

RAWCS Rover Feb 2024



Peace, Healing and our 60th Anniversary!

The Rover aims to support RAWCS project teams to form, learn, grow, share, collaborate, and succeed!

This edition looks at Rotary's conception of a Peace Agenda and at some of the many projects that Eastern Region supports which build peace, not so much in the sense of disrupting war, but in a sense of establishing and maintaining positive human connections around the globe,

The Eastern Region RAWCS Meeting will be in person from 2pm Saturday the 3rd of Feb to Sunday 5th of Feb 2024 at Club Macquarie- more detail on page 7.

It will be fun!

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Rotary
Australian Districts



Rotary Peace Month

February has been designated as Rotary's "Peace Month" which raises the question of what that can really mean?

What can we do to make the world more peaceful, while the news is full of war?

I thought Rotary's website provided a pretty good response:

"Today, over 70 million people are displaced as a result of conflict, violence, persecution, and human rights violations. Half of them are children.

We refuse to accept conflict as a way of life. Rotary projects provide training that fosters understanding and provides communities with the skills to resolve conflicts.

Rotary creates environments of peace

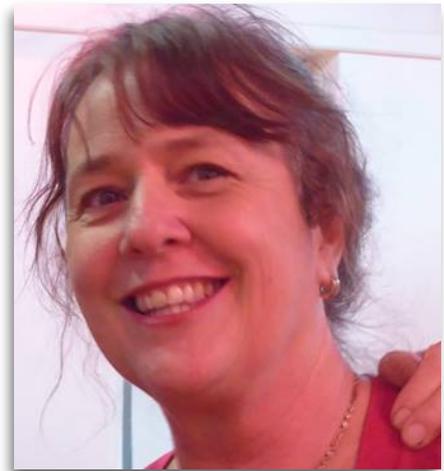
As a humanitarian organization, peace is a cornerstone of our mission. We believe when people work to create peace in their communities, that change can have a global effect.

By carrying out service projects and supporting peace fellowships and scholarships, our members take action to address the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, discrimination, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources.

Our commitment to peacebuilding today answers new challenges: how we can make the greatest possible impact and how we can achieve our vision of lasting change. We are approaching the concept of peace with greater cohesion and inclusivity, broadening the scope of what we mean by peacebuilding, and finding more ways for people to get involved.

Rotary creates environments where peace can happen. "

This edition of the Rover will showcase some of the ways that RAWCS projects in our region are building peace through care for human life, all over our small blue planet.



Marvellous Medical Care

Rtn Marnie Rickards manages two projects concerning Maternal and Child Health and Medical Equipment, both supported by Brisbane Water Rotary Club.

They provide funding for programs in Zambia, Uganda, Malawi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, PNG, Myanmar, Nepal, Vietnam, Laos, Philippines, Cambodia and Bangladesh, and provides ultrasounds, foetal heart monitors & other new medical equipment for hospitals in countries with limited resources.

A current emphasis is a contraceptive implant program at Port Moresby General Hospital in PNG.



More fabulous medical work in PNG is being managed by Rtn Peter Bray, Rotary Club of Kenthurst, District 9685.

Construction of the Sepik River Dental Clinic is well underway, though delayed due to heavy rains in the area. It should be ready for occupancy within the next month and they are finalising the equipment and organising the volunteer dentists who will cater for a population of 100, 000 people currently without access to dental care.

The team hope that their cost-effective model will be adopted by the local government.

What a great outcome that would be!

The ER Co-ordinator's Report

2024 - 60th Anniversary of RAWCS



This year, 2024, we celebrate the 60th anniversary of World Community Service which initially started as FAIM (Fourth Avenue in Motion) in 1964 and was renamed RAWCS (Rotary Australia World Community Service) in 1995.

In 1963 PDG Keith Hopper lead a team of 47 Rotarians, recruited from clubs in five districts on a “goodwill tour” of Indonesia. They discovered many areas where practical help could be provided to villages in developing countries such as Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, and the islands of the South Pacific. In 1964 Keith spoke at the District Conference of District 265, later to become 9650 and then 9660. Following that conference in 1964 FAIM was established as a district program.

FAIM began recruiting volunteer teams with a variety of skills to carry out projects in developing countries and in 1964 the first FAIM team of seven volunteers went to Indonesia and built an orphanage, teaching local people a variety of building techniques as they did so.

As the number of FAIM projects increased it became necessary to develop an administrative structure. In 1966, FAIM was introduced to the Australian Rotary Institute and declared the operative arm of the International Projects Advisory Committee (IPAC) thus becoming a national organisation. District Governors were asked to appoint a District FAIM Chair and a committee of management was elected by the Institute.

