

## Chairman's report

It is imperative when we determine what path RAWCS will follow that we ensure our stakeholders are involved in those decisions and bring to the table what is happening in their respective regions or programs.

This was the purpose of RAWCS investing a considerable amount to stage their strategic planning weekends. Attendees included regional chairs, project managers, Rotarians Against Malaria, Donations in Kind, a representative from The Rotary Foundation, Rotary New Zealand World Community Service and *Rotary Down Under*, plus the RAWCS board. Together, we reviewed what we have achieved to date and our strategic plan for the future.

An interesting point identified was the fact that many clubs are unaware of the value RAWCS provides them, and why it is often in their interests to use the RAWCS infrastructure to facilitate their fundraising and project management activities. As a result, we are in the process of preparing a Cost Benefit Analysis, which will detail these benefits.

Another area discussed, is the way raising funds through RAWCS can assist with accessing various grants. The story opposite on Quality Education in Nepal is a great example of how RAWCS can provide the infrastructure to secure a Rotary Foundation global grant, while the Soggy Bottom Boats story on page 28 highlights how RAWCS can help clubs access grants from the Rotary Australia Compassionate Grants Scheme.

If you are interested in accessing funds, we suggest you start planning and apply as soon as possible.

*PDG Michael Perkins  
Chairman, RAWCS*

## Chumkriel Language School

Nget Sokonthy, known as Mr Thy, began the Chumkriel Language School (CLS) in an old state school building in Chumkriel Commune, Cambodia, with one table and one chair. Over 100 people turned up on the first night to learn English, a number that has grown to 700 students across two locations.

CLS now focuses on supporting at risk students from poor areas to complete primary school and continue their education through classes including English, Khmer, arts and crafts and physical education.

CLS was registered as a RAWCS Project in 2008 by the Rotary Club of Dubbo, NSW, which worked to construct the Chumkriel Language Centre and subsequent library extension in 2015. In mid-2015, the project was taken over by the Rotary Club of Darwin North, NT, which committed to supporting a variety of projects. This includes building a house and toilet for poor and impoverished families to provide a stable home environment and allow children to attend school, as well as facilitation of infrastructure projects designed to improve workplace health and safety.

In February 2017, a RAWCS team of seven Rotarians, six from Darwin North and one from Dubbo South, travelled to Chumkriel to construct two houses and a toilet over six days, with local builders, CLS staff and families. Their involvement led to the inclusion of solar lighting as an experiment to monitor its effectiveness and possible wider application at the school.

The club is also assisting in providing classes for 100 children and a Literacy Assessment Project to test up to 700 Chumkriel students in English language skills. This testing will enable accurate data collection of student achievement and program effectiveness. In 2016 over 20 students achieved the highest levels in reading and vocabulary.

## Quality Education Nepal

Nepal is the poorest country outside of Africa, with education of the population the key to progress. However, the lack of teacher education presents a significant stumbling block. Tertiary education among teachers is rare, with many not even having completed Year 12.

Since 2011, Quality Education Nepal has been providing training for teachers of remote rural schools in Western Nepal to improve their skills and knowledge base. So far, 150 teachers have completed a three-year program of 50 days training, followed by annual refresher training.

The Rotary Club of Woodend, Qld, registered the program as a RAWCS project in 2009 and achieved funding in the form of a Foundation District grant of \$5000 in 2011. The public provided generous support, attracted and received through RAWCS and the tireless work of project originator and now Rotary Club of Kyneton member Peter Hall.

In March 2017, a Foundation global grant project was approved, with the Rotary Club of Portland, Vic, taking the project management role to extend the training to a further 70 teachers of Tatopani VDC in the Annapurna region, sponsored by eight clubs and three districts in Australia, and six clubs in Nepal. The first 10-day program was delivered April 9-18.

Quality Education Nepal is now seeking Rotary clubs from around the world interested in sponsoring further



global grant projects, the first to start April 2018. Our target is to have 1000 teachers in training by 2020!

Email Peter Hall at [pjthall@nepalaid.org.au](mailto:pjthall@nepalaid.org.au) to express interest or visit [nepalaid.org.au](http://nepalaid.org.au) for more information.

**TOP:** Training materials.  
**ABOVE:** The 10-day training closing ceremony, held on April 18, 2017.

## New RAWCS projects over last quarter

**06** Rotary Australia Benevolent Society Projects

**09** Overseas Aid Fund Projects

**11** Rotary Australia Compassionate Grants Projects