

**RAWCS
RAMBLER**



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We recently held a strategic planning weekend in Melbourne, with attendance of around 30 Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) representatives from across Australia. In recent years, we have taken on several big issues, such as consolidating our financial systems, establishing online registration of projects and volunteers, moving to a skills-based board and introducing new funds to enable humanitarian work in Australia. We have also coped with the introduction of the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission and thankfully received a clean bill of health in a recent review. It was hard work – but we did it. As chairman, I am incredibly proud of the entire RAWCS team for their efforts.

But the more we do, the more we must do. We are focused on how to continue building more awareness of the benefits clubs receive from using the RAWCS infrastructure. Currently, only 25 per cent of Rotary clubs in Australia have projects registered with RAWCS, and club donations are generally only to one project. This shows there is the opportunity for significant growth.

Australia's reduction in Rotary membership, as well as the ageing of our members, is a trend we are deeply concerned about. RAWCS will be taking proactive steps to help address this issue by developing further offerings and promotion targeted at establishing and expanding relationships with both corporates and philanthropic associations. More information on this and other marketing activities will be publicised as they become available.

*PDG Michael Perkins
Chairman, RAWCS*

WHY USE RAWCS?

There are many benefits for using RAWCS's facilities; one being the tax deductibility of donations, another being compliance with the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission (ACNC). This is vital in an age where charities are becoming increasingly regulated and fraught with problems and risk for those that fail to keep up to date with the latest requirements.

Our strict compliance and governance procedures comply with the ACNC requirements. All donations are held separate to funds used for administration expenses. At any time, we have millions of dollars in the bank on behalf of all of the project accounts – but the donations are not RAWCS's money per se; they are kept completely separate to funds used for the administration of RAWCS.

The administration funds of RAWCS are generated from a 2.5 per cent fee charged on all donations. That amount is deducted as donations are received and transferred into our administration bank account and used for costs incurred to provide the services we do, such as the administrative staff wages, office expenses, audit fees and more. RAWCS is in a strong financial position and we look forward to future growth.

*Mike Whitehouse
RAWCS National Treasurer*

Malaria World Congress

For 25 years, Rotarians in Australia have been working tirelessly to eradicate malaria. The inaugural Malaria World Congress will be held from July 1-5, 2018 in Melbourne. We hope as many people as possible can attend this event, which will include many experts from a variety of fields as well as showcase the great work undertaken by Australians in this area. Congratulations to Dave Pearson and the RAM team on your 25 years!

REBUILDING IN NEPAL

On ANZAC Day 2015, Nepal was hit by a devastating earthquake that claimed the lives of several thousand people and caused severe structural damage throughout the country. The day following the earthquake, then District 9830 governor and fellow past district governors decided to open a RAWCS appeal. This appeal was to target reconstruction work for public buildings in the Hetauda area of Nepal, where Rotary District 9830 (Tasmania) had established a good working relationship with the local Rotary club and had supported several projects over a number of years. The appeal opened on April 26, 2015 and funds poured in from across Australia. By the time the appeal closed, over \$240,000 had been raised.

From this money, \$3000 was transferred to the Rotary Club of Rasuwa and \$12,000 to the Rotary Club of Kalithstan, as per the request of support for earthquake recovery work in their local areas.

After much consultation with the Rotary Club of Hetauda, it was decided to use the remaining donations to repair or construct three school buildings, a girls' hostel and two toilet blocks, in three different locations. This work commenced in late 2016 and to date the hostel has been completed, two school buildings have been built and are in use, with the third school almost complete. The toilet blocks are still on the drawing board, but will hopefully be constructed within the next few months.

Upon a visit to the hostel, future additional work has been identified, including building a dedicated kitchen and dining area. Currently, cooking facilities are very basic, being a campfire or gas cookers used in the girls' room – presenting a fire hazard. It has been decided to extend the appeal to enable the kitchen, dining and storage facilities to be constructed.

For more information contact PDG Bruce Buxton via bbuxton482@bigpond.com (RAWCS project: 75 2014-15).



RIGHT: Suryodaya School is one of the three schools being constructed/ repaired following the 2015 earthquake.



Bhrikuti School students in front of their damaged school building during repairs.