In 1971 FAIM adopted a new constitution and established four regions (Northern Southern, Central, and Western) which were represented on the National Coordinating Council. Central Region was later divided into Central Region and Eastern Region. The council's role was to consider requests for FAIM assistance, decide how many teams would be required, ensure satisfactory arrangement were made with the country receiving the aid and to allocate the tasks to the regional councils. By 1974, 300 Rotary clubs and 40 Interact and Rotaract clubs had completed project valued at more than \$30,000. Initially the projects were listed in Rotary Down Under. The project list was later published as a booklet which was issued to every club.

In June 1981, FAIM gained tax deductibility for donations and gifts of \$2 or more.



PDG Keith Hopper

RAWCS was formed at the Annual General Meeting of FAIM which was held at the St George Rowing Club in Sydney on 25 August 1995 where it was resolved to establish a new body to be incorporated as a limited company.

The meeting was attended by the FAIM Regional Chairs and the FAIM District Chairs. Ron Marcus having served as the FAIM Eastern Regional Chair from 1992 to 1995 was the last FAIM and the first RAWCS Eastern Regional Chair serving a further year as Regional Chair until June 1997.

On 1 November 1999 changed its name to Rotary Australia World Community Service Limited when its listing as a limited company was formally registered. The various committees of IPAC (Project Funding), FAIM (now Project Volunteers), Safe Water Save Lives, DIK (Donations In Kind), subsequently renamed RARE (Rotary Australia Repurposing Equipment) and RAM (Rotarians Against Malaria) came under the umbrella of RAWCS Ltd.

In 2012 RAWCS registered the Rotary Australia Benevolent Society (RABS) to enable it to provide tax deductibility for benevolent projects in Australia. From that point, RAWCS was Rotary Australia's one stop shop for humanitarian aid in Australia and overseas. In 2017 the philanthropist Dick Smith recognised the achievements being made through the RABS program and the Rotary Australia Compassionate Grants (RACG) program was established and he donated \$1 million to RAWCS to fund benevolent work in Australia. The RACG program more than matched Dick's money and contributed more than \$2.5 million helping over 100 projects in Australia.

FAIM and RAWCS have made a very significant contribution to world community service in 60 years!

(information sourced from Humanity in Action, Celebrating 100 years of Rotary in Australia and island neighbours and from Ron Marcus)



Update from the RAWCS Board

The Board is calling for the Executive positions of Company Secretary (from 1 July 2024) and National Treasurer (from 1 July 2025). These positions have now been advertised through each district. Please contact me if you have not received this information or if you require further information.

The ACNC and our bankers are increasing compliance requirements. There is now a requirement for all projects which transfer funds overseas to third party organisations, to complete Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with the overseas partners. Many project managers have already completed and submitted this document. I would like to encourage those who have not yet completed these please do so as a matter of urgency. RAWCS now subscribes to Cyber Security insurance and is currently conducting a policy review to ensure that access permissions to our data bases are appropriate and in line with our Privacy Policy. RAWCS is also implementing two factor authentication for access to the systems by approved personnel.



General Manager, Mahir Momand.

GM Mahir Momand has completed a detailed review of RAWCS preparedness to apply to ACFID (Australian Council for International Development) and DFAT's Australian NGO Cooperation Program for accreditation. This review has detailed the scope of work required which is extensive and will take about 12 to 18 months to complete. The benefit from ACFID's accreditation would be about \$400,000 to RAWCS in annual recurrent funding, recognition and pre-approval for specific grants for overseas aid projects. The Board has approved progressing these accreditation applications.

The Executive Committee recently undertook a workshop to scope a new 3-year strategic plan for RAWCS. The Regional Coordinators will be attending a workshop at the end of February to plan the next step in this development of the Strategic Plan which will be presented and further refined at RAWCS annual Planning Meeting in April 2024.

The Board is also revisiting possibility of tax deductibility for the travel costs of volunteers travelling to RAWCS projects and is seeking a revised ruling from the ATO to accept this as genuine overseas aid costs for tax purposes.

Brian Goldstraw
RAWCS Eastern Region Coordinator
January 2024

RAWCS EASTERN REGION MEETING

Club Macquarie

Saturday 3 February 2024

Hosted by RC Morisset & District 9660

Agenda

- **2 pm Acknowledgement to Country & welcome to the Showcase**
 - **2: 05 pm District 9660 Governor welcome** - DG Alyn Miranda
 - **2:10 pm. Showcase- Rotary Australia Overseas Aid Fund (RAOAF)**
Mera Primary School, Kharikhola, Nepal Education,
Sanitation, Health & Hygiene Project Manager Kerrie Wood, RC Port Macquarie Sunrise
 - **2:35pm Showcase – Rotary Australia Benevolent Society (RABS)**
Regional Employment Agricultural Project (REAP) - Ezidi refugee community
Deputy Project Manager Peter Llyod, RC Armidale.
 - **3:00 pm Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)**
 - guest speaker on Cyber Security (via zoom).
 - 3:30pm Afternoon Tea
 - **3:45 pm Showcase – Rotary Australia Benevolent Society (RABS)**
Manning Valley Sleep Bus Project Manager Bob Nelson RC Taree North
 - **4 :05pm WASH Rotary Action Group Ambassador Mark Balla (via Zoom)**
 - 4:35 pm Completion of RAWCS Eastern Region Meeting, day one.
- Saturday Evening Dinner (same venue)**
- **6:00 pm Fellowship, pre dinner drinks and music.**
 - **6:30 pm Dinner Guest Speaker:**

