

Disaster Aid International continues to grow

This Australian-born Rotary club project has gathered significant international momentum in the past year, with more Rotary clubs around the world becoming partners and sharing the vision to deliver "Safe Water to Every Child".



Disaster Aid International
David Langworthy
Chairman, DAI

Rotary clubs and districts in New Zealand, Ecuador, Taiwan, Colombia, Uruguay and Brazil were officially launched, becoming part of the Disaster Aid Family. Interest has also been expressed by Rotary clubs in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Singapore, Indonesia, Myanmar, Cambodia, Thailand and many other countries to become part of this wonderful humanitarian project.

We deployed and provided aid to Nepal, Ecuador, the Bahamas, the Philippines, Myanmar, India, Colombia, Fiji and Vanuatu.

As a responder to natural and other disasters in developing countries, our methodology and approach has changed significantly. We are no longer a supplier of "a box of goodies". We simply ask (usually through our Disaster Aid Response Teams on the ground), "What do you need?" And then we respond using our Rotary and other contacts, involving the affected community at all times in providing aid solutions.

The ultimate endorsement was to be asked by the United Nations to describe our strategies to other aid agencies; a significant achievement by a largely volunteer-driven global Rotary club project.

As Rotarians, we can be proud of the work we do. It reinforces that Rotarians can indeed change the world. •

We always welcome enquiries from Rotary clubs about becoming a Disaster Aid Australia representative in their district. Contact us at info@disasteraidaustralia.org.au and follow us at www.facebook.com/disasteraidaustralia

Partnering in projects

WE hear a lot about multiplying our effectiveness in Rotary by forming partnerships. An excellent example of this is the Carindale PCYC Youth Shed, initiated by the Rotary Club of Carindale, Qld, in 2013.

Carindale PCYC identified a group of teenagers who were "at risk" for a variety of reasons (fractured home lives, lack of a positive male role model, etc.). On the brink of making poor choices, these were young people who faced the possibility of ending up in correctional facilities.

Sergeant David Beard, manager of PCYC, suggested a facility where the boys could learn manual skills, under the tutelage of skilled adults. The hidden curriculum was positive life-skill mentorship by the men assisting; men the boys both trusted and respected.

Three years ago, the Rotary Club of Carindale embarked on an intensive fundraising effort for the project. By the time it was officially opened in July 2016, the club had contributed \$34,000 towards the cost of building and equipment, including a Rotary Foundation District Grant of \$4673 towards the project.

A satisfying element of the project is the successful cooperation of three local community service entities: Rotary, PCYC and the Carina Men's Shed.

The Rotary Club of Carindale, Federal Government, Brisbane City Council, PCYC Carindale and Bunnings Cannon Hill all contributed financially, while PCYC and the Rotary Club of Carindale organise weekly sessions with the boys, and the Carina Men's Shed provides members who share their manual skills. Rotary's networking efforts continue with Bunnings Cannon Hill, who continue to supply hugely discounted tools, materials, wood, etc.

The Youth Shed is a shining example of the power of collaborative effort, where the boys learn gardening, cooking, woodworking, welding,



The Youth Shed provides a space where "at risk" teenage boys learn manual skills like gardening, cooking, woodworking, welding and car repair under the tutelage of skilled adults.

car repair and other skills. The next phase of the program is a driver training course, enabling boys to learn safe driving practices and gain the necessary driving hours for a driver's licence. This will hopefully equip them with a marketable skill to enter the workplace. •