Rotary e-Club of Greater Sydney

Rotary

Introduction

We are very fortunate as an E-Club to have members involved in international projects all over the world, our club has 12 active RAWCS registered International Projects. Our projects include the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cambodia, Laos, Sierra Leone, Fiji, PNG, Kiribati, Timor Leste, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Thailand, Rwanda, Nepal and Malawi.

E Club founder and PP **Tony Castley OAM** continues his Rotary involvement as Director of the Australian Rotary Foundation and Rotary Down Under. He is the founder and manager of SewAid International. PP **David Dean** is the District Grants Chair for the Rotary Foundation. Our 2017 president **Amanda Barnes** is the International Service chair for District 9685. Rtn **Penny Vos** serves on the RAWCS Eastern Region communication taskforce. **Kian Safaei**, our current president, is serving a 3-year term as the District Chair for Interplast which has recently been extended for another further 3 years until 2023.

22-2006-7	Sewaid International	Worldwide

SewAID is a program which offers selected women in very poor countries the opportunity to not only learn to sew, but to also provide them with the machines, equipment and skills they need to start a small home business in dressmaking, alterations and repairs.
This project is the initiative of PP Tony Castley OAM Founder of the Rotary E-Club.





SEWAID PHILIPPINES - Our Sewaid workshop in the Philippines is meeting the needs of the time, by making masks and other protective gear.

Our amazing Maggie and her team have already produced over **10,000 masks** for the Army and other services and are now also making full protective suits. Maggie, is simply amazing and she has always responded to the needs in her community.

SEWAID FIJI - Peter Drysdale from our Sewaid workshop at Koriopeta Model Homes, has advised that they are also flat out making masks.

Also our shipment of new equipment that we sent them last month, is due to arrive about this time. We have donated to them a new Singer Industrial machine, a heavy-duty Singer portable, new Triumph over- locker plus new cutting mats, rotary cutters etc. This is to

upgrade their equipment as they move into their new workshop in their new enterprise building.

78-2018-19	The United Mission Hospital	Nepal

The United Mission in Tansen, Nepal continues to benefit from support of the EClub and supporters. The local hospital, known as the trauma centre, is getting much use from the C-Arm X-Ray machine. especially for use in orthopaedic surgery. Accidents are common due to poor infrastructure. Having this equipment at the hospital now allows life-saving procedures to be undertaken.

Rtn and EClub member Val Bland sells Rotary Christmas cakes to raise funds to support this project.

7-2009-10	School for Life Foundation	Uganda

School for Life Foundation (SFL) is an Australian non-government organisation seeking to transform developing communities through providing high-quality education, health care, clean water, vocational training, employment and infrastructure. Under the leadership of Founder and Club member Annabelle Chauncy OAM, the foundation seeks to provide innovative and sustainable tools to break the cycle of poverty.

Currently, SFL operates 2 primary schools and 1 high school at Katuuso in Mpigi, Uganda. The schools provide access to high quality primary education to 1000 students, as well as providing health care and clean water to over 1,500 residents of the village. The school promotes the value of equal opportunity; allowing both boys and girls to attend the school, including those with special needs. The school also provides employment to 120 Ugandan staff including teachers, cooks, builders and security guards as well as providing accommodation for its teachers.

47-2009-10	Medical Equipment Project	Worldwide

This project was set up in 2009 to fund the supply of portable ultrasounds, vital signs monitors, basic ECG machines and a small range of new medical equipment for hospitals in developing countries with limited resources. We source new, robust basic medical equipment in bulk to enable us to support in a higher capacity. Working with in country partners, we can assess, distribute and ensure adequate training on the equipment to have maximum impact.

In the past year we have donated over 650 pieces of equipment to 16 different countries.

Highlights include:

- Partnering with Emergency Medicine Kenya Foundation to provide vital signs monitors and ECG equipment to 47 county referral hospitals. This was done in conjunction with training to strengthen the emergency medical care system in Kenya.
  In addition ultrasounds where provided for training in emergency obstetric use in partnership with the Centre for Public Health and Development.
- Partnering with LifeNet International to provide basic equipment for healthcare clinics in DR Congo. Equipment includes dual fuel autoclaves for clinics with no access to electricity.
- Burundi, a new project area, is one of the poorest countries in the world. Providing equipment for healthcare clinics in the region.
- Ongoing support for our partner One Heart Worldwide donating portable ultrasounds to provide integrated training programs for midwives and traditional birth attendants in rural areas in Nepal.



The cost of getting heavy, antiquated donated medical equipment from Australia , in some instances, no cheaper than buying brand new mass-produced, simple to commission, life-saving equipment from China and USA. And so a project was set up in 2009 which has now delivered over 2,000 medical devices into more than 40 countries in the developing world.

