

Rotary
Australian Districts



**ROTARY AUSTRALIA
WORLD COMMUNITY
SERVICE**

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

ROTARY F.A.I.M. AUSTRALIA

AN ACTIVITY OF

ROTARY AUSTRALIA WORLD COMMUNITY SERVICE Ltd. (RAWCS)

A BRIEF HISTORY

1964 - 1994

BUILDERS OF GOODWILL

WHAT IS F.A.I.M. ?

As the late PDG Keith Hopper, of Inverell, stood in the dark, musty room of the Orphanage, he was visiting with a Council of Churches Team, to Indonesia, he had a small child's hand placed in his, and then an offer was made for the group of orphans to sing. So, the sounds of "God be with you until we meet again" came quietly forth as did the tears in the eyes of the team members.

Just a matter of days later as PDG Keith Hopper sat in the District Conference at Surfers Paradise he heard the words "There's nothing we can do about it". Although unrelated to his thoughts of the Indonesian orphans, he saw in his mind the raw concrete walls oozing slime and the bare floors and his response came bursting forth - "We can do something about it".

Within only hours of that thought he proposed to the Conference that the Fourth Avenue be put into practical effect. Forty volunteers responded and within a short time fourteen of those forty became members of teams - the forerunners of our F.A.I.M. teams of today.

The inspiration for the name "F.A.I.M." certainly did not come from "Divine Intervention". PDG Keith Hopper began negotiations for discount travel and was told he had to have a name, so decided, on his feet, that the Fourth Avenue was on the move and so F.A.I.M. was born.

F.A.I.M. translates to "Fourth Avenue In Motion", the fourth avenue of Service of Rotary being International Service.

In later years Rotary Australia World Community Service Limited replaced F.A.I.M. and now embraces F.A.I.M., S.W.S.L. (Save Water Save Lives); R.A.M. (Rotarians Against Malaria); I.P.A.C. (International Projects Advisory Committee); D.I.K. (Donations In Kind) and Project Funding.

Since inception many hundreds of volunteers, both male and female, have given of their time and expertise to assist the people of our neighbouring developing third world countries. The Volunteer Training Teams helped build much needed hospitals, health centres, aid posts, schools, staff housing etc.

Over the years, volunteers have worked in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Malaysia, Vietnam and Nepal.

Volunteers usually pay their own airfares and work for two weeks and receive no income.

The objectives of F.A.I.M. are briefly as follows:

- To promote educational and cultural facilities for under privileged peoples;
- To encourage and foster the advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace;
- To endeavor by every means to break down prejudices and misunderstanding now existing or growing among nations;
- To encourage fraternalism with people of other colour or race, thus providing for better understanding and tolerance;
- To render practical world community service per medium of volunteer work and/or training teams engaged in selected worthwhile projects; and
- To satisfy the desire of service minded individuals seeking avenues for involvement in practical world community service activities.

During the F.A.I.M. A.G.M. in Sydney in 1992 I suggested a brief history of F.A.I.M. should be compiled before all records were lost.

The immediate reaction was "Yes", would you please do it.

All Regions were contacted and asked to provide information and pleas were placed in Rotary Down Under. Unfortunately, not a lot of material has been received. Having provided hundreds of volunteers during the past 30 years I expected to receive hundreds of stories but unfortunately this did not happen. What I have compiled is only a small scratch on the surface, but I hope it means some of our history will be retained. I hope that when you read this short history, it will bring back memories of your participation in a F.A.I.M. Volunteer Training Team.

I must express my sincere thanks to those who provided information and stories.

F.A.I.M.'s contribution to the betterment of life in our neighbouring developing third world countries must run into millions of dollars. It has been a privilege to have been involved in several projects and it has also been a privilege to work with so many volunteers.

May F.A.I.M. continue to contribute to the future of the island countries neighbouring our shores.

Your monetary and physical contribution is only small compared to the overall involvement but the feeling of knowing that your little bit has helped someone, somewhere, improve their living standards must give that personal satisfaction and reward that is so hard to explain.

P.P. Lionel
Pavey Kyneton
1994

THE BEGINNING

At the 1971 District Governor's Rotary Institute, F.A.I.M. was taken out of I.P.A.C. and became a separate entity. The first National Committee was formed, and a draft Constitution was submitted to the 1972 Rotary Institute. It was adopted subject to approval by Rotary International.

In 1975 F.A.I.M. was divided in to four Regions; Northern, Central, Southern and Western. This was later to change again and F.A.I.M. now consists of five Regions; Northern, Eastern, Southern, Central and Western. The following is the current break up of Districts within Regions:

Northern - 9550, 9570, 9600, 9630, 9640 and 9650

Eastern - 9670, 9680, 9690, 9700, 9710 and 9750

Southern - 9780, 9790, 9800, 9810, 9820 and 9830

Central - 9500 and 9520

Western - 9450, 9460 and 9470

The present National Co-coordinating Committee consists of the Chairman, Vice Chairman/Insurance Co-coordinator immediate Past Chairman, Secretary/Treasurer, National Project Co-coordinator and A.I.D.A.B. (Australian International Development Assistance Bureau) Officer.

Each Region is controlled by the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Project Co-coordinator. The other members are those usually nominated by each District Governor.

The N.C.C. Annual Meeting is held in late August or early September and the Regions meet every quarter.

On 29th June 1981, by a notice published in the Commonwealth Government Gazette, "F.A.I.M. (Rotary) Overseas Aid Fund" was listed as being a fund established by an approved organisation as defined in subsection 78 (12) of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936, exclusively for the relief of persons in developing countries, which are certified countries in accordance with the Act. Donations and gifts of \$ 2.00 or more made payable to the R.A.O.A.F. can be tax deductible.

F.A.I.M. has laid down the following conditions associated with its projects:

- That F.A.I.M. is at all times prepared to give consideration to projects that may be submitted by Rotary Clubs, or any recognised service or Church organisations engaged in the work of assisting underprivileged peoples in countries throughout the world.
- That once a project has been accepted in principle by F.A.I.M. a complete feasibility study is undertaken, usually on site by a competent person, before Rotary Training Teams are committed.
- That is the responsibility of the recipient organisation associated with any project to arrange accommodation and the feeding of volunteers to an acceptable standard.
- That the recipient organisation will guarantee the provision of finance and materials to fully complete the project.
- That the recipient organisation will ensure if possible that a competent person will be in charge of the project, who shall be able to recognise and direct the skills and capabilities of F.A.I.M Training Team Volunteers to the best advantage.
- That encouragement be given to the employment of local labour to assist on the project, so that F.A.I.M. volunteers are able to show and instruct the local population in modern building skills.

INTRODUCTION

Our Rotary service is provided through "Four Avenues" - Club, Vocational, Community and International from which is derived the name F.A.I.M. (Fourth Avenue In Motion).

In 1963 the late PDG Keith Hopper MBE (District 9650 - formerly 265) went to Indonesia as a member of a Council of Churches team. Keith was concerned with the conditions he saw in the villages and when he returned home, he was determined to do something more positive to help the cause of friendship between Indonesia and Australia. He developed an idea of sending a work team of people with various building skills to Indonesia to help the local people improve their lifestyles.

At a Conference of District 9650 he presented his idea and it received overwhelming support from the Rotarians in attendance. After the Conference a group of interested people met outside and it was decided to go ahead and help the people in Indonesia.

A group of 47 men and women from various walks of life was formed. Included were doctors, pharmacists, nurses, social workers, solicitors, plumbers, carpenters and farmers. One of the main projects undertaken was the rebuilding of a hospital at Bandung. In addition, the group traveled to many parts of Java in an advisory capacity, the farmers, in particular being called upon to advise their counterparts on methods of improving their stock and crops.

Keith Hopper discussed group concessions with Hudson Fish of QANTAS Airlines and found he could get better fares if he had a name for the group. Hudson provided a simple Constitution which Keith adapted, and he came up with the name F.A.I.M. - Fourth Avenue In Motion.

The success of that first team to Indonesia enabled Keith Hopper to consider sending more teams to assist the people of our neighbouring third world countries.

In 1966 Keith Hopper and PDG Ern Grainger convinced the Institute of Officers of Rotary International in Australia to sanction the formation of I.P.A.C. (International Projects Advisory Committee). This committee was charged with seeking out projects in neighbouring countries and asking people to volunteer their services to help.

SO WHAT IS IT?

The following statement is taken from a letter written by the late Keith Hopper.

"It has a prime and almost single purpose - to get to know our neighbors and not just a fellowship of Rotarians - it is too urgent for this although this is desirable - it is the education of each Rotarian towards a better understanding of peoples and other colours, race and way of life. No F.A.I.M. team member's life has not been life has not been lifted to a new dimension by his or her F.A.I.M. experience.

