretary: Ted Lewis

Treasurer: Jack Elliott

Immediate Past Chairman: Harry Durey

Vice Chairman: Graham Taylor

Assistant Secretary: Ron Marcus

Volunteer Co-Ordinator: Karen Wyers

Project Registration Co-Ordinator: Lloyd Chatfield

Project Report Co-Ordinator: John Glass

Benevolent Society Co-Ordinator: Alan Chesworth

DIK: Miriam Jacka

Ranfurly Co-Ordinator: Graham Morphet

R.A.M. Co-Ordinator: David Pearson

RAWCS Rover Editor: Sue O'Neill

Training: Barry Silburn

Promotion Co-Ordinator: Sue O'Neill

Webmaster: Brian Goldstraw

District Representatives

District 9650 Bob Neich

District 9670 Brian Coffey

District 9675 Lloyd Chatfield

District 9685 Theo Glockermann

District 9700 Alan Chesworth

District 9710 Brian Goldstraw

Save the Date!

We hope to see you our RAWCS meeting November 2015
Location: Newcastle,
Host District: D9670