The flagship item is a Portable Ultra Sound Scanner. More than 500 units have been distributed. In many cases training courses are arranged before the clinic or hospital takes possession. Thousands of mothers and babies' lives have been saved by providing this technology to places where it never would have gone otherwise.

Other equipment includes:

- Vital Signs Monitors
- Patient Monitors
- Pulse Oximeters
- ECGs
- Oxygen Concentrators
- Foetal Dopplers

Over the years Rotarians from right around Australia have facilitated the cartage of equipment to end destination as personal luggage when travelling.

In addition to the above project our member Dave Rickard is also involved in other projects such as.

Eyesight Restoration Ethiopia

an eyesight restoration camp in Ethiopia that he and his DAK Foundation are supporting. Approximately 1700 people had their eyesight restored in less than a week!



50-2011-12	Sustainable Villages Oecusse	Timor Leste

Aims: Strengthen capacity of villagers to tackle environmental challenges impacting health & livelihood; build a sustainable community; reduce incidence of infant mortality & disease by providing clean water, sanitation, nutritious food & environmental protection.
Village Environmental Action Planning - assists villagers to examine their resources, history, environment & identify key issues impacting livelihoods. This knowledge is used to develop vision & action plans. Water quality testing shows powerfully the link between contaminated water and poor health.
Project methodology is based on participatory learning & action; involving people in their own forward change & development is the best way to ensure success & sustainability of change.
After the VEAP we revisit regularly to support action plans:
Clean water: providing biosand water filtration units which are easy to use & maintain, cheap, low tech & successful.
W**ell rehabilitation:** concrete surround, roofing, lining the well & fencing off livestock.
Reforestation: past logging practices resulted in forest decimation and erosion, turbidity and lowering water table. Native trees are supplied.
Vegetable Gardens, pumps & pipes makes planting vegetable gardens easier & ensures fresh food.
Dry composting toilets & fish farming recently added to the program, still in trial stages, results are promising.
Sewing face masks for covid19 has begun.





Club member Judith Charnaud runs the program and lives there much of each year.

17-2014-15	Maternal and Child Health (MACH)	Worldwide

MACH is a consolidation of more than 12 individual projects that had previously been managed by a number of different Rotary Clubs around the country.

There are 4 pillars to the MACH cluster of Maternal and Child Health projects:

- Maternal & Obstetric Services – especially obstructed labour emergency
- Family Planning – Options for poor women to space their families

- Birth Injury Repair Surgery – Obstetric Fistula and Pelvic Organ Prolapse
- Neo Nate and Child Special Care – Emergency Newborn and Paediatric Care

The objective of MACH is to partner with local organisations in the poorest countries that have demonstrated capability and passion to provide genuinely cost effective and sustainable outcomes in our target areas. MACH currently works in Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia.

72-2013-14	Kisaru Nkera Initiative (KINI)	Kenya

KINI is a community project in the Trans Mara region of Kenya which provides support to Maasai children and their families through education, health care services, community programs and maintenance of a safe environment.



KINI sponsors children to receive education from primary school to tertiary level. KINI have been given land and is in the process of raising funds to build a rescue centre for girls and a home for orphaned and vulnerable boys.

Rtn Barbara Parkins currently lives in the Maasai village and cares for 14 children in her own home, who have nowhere else to go or are there to be protected from FGM and forced marriage.

20-2013-14	Lotumbe Community Development	Democratic Rep. of Congo

Rtn Lucy Hobgood-Brown regularly takes volunteer teams to this province, to work with Congolese colleagues on such projects as sustainable beekeeping, women's health, duck and fruit tree planting (sales from the eggs and fruit pay for Pygmy orphans' school tuition), and women's micro credit. Lucy Hobgood-Brown also introduced Days for Girls in the Democratic Republic of Congo areas where she works. Pictured is a Congolese community leader introducing Days for Girls and women's health/family planning topics to school girls.



47-2015-16	Building a Healthy Congo	Democratic Rep. of Congo

Celebrating 15 years of collaboration in Congo



On March 15, 2020 HandUp Congo hosted a party for Sydney supporters to celebrate 15 years of community development collaboration in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Many Rotary clubs, individuals and businesses have helped bring positive change in a country that is at the bottom of the UN Human Development Index. The event featured African dance, drumming, food and handicrafts. Congolese project partners sent heart-warming messages of thanks to Australian supporters, and a service of thanksgiving was held in Congolese churches for the many overseas project partners who have provided in-kind resources, funds and professional development training.

Dr Germain Wassia, medical director for Lotumbe Reference Hospital (a project partner of HandUp Congo), holds a banner commemorating 15 years of collaboration.

