

TOGETHER, WE

TRANSFORM

Rotarian-led projects, both in Australia and abroad, are making a difference to the lives of people living with illness, disability and disadvantage.



KIRIWINA - AN ISLAND IN NEED

By James Wilson
Rotary Club of Rowville-
Lysterfield, Vic

The Rotary Club of Rowville-Lysterfield, Vic, became involved with Kiriwina, part of the Milne Bay Province to the northeast of mainland Papua New Guinea, through member Alan Lunghusen. Alan's father was stationed on the island during WWII with RAAF No. 76 Squadron, and Alan, along with his brother and sister, took a cruise to the island in late 2014 to see the place they had heard so much about.

Alan was shocked by the primitive conditions the 12,000 islanders endure, who largely live without power or sanitation infrastructure. The island lacks rivers and the few natural springs are difficult to access, with underground caves resulting in only 10 per cent of the population having access to clean water. Consequently, there is a high prevalence of diarrhoea,

which remains in the top five reasons for medical treatment.

In 2014, a two-stage project proposal was put to the club and planning commenced.

Alan returned to the island on three occasions to talk to the local people and their elders and identify areas where the club could help improve health and wellbeing.

Alan learnt that some earlier well-intended projects had failed, because they were too complex to be maintained successfully without outside help. Thus, the project had to be simple to install and maintain and operate without electricity.

The first stage of the project was to address the sub-standard ward conditions in the hospital, where patients were sleeping on bare wire bases covered only by a blanket. Through a fortunate contact with the Marsh Foundation, 45 hospital beds with mattresses and over-bed tables



were obtained from a private hospital closure. The beds were mechanically operated, which was ideal, as there was no power available. A new medical microscope for the pathology department was also provided from this source. Additionally, stainless steel washbasins and taps were purchased and fitted into new stands, then connected to clean running water.

The Rotary Club of Boroko, PNG, was key in facilitating the transport of goods and materials to the island as everything had to travel via Port Moresby due to the lack of adequate container unloading facilities on Kiriwina.



ABOVE: Before the The Rotary Club of Rowville-Lysterfield's project, patients at Kiriwina Hospital slept on bare wire bed bases covered only by a blanket. **RIGHT:** Through a contact with the Marsh Foundation, 45 hospital beds with mattresses and over-bed tables were obtained from a private hospital closure.



The major work in the second stage of the overall project was designing and constructing a new toilet facility for the primary school. This included supplying and installing three waterless composting toilet systems to service six toilets using local labour. An additional water tank was supplied, and a new hand water pump installed over a well at the school.

The classrooms also lacked equipment and furniture, with most students sitting on bare concrete or earth floors all day. Timber, a range of battery operated power tools, a solar system to charge the batteries, and necessary fixings were transported to the island. School books were also in need and some 140 boxes of donated books were also transported.

A workshop was then set up in the local village and several islanders were trained in how to use the power tools to build simple desks; over 140 have now been successfully manufactured. It is hoped that once additional funding has been secured, the enterprise can be expanded to produce desks for the other 22 schools on the island, creating what could become a viable cottage industry using suitable, locally sourced timber.

Overall, some 20 tonnes of materials and equipment have now



ABOVE: The original Kiriwina Primary School toilet.
TOP: The newly designed and constructed toilet facility has three waterless composting toilet systems to service six toilets.

been delivered to Kiriwina. Alan was tireless in his painstaking efforts to ensure the project's success and follow up the results with villagers and medical staff.

Financing for the project was raised from a number of sources, including several personal contributions, donations from other clubs, some corporate donations and a Rotary Foundation Global Grant, amounting to \$130,000.

In the future, it is hoped additional efforts can be undertaken to assist Kiriwina, particularly dealing with

improving the general safe water availability. The hand water pump installed over a well at the primary school has helped accessibility, however, many villagers can still only acquire fresh water by taking containers to a cave below ground level. Other groundwater possibilities are being investigated, hopefully to replace manual retrieval.