RAWCS National General Manager, Mahir Momand

Bo Children's Hospital, Sierra Leone

Bo Children's Hospital in Bo, Sierra Leone was established in 2012. It is supported by the Rotary Club of Turramurra, District 9685, and project-managed by Rtn Denise Curry.

The hospital is one of only two children's hospitals in a country of nearly 9 million people. It has already treated tens of thousands of children.

Sierra Leone has one of the highest child death rates in the world, but the Bo Children's Hospital has helped reduce it considerably, especially in relation to malaria, malnutrition, measles and HIV. Minor surgery is also carried out at the hospital.

The hospital has a vaccination program immunising over 50 children once a week including provision for children in remote villages inaccessible by road, and nurse educators also teach parents and carers about hygiene and preventative healthcare.



In D. R. Congo, two RAWCS projects supported by the E-Club of Greater Sydney, and managed by Rtn Lucy Hobgood-Brown are also saving lives.

Lotumbe Hospital's women's health service premises and equipment are being renovated. This community is very remote from other health facilities, involving days of river travel. So this service is vital. A monkeypox epidemic has erupted and is being dealt with, along with challenges posed by flooding.

Thanks to the project "Building a Healthy Congo" a pioneering 3-month emergency medicine training course is now available at HEAL Africa Hospital in Goma, N.Kivu Province. HandUp Congo, in collaboration with DAK Foundation, is making it possible for one doctor and one nurse to attend from Equateur Province. DAK Foundation is also collaborating with HandUp Congo to provide specialist cataract surgery teams' travel to Equateur Province. Restoring sight to the blind is one of the more profound improvements we can make to another's life.

Rotarians Against Malaria Report

I was the District Conference Chair for the D9705 Annual Conference, that took place from 20-22 October 2023

As such, I was able to include in the conference program a prominent spot to highlight the work being undertaken by Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM). In doing so, I was able to obtain a video presentation from 'Finish the Fight' Brand Ambassador, Stephenie Rodriguez, that was very effective in promoting RAM and the importance of the malaria work being undertaken. There was also a prominent RAM/RAWCS stall at the District Conference's House of Friendship/ Rotary Showcase.



At the District Conference, we also held a raffle and the proceeds of \$1025 will soon be donated to RAM. There has been a steady flow of RAM donations across Eastern Region in 2023-24, with the current Rotary YTD donation figure at \$7185.

In December 2023, Bill Wattam advised me that due to other commitments he would no longer be able to continue in the role of D9705 RAM District Supervisor. However, Bill also said that he will still be able to help out with RAM activities from time to time. While I look for a replacement for Bill, I will cover that role in D9705 in addition to my current RAM activities.

Also in December 2023, I held a Zoom meeting with the RAM team from across Eastern Region. It was a productive meeting where we discussed the challenges and opportunities for the rest of this Rotary year and beyond.

March Against Malaria will be a major fundraising activity across all Australian Rotary Districts in the first half of 2024. In Eastern Region, it is likely this activity will be scheduled in late April/early May to be linked to Australian Malaria Awareness Day (30 April). Eastern Region RAM District Supervisors will be asked to promote March Against Malaria events with clubs across their Districts.

The March Against Malaria website is now active for clubs to register and receive an information pack. The link is as follows:- <https://finish-the-fight.org/march-against-malaria-event/>.

At the bottom of the registration page are downloads of the final March Against Malaria documentation etc - <https://finish-the-fight.org/march-against-malaria-register/> just scroll down to the bottom of that page to reach the Resources section.

Regards

Gary Davis

Rotarians Against Malaria

Eastern Region Supervisor

Focus for Next Issue

Dentistry

Hearing Aids

and other

Health-related

Projects

Send in your (short) stories and photos!



Rotary Australia Repurposing Equipment

RARE achieves sustainability by placing obsolete equipment where it is needed, turning landfill into lifesaving aid, dramatically and measurably improving social and environmental outcomes.

Stay in Touch

Got a Question or
Suggestion?

You can find the right person
to ask here:

[Eastern Region Contacts
List](#)

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[RAM on Facebook](#)

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Thanks!

2020 Timor Rotary
Consortium WASH
(Water, Sanitation and
Hygiene) Programme in
Timor Leste for the P5
photos and to the
photographers of the
featured projects.