



**RAWCS Southern Region
Regional Operations Committee Quarterly Meeting 22nd May 2022
Regional Coordinator PDG Ken Moore**

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

The National Board and Regional Coordinators met online most recently on 27th March 2022 at which time it was indicated that RAWCS activity including project activity is finally returning to a level of normality after the past two years disruption due to Covid.

There are several things that I can report on from a National level.

Firstly, the last couple of months has seen two major events have an impact on RAWCS, namely the war in Ukraine and the Queensland and NSW floods all of which has obviously been devastating for numerous people, overseas with the former and in Australia with the latter. Both events led very quickly to funding projects being setup and the response to these has been rapid and generous. No doubt you are all aware of these, but I will make mention of them anyway.

Project 83-2014-15 Ukrainian Humanitarian Relief Aid was set up to meet immediate lifesaving needs of the crisis-affected civilian population in Ukraine as well as provide early recovery assistance as soon as feasible. Such was the response that there were over 3,000 individual donations in the first two days and this generosity has continued. We've all seen on a daily basis the impact that the war continues to have in Ukraine so there can be no doubt as to the need for financial and other aid. To date monies raised through the RAWCS project total \$3,914,309 towards the established goal of \$5 Million.

Project 47-2021-22 National Flood Appeal was established to raise funding to provide financial assistance to flood victims in Queensland and Northern NSW as a result of the flooding there over a sustained period. At the time the project was setup there were around 15,000 homes that had been flooded and more since then. To date \$630,013 has been donated towards the goal of \$1 million.

The Drought Community Outreach Program has seen a return to live events and Brad has submitted a detailed report and will no doubt have something to say on this shortly.

Working with the other Rotary organisations RAWCS had the opportunity to present training over a two-day period to the current cohort of DGsN. This training occurred in the first week of May and was deliberately scheduled to coincide with the official opening of the new

Norwest office with RI Director Jesse Harman acting as host. The idea of the training is that each organisation be given an hour to present what they do and how the DGsN can help circulate the information to others.

Officers of RAWCS from across Australia met in Melbourne on 9 and 10 April for the Annual Planning Weekend at Ciloms the goal being to develop action plans to support Rotary Clubs getting involved in projects both here in Australia and overseas.

The District RAWCS Chairs explored ways to present to Rotary Clubs enabling them to access funding and get a project registered. It is expected that the range of RAWCS activities and its new strategic directions will support Clubs to engage with their communities and attract new members. Since I am not continuing as Regional Coordinator I wasn't invited to the weekend and so can't comment much more than that, but there are others here today who did attend and they may like to comment further in regard to RAWCS future directions.

PDG Ken Moore
RAWCS SR Regional Coordinator