Working in a F.A.I.M. team doesn't appeal to everybody and F.A.I.M. does not welcome members who want only Rotary fellowship but excites the imagination of those whose high ideals demand they pay their rent on earth and make this world a better place for them being here.

F.A.I.M. does not conflict with the responsibilities of local Rotary clubs to survey the community needs and where practical tackles them as a club or uses its influence to have them carried out because F.A.I.M. is international. Understanding by building bridges of friendship with peoples of other colour and race and a Rotary club cannot abdicate its responsibility to F.A.I.M. but may seek its help where understanding is the keynote".

In 1993/94 two houses were erected at Sinarangu and Olumburi on the N.E. Coast of Malaita Island in the Solomons.

All arrangements for raising of finance was handed to P.D.G. Bob Young, Past National Project Co-Ordinator.

These houses, which were built to house medical staff, have been dedicated as a memorial to the late Keith Hopper.

Other teams have worked at Gaubin Hospital and other sites throughout Papua New Guinea and the Solomons.

During 1991/92 teams helped build extensions at the Bulolo Hospital. Construction was out of treated pine and wall panels pre-fabbed at the local sawmill and plywood factory. The hospital caters for a local population of 100,000 and \$ 100,000.00 was raised by members of the Rotary Club of Bulolo/Wau. The club has only a small membership but what they do is magnificent.

Some 200 to 300 patients visit the hospital daily and meals are provided by relatives during the patients stay.

Treatment includes malaria, tuberculosis and pneumonia and young children are vaccinated against measles and whooping cough. Beds and other hospital equipment have been provided by Rotary Clubs throughout Australia as well as the Rotary Club of Port Moresby.

NORTHERN REGION

The following information is taken from a taped interview with Cyril Richardi by John Saunders.

Cyril's recollection of the early days of F.A.I.M. certainly highlights the dedication and foresight of the late Keith Hopper.

Probably the most interesting project was the building of a concrete wharf at Wadau in 1968. The local people had no access to the coastal trading ships as they had to anchor three miles off the shore. The problem of getting their produce to the main towns was most important for their survival.

F.A.I.M. enlisted the services of a qualified volunteer from the Main Roads Board of New South Wales to supervise the project. Several teams constructed the structure. The P.N.G. Government provided the materials. When the wharf was completed the P.N.G. Government dredged a passage through the reef to allow the ships to berth at the shore.

Having been to Indonesia Cyril and Norm Jones decided they should return. This time they took with them moulds so the local people could make their own cement blocks for their buildings. Working through the Salvation Army they ran courses with the locals and taught them how to make blocks and lay them. The sand was sieved through a sheet of iron which had been punched using a four-inch nail. This venture proved very successful in the following years.

In Lae teams built hostels on land given to the Salvation Army by the P.N.G. Government.

Northern Region became involved with projects at Togatia House which was set up as a hostel for wayward boys. This centre was named after the Police Chief and the first National to be invited to join Rotary. Quite a number of buildings were erected over the years but unfortunately the complex was burnt to the ground in later years.

At Onamuga teams helped build houses for the Salvation Army Missionaries. It may have taken months to get the materials to the site, but it was a very satisfying project.

Extra Curricular activities were part of the day at Malnohana according to John Rae.

"When the team arrived at the school we settled in and then joined Brother Bede and his colleagues for dinner.

Interested in the way they ran the school we were asking all sorts of questions and eventually someone asked, "How do you feed 600 students and yourselves?" The answer was, "the student's staple diet is tinned meat, fish, rice, vegetables and bread and we eat fresh meat and chicken instead of the tinned stuff." We learned that the mission ran a herd of cattle which provided some income as well as fresh meat, but butchering techniques were basic. They yielded only two cuts - stewing steak and mince!

That is when I opened my big mouth and said I had some experience in farm butchering and would be happy to assist their man Stephen if they killed a beast while we were there. Needless to say, they had a kill planned for the following day and were intending to do the butchering another day later. I would be summoned when all was ready.

Now, killing itself is different in P.N.G. (as are most things) and the method is as follows. Select a young bullock, walk the herd into a corner, shoot the selected animal, skin and gut, then quarter the carcass with an axe (sorry about the T bones) and toss it into a farm trailer. Distribute the head and offal to the helpers and take the quartered body to the coolroom. This was good as the generator ran all night. So did the ceiling fans in our rooms.

When the meat had set the following day, I was called to 'advise'. Equipment consists of a hook under the roof outside the kitchen, one knife (extremely dull) and one steel (very, very dull). This was supplemented with my folding pocket-knife which was probably as sharp as anything within two hundred kilometers.

I also made a hook to help separate the different cuts and so we got into it.

It would appear that the word had spread because every dog, fly, and mosquito turned up for the demo as did Sister St Francis who wanted the silverside to corn as she had a good recipe."

Anyway, I did the job with the help of Stephen, the butcher, and Brother Jack who looked after catering. We ended up with a freezer full of the best cuts and retained the fillet steak for Brother Jack's birthday dinner a day or so later.

Later in the week Sister St Francis produced some marvelous silverside which we consumed over two consecutive lunches and Brother Jack carefully supervised the girls in the kitchen each time the prime cuts came out of the freezer.

I gave the matter a little thought and was able to get a fax sent to my wife in Port Moresby a few days later. She contacted business friends of mine in the abattoir industry and I can now report the Mission is equipped with a good array of knives, steels and other gear with the compliments of Blayney Abattoir. Freight was a problem but a fellow F.A.I.M. team member and Comet came to the rescue.

By now they will have a few charts from the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation as well. By the way the building went very well too.

Other projects have been at Kerema where an existing hall was converted in Arimarai to construct a school; Bogia; Madang; Karkar; Alexishafen etc.

A team to Papitali High School on Manus Island wrote the following: 'during school hours, girls and their teachers started to clear the site for the industrial arts wing. They shifted a lot of topsoil and rubbish. You have to see it to believe it - the Nuns and students all digging away and were happy to do it. They fully realised it was for their benefit and are quite amazed that we are there to help them as volunteers. All this work is done after school hours and is really their free time. We need a lot of sand, so the Sisters asked the boys to help us. Their reply was 'we are about 150 boys so two bags each and we will have that sand up there in ten minutes' and that is how long it took.

An in-Service Training volunteer and his wife spent three weeks on Malaita Island running a chain saw maintenance course for the village men from the island. These men are now cutting timber to build extra classrooms etc.

For some time, the cobalt machines at the Lae Hospital were out of action because of lack of maintenance. There was no one on P.N.G. qualified to do the necessary repairs. Following the return of the Survey Team in 1991 a technician was recruited, and he was able to get the machines up and running again.

Several teams have worked at Marrionville Girls High School just out of Port Moresby. As at Papitalai the girls worked as hard as any of the men.

To dig a trench or an electrical conduit Sister Elizabeth armed a group of girls with spades and they each dug a few metres of trench and it was completed in no time at all.

WESTERN REGION

The following is the history of Western Region as submitted by Len Wallis.

The Western Region of F.A.I.M. was formed on 23rd March 1976 at an interest meeting called by the National Secretary, the late P.D.G. Bill Gall. It is interesting to note that P.D.G. Clem Renouf, who was in Western Australia as R.I. President's representative at two district Conferences, was also present. The obvious choice for Chairman was Alwyn Lohoar, who was succeeded after one year by P.D.G. Allan Eddy from 1977 to 1979, then for three years by P.P. Len Wallis who was followed by P.D.G. John Pizey. Arthur Bray was the first Secretary/Treasurer.

Before the Western Region was formed, participation had already been completed in two F.A.I.M. projects. Tom Newby, from Harvey, and the first volunteer from Western Australia, Rotarian Jack Wallace as leader, Kevin Wallace and Dave Harris worked for six weeks on a project organized by the Northern Region at the Gaubin Hospital on Karkar Island.

That visit by the team and another to Indonesia two years later by Welshpool Rotarian Roeland Marissen provided material including audio visual film and slides which were used by Jack Wallace and Tom Drinkwater on a promotional campaign in Western Australia.

The Rotary Club of Kelmscott, in 1977, became the first club in the State to attain 100% life membership of F.A.I.M.

The first Western Region project came early in 1976 when P.P. Warwick Savage from Armadale and Eric Roberts carried out a 28-day surveying investigation trip. At their own expense in Indonesia. They identified four projects at Palu, Padang, Turin and Malang, all being associated with the Salvation Army.

On another visit Warwick supervised local workers at Palu and in 1978 a possible project at Semarang. In recognition of his services to F.A.I.M... Warwick was honoured in 1977 with a Paul Harris Fellow.

