



**RAWCS Southern Region
Regional Operations Committee Quarterly Meeting 20th February 2022
Regional Coordinator PDG Ken Moore**

Welcome everyone to the third quarterly committee meeting for the Rotary year 2021-22.

As you all know, it was planned to have this meeting along with our Information Day at Rowville International as a face-to-face event. But it wasn't to be thanks once again to Covid.

However, I'm sure those of you who attended the RAWCS Online Showcase yesterday would agree, that it was an excellent replacement. At one stage we had 74 attendees for the D9800 hosted event, perhaps not as many as some of us would have liked to have seen but still a good attendance. The six projects that we selected to showcase were all very well presented and represented a good cross section of overseas and local projects across most districts in the Southern Region. And importantly, there was plenty of interest in both those six projects and RAWCS in general if the number of questions that were raised are any guide. Thank you again to DG Dale Hoy and the D9800 team, especially Sandi Fulcher and Jane Pennington for organizing the event.

I'm assuming that all of you saw the circular that was distributed by National Project Manager Merv Williams a week or so ago, calling for expressions of interest for newly available RAWCS Bushfire Relief Funds. RAWCS has received a generous donation from an overseas organisation to assist the many individuals and areas affected by bushfires in South-Eastern Australia and more recently in Western Australia. It's important to note that the consequences of the fires in 2019-2020 are included so I encourage you to broadcast this widely so that clubs and districts can assist their communities where appropriate. If you haven't got details of the EOI please let Virginia know and we will get it to you promptly as applications close at the end of March.

From National level there are only three other items to note.

The first is that there has been an ongoing ACNC (Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission) review of RAWCS activity and while RAWCS accreditation has been confirmed there are some questions surrounding the RABS and overseas aid entities that are still being sorted. More about that when it filters through.

The second piece of news concerns the continuing rollout of the Drought Community Outreach Program and I'm sure Brad will have something to say about that in his report.

And finally, I can advise that the Annual Strategic Planning Weekend is scheduled to happen face-to-face in April. Again, more about that when we have more information.

PDG Ken Moore
RAWCS SR Regional Coordinator