Fighting Covid19 in Congo In collaboration with HandUp Congo, a Rotarian doctor who is medical coordinator for a community of more than 1 million people, is leading a Covid19 awareness campaign. Dr Bosolo Yoursen and a team of healthcare workers in the Democratic Republic of Congo's most marginalised province, Equateur, are using traditional dugout canoes, motorcycles and bicycles to access remote villages, due to lack of infrastructure. These hamlets are located in the Congo Basin, the world's second largest rainforest after the Amazon. HandUp Congo is a small, Australia-based non-profit with long-time ties to the Congo. Founder Lucy Hobgood-Brown is a member of the Rotary eClub of Greater Sydney. For information: www.handupcongo.org or email handupcongo@gmail.com. *Dr Bosolo is president of the Rotary Ekanga Mbandaka Club in Mbandaka, Equateur Province*







When you are desperate, anything that can cover your mouth is considered by the Congolese. Single mums enrolled in a sewing project are making face masks for their community.



Emergency Medicine is evolving as a medical discipline the DRC

CPR mannequins supplied by Australia are used in the WHO's Basic Emergency Care training workshop held in tandem with the first national DRC Emergency Medicine Symposium.

Since 2015, HandUp Congo has helped introduce a new medical discipline in a country with more than 80 million people. Led by Australian Emergency Medicine Specialist, Dr Vera Sistenich, the Building a Healthy Congo initiative has trained more than 600 doctors and nurses in basic emergency care. In the past year, the new discipline's impact on saving lives has led to the establishment of the DRC's Emergency Medicine Association (www.amurdc.com). In collaboration with HandUp Congo, the World Health Organisation, the African Federation for Emergency Medicine and Rotary, the first national Emergency Medicine Symposium was held in November 2019 and attracted more than 300 healthcare workers from Congo and abroad. Thanks to Medical Aid for Oceania and Rotary Berrima District for funding and organising an air freight shipment of 12 cartons (284 kg) of medical equipment. Ongoing professional development workshops are being held and plans are underway for another symposium in 2021.

This has been a busy year for the Lotumbe community in Equateur Province. Located 300 km from the provincial capital, Lotumbe ("Low-toom-bee") is home to more than 3000 people scattered in hamlets in the world's second largest rainforest. The village has partnered with HandUp Congo on a range of sustainable community development projects for 15 years. The community's elected development facilitator is Rev. John Entonto. He liaises with a Development Committee, and the projects they oversee include bee keeping, microcredit, duck raising, sewing (including making face masks to help prevent the spread of Covid19), and education for orphans. HandUp Congo supporters provided funding this year for three development leaders to visit projects in NE Congo, where they learned how to make eco-friendly cooking stoves – essential to a geographic region that is rapidly becoming deforested -- and explored microcredit models.

In addition, generous donors provided funding this year for the refurbishment of a community development office, a dugout canoe and Yamaha motor for use by the Community Development team, agricultural tools for Indigenous Pygmies, and seed money for women's micro enterprises, medicines for a free Health Clinic and funds to build a simple house for the local hospital's new Chief of Staff. A portable sawmill has also recently been established, which the community hopes can become a key income generating social enterprise.



The Ambulance Boat is perched on 3 dugout canoes, tethered together and driven by 2 outboard motors. This boat carries small healthcare teams far and wide to

riverside hamlets over a huge distance, raising awareness about Covid19 prevention and distributing face masks, soap and medicines.

1-2016-17	**Feeding Dreams**	Cambodia

Feeding Dreams was established in 2012 and enjoyed support from many Rotary clubs in Sydney and Brisbane prior to its registration as an official RAWCs project in on July 1st 2016. Feeding Dreams Cambodia is a grassroots Community School providing free quality education and daily meals for over 800 impoverished children from the poorest parts of Siem Reap, from kindergarten to young adults. Classes include English language, Math, Computer, Morality and Sport. Each student is awarded Ministry of Education certified qualifications for courses completed.
We strive to keep families united, fight poverty, illiteracy and malnutrition, and help grow tomorrow's community leaders. We also offer university scholarships and ongoing support to the older students so they have the chance to receive a tertiary education, while our Dreams Training Centre offers vocational education and job placement in the hospitality industry.





The Australian Rotarians who have championed the Feeding Dreams Cambodia programs have benefitted from the Rotary international network of business, professional and community leaders who strive to make the world a better place through practical efforts. Aside from grants and donations, individual Rotarians have offered their skills and expertise, assisting us in our accounting, HR policies, architectural advice, management and personnel training and often, emotional support and encouragement when things get tough for us on-ground.

Collectively the Rotary clubs across Australia have supported the building of our training centre, several of our classrooms, our bike shed, built numerous homes for desperately poor families, contributed to the food program and supported the elderly, sponsored several of our brightest students to attend university, and most recently sponsored some our most disadvantaged youth to undertake our 12 month Vocational Hospitality Training program, and be placed in employment at 4-5 star hotels so that they can live a life above the poverty line without exploitation.

