

**Graham Fussen**

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**From:** Mike Greenslade <mike.greenslade@shelterbox.org.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 29 February 2024 10:00 AM  
**To:** Rotary D9510 Online  
**Subject:** ShelterBox Australia Newsletter February 2024

Gaza Appeal, Two Years of War in Ukraine, Trek 4  
Shelter update

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Click on the image above to donate to our Gaza Appeal

Dear Rotary

I hope you and your family are safe and well.

February marks the two-year anniversary of Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine. I'm sure that for those suffering in Ukraine, it seems like a lifetime since their world was turned upside down. Through the support of people like you, ShelterBox has helped over 120,000 people, with thousands more in line for support. You can read summary of our response so far, below.

You'll also read about Rotary Peace Fellow, Mohammed Eid, who lived in a ShelterBox tent in Gaza with his family back in 2014. Sadly, the current situation is much worse. A ShelterBox Response Team is in Egypt working on getting our much-needed aid into the war-torn enclave.

On the good news front, our Trek 4 Shelter campaign is nearing its \$250,000 target! Why not get on board and help get us over the line or sponsor one of our intrepid trekkers?

This month's quote comes from Jeanette Rankin "You can no more win a war than you can win an earthquake."

Thanks for being part of the team. Stay safe.

**Mike Greenslade**  
*CEO ShelterBox Australia*



## **Gaza - Conflict - Moh's Story**

Mohammed Eid, known as Moh, lived in a ShelterBox tent in Gaza as a child, after his family were displaced from their home in 2014.

*"We lost everything and sought refuge in the local school turned into a shelter." Moh's family then stayed in a tent provided by ShelterBox. "A tent provides privacy for the family, and privacy is culturally important in the Middle East. The worst thing that can happen to people is to deprive them of that."*

*"It was a very difficult experience, losing everything we ever owned and everything we built."*

Moh now lives in the USA, where he travelled in 2017 after being awarded the Rotary Peace Fellowship. **But his family remain in Gaza.**

*"My family's house back in Gaza was bombed on the third day of the war [...] Now, my family are temporarily staying with relatives in Rafah Camp, where hundreds of thousands of internally displaced people are seeking refuge as well."*

Moh remains in communication with his family, learning through them of the terrible situation faced by people in Gaza. He does not know what will happen to his family next but hopes that they and other people in Gaza will receive support and shelter.

*"I do know that no one should be deprived of their most basic human need. People need shelters during emergencies."*

**With 1.9 million people displaced in Gaza, the need is dire.** Blankets, mattresses, pillows and floor mats will help people stay warm. We'll also provide essential items like water carriers, kitchen sets, nappies, toothbrushes, sanitary items, and body wash.





February 24 marks two years since the latest phase of the conflict. Since the start of the war in Ukraine in February 2022, more than 1.4 million homes have been damaged or destroyed. Some residents had little choice but to leave their homes and belongings behind to find shelter in schools or community buildings. Others went to live with family, friends, or host communities becoming internally displaced people long-term.

## Ukraine - Two Years On

- ShelterBox has supported more than **120,000 people** with emergency shelter and other essential items since the latest phase of the war in Ukraine started in February 2022. We will be supporting thousands more people with our latest project.
- We've delivered six separate projects with five different partner organisations since March 2022.
- In the early stages of the conflict, we supported people displaced internally in collective centres, and people on the move who'd crossed the border into Moldova becoming refugees.
- We remained flexible as the conflict evolved, adapting to provide people with items like tarpaulins and repair kits so they could make damaged homes watertight.
- We provided stoves and winter clothing to help people stay warm through bitter winters.

· Most recently we've been working in partnership with National Network of Local Philanthropy Development (NNLPD) and community foundations on a more localised response. Partnering in this way, is allowing us to reach people in need across a wide area with aid tailored to the requests of local communities.

[Donate Today](#)



If you have been looking for a way to get involved with ShelterBox Australia and are up for an adventure, the Trek4Shelter Three Peaks Challenge is for you!

Conquer three of the highest peaks in New South Wales all in one day—Mt Kosciuszko, Etheridge Ridge and Mt Carruthers and raise funds that will give a family back the sense of security a shelter brings. As a small group fundraising adventure, places are limited so click through to learn more and secure your spot on this epic challenge today!



Sign-up today and save \$150!



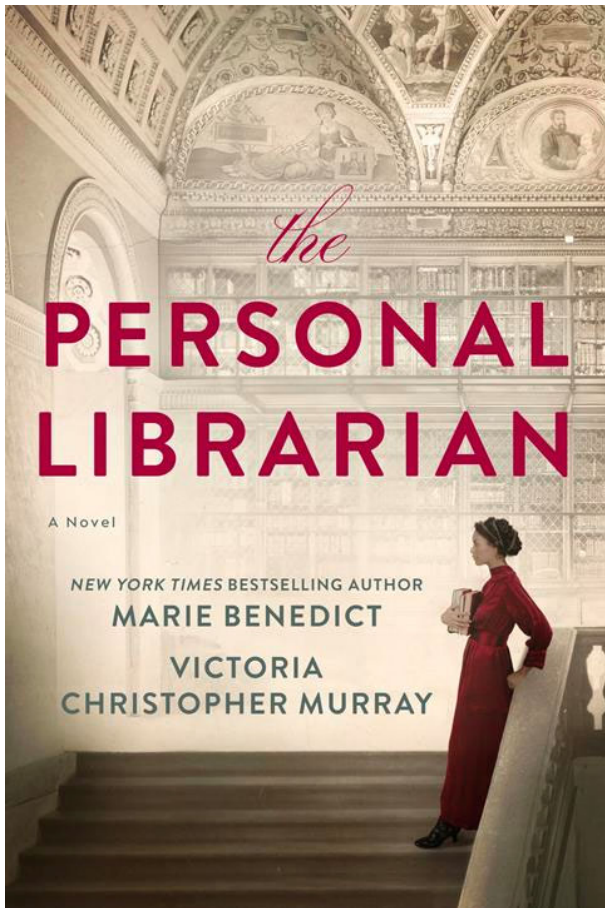
## Trek Kokoda in April 2024

Challenge yourself to discover the natural beauty of Papua New Guinea and be immersed in rich Australian war history. Over 8 days, traverse through dense, tropical jungle, ascend and descend steep mountains and trek alongside riverbeds. This is no easy feat, but a bucket-list item and iconic pilgrimage for those wanting to honour the ANZAC spirit.

**We have just two spots left**, so if you're thinking of signing up, do it today to reserve your spot and commence your training. Keep an eye out for the January sale!

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