



RAWCS Southern Region Coordinator's Report 2019-20 for Annual Meeting 9/08/2020

It is a pleasure to present the Regional Coordinator's Report for RAWCS Southern Region for the Rotary year 1/07/2019 to 30/06/2020.

The Regional Operations Committee for the past year was comprised as follows:

Regional Co-ordinator – PDG Ken Moore

Immediate Past Regional Coordinator (acts as Vice Regional coordinator) - PDG Mani Seneviratne

Regional Secretary – PP Virginia Turner

DIK Store Representatives

Rotarians Against Malaria Regional Supervisor – Gloria Hargreaves

Projects Regional Supervisor – Vijay Susarla

Volunteers Regional Supervisor – Brad Quilliam (Deputy David Ronksley)

Communications Regional Supervisor – Ian Esmore

SW&SSL Regional Supervisor – Ruth Carlos Martinez

District RAWCS Coordinators (6)

District Governors, DGE's and DGN's (D9780, D9790, D9800, D9810, D9820, D9830) are ex officio members

Following the Annual Meeting and Information Day in August 2019, Southern Region Quarterly Meetings were held in October 2019, February 2020 and May 2020 (via Zoom).

The Annual Meeting and Information Day was very well attended and, with four National Board Directors attending, the latter was an opportunity to improve communications between Southern Region and the Board, enabling those present to ask questions and raise any concerns they might have. The key outcome of the day was to conduct a Training Day for Southern Region RAWCS to explain the "Going Forward" message to those involved in communicating RAWCS to others.

The three quarterly meetings (October, February and May) were well attended, especially the Zoom meeting in May. At each meeting reports were received and adopted from all the Regional Supervisors, the District Coordinators as well as myself as Regional Coordinator. Consequently, those attending were kept informed with regard to RAWCS activities at Regional, District and Club level, be it in relation to Donations in Kind, Rotarians Against Malaria, Water & Sanitation or reporting on specific projects.

The Annual RAWCS Planning Workshop was conducted at Ciloms in January 2020, to review how the implementation of the strategic directions set last year were going. Aside from the National Board members, attendance at the workshop was limited to the Regional Coordinators, Project Supervisors and Communication Supervisors. One of the key learnings of the past year was that RAWCS as a whole needs to do much more by way of communication, especially in selling the merits of engaging with RAWCS at Rotary Club level. One outcome of this is that regional coordinators as a team have been tasked with basically answering the question "What do individual Rotary clubs need from RAWCS?" That continues to be a work in progress at the time of writing this. Like many things, this has been somewhat stalled due to Covid happenings in recent months.

In that regard and as you would all be aware, Covid-19 restrictions have placed severe limitations on the activities of RAWCS projects and programs everywhere, and this is likely to be ongoing for some considerable time. The term unprecedented seems to be more than a little overused at present so instead I'll just say that these times are unparalleled in our lifetime and will no doubt lead to a different normality when all is done and dusted.

On 23rd May, 2020 RAWCS in general and DIK Geelong in particular lost a stalwart when Anton Van Doornik passed on to higher service. Among many roles in a very dedicated and hard working life, Anton was a member of DIK Geelong for over 20 years and Chairman for the last 13 years and his valuable contribution is and will continue to be sorely missed. Just prior to his passing Anton had been nominated for a RAWCS Humanitarian Service Award and this was subsequently approved by the National Board. The award will be presented to Anton's wife Isobel and family on the 25th August at DIK Geelong. Vale Anton.

Last month, for reasons of efficiency as well as economy, the decision was made to close the Southern Region bank account and to revert to processing invoices and the like through the National office as in the past. The suggestion

originated with our Treasurer with the result that his Regional role is now dispensed with. I'd like to thank Damian Harman for his financial acumen over the number of years that he has filled that position. In his own words 'it wasn't onerous' but by the same token your efforts were valued Damian.

In closing, I wish to sincerely thank all members of the Southern Region Operations Committee for their ongoing commitment to RAWCS and dedication to their specific programs and projects and look forward to continuing to work with you to further the aims of RAWCS in the coming twelve months.

A very special thank you to Regional Secretary Virginia Turner for all the work that she does to keep us organised and on track from one meeting to the next. That work 'behind the scenes' is quite considerable and very much appreciated.

Thank you.

PDG Ken Moore
Regional Coordinator-Southern Region
Rotary Australia World Community Service