In 1977 Jack Wallace carried out a feasibility study and prepared quantities and plans for the first work at Palu Children's Hostel. In June 1977 a team from Armadale including Warwick Savage, Errol and Mrs Green, Len Wallis, Bob Maidstone and John Pell went to Palu.

During 1977 the Rotary Clubs of Nedlands and Melville supplied and installed dental equipment at a Salvation Army Centre in Pandang. Instruction in maintenance was given by Geoff Bennett.

The original four projects were completed during 1977/78. P.P Alf Femlhough, George Winning and Jack Wallace undertook a survey, and this led to another project being accepted for the Salvation Army at a Boy's Home in Semarang. Nine teams made up of thirty volunteers completed this project in 1981. This project was first fully funded by Western region. The Federal Government, through A.I.D.A.B., matched the combined contributions of \$ 5,000.00 each from Perth Salvation Army and The Rotary Foundation.

In 1981 a project at the Jogjarkarta Girl's Home was accepted and in 1982 twenty-one volunteers in six teams carried out the work with local assistance. This Girl's Home was the last project based entirely on Salvation Army recommendations. In March 1982 P.D.G. Keith Hopper requested Western Region investigate an application from the Rotary Club of Palembang in Indonesia for the building of, and equipping of, a Health Centre for the University of Sriwijaya in Palembang. For the first time this request identified Western Region F.A.I.M. with Rotary clubs in Indonesia. An inspection and discussion by Len Wallis and Bob Woods with the Rotary Club of Palembang agreed to the worthiness of this project which was estimated to cost \$ 100,000.00. \$ 50,000.00 would be raised by the Rotary Club of Palembang and Western region agreed to raise \$ 10,000.00. The Rotary Foundation and the Federal Governments Grants of \$ 20,000.00 were received.

In 1977 the team from Scarborough, working at Ralu, met up with a teenage girl with only one leg and decided to help her. The girl was brought to Perth, given medical attention, fitted with an artificial leg and returned to her village. At a later date Dr Kharmadi was brought to Perth from Padang to study procedures he could use to control a chronic local disease connected with stones in the urinary tract, particularly children.

In 1978 a team from Esperance Bay, led by Dick Haslem, and working on the Semarang Boy's Home project, became acquainted with a young man named Gus. After four more visits in three years Dick arranged with his club for clothing and gifts to be sent to the 80 boys in the Home. Gus was brought to Western Australia for ten weeks, the first Indonesian student from an F.A.I.M. built Home to come to Australia.

Details of later projects are not available but Western region have continued to send teams to Indonesia and also to the Solomons in 1987.

EASTERN REGION

For many years Eastern Region have been providing teams for various projects at Papitalai High School or Manus Island. Here they have built classrooms, library, dormitories, dispensary, home economics, trade block and more recently a canteen. Like on Yule Island the girls are very energetic and carried all sorts of tasks.

Another interesting project was the construction of a landing strip at Hagahai in the Highlands of P.N.G. Dr Carol Jenkins, a medical anthropologist working with local people, asked if an airstrip could be built. Access to the area was by foot or by hiring a helicopter at a cost of \$ 2,500.00 per trip. With a landing strip the cost to charter a light plane for medical purposes was \$ 350.00. Even though the population is only small better medical attention now means the continued existence of this group. First class tools were used to clear the area required. These included crowbars, spades, pointed sticks and ropes to move large boulders.

At Vanimo, which is close to the Irianjaya border, more projects have been completed. A timber framed remand centre and sundry buildings were erected just down the hill from the Lote Catholic Mission.

Several teams went to the Solomons in 1987. One of the teams went to Hill on Ugi Island. Initially they were to go to Honiara by the local "liner" BULAWA. As is quite often the case the boat had gone "missing". Plans were changed and the team was flown to Kirakira and then boarded the super "liner" WASISI. The tools were later flown to Kirakira and then to the island. At the end of their time the team did not know how they were to get back to Honiara. A two-hour walk secured a 14-foot fiberglass canoe and a further walk of two hours in the opposite direction found a suitable outboard motor. The owner turned out to be the "Captain" of this small vessel. The team was safely ferried across 32 kilometers of ocean in a 2 to 3 metre swell while the "Captains Mate" bailed water from the bottom of the canoe.

Teams consisting of 24 volunteers went to the Methodist Lelean Memorial School and the Dilkusha Orphanage at Nausori in Fiji. The teams extended an amenities block which had fallen below a safe standard.

CENTRAL REGION

When F.A.I.M. was first formed into a National organisation it was based on geographical locations around the eastern seaboard of Australia. The three eastern states being Northern, Central and Southern Regions respectively. South Australia had been associated with the Southern Region which was involved with projects in Papua New Guinea. At that stage Rotary in South Australia was administered under one District Governor in District 9500 (250) and it comprised of 71 clubs.

On 1st July 1977 District 9500 (250) was split in to two districts. They were District 9500 (250) and District 9520 (252). About this time Western Region was added to the National organisation. This Region was to combine the Western Australian Districts 9450 and 946 and the two South Australian Districts with one representative from each of the two States on the National Committee. Within three years the cost of travel for the Adelaide based committeemen, coupled with the feeling that they were being considered an appendage to the Perth based group, resulted in a motion being accepted by the National Committee that Districts 9500 and 9520 form their own Region and that be known as South Western Region. However, if they desired and gave 60 day's notice, they could use the name Central Region. A motion was carried on 26th July 1979 at the joint meeting of the two Districts. The name Central region was not ratified until the National Council meeting in Jul 1980.

On Friday 14th September 1979, at Ayers House in Adelaide, a special meeting of the members of F.A.I.M. in Districts 9500 and 9520 was held under the chairmanship of the District Governor 9520 to constitute a new Regional Committee of F.A.I.M. The role of the new Region was to undertake in its own right Projects approved by the National Co-ordinating Committee, conduct feasibility studies of proposed projects, organize F.A.I.M. teams and promote F.A.I.M. within each District.

Chairmen of the District Committees who chaired meetings jointly prior to the formation of Central Region included: District 9500 - Gerry Toogood and Max Fotheringham and District 9520 - Dudley Mitchell and Bob Karran.

On 1st October 1979 Gerry Toogood resigned as Chairman of District 9500 committees and became the first Chairman of the new Central Region with Bob Walkerden being Secretary. Since then each District has taken it in turns to provide the Chairman for a two-year term with the endeavour to maintain equal numbers of committeemen from each District.

Every team has experienced some memorable highlight of their project and these are some from Central Region.

In 1987 three volunteers under the leadership of Ron Woulfe were assigned to help build a school on the island of Ulawa, 200 kilometers south east of Honiara. Lacking other means of transport, the team was transported by the Australian Navy Missile Carrier H.M.A.S. Canberra and the last 30 kms by the vessels Squirrel Helicopter.

On the return trip the Australia High Commissioner arranged for the winner of the Brisbane to Noumea yacht race, the 45-foot yacht "Impatience" to bring the team to Honiara.

At Manu on Malaita Island ten children died from malaria and gastro enteritis during the two and a half weeks the team was there.

A team returning from a project in Papua New Guinea "missed" their flight out of Port Moresby. The story goes that they met up with the Manager of the local Brewery. They were only twenty-four hours late arriving back in Australia.

Medical assistance cannot be taken for granted in developing countries. From February to April 1989 a South Australian medico (Rotarian) and his wife, who is a nursing sister, worked on Karkar for eight weeks. They ran a 210-bed hospital which services the local community of 32,000 people, supervised the outpatient's consultations, while training and supervising 80 nurses to enable them to operate medical outposts on the mainland of Papua New Guinea.

On Yule Island, in 1984, electricity was scarce, and the requirements far outgrew the distribution facilities. At night the wires between the generator and the nurse's quarters glowed red because of the resistance. The voltage drop was in the vicinity of 30%. One morning one of the overhead wires fell from the pole insulators and dangled about four feet from the ground. Within minutes the girls had this convenient clothesline festooned with washing. Luckily electricity was only available for one hour in the morning and two hours each night and the washing was hung out during a non-supply period. The overhead wires were later replaced with cables that would cope with the demand.

At one village in the Solomon Islands the inhabitants were asked to help the 3 volunteers construct their classroom. The first day 92 locals reported for work but only a few could be utilized. On the second day 72 fronted up for a job.

After that villages were allocated as either "workers" or "watchers" so everyone could participate.

In 1991 PDG Russ Mead was returning with members of his team after a month of "duty" in the Solomons. They were starting to relax as the plane taxied to the end of the runway prior to take off.

As the plane turned to start its run the front wheel fell off. The result - just a minor delay while the wheel was replaced, but the relaxing was postponed for just a while longer.

