



Children at Divine Mercy Primary School, Uganda, are grateful to the Rotary Club of Woy Woy, NSW, and the Pink Umbrella Foundation for the support they have given to the school.

What does RAWCS do?

There is a simple and universal truth that needs to be considered by those involved in Rotary Australia World Community Service Ltd. (RAWCS) and Rotary as a whole – organisations stay relevant by delivering value. In order to be sustainable, we must focus on what value will be demanded of us in the future and then deliver.

All successful businesses have to reinvent themselves from time to time, to ensure they stay relevant, sustainable and focused on their mission. I believe we need to consistently and continually reassess what we are doing and, more importantly, how we are doing it. Our eyes must ever be fixed on the future, never the past.

We have realised some people misunderstand what RAWCS is about – we don't actually do any projects, nor do we give grants. We are simply the infrastructure or the "bank" that allows Rotary clubs to raise tax deductible donations to do their own projects.

It's simple – come up with the concept, tailor it to fit the RAWCS criteria, and raise the funds to see your project come to life.

This is our first quarterly update on what is happening in RAWCS that also highlights some of the projects clubs are undertaking using the infrastructure RAWCS provides.

We hope you enjoy our newsletter!
Michael Perkins
Chairman, RAWCS

Umoja Children's Village opens

The image of hundreds upon hundreds of emaciated Kenyan children lined up to receive their only meal for the week haunted school teacher Cathy Booth long after she returned to Australia. Doing nothing was never an option.

Since 2011 she has worked tirelessly to create a children's village in Kenya's coastal province to provide an environment that grants vulnerable children with food, shelter, education, medical care and love. Sustainability is a key element of the project to reduce reliance on donations long-term. The village includes agricultural gardens, chook and cow pens, bore and water tanks to provide sustenance and also facilitate opportunities for locals and orphans to learn about food production techniques.

Teams of Rotarians have been vital in constructing the orphanage, which, two months ago, became home to its first orphans.

Cathy leads tours to give volunteers a taste of Kenyan life and the trip ends with a safari of Kenya's national parks, including Ambroseli and Masai Mara.

For more information or to register your interest in volunteering, go to www.rawcs.org.au

Huge haul for Donations in Kind

A major new Donations in Kind (DIK) project is currently underway with the relocation of the Royal Adelaide Hospital to new, modernised premises. The redevelopment will result in a tremendous amount of equipment and furniture being discarded by the hospital, which has agreed to let DIK to take a managing role in redistributing the goods. It is estimated the volume to be donated will fill 25 40-foot containers and will include an expected 700 electric hospital beds, overway units and cupboards.

DIK will coordinate the project, managing the number of other partnering groups involved. The old Royal Adelaide Hospital site is expected to be available for some six months to allow containers to be loaded on-site, which will negate the need for trucking and associated costs. However, due to the volume of goods, a 40-foot container will need to be delivered, loaded and dispatched each week, presenting a significant challenge.

Manpower will be on offer from organisations involved in the project to support this Rotary effort, though volunteers are required from Rotary and Rotaract to fulfil coordination roles.

Rotary clubs are also asked to submit "wish lists" of appropriate communities overseas they have a relationship with in regards to hospital related items.



Working together to do good

The Rotary Club of Croydon, Vic, received a \$31,500 global grant from The Rotary Foundation to provide early intervention training for teachers and primary caregivers of autistic children in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and raised additional tax deductible donations towards the project by utilising the RAWCS infrastructure. What a great example of different sections of Rotary working together to do good in the world.



\$80,000 to assist recent attack victim

The Rotary Australia Benevolent Society tax deductible, Australia-wide fundraiser, in partnership with National Nine's *A Current Affair*, raised around \$80,000 to assist in the treatment, rehabilitation and family commitments of Wayne Greenhalgh. Wayne recently had serious injuries inflicted upon him, allegedly by a man now facing charges of committing a terrorist act and attempted murder. Despite Wayne's injuries, he does not wish his situation to inflame anti-Muslim sentiment.

The Bali School Kids initiative

Although schooling is compulsory in Bali, the costs involved are prohibitive for many families. The annual cost per child is equal to more than the average individual Balinese salary. This economic strain means many children are forced to drop out, even if they wish to continue attending school.

Bali School Kids is an initiative started by the Rotary Club of Swan Valley, WA, in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Bali-Denpasar to help alleviate the financial strain of schooling. For \$AU130 a year per student, children are provided with packs containing uniforms, shoes, a school bag, books and stationery. By allowing children to continue their education, these packs make a transformative difference to the rest of their lives.

When the project began in 1999, three children were supported by the program. Today, almost 1000 students from 12 different schools across Bali receive packs each year.