103-2017-18	Mama Wimbi Buntings for Education and Independence	Democratic Rep of Congo

This project is based in Goma, DRCongo. It has so far equipped many vulnerable mothers to sew for their children's school fees. Many children are in school because of us and next year's schooling is already secure for half of them. We are also establishing a computer training centre with the aim of equipping local people with the internet marketing skills to gain self-sufficiency. Their local neighbours have no money to buy anything, so the best chance of sustainable business income is access to the global middle class, through the internet.



Burma Children's Medical Fund (BCMF) 26 2019-2020

The Burma Children Medical Fund (BCMF) was established in response to the increasing number of patients on the Thai-Burma border who required surgery that was not available at local clinics or hospitals.

The Burma Children Medical Fund (BCMF) was founded in 2006. Before BCMF was established, people who needed surgery could only have their symptoms treated. Without the necessary surgery their lives were either severely incapacitated or they died prematurely. BCMF works to give these patients a chance to a healthy life by funding their medical treatment and providing a range of support services before, during, and after treatment.

Every Thursday, with the cooperation of the Thai authorities, a van leaves Mae Tao Clinic with a group of patients and their caregivers and heads for Chiang Mai, 300 miles away. Once in Chiang Mai, the patients are admitted to Chiang Mai hospital with costs paid by BCMF. Their caregivers stay in a 'safe house', essentially a hostel from which they can go to visit and support their child. The high level of trust between local Thai authorities and BCMF is based on scrupulous record keeping and a strong spirit of cooperation, which ensures the safe transport of patients from Mae Sot to Chiang Mai.

The recent political changes in Burma have meant very little in the lives of ordinary Burmese, particularly in relation to health care. Even with the latest round of reforms in Burma, the regime's current budget reflects the fact that, despite modest increases, health care spending remains low. In 2013, 3.9% of the country's total budget was dedicated to health care spending.



As a result, very little has changed on the ground for BCMF as we continue to see patients coming in large numbers seeking treatment due to the state of the Burmese health system. There are few Burmese hospitals that are able to provide treatment for complex cases, and at those facilities that do offer care, treatment continues to be cost-prohibitive for many patients.

This year, there is planning for 4 eye screening projects, 6 Reproductive health and rights workshops and approx. 7 wheelchairs fitting projects.
Kanchana Thornton - Director

46 2006-07	Bo Children's Hospital	Sierra Leone



The Bo Children's Hospital since its inception in June 2012 has successfully treated over 27,000 children. The biggest impact the hospital has made since it opened its' doors has been saving lives from preventable diseases such as Malaria, malnutrition, diarrhea, tuberculosis and HIV. The Bo Children's Hospital is the second only children's hospital to open in the history of Sierra Leone. The Hospital is a tribute to a community wanting to build a better future and the generosity of humanity across international borders.

Over the past decade, from the early days of construction to a now growing resource for the locals, Bo Children's Hospital is making a tangible difference in the community – especially for the helpless young children who are in desperate need of medical care.

The staff are all from the local community and take full responsibility for running the hospital. They are all qualified and take pride in providing a high standard of care. This much needed hospital has 22 beds for both day and overnight admissions whilst also providing outpatients clinics, imaging and laboratory facilities, a pharmacy and minor surgery. A Triage and Isolation Ward have been added to the original building to handle the outbreak of infectious diseases. It also supports the parents by providing education about disease prevention and hygiene issues.
Denise Curry a member of the Rotary E-Club is the Chief Executive Officer of the Bo Children's Hospital Foundation. The hospital is currently applying for a Rotary Disaster Grant for Covid-19 PPE Equipment.

Rotary e-Club of Greater Sydney

Rotary

Other International Activities by Club Members

Our club partnered with the Rotary Club of Port Harcourt in southern Nigeria to Provide portable water and construction of toilet facilities in two schools in Port Harcourt. This project we have no doubt will help to improve the health and hygiene quality of the pupils of this school. The project also offered an opportunity for a WASH club to be set up in these schools and to also train the teachers and student on basic hygiene. The teachers and students expressed their gratitude to The Rotary Foundation for doing what no organization have been able to do since the history of both schools. One of the two schools is a special school with physically deformed kids. Our project was commissioned by the Rotary International Vice President. This project is managed by Past President Oscar Akparanta.



Our Club is also in process of collaborating with Hills/Kellyville Club to set up a project to combat the Covid 19 Pandemic problems in Sri Lanka.

The E Club of Greater Sydney has a strong commitment to serving in all six areas of focus around the world.
We endevours to promote Rotary and its ethos through the deeds of our members and will continue to do so for as long as possible.

I as the current president of the club am extremely honoured and humbled to be involved in such an exciting and vibrant club and would like to put forward the E club of Greater Sydney for nomination of International Service Program Award.