P.D.G. Bill Rufus and Alf Simmonds tell of their experience in 1991 when they were returning by canoe from a survey trip to an outer island when the outboard broke down. They returned to the island to have it fixed but by the time it was repaired darkness had descended. The skipper reassured them despite an electrical storm which lit up the surrounding islands. With the leading hand standing in the prow with a torch he guided the canoe through coral reefs with unerring accuracy. It was only 10.00 pm when they arrived back at base. Alf commented it was nearly 100 kms to Australia with nothing in between. What would have happened if we had broken down again, we never even had a paddle.

Sister Angela Taylor, in writing to thank a District 9500 club for their donation of thousands of library books, sent to Yule Island following completion of a besser block building said "You cannot imagine how much we value what Rotary did for us. People are amazed that the job was completed so quickly. As you know nothing moves at a great rate in this country. However, even to the exclusion of the building, the girls gained much socially, and this will remain with them for the rest of their lives and to their advantage".

OFFICE BEARERS

National Co-ordinating Committee

1981/83	Chairman - P.D.G. Geoff Evans Secretary/Treasurer - P.D.G. Fred Stewart
1985/87	Chairman - P.D.G. Lionel Catt Secretary - P.P. Tom Blight
1987/89	Vice Chairman - P.P. Tom Blight
1990/92	Chairman - P.P. Tom Blight Secretary/Treasurer - P.D.G. Bill Rufus
1992/93	Vice Chairman - P.D.G. Bill Rufus

Central Region Committees

- 1980/81 Chairman - Gerry Toogood
Secretary - Bob Walkerden
- 1981/82 Chairman - P.D.G. Clair Rogers
Secretary - Bob Walkerden
- 1982/83 Chairman - Ivor Lewis
Vice Chairman - Tom Blight
Secretary/Treasurer - Ken Ellis
- 1983/84 Chairman - Tom Blight
Secretary/Treasurer - Ken Ellis
Project Co-ordinator - Don Johnson
- 1984/85 Chairman - Tom Blight
Secretary/Treasurer - Ken Ellis
Project Co-Ordinator Don Johnson
- 1985/86 Chairman - Don Johnson
Secretary - Eric Simmonds
Treasurer - Arthur Potter
Project Co-Ordinator John Kent
- 1986/87 Chairman - Don Johnson
Secretary/Vice Chairman - Eric Simmonds
Treasurer - Arthur Potter Project Co-ordinator - John Kent
- 1987/88 Chairman - Eric Simmonds
Vice Chairman - Neil Webber
Secretary - Ken Ellis
Treasurer - Arthur Potter
Project Co-ordinator - Don Johnson
- 1988/89 Chairman - Eric Simmonds
Vice Chairman - Bill Rufus
Secretary - Ken Ellis
Treasurer - Geoff Beer
Project Co-ordinator - Don Johnson
- 1989/90 Chairman - Bill Rufus
Vice Chairman - Eric Simmonds
Treasurer - Geoff Beer
Project Co-ordinator - Don Johnson
- 1990/91 Chairman - Bill Rufus
Vice Chairman - Eric Simmonds
Treasurer - Geoff Beer
Project Co-ordinator - Neil Webber

- 1991/92 Chairman - Bob Buchanan
 Vice Chairman - Neil Webber
 Treasurer - Geoff Beer
 Project Co-ordinator - Neil Webber
- 1992/93 Chairman - Bob Buchanan
 Vice Chairman - Neil Webber
 Secretary - Paul Hoskins
 Treasurer - Geoff Beer

The following are projects that Central region have been involved in:

1980: Tinsley Medical centre - The first volunteer team to operate under Central region left Australia on the 19th July 1980. The project was to construct two ablution blocks at the Centre in Western Highlands of Papua New Guinea. The team of 6 volunteers, under the leadership of Brain Condon of the Rotary Club of Port Pirie, received a good send off with an article being published in the Sunday Mail on 20th July. A second team of seven volunteers followed to complete the project.

Mt Au Medical Centre - Five teams consisting of 25 volunteers assisted this project.

1981: Kimil Health Centre - This project was in the Western Highlands of Papua New Guinea and six teams consisting of 40 volunteers participated.

1982: Tinsley Medical Centre - A further two teams consisting of 13 volunteers went to this project.

1983: Simbai Health Centre - This project was near Madang in Papua New Guinea and 3 teams of 16 volunteers were provided.

Sogeri - One team of 2 volunteers helped with the installation of a solar hot water service as well as various repairs.

1984: Yule Island - Three teams consisting of 14 volunteers worked on this project.

Rae High School - One team of 6 volunteers went to this project. Both projects were combined with Eastern Region.

1985: Salvation Army School - Kuching (Malaysia) - Central Region combined with Western region and provided one team of 4 volunteers.

Madang - One volunteer helped with the construction of an installation of electrical equipment.

Sarawak - a Team of four volunteers surveyed projects and the Region assisted with financing of a Community Hall.

1985: Kairiru Island - Two teams of 11 volunteers worked on the construction of school classrooms.

1986: Kairiru Island - A further team of 6 volunteers worked on the classroom building.

Kaotave (Solomon Islands) - 8 volunteers assisted with the building of a library and classrooms.

1987: Solomon Islands - Seven teams of three volunteers helped build replacement school buildings.

1988: Karkar Island - Twelve volunteers in 2 teams built a new classroom.

Kairiru Island - Two teams of 12 volunteers worked on the classroom buildings.

Solomon Islands - Another 2 teams of 7 volunteers built two additional school buildings.

1989: Araimiri, Vanimo, Karkar and Solomon Islands - 16 volunteers in 5 teams participated in several projects.

1990: Martyr's Memorial School, Popondetta, Malnohana, Vanimo and Western Soma - 5 teams consisting of 29 volunteers assisted with these projects.

1991: Solomon Islands and Kamulai (Papua New Guinea) - 6 teams and 37 volunteers worked on these projects.

1992: Solomon Islands, Koefa (Papua New Guinea) and Western Soma - 24 volunteers in 6 teams were provided.

SOUTHERN REGION

In 1979 a team from Bendigo went to a project at Orokolo on the south coast of Papua New Guinea. The team landed at an airstrip nine miles from the site and from there they traveled in a trailer behind a tractor along the beach at low tide. The hospital building was completed in fifteen days with the assistance from six local men. I seem to recall a story about a tractor being stranded in the incoming tide and having to be hauled out the following day when the tide was low.

A project to build a hospital (Haus Sik) in the village of Nupuru in the Eastern Highlands commenced in 1979. Six teams spent two weeks each erecting the buildings with help from the locals. A typical working day began with the cicadas whistling at 6.00 am, work commencing at 7.30 am with breaks at 10.30 am, 12.30 pm and 3.30 pm with knock off at 5.30 pm. The mornings were crisp, the scenery was magnificent, and the evenings were pleasantly cool. Pegging out the buildings was quite an experience with brown feet standing on or tripping over string lines. When school came out there were 170 children to contend with. One of the teams was asked to construct a coffin for the funeral of a mother of one of the faithful helpers. Some of the team attended the funeral or "sorry".

Remember the "Butterfly Farm" at Rihona in 1980. Several people asked if this was a true F.A.I.M. project. The study of butterflies and other insects is very important in the medical field. Rihona is a narrow valley at an altitude of 2,500 feet. By helicopter it is just twenty minutes from Goroka. Again, six teams went to this project which was under the guidance of Richard Carver who is the greatest living field expert in butterfly biology in the Pacific Region. After traveling by truck for five hours from Goroka teams had to transfer to a tractor drawn trailer to get to the site. During one trip the team had taken butter and eggs to supplement their diet. By the time the Ramu River was reached the butter was running out the tail gate and the eggs had all smashed. Materials had to off loaded, taken across the raging river and reloaded onto the tractor and trailer. The diet of tinned mackerel and porridge did not go down too well, but the team survived.

One team member to Nupuru made the following comments: "The F.A.I.M. training team experience was of inestimable value to me, not only through the satisfaction and enjoyment of participating as a volunteer and doing something for others, but as an extension of my own education. On a purely financial reflection one could say the personal financial outlay required to allow participation was hardly economical, but who can put a value on experiences which are otherwise unobtainable, and which adds such understanding to one's life".

Dr John Christie, former Provincial Health Officer for the Eastern Highlands asked Southern region about a work written by Dr Frank Shann titled "Pediatrics for Doctors in Papua New Guinea". This work of 400 pages was urgently needed as there was no other suitable publication available. The Rotary Club of Waverley adopted the project and as a result 1,000 copies were printed and transported to P.N.G.

A 40 square hospital was built at Alexishafen on the northern coast by three teams. A team leader wrote "this is only the beginning of a story, a story which is more than a building". It is a movement between communities to assist developing communities. It is reaching out by one community to show another community that its welfare is of concern. It is a story of international co-operation.