The RAWCS Donations In Kind storage warehouse in West Footscray, Vic, has been invaluable for collecting, processing and loading into shipping containers.

KEEP THE DOLLARS ROLLING IN FOR POLIO



By PDG Bob Aitken AM
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Thirty years on, why is ongoing fundraising still vital for the polio campaign?

By the time our world is certified polio-free, Rotary's contributions to the global polio eradication initiative (GPEI) will exceed US\$2.2 billion – including over US\$985 million in matching funds from the Gates Foundation.

Rotary is the leading non-governmental voluntary organisation contributor to the GPEI. Since 1988, our contribution accounts for nearly

14 per cent of all contributions through to June 2017 and represents approximately 42 per cent of private sector contributions.

The funding challenge is daunting. From 2013 until the certification of eradication, an estimated US\$7 billion in donor contributions is needed to fully implement the activities of the Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan.

It is important to acknowledge we are not in this "fight" alone. At the Rotary International Convention in Atlanta, US, last June, Rotary, the Gates Foundation, governments of the world and others pledged US\$1.2 billion to continue the campaign. Since that time, the United Kingdom government has pledged a further 100

million pounds sterling – and countries like Germany, United Arab Emirates and New Zealand have followed.

Rotary accepted the challenge at the Atlanta Convention to raised US\$50 million for three years as part of the Gates matching campaign.

Fundraising is intense and this year clubs around the world have been requested to contribute a one-off amount of US\$1500 each to the cause. Districts are urged to allocate 20 per cent of unused District Designated Funds – and to continue the search for major donors at US\$10,000 each.

Clubs and districts have been urged to take the campaign into the public arena, with special promotions on World Polio Day (October 24) and Rotary's birthday (February 23).

WHERE DOES OUR MONEY GO?

It costs approximately \$3 to effectively protect one child against the dreaded polio virus, but Rotary's dollars are devoted almost entirely to supporting the campaign and making ongoing immunisation possible.

Rotary provides grant funding to the World Health Organisation and UNICEF for activities like:

- Technical assistance, including salaries for technical advisors;
- Operational support to ensure the vaccine reaches all children – including stipends for the millions of volunteers who administer the vaccine and perform house-to-house follow up visits;
- Surveillance for disease detection, including the polio laboratory network;
- Social mobilisation to raise awareness of the vaccination campaigns and the benefits of immunisation;
- Research into new products and approaches to facilitate eradication;
- Transition planning to ensure the orderly transition of polio immunisation activities to routine immunisation following the ultimate eradication of polio;

PAUSE FOR A MOMENT TO CONSIDER THE COST OF:

- Some 363 permanent transit teams working on the Pakistan/Afghanistan border – servicing 19 cross points;
- More than 37 million children under five targeted at recent NIDs in Pakistan;
- The Pakistan program's 250,000 vaccinators and 2200 "social mobilisers";
- And all of the above is just the tip of the iceberg,

YOUNG PEOPLE WANT RESULTS

FIFTY per cent of the world's population is under the age of 30. So, it is important we ask: What do young people want? Of course, every generation must ask this question. But it is also an important question for Rotary today, because our clubs must evolve if we are to best serve communities that themselves are evolving and changing all the time.

The World Economic Forum's recent Global Shapers Survey of more than 30,000 people under 30 from 186 countries offers some useful insights.

"It is clear young people want to make a difference on issues that matter to our world and their communities. Above all, they want to see results when they commit to a project."

A majority of the respondents view climate change and conflict as the most critical issues we face. They also value a "start-up ecosystem and entrepreneurship" as vital to youth empowerment. However, they are less optimistic about having their voices heard. Over half the survey respondents do not think "young people's views" are considered before important decisions are made in their countries. (Some good news: During my travels to several dozen countries this year, many Rotaractors shared that they believe their voices are being heard by Rotary leaders!)

