



HOME WHO WE ARE ABOUT ROMAC **ABOUT ROMAC**

ROMAC is the acronym for “**Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children**” and is a combined Australian and **New Zealand** initiative. It was commenced out of the actions of a single Rotarian in March, 1988, when a member of the Rotary Club of Kangaroo Flat in Victoria, visited Lambasa in Fiji with a group of Australian surgeons. He found the child mortality rate as high as 25% in some places, and quickly established that a major factor was the lack of medical and surgical facilities and skills available to children of those areas.

Rotary was challenged to assist an 18 year old Fijian girl whose right leg was threatened if immediate surgery was not performed. During the next four years eight children were brought to Australia by the Rotary Club of Kangaroo Flat for major, often life saving surgery. Soon 20 Rotary clubs were caught up in the success of each case and assisted in various ways.

ROMAC quickly went about harnessing assistance from medical experts, hospitals, nurses, physiotherapists, pathology and radiology services, airlines, sponsors and other supporters.

HUMANITARIAN STORIES GENERATES IMPRESSIVE PUBLICITY

The human interest in these stories has generated great publicity through regional and national outlets. Initially Southern Cross Television ran in excess of 12 prime time news stories and produced a half hour documentary. GTV9’s “A Current Affair” has worked very close with ROMAC and has put to air 15 stories, the most notable of these being the separation of the Bosin Siamese twins from PNG.

This and the current publicity today has been the catalyst for the rapid expansion of this project.

To date ROMAC has changed and saved the lives of over 400 children, enabling them and their families to live normal, happy lives.

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

Many of these cases have won international as well as domestic recognition. The Bosin Siamese twins, Ramesh Chand, “the monkey boy”, Jessie Ryder the little Fijian burns girl and Pape Minape the Papua New Guinean burns boy, Anna De Costa the 15 year old girl from East Timor with life threatening cancer in the left thigh and Augusto Costa the four year old East Timor boy, born with a blocked bowel, have become symbols of compassion by Australian Rotary and Australian Rotarians. In May 1999 a National Advisory Committee was established at the first National Conference to manage the operations and development of ROMAC within Australia. By June 2001, 16 of Australia’s 23 Rotary Districts were involved in the ROMAC program.

On the 7th of June 2004 ROMAC achieved formal listing as a Rotary International approved Multi-District program of Australia and New Zealand

THE OFTEN 'FORGOTTEN' CHILDREN

The desired objective of ROMAC always has been to try and help these “forgotten children” with life saving and life restoring procedures aimed at giving back their hope for the future to which all children are entitled. No child should be considered a “freak” thereby being hidden away or exploited and become psychologically secluded with absolutely no quality of life or self esteem. Children in developed countries receive this as a birth right. All children should receive the same entitlement.

This important form of support reached a new level when on the 27th of January 2000 his Excellency the Honourable Sir William Deane AC KBE, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia agreed to accept the position of Patron-in-Chief of ROMAC. Successive Governors General agreed to be a Patron of ROMAC including the previous Governor General, The Honourable, Quentin Bryce AC.

Over the years a number of well known Australian religious leaders and high profile people from government, sporting and entertainment areas have gladly lent their names as a friend of ROMAC. Currently Mrs Margie Abbott and Past Rotary International President Bill Boyd are our Romac Patrons. Romac Ambassadors include Di Yerbury Emeritus Professor of UNSW and Macquarie University and Gavin Fox-Smith MD from Johnson and Johnson. Our Goodwill Ambassador is Lydia Ko New Zealand World ranked golfer.

ROMAC could not function without our sponsors and host families and the wonderful work of the surgeons and surgical teams in nearly all the major paediatric and specialist hospitals in the region.

THE FUTURE

ROMAC looks forward to continuing its humanitarian work with volunteer Rotarians, and passionate surgeons. With the continuing moral and financial support from both Rotary

clubs, the general public and the corporate segment one day in the not too distant future we know will double the number of deserving children and their families whose lives we have changed and saved.

DONATE NOW

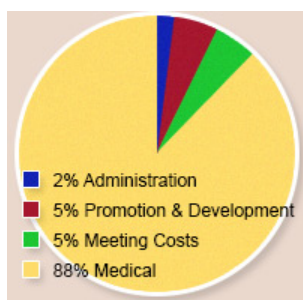
Your contribution will go directly to improving the quality of life of children in need.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The generous assistance of volunteers makes ROMAC's work possible.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

100% of your donation is targeted for child medical expenses.



Other ROMAC expenditure comes from other income streams.