A female Rotaractor was a member of a team to Dogura in 1984. Teams were constructing houses for St. Barnabas Hospital. The Rotaractor went as the teams cook and she also worked on the house, resplendent with a nail bag and hammer, much to the amusement of the Nationals.

Three teams worked on a rural health centre on Watom Island, just north of Rabaul. Fortunately, the volcanoes did not interfere with the project. Some unexpected assistance from the Nationals was greatly appreciated by the team digging holes for the septic tanks. A 500-pound stone at the bottom of one hole called a halt to proceedings one day. No ropes or tackle were available to lift the rock out. In the morning the rock had disappeared. The locals had dug a hole out of the side of the excavation and levered the rock onto its side and buried it in the side of the wall - never too old to learn from someone else.

A request for an "In Service Training" volunteer conversant in road sealing and construction saw a volunteer and his wife spend three weeks running a course at the Madang School of Engineering.

Many teams have been to Karkar Island to help construct buildings and carry out maintenance at Gaubin Hospital. For many years the hospital was run by Ed and Tabitha Tscharke. These truly dedicated people spent 25 years at Gaubin and have certainly left their mark behind. With assistance from Rotary clubs in Tasmania and Victoria a new generator was provided for the hospital. Transport of the heavy unit was through the generous offer of the R.A.A.F.

In 1985 four teams helped erect a Refectory for the Sisters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart on Yule Island. The building consisted of the erection of a pre-fabbed steel building on a concrete floor slab, 30m x 12m x 3.5m high. Being a girl's school, the students helped teams by carrying sand from the beach, washing it and helping mix the concrete. Could you imagine young girls, or even boys, carrying 100 cubic metres of sand for a project here in our country. The girls also helped dig the foundations. About four years later the school transferred to the mainland at Malnohana. The refectory was dismantled, carried over and re-erected at Malnohana.

One volunteer to Papua New Guinea, and who is completely bald but sports a large moustache, was told by a young National "Gras bilong het I ol bugar up finis - Mous gras gro goot".

Dr B Dooley, a Collins Street Dentist, spent three weeks on Yule Island to carry out dental treatment and to train a National dental orderly. After 367 appointments with 241 different patients, 399 fillings and 34 extractions Dr Brian enjoyed his time there. The dental surgery was put into the labour ward which luckily was not required. The day after Dr Brian left a baby was born and another the following day.

Through Southern Region a computer was provided for the Gaubin Hospital on Karkar Island. During Ed Tscharke's many years on Karkar he had compiled a vast amount of information on ailments of the population over two or three generations. This information has been placed on the computer and is being used by the World Health Organisation. Karkar was previously known as the island of "Crooked People" due largely to the deforming effects of yaws, a type of tropical ulcer. Yaws has all but disappeared from the island thanks largely to Ed's efforts.

A six-room classroom building was erected at the Catholic Mission at Reblamul, near Mt Hagen. When the floor slab had been prepared with the reinforcement laid over polythene and left for the night the team, next morning, woke to find the polythene had been "borrowed" - it was never seen again. The adjacent well-equipped workshop helped make the manufacturing of doors, trusses etc. very simple. Most of the teams lived like kings, having great barbeques every night. Female volunteers helped in the classroom teaching as well as nailing the ply on the walls of the new building. Bishop Michael Meier appreciated F.A.I.M.'s involvement when he said, "May I express my gratitude and thanks to each and everyone of the organizing team members, and also to the loved ones who had to stay behind and could not come along".

In 1994 The Sisters of the Visitation at Hetune, near Popondetta, a team of six volunteers arrived on the Monday evening. They started to erect the two prefab Refuge Houses on Tuesday. That night at 7.30 pm four rascals, two of whom were armed, attacked the Sisters Convent. Guns were forced through the windows and money and other belongings were taken. The Sisters and the team were subjected to two hours of terror by the rascals before they were ordered to go upstairs. The teams living quarters were broken into and passports, cameras and clothing taken before the rascals fled the scene. One of the local "security" guards ran to the nearest village and organized a team of men to go to the site. By the time they arrived the culprits had disappeared. The police in Popondetta were alerted but refused to venture out at night. The Sisters always endeavoured to protect the volunteers during the attack, and they must be commended for their actions and concerns even though their own lives were at risk. Next day the team flew to Port Moresby and on the Wednesday, they flew back to Australia.

It is unfortunate with stories such as these that when the media get on to a story the full facts are not investigated properly before the story goes to air and quite often is misinterpreted.

Of the many volunteers who have been to Papua New Guinea the majority have stated the troubles in that country are no worse than in our own cities and major towns.

All volunteers are thoroughly briefed prior to departure and advised to exercise common sense while they are in a strange country. Sadly, the problem will; not go away and this makes future volunteers wary of going to Papua New Guinea.

Over the years most teams have thoroughly enjoyed their time "on the job". It not only gives the opportunity to pass on their expertise but to share customs and different ways of life and new-found friends. Returned teams have continued the friendships made in "their" village or with locals who have worked side by side with them. Some Rotary clubs have sponsored local youths and have arranged for them to spend a few weeks in Australia seeing and learning so they can go back to their village and try and improve the standards of life.

Unfortunately, some teams have experienced the activities of rascals in Papua New Guinea. These young delinquents, who are probably unemployed and have no income to survive, see the volunteers as a possible source to attack with the hope of getting some money and goods they can trade for food or drink.

Even though F.A.I.M. cannot, and does not, guarantee the safety of volunteers while in another country, all possible steps are taken to ensure a team is not sent into an area where there may be trouble. The recipient organisation and the Australian High Commission keep a close eye on activities and if there is any sign of danger a team will not be sent to a particular area. At times the sudden unexpected attacks will occur, and this is something we have no control over.

In Kaugere a "suburb" of Port Moresby, in 1983, a team from Castlemaine were woken one night by strange noises. The team leader's wife nudged her husband and after several grunts he decided to investigate. He found the power had been turned off and rascals were trying to break in through the bathroom window. He went outside to investigate and was stoned by the rascals who fled the scene. Several stitches were required to the back of his hand.

In 1989 a team was subjected to an attack by rascals at Martyrs' Memorial High School at Popondetta. No injuries were sustained but personal items were stolen. Extra security guards were immediately deployed around the site for future team safety.

Again, at Martyrs' in 1990 a team from Mortlake returned to their living quarters after attending their "going home dinner" put on by the School. As soon as they entered the building rascals attacked the door and thrust a large knife through it inflicting cuts to one of the volunteer's hand.

In the case of an F.A.I.M. project at Alotau in 1982 an ongoing relationship with the Provincial Hospital involved Rotary clubs in three countries, and Rotary International through The Rotary Foundation Special Grant Division. F.A.I.M. teams built a two-storey classroom building and meeting rooms for the Nursing School of Milne Bay. The relationship formed with the then Hospital Director, Dr Peter Baars, with team members resulted in the Rotary Club of Narre Warren and the Rotary Club of Nunawading raising money for urgently needed hospital equipment and theatre supplies. The Rotary Club of Port Moresby was involved and donated \$ 250.00 to the appeal. With the grant of \$ 1,934.00 from the Special Grants, and \$ 3,000.00 from A.I.D.A.B., a total of \$ 6,817.00 was available for the project. A "Silic Cup", used to deliver babies was asked for but there were none available in Australia. Contact was made with the Rotary District of Falsterbo-Vellinge in Sweden, where the equipment is manufactured, and they supplied the Silic Cup.

The Inner Wheel Club of Glenorchy (9830) donated \$ 1,000.00 towards surgical and medical supplies for the Gaubin Hospital.

The Anglican High School at Martyrs' Memorial School was facing closure when the Headmaster heard what F.A.I.M. could do and made application for teams to assist in refurbishing the school. Several teams helped build 2 two storey dormitory blocks, housing and electrical works. The schools are now one of the main ones in Papua New Guinea. Many hours of designing and redesigning the "rotunda" to link the wings of the dormitories were spent in the office of Barry Bell in Geelong. Paper models were made, altered and thrown in the rubbish bin but in the finish it all worked out to be quite a masterpiece.

The Rotary Club of Kerang began a program where they would host a boy from Martyrs' for up to three months and give him further education. This Program has been ongoing and is very successful.

Then there were the projects to build schools out of bush timbers in the mountains inland from Malnohana. Teams were taken so far by plane then by tractor or walked to the sites. The team members all have commented on their experiences on these projects.

The Rev Brian Harding went as a volunteer to Martyrs' and a few weeks after he returned home, he and his wife Joy, returned for several weeks to assist the headmaster, Fr Donald Johnston. Brian claims he built the first buildings at Martyrs' back in the 1950's.

