



Melbourne August 2019

Chaired by RAM National Manager

Dr Jenny Kerrison

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RAM combines with the WHO, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Walter and Eliza Health Institute and the Australian Defence Force.

RAM is a branch of RAWCS and responsible for fighting Malaria in PNG, the Solomon Islands and Timor Leste

Notes from the Rotarians Against Malaria National Conference

Melbourne, August 24/25 2019

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John McLaren

Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) National Chair

- The first Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM) conference in Brisbane was started 7 years ago
- Rotarians Against Malaria hosted the 1st World Malaria Conference in Melbourne in 2018, and for the first time brought all interested parties together. (Can you imagine Timor Leste and Indonesia working together in the same room!)
- At the Hamburg Rotary International Congress (with 27,000 registrants) launched REMARAG – a Rotary Action Group for Eliminating Malaria.
- RAM volunteers have given out over 14 million insecticide impregnated bed nets in PNG to households. Chasing Malaria ; Screening – All those who test positive are given a new LLIN (bed net)
- RC Hobart North is applying for a \$251,000 Global Grant from Rotary Foundation to eliminate Malaria from Timor Leste,
- Canberra Club applying for an even larger DFAT grant of \$1 million for Central Province of Solomon Islands – **Thanks to RAM we have the data available to do this**
- RAWCS have raised \$2million in donations for Australian Malaria Vaccine research by Griffith University

BURNET INSITUTE; a Melbourne based medical research Unit

Prof Brendan Crabb; immunologist research scientist and CEO

World ; Life expectancy is up everywhere, Poverty reduced everywhere (Down 40% since 1980) – main reason is due to reduced infant mortality and controlling infectious diseases. Population growth will decline as more children (breadwinners later) survive. E.g in Mali (Africa) in 1980 40% of children under 5 died, now down to 5%

But Malaria is tough to kill and infection rates have come down only a little over those years.

In the tropics the transmission rate is high.

A country cannot get rich unless it gets rid of Malaria first; it causes poverty

PNG and Solomon Is are the only places worse than Sub Saharan Africa.

The main parasite is Plasmodium falciparum in Africa, P.Vivax (which hides in the liver and comes back) in Pacific Is.

Important now that we move from CONTROL to ELIMINATION in our area

PROF STEPHEN ROGERSON-ACREME; Professor of Medicine at Melbourne Uni & Director of ACREME

Spoke on Malaria drug treatment regimens for Pregnant women

PROFESSOR TOM BURKOT- James Cook University

Spoke on the **PlasProtect Malaria Vaccine** development progress by Dr Danielle Stanisic at Griffith University which is now undergoing human trials sponsored by RAWCS

PROF DENNIS SHANKS Director of Defence Health and the Army Malaria Institute

Spoke on new drug trials of TAFENOQUINE; a long acting and very effective anti-Malarial drug with few side effects and useful when aiming for eradication.
 May be expensive for poorer nations
 The best option for travellers going to high risk areas

China best example of a nation eliminating Malaria – it did it by massive amounts of PRIMAQUINE to the whole population but ignored the side effects
 (1:10,000 who are deficient in the enzyme G6PD develop severe haemolysis)
 Not as much Malaria in Asia but some ugly pockets, mainly in Cambodia and Myanmar where tourists do not go to

PROF MAXINE WHITTAKER James Cook University

Deputy Director of the Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine, and Dean of College of Public Health, Medical and Veterinary Sciences at James Cook University. She is also co-Director of the World Health Organisation's Collaborating Centre for Vector Borne Diseases and Neglected Tropical Diseases

Spoke on Community Participation and how it is essential to identify the strengths of the community you are working with and to work out how to get them to accept your help and give them empowerment

Community participation is the cornerstone of Primary Health Care

People are the essential voice in matters relating to their health, living conditions and well-being

Studies have shown that 98% efficacy falls to 38% effectiveness unless this happens, for a combination of reasons

Examples where empowered communities have worked to eliminate disease given were Taiwan and Anyteum in Vanuatu with Malaria, onchocerciasis (river blindness) Smallpox & Polio,

TIM FREEMAN RAM PNG Program Manager

Lived in PNG last 9 years and had given out over 4 million bed nets in 22,000 villages in PNG

P.Vivax (the recurring one) levels are back to where they were 17 years ago. After many years of reductions Malaria is fighting back in PNG and has dramatically increased since 2017. Quite alarming and so far the reason has not been identified despite research into Why and How, but many possible reasons were postulated

PNG has the highest P.Vivax infection rates in the world

(P.Vivax can hide dormant in the liver and cause a recurrence)

RAM Fundraiser for Bike Riders - **RAM Ride & Feed** Tasmania near Devonport \$200 entry. Slow and fast routes. Tulip Festival for the gardeners and expert Cookery demonstrations Can hire bikes

RAM PRIMARY SCHOOL VIDEO COMPETITION

Won by St Bridget's Primary School in Greythorn \$500 prize

Well worth watching – all 24 in the class contributed!

Brighton Primary second prize \$300

AQUITAIN AMF (Anti Mosquito Film)

An exciting new and unique Australian developed **non-toxic anti-mosquito product** – the only product of its kind

It is a Silicone liquid that reduces the surface tension of water

The mosquito larvae cannot come up and attach to the surface for air and they drown.

Accredited with the WHO, & on sale in 60 countries as it is not a BioCide

Half a cup will treat an area the size of this room and works on vegetated areas such as rice paddies

Works for 4-12 weeks and is available in bottles, capsules and solid slow release blocks. 1 ml will treat 1 sq. metre

Sold below wholesale price to RAM

Water is OK to drink & certified in USA for water storage

Aquatain AMF is now available in the retail market in Australia under the name of Envirosafe Mosquito Drops. It's available at Bunnings and Mitre 10 stores <https://www.aquatain.com/Aquatain-AMF.html>

These notes on the Conference compiled by David Goldsmith, RC Ballarat West