

**RAWCS
RAMBLER**

**CHAIRMAN'S
REPORT**

I'm grateful for the positive feedback on the Q & A between Lou Johnson and myself that appeared in November's *Rotary Down Under* (page 24) – many now saying they really understand the benefits that Rotary Australia World Community Service Ltd. (RAWCS) can deliver to their club to assist in their fundraising and fund management activities.

In this newsletter, we are focusing on two other exciting areas of RAWCS.

The Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission (ACNC) has recently undertaken a review of RAWCS and acknowledged our robust corporate governance to support overseas aid projects (see page 9); and the South Australian Government, when agreeing for RAWCS to handle the distribution of their surplus equipment (see page 27), were particularly impressed with the governance structures and past work with multiple organisations to transfer donations across borders.

We are continuously reviewing the landscape and ways to improve and grow our operations, and acknowledge the great work undertaken by many. We are proud of our achievements including the recent award from The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport for Donations In Kind Northern Region. However sometimes we also have to acknowledge we don't necessarily have the processes in place to fully capitalise on major strategic opportunities.

We are aware there are many more opportunities to partner with government departments, corporates and other charities to distribute their surplus equipment. However, in order to fully capitalise on this, we need dedicated resources in place, working at a national level in the format required by the government and corporates.

I'm pleased to announce that both our research of opportunities and the outcomes of the review of Donations in

Kind support the strategic direction to establish a specialised national division focusing only on repurposing of medical and educational equipment.

Donations in Kind as it stands now will continue to operate largely as it is, subject to the introduction of some additional internal operating procedures necessary to comply with appropriate protocols, and will work separately to, but in conjunction with, the new National Equipment Repurposing Division.

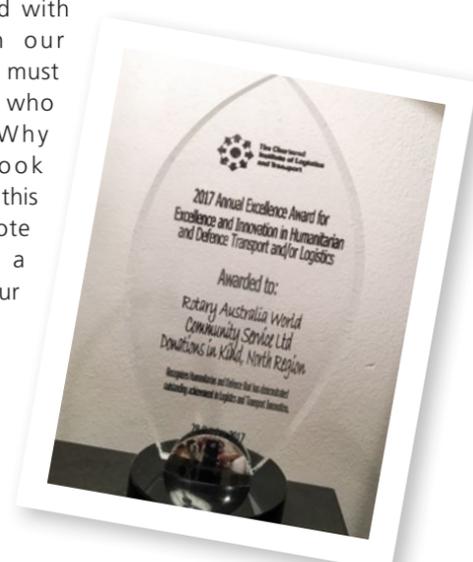
I'm also very pleased to announce that we still have a considerable amount of dollars available to help those doing it tough in Australia from the generous donation by Dick and Pip Smith. We have had some very successful uses of the funds, such as providing medical expenses support to the former legendary Parramatta footballer Brett Kenny, who is suffering from Stage 4 lymphoma (Rotary Club of Castle Hill, NSW), and financial support to assist funding educational supplies for two young Victorians who, while completing degrees and working part-time, also care for their invalid mother (Rotary Club of Canterbury, Vic).

Dick Smith Grants

Dick Smith donation:	\$1,000,000
Funds allocated (as at 8.11.17):	\$327,892

Many Rotarians have been contacting us with ideas they want to apply for grants for, but are yet to lodge their application. If you have an idea, please submit as soon as possible, and with Christmas on our doorstep, there must be many more who need help. Why don't you look around and use this grant to promote Rotary making a difference in your community?

PDG Michael Perkins
Chairman,
RAWCS



**ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL
EQUIPMENT SET TO GO WORLDWIDE**

The closure of the old Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) this September has resulted in a large volume of surplus equipment, with predominantly new fit-outs purchased for the new \$2.3 billion RAH premises.

Following the transfer of requested items to other state hospitals, the South Australian government has permitted the remainder to be used by local groups or aid organisations to assist overseas communities. This includes hundreds of beds, ward furniture, therapeutic aids and medical equipment.

The government has formally agreed to RAWCS, through Donations in Kind (DIK), facilitating surplus distribution throughout the world. This will address liability matters as well as ensure proper project and risk management. Government representatives were particularly impressed with the governance structures and past work with multiple organisations to transfer donations across borders.

DIK Central Region will supervise allocation, sorting, collection and loading on behalf of those who have expressed interest in the goods. Each recipient will require its own working group to manage their wishlist, acquire funding for shipping, load the container itself and organise transport to its destination. Recipients will also require extensive support to ensure their new equipment is installed and used effectively upon arrival.



Loading equipment at the Royal Adelaide Hospital site.



Loading a container with equipment for Royal Flying Doctor Service Tasmania.

Already an urgent need for dental chairs by the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Tasmania has been filled, with transport of 10 chairs and ancillary equipment in October. Many other items will travel much further, with destination countries including Africa, India and the Pacific Islands.

The RAH endeavour is recognition of Rotary's ability to undertake big, complex projects for humanitarian and environmental benefits. The goods will improve the medical services on offer to communities throughout the world, as well as minimise the amount of materials otherwise destined for landfill.

NEW RAWCS PROJECTS OVER LAST QUARTER

03 Rotary Australia Benevolent Society Projects

16 Overseas Aid Fund Projects

14 Rotary Australia Compassionate Grants Projects



EQUIPMENT TO BENEFIT ZIMBABWE HOSPITAL



**ABOVE: Loading the container
at Castle Hill on April 22.
LEFT: Some of the 54
mechanical beds.**

In August, a team from Holroyd New Life Church, NSW, travelled to Zimbabwe for the installation of obsolete, but functional medical equipment donated by Nepean Hospital, Surgical Equipment Australia and RAWCS Donations in Kind Eastern Region. DIK also worked with church members on the project, providing advice on shipping and assistance in loading the container with donated goods.

The equipment, which included mechanical operating tables, wheelchairs, medical devices, crutches and more, was stored at the DIK Sydney facility.

Over a two-week period, they were loaded into a container for shipping by a team of dedicated volunteers.

On the other end, volunteers unpacked

and installed equipment alongside locals in St Patrick's hospital, located in rural central Zimbabwe.

The team received troubleshooting advice from the biomedical engineering department of Nepean Hospital while on the ground installing items, such as an ultrasound machine, incubator, defibrillator and patient monitoring devices. Some 54 mechanical hospital beds were also unloaded and reconstructed.

The project was truly a global effort, with assistance additionally provided by Lifeline Southern Africa, Croydon Zimbabwe Link (UK), The Anglican Diocese of Gweru and Zim Transit. Thanks to teamwork, the hospital's ability to house and treat patients has been exponentially increased.