WHO BUILT THE FIRST ARK?

In 1990 Sister Joseph Mary of St Peters V.T.C. on Yule Island had the bright idea of building a barge out of plastic drums. The chief designer was Mick Obara the Carpentry Instructor on the island. Where did Rotary F.A.I.M. come in? This comes a little later.

Being on an island they needed something more than a canoe or dinghy to transport fuel, food etc. over from the mainland. Long ago the Mission had a barge, but it had rusted out and was no longer usable. Sister Joseph Mary discussed the matter with Brian Hull who arrived in the area on board his yacht. He suggested Sister Joseph Mary contact the local Member of Parliament and ask him for some empty 200 litre plastic drums and build a barge. Eventually 60 drums were obtained, and the idea began to develop. When Sr Joseph Mary visited the Rotary Club of Waverley, they doubted a barge could be built using drums but were convinced enough to donate \$ 2,000.00 for the timber required. The timber was purchased in 5 metre lengths and was recut on the island into the sizes required. Other donations from I.P.A.C were used to purchase the hundreds of brass screws and silicon nails. The bitumen, glue and paint were donated by firms in Port Moresby. Two F.A.I.M. volunteers Wilf Coombes and Bert Plaster, spent a couple of weeks assisting the construction. The building site was close to where the barge would be launched. On 5th September 1991 a makeshift slipway was built out of 200 litre diesel drums and the barge was ready for launching. When the tide had risen Fr Didler blessed the craft and while the cameras clicked the ropes were loosened and into the water went the barge. It floated perfectly.

(Having seen the empty drums set out in an old building during the survey in 1991 I doubted whether the idea was feasible, but it did work. Editor)

SOLOMON ISLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOLS REHABILITATION PROJECT

Following the onslaught of Cyclone Namu on the 18th and 19th May 1986 the Australian Government, through A.I.D.A.B., agreed to provide assistance to the Solomon Islands Government in the reconstruction of Primary School Buildings throughout the Provinces hit by the Cyclone.

Cyclone Namu inflicted severe damage to many traditional type school buildings. Winds stripped off thatch, and in many cases collapsed whole buildings. Heavy rain and flooding penetrated roofs and rotted floors. Tidal surge destroyed some coastal and island schools. Many of the schools were without water and the local streams and rivers were heavily polluted. Over 150 Islanders died, thousands more were homeless, and the damage to the Solomons economy was estimated at more than \$ 22 million. No wonder the locals called it "The Bugarup".

The Victorian Public Works Department, through the Premier of Victoria, offered assistance to provide two consultants for a period of one month to visit the Solomons and prepare a comprehensive management proposal for the reconstruction work.

The two consultants, Martin Pearce and David Bower undertook an extensive field survey in the Provinces of Guadalcanal, Malaita and Central. As the total aid package, offered by the Australian Government, was approximately AUD\$ 700,000.00 it was to include the provision of building kits for 79 schools. Rotary F.A.I.M. Australia was asked to provide the volunteers to erect the buildings.

During 1987 seventy-nine teams of three volunteers spent three weeks each in the Solomons working at various sites. The building kits had been manufactured by John Hollands in Honiara and were transported to the various sites. In some areas the kits were able to be delivered to the exact site while others the materials were dumped over the side of the ship and the local villagers had to swim the materials to the shore and then carry them to the site.

The teams were transported to the sites by truck, boat, canoe and in a few cases were flown in by helicopter. Most teams were assisted by the local people. At one school 90 locals arrived to help and the only way they could assist was by rostering them on different days. Each school building, consisting of two classrooms was erected in 5 to 7 days.

During the period of F.A.I.M.'s involvement Supervisors were kept busy in both Honiara and Auki, on Malaita Island, meeting teams, briefing them and organizing transport to the sites. Many teams will long remember the trips on the Ui Mi Nou and Princess 2, two of the local "boats" used.

In 1988 a further 13 school buildings were erected.

During subsequent visits by F.A.I.M. Survey Team members and other volunteers it is reassuring to know that most, if not all, buildings are still in good condition. In some instances, buildings have been relocated by the locals because of land disputes but they have been reassembled in good condition.

Rotary F.A.I.M. Australia's involvement during 1987 and 1988 will long be remembered as the biggest and most rewarding contribution made since the first team went into Indonesia in 1963.

There are many individual stories that could be told but then individual volunteers have something to remind them that through their involvement they gave Service Above Self.

A member of one team snored something terrible. When he went to bed one night and began to snore another member kissed him goodnight - no more snoring. The third member kept his glasses on so he could see what may happen.

One team left Honiara on the Ul Mi Nau (another local passenger liner???) and went to the village of Loina on the northern end of Malaita Island. They left their bedding back with Lionel and Margaret but managed to get them the next day after Lionel had them sent by plane.

At another village "toilet facilities" were a rough catwalk reaching out into the sea. Volunteer ?? gets the urge to go so wanders out, sits in the dark and all of a sudden, a voice next to him, (it was a two holer), spoke to him and really frightened the out of him. Last seen the volunteer was heading for the hut with his pants down around his knees.

Some volunteers who had the pleasure to travel on the Bulawa will remember the volunteer, who wears thick glasses, taking his turn to lie on the bunk. When he woke during the night he tried to switch on his torch, but he thought it must have flat batteries. Another volunteer had quite a job convincing him it was not his torch but a stick of sugarcane.

When George Lake arrived to take over from Lionel Pavey in 1988, Lionel and his good wife Margaret, decided to take George to visit the team at Vaturanga which is just past Tambia Village Resort on Guadalcanal. When they arrived at the site George asked how Lionel knew where to turn off the road. An invisible signpost on the forty-eighth palm tree on the left was the answer. George still believes in the invisible.

Then there was the time when a team was returning from Makira Island on the Bulawa, but the ship was declared "lost" when it failed to arrive in Honiara on time. Eventually radio contact was made with the ship and things turned out alright in the finish.

There are hundreds of stories from the Solomon Islands and these are just a few.

WESTERN SAMOA

In 1990 Cyclone Val created havoc on the islands of Western Samoa. Many buildings were damaged, and some were completely destroyed. A survey was undertaken and as a result F.A.I.M. teams assisted on two Health Department projects. Unfortunately, finance was not forthcoming for further projects.

In December 1991 Cyclone Ofa, the worst Cyclone for many years, left a trail of destruction. Up to 90% of buildings were raised to the ground. Crops were wiped out and the people were struggling for survival. Another survey was carried out in February 1992 and it was decided to offer the services of F.A.I.M. again.

Negotiations were held with the Rotary Club of Apia, the Australian High Commission, the Disaster Response Organisation and other organisations. The District Governor 9320, in New Zealand, gave his approval for F.A.I.M. involvement in the rebuilding of schools. He also requested assistance with the erection of cyclone proof shelters in the villages. Supervisors were sent to Apia to discuss further involvement and several volunteer teams were made available. Financial assistance was received from A.I.D.A.B. enabling tool kits and first aid kits to be supplied. Quite a few items were donated by various firms who were prepared to help our cause.

Several teams helped construct an office for the Catholic Education Board, Administration Building and Pre School Centre at Leauva'a, new Library at Leulomoega and two projects for the education Department at Faleasiu Primary School.

On site supervisors spent several weeks organizing teams and materials etc. Accommodation and meals were provided by the individual volunteer.

Arrangements did not always work out as they should but in the end every team enjoyed their time helping.

On arrival every team was accommodated at Aggie Grey's Hotel free of charge, this being as a result of the commitment from the Manager, Alan Grey, a past member of the Rotary Club of Apia.

Polynesian Airlines provided discount air fares and went out of their way to ensure teams with extra baggage were able to take tools etc, free of charge.

In July 1993 the cyclone proof shelter project got under way. It was to be known as the ROTASHELTER project. Teams came from New Zealand (eight volunteers) and the rest from Corryong, Brighton, Geelong, Bendigo, Bendigo South, Castlemaine, Hawthorn, Horsham East in Victoria and Waikerie in South Australia. Sixteen shelters were erected in various villages. The buildings were delivered to Apia in kit form by shipping containers. Each building was 7.2 m x 3.6 m. A concrete floor slab was poured and the treated timber framing erected. External cladding was treated plywood and the roofing colorsteel.

The teams were able to erect a building in 6 to 8 days depending on the amount of work required to install the footings and slab. Teams were housed in village fale's, hospital wards and hotels. The Women's Committees were responsible for the accommodation and feeding of the teams. The Rotary Club of Apia was responsible for arranging transportation of the teams and materials. Western Samoa Project Co-ordinator, Lionel Pavey, spent seven weeks in Western Samoa briefing and working with teams and making sure the buildings were erected properly. Lionel worked initially with the design engineer, Rotarian Stuart Thompson from New Zealand. The last of sixteen shelters was completed on Manono Island on 12th October 1993.

The shelter at the village of Saanaapu was erected by a two-man team from New Zealand and a young Austrian lad who was holidaying around the islands. Stuart Thompson met him at Aggies and mentioned what we were doing, and he offered to help.

The team going over to Manono Island placed a wheelbarrow on top of the small cabin on the boat. During the voyage over the wheelbarrow came adrift and plunged into the depths.

The New Zealand team at Uafato village sent some material by canoe and the rest went by local bus. Along with the passengers the bus carried twenty bags of cement, roofing iron and a roof truss tied to the outside of the bus.

The team at Lotofaga slept in the local hospital after the patients had been billeted out. When the floor slab was being poured at least fifty of the local secondary school students formed a chain gang with buckets, plastic containers etc. to carry the mixed concrete to the floor.

The shelter at Vaisaia was built in the grounds of the hotel owned by the local Member of Parliament and member of the Rotary Club of Apia. The team lived in the hotel.

The following poem, written by P.P. Doug Brauniger, was presented to a District 9280 Conference:

Are you interested in people, are you interested in life
Are you interested in helping mother, sister, father, wife
Are you interested in showing folk that we can ease their pain
If you are interested in all these things, then we need you in F.A.I.M.

Would you like to help us with your skills, to work where it is sunny
Would you like to help financially, assist us with your money
Would you like to help us build a bridge, teach people about life's game
If you're interested in all these things, then we need you in F.A.I.M.

We try to break down prejudice by building good relations
We try to foster love and peace amidst emerging nations
We try to give those in need, not just for Rotary's name
If you're interested in all these things, then we need you in F.A.I.M.

So let us join together, let us serve in Rotary
Let's help the people raise their heads and open their eyes to see
That we are all God's children, deep down we're all the same
If you're interested in all these things, then we need you in F.A.I.M.

The following pages are taken from my personal diary and include the Kokoda Hospital project and the Aitape Tidal Wave Disaster. I believe the information given is part of our history.

AITAPE TIDAL WAVE DISASTER

SURVEY TEAM REPORT

AUGUST 1998

INTRODUCTION

An area on the north west coast of Papua New Guinea was hit by a series of tidal waves at about 1930 on Friday 17th July 1998. The waves came as a result of a Magnitude 7 earthquake offshore. The area that received major damage is located between the rivers of Bliri in the west and Raiho or Ailo in the east. This represents a beach front of approximately 45 km's. The worst of the waves has been reported to have been 15 metres high. The water reached about 1 kilometre inland and flattened the villages and quickly receded leaving a trail of devastation.

Approximately 2500 men, women and children perished out of a total population in the area of just over 10,000.

The villages that were wiped out or received major damage included Sissano, Warapou, Arop, Malol, Tales and Lambu, Rakoi, Opis and Waipo.

Several "Care Centres" were immediately set up where the survivors could be resettled and looked after. These Care Centres consist of bush timber framing covered with plastic tarpaulins. Temporary schools have been similarly constructed. Donations came in very quickly from within Papua New Guinea and from many overseas countries. The immediate need was to provide shelter and food because everything had been obliterated. During the first several weeks helicopters were kept busy flying in food and water to the remote sites.

The Catholic Diocesan Administrator, Father Austen Crapp, requested assistance from Rotary volunteers with the rebuilding of schools and medical facilities. National Project Co-ordinators for Rotary Australia World Community Service Ltd. Past Presidents Lionel Pavey and Alan Campbell visited the area in early August to assess the needs.

Alan and I arrived in Port Moresby on Monday 3rd August 1998 and were met by Richard Knox, the Deputy District Governor in P.N.G. Richard had visited the area during the weekend of 25th and 26th July and had discussions with several people. He submitted a 27-page report on his findings which greatly assisted the survey team.

On Tuesday 4th August we flew to Aitape via Lae, Madang and Wewak. While waiting for a change of planes in Wewak we met Fr. Austen Crapp who had spent a week in Madang to recover from his very hectic involvement during the first two weeks after the disaster.

We were taken to the main Disaster Control Centre in Aitape and met the Co-ordinator, Vincent Tutu. We inspected the Salvation Army set up and saw the huge quantity of food and other supplies stored at the Centre. Helicopters were busy ferrying supplies to inaccessible Care Camps. We met Marg. Parer who has been in Aitape for many years with her husband Rob, we later met up with Rob. We checked out the range of food and tools at the Supermarket. A visit was made to the Diocesan Sawmill before we were taken to St. Margaret's Vocational School where many of the volunteers in the area are being housed and fed.

The following is my diary from our visit:

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On arrival in Aitape we were taken to the Catholic Diocesan Complex and we were introduced to the members of the Diocesan Tidal Wave Disaster Committee comprising the Chairman Baltasser Maketu, Rotary Liaison Brother Philip Turner and Accountant Greg Browne. We had discussions on projects and how R.A.W.C.S.Ltd. could be involved.

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Wednesday 4th August: We waited advice on the helicopter flight and had further discussions with Fr. Austen and Br. Philip concerning types of buildings required. We learned the politics in the area are very complex and complicated. Went to the helicopter area after lunch but as there was no fuel. We were unable to fly over the area.

After lunch we visited the Raihu Hospital where some of the injured people are being cared for and treated. The hospital had been closed but was reopened following the disaster.

We then visited the Father Antonine Disabled Centre to discuss the building needs for rehabilitation of amputees and their physiotherapy. Caritas are to fund the works here.

I spoke to Richard Knox and he asked that I do an aerial and ground survey of the roads in the area.

After the evening meal we again met with the Disaster Committee. I faxed a request to Paul Miller, Rotary Club of Lae, requesting information on kit homes etc.

I spoke to Richard Knox and he asked that I do an aerial and ground survey of the roads in the area.

Thursday 6th August: We went to the helicopter area again and had our names entered on a list. We were to go on the next flight, but they ran out of fuel again. We spoke with the Controller and he could not do anything. After lunch we left in a utility to travel to the Pou Care Centre. We checked the condition of the road and the many water crossings. The Yallinga River is approximately one kilometre wide and has no bridge. There are six water crossings to navigate to get across.

Narwai Constructions are currently carrying out roadworks on the road to Pou from the turn off. The last 3 km's into Pou is only a rough graded track through the jungle.

At the Care Centre we saw 1400 children and adults being housed under tarpaulin covers. Food is still being airlifted into the area. The camp was clean and tidy, and the people were no doubt still in shock. We spoke with a local National who had completed a course in counselling in Australia and he said it would be a long and difficult process to help the people recover.

The local water source is contaminated, and all drinking water had to be boiled. Some traditional building work is being carried out. The children have no toys and are at a loose end. There is a need for frisbees, tennis balls, playing cards etc.

Tents and shelters are to be taken to the Care Camps within a few days so that schools can resume.

On our return we went to Marg and Rob Parer's home for drinks. We met Frank Evans who is charge at the High School.

Back to the Bishops' house for the evening meal and then to bed.

Friday 7th August: Brother Philip completed another requisition for the helicopter, and we took it to the area. We were told that we may get away later in the day and The Controller said he would phone later. Back to the office and further discussions. At 11.30am we received a phone call advising we would be flying very soon. After collecting Fr. Makorai we finally got in the helicopter and spent the next 1 1/4 hours flying over the area. We landed at the Romai Care Centre and again saw the turmoil the people are in.

We had a much better survey of the roads in the area.

We flew over the Olbrum Care Centre where the Sissano people will be moving to and setting up a new village. On our return we flew along the coast and were able to see the devastation of the area. Sissano Lagoon is still holding huge amounts of debris and some bodies. The "track" into Rowe and Olbrum will need a lot of work to get it to the stage where vehicles are able to gain access.

Back in Aitape we met up with the Salvation Army people and had discussions with them. Alan was interviewed on video by a seconded journalist who is covering the disaster. He knew of Rotary's involvement over many years.

Saturday 8th August: After breakfast we held a final meeting to discuss responsibilities and priorities. The Chairman will be holding meetings with village leaders and explaining the rebuilding program. Any work in village areas will take time as land disputes still have to be sorted out and this a long process.

Father Austen requested we provide him with a Rotary Wheel.

A convoy of trucks from Maprik loaded with yams arrived.

We departed Aitape on Airlink at 12.30pm and flew to Wewak where we boarded the Air Niugini flight back to Port Moresby.

Richard Knox met us and took us to the Gateway and later in the evening he and his wife took us to the Greek Restaurant for dinner.

Sunday 9th August: Richard took us to see the Annual Cricket Ashes game between the Lion's Club and the Rotary Club's.

I met up with a few people I had met on the Annual Survey carried out in April-June of this year.

We departed Port Moresby and arrived back in Brisbane to be met by D.G. Henry Bodman.

Monday 10th August: We attended a meeting of the District 9600 Disaster Committee and presented our recommendations. These were accepted and finer details were discussed.

Alan and I were able to get earlier flights home.

R.A.W.C.S. Ltd. involvement will be over quite a long period of time. We envisage up to 40 teams will be required over the next 18 months to 2 years.

It is difficult to express our feelings over this tragedy. The people do need every assistance they can receive.

VISIT TO AITAPE APRIL 1999 AS PART OF THE ANNUAL SURVEY

Prior to the details below I did return to Aitape in December 1998 to monitor the Situation.

The first two teams came in late October and November and started on this project.

PP Alan Campbell and I spent from mid-day Wednesday 21st April to mid-day Saturday 24th April in the Aitape area.

It was very encouraging to inspect the work already carried out by R.A.W.C.S. Ltd. Volunteer Training Teams at Fr. Antonine Rehab. Centre, St. Martins Pastoral Care Centre and in the village of Arop. We were able to meet with the team from Bundaberg who had just completed their two weeks working. This was the first team to include female volunteers to work on a project in a village situation. Although the females were readily accepted by the village people, they did experience a few minor difficulties relating to the local customs. The general feeling is that female volunteers are welcome, but the village environment is not the ideal situation.

At Arop the first of the houses and the Aid Post have been erected and the local work team is completing the concrete base for water tanks and connecting the tanks. On the school site the contractor has cleared and prepared the whole of the site and is preparing the formwork in readiness to pour the concrete floor slabs. All steelwork is on site. The pipe stumps for three staff houses have been installed under the guidance of the Diocesan Supervisor, Murray Perry. It is expected this will be the standard from now on to at least have the stumps installed, if not the first house, so that teams will be able to occupy the house instead of living in a bush house. It is expected the first of the classrooms will be able to be commenced within the next four weeks.

At Fr. Antonine Rehab. Centre the Dormitory is in use, the Gymnasium is being erected by the local work team, one staff house is near completion and the second house is partly erected.

At St. Martins Pastoral Care Centre two staff houses are just on complete as is the Staff Quarters.

In discussions with Olivier de Meric Bellefon of the Rotary Club of Wewak he informed me that the vehicle donated through his club for use by volunteers is owned by the Rotary Club and they have paid the registration and third-party insurance. It is recommended that the 9600 Appeal Funds should pay for all running and repair costs. I did include this in my original budget submitted to you last year. The vehicle is probably not ideal for the local road conditions, but it is there and is being used. A Logbook is being used for this vehicle. The present vehicle can only accommodate four volunteers plus the local driver. A 4WD Landcruiser type vehicle would be more suitable for the terrain and could also transport small quantities of materials.

I believe the heavy-duty truck from Tasmania is expected to be shipped within the next four weeks. It contains a container of donated school equipment etc.

I would appreciate advice as to whether the \$5000.00 previously discussed has been transferred to an account in Aitape. A Rotary Account has been established at Parerís for purchase of fuel and odds and ends required from time to time.

The donated Wooden Boat Kits have arrived. Three of the boats have been assembled and are being painted this week. The other two are still awaiting assembly. The D.O.A. have written to the Chairman of the Aitape District Disaster Committee advising of their intention to transfer the boats to that Committee for allocation to affected villages. It has been recommended that a boat be given to each of the four villages with Malol receiving two. The outboard motors will be part of this allocation. Father Austen Crapp has assured me the boats will definitely be given to the affected villages.

The D.O.A. are very concerned as to who is responsible for the payment for sundry materials necessary for the completion of the boats. It is recommended the 9600 Appeal Committee consider this and your advice at the earliest would be appreciated. Maybe P.D.G. Bill Waterfield should be consulted in this matter.

While we were at the village of Arop I we were able to inspect one of the Lucas Sawmills donated through the Rotary Club of Beechworth. It has already been used at Arop II village and a supply of timber is stored under cover at Arop I.

Olivier has raised the question of island Rotary Clubs being covered by Insurance as we are within Australia under the Rotary Insurance Policy. Because of the contribution given by Rotarians and other non-Rotarian helpers in working bees, dispersal of D.I.K.

RETURN TO AITAPE FEBRUARY 2000

On Sunday 16th January 2000 I received an invitation to attend the opening of the new Community School at AREKI, Aitape, on Thursday 10th February. Approval was given by D.G. John Gabb, District 9600, for me to attend on behalf of R.A.W.C.S. Ltd and the District.

The Australian High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea, His Excellency Nick Warner addressed the gathering, officially opened the school, and unveiled a plaque. I spoke on behalf of the volunteers who had assisted in the rebuilding projects and unveiled a Rotary Wheel and plaque.

Because the Tadjai airstrip was closed for maintenance work I had to travel from and return to Wewak by road. The "troop carrier" provided through District 9600 Appeals Fund had been sitting on the wharf at Wewak for several months because the P.N.G. Government wanted K30,000.00 to release it. The Diocese of Aitape finished up paying K13,000.00 for its release, which should be refunded by the Government.

The tool kits etc have been checked and itemised for future use. Copies have been passed to P.P. Alan Campbell.

KOKODA HOSPITAL...1995

In 1995 the Australian Government in conjunction with the Papua New Guinea Government agreed to build a hospital at Kokoda Village at the end of the famous Kokoda Trail to mark the 50th Anniversary of WWII in that area.

I was asked by the National Executive if I would spend up to two months as site supervisor. I agreed to spend six weeks and I went to Kokoda in April 1995 as the second supervisor, taking over from Tony Jones who had been in the Solomons in 1987.

Having been old enough during WW I I could remember some of the activities that took place on the Kokoda Trail.

Prior to work starting on the hospital three staff houses were built to accommodate Volunteer Training Teams. These houses had rainwater tanks adjacent, so we had fresh water available.

Other sections of the complex included Hikers Accommodation, War Museum, Airstrip Shelter and sundry Aid Posts on the Trail and in local villages.

When I arrived at the hospital had been commenced with sub floor construction in place. The wall panels etc were pre-fabbed in Lae and shipped to Oro and then transported to the site. Framing timbers were purchased from a local sawmill near Popondetta.

Teams would arrive in Popondetta on Monday evenings, stay overnight at Oro Guest House and then travel to Kokoda on Tuesdays. Returning Teams would depart Kokoda on Saturdays, overnight at Oro Guest House and then catch to 5.30am. flight back to Port Moresby on Sunday morning.

Electricity was provided by a small generator belonging to Rotary or by the town generator, but this was subject to availability of diesel. Our generator was in the habit of breaking-down, so it was difficult at times to have food stuffs kept frozen in the freezer. Fresh meat was obtained twice a week from the Mamba Estate where they killed their own cattle. Other food supplies were purchased from a big supermarket in Popondetta twice a week. Local fruit and vegetables were able to be bought daily at the local market.

It was not always possible to spend a full day on site because of the many other tasks that had to be undertaken and this caused some criticism from teams.

There was a phone and fax provided in the house I occupied, and volunteers could make private calls and pay for them.

On a couple of occasions, the trucks bringing the materials to the site did not make the short section of the hill up to the village. One night a truck got stuck on the road and all the materials had to be off loaded onto a trailer behind a tractor and taken to the site. Later while I was there another truck failed to climb the short rise and finished up rolling over on its side and again everything had to be off loaded.

With every team one of the villages on the road from Popondetta to Kokoda adopted the team, welcomed them and then put on a feast at the end of their time. This provided the opportunity for the volunteers to experience some of the local customs.

For transport we had a 4WD Toyota set up as an ambulance complete with flashing light and siren. There were several occasions when we were called on to transport sick and injured people to the local health centre or to a larger facility closer to Popondetta.

The Provincial Minister for Finance was from a nearby village and he was able to assist in some cases of need. Probably the most appreciated assistance came from a local villager by the name of Murphy Sanbejo. When I left Kokoda after my 6 weeks, I found it extremely difficult to say farewell to Murphy. In 1998 when I revisited the area during the Annual Survey, I had the pleasure of meeting up again with him again.

For recreation during the middle weekends some of the volunteers were able to "raft" down the nearby river in large rubber inner tubes which were courtesy of Mamba Estate. Others tried their hand at walking part of the Trail.

The assistance given by the locals was fantastic. Many of the boys were from the local Vocational Training School while others were from villages off the road.

During my time there it happened to be Anzac Day, so I took with me a prepared form of service which I was able to present for a team from Eaglehawk. A much larger commemoration service was held at mid-day, but I was in Popondetta collecting the team.