It is clear young people want to make

a difference on issues that matter to our world and their communities. Above all, they want to see results when they commit to a project. A good example is the father-and-son team of Tulsu and Anil Maharjan, members of the Rotary Club of Branchburg Township, New Jersey. With the help of grants from our Foundation, Tulsu and Anil are implementing microcredit, scholarship and homebuilding projects in Nepal to help survivors of the 2015 earthquake.

Thanks to changes made at the 2016 Council on Legislation, clubs now have flexibility to operate as they think best. This means a broader selection of club models in terms of how meetings take place.

By embracing this flexibility, we can create more examples like Anil – a former e-club member who joined his father's Rotary club. Further, I urge you to personally encourage Rotaractors to take advantage of the option now available to join a Rotary club while they are still members of Rotaract. Help them learn how our Foundation can help them achieve their dreams of *Doing Good in the World!*

By taking action today, we can pave the way for more than 200,000 of Rotary's future leaders to leave their own legacy of making a real difference for generations to come.



Paul A. Netzel

Paul Netzel
Foundation Trustee Chair

HOW CAN WE BETTER ENGAGE YOUTH IN ROTARY?

I want to hear your thoughts.
Email me at paul.netzel@rotary.org.

FOUNDATION FACTS

It can be argued that Australia and New Zealand could both be called "lucky" countries, particularly when we compare our environment, lifestyle and general wellbeing to so many other countries. But we can always find someone at home who needs a helping hand.

Yes, most of the world's need is in places beyond our shores, but that shouldn't stop us using The Rotary Foundation's resources, including global grants, for "home" projects.

The basic requirements for a great global grant at home are pretty much the same as they are for overseas projects: it needs a community needs assessment (that makes sense), it has to be in line with one of our six *Areas of Focus*, it needs sustainability so the good continues after you walk away, it needs genuine community ownership and it needs measurable outcomes.

The other thing you need (apart from money) is an overseas partner, but, in this case, they will be the international partner and you will be the host partner. You might think finding one of those might be difficult, but it's dead easy. Any district in a strong developing nation (like India) will jump at the chance to support you, as long as your district will support their project.

Funding will never be a problem, because we have resources that will cover most of the costs. The terms and conditions for global grants tell us that at least 30 per cent of the combined cash and district designated funds must come from outside the country of the project, so that means up to 70 per cent can come from our own funds. And then we have district grants for smaller projects, and why wouldn't you put your hand up for some of that!

There is no end to the possibility of success at home if you really put your mind to it. Make a point of reading through the *Guide to Global Grants* (1000-EN) and it will suddenly become very clear. •



The Rotary Foundation

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ROMAC TRANSFORMING ONE LIFE AT A TIME



Rosie Lotawa devotes her spare time to volunteering with Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC). Her story illustrates what ROMAC does for children in need and how it makes a world of difference.

My name is Rosie Lotawa, previously known in my village in Fiji as the Monkey and Frog Girl. For seven long years, I endured daily torment from my peers. I was terribly disfigured from birth and was afraid to look at myself in the mirror.

My nose lay flat on my face, my eyes were two inches further apart than normal, due to a Tessier cleft running through the front of my face and across my head. This caused my eyes to bulge.

My right arm was a small stump, with grotesque looking "fingers" at the end. I kept a towel draped across it when in public to hide my shame. My left arm, of normal length, only had three fingers.

I was a very shy girl and wouldn't make eye contact with anyone who came to talk to me because of my appearance. I had low self-esteem and would hide behind Mum with my eyes

glued to the ground, trying to ignore the person in front of me. I hated going out in public and especially hated meeting new people. I lived in a country where I knew this was my lot for life. How was I going to cope?

Attending a cripple/special school made me feel comfortable, because, like me, the other children had disabilities, including the deaf and blind. However, I remember one day after school my brother and I were waiting for our bus to go home and all of a sudden, a group of people, young and old, surrounded us. What followed I found very frightening. They kept staring, laughing and making faces at me. I just wanted to get to the safety of home as soon as possible.

My journey towards a new life began on October 27, 1990, when I met ROMAC founder Barrie Cooper and his team in Nadi, Fiji. This was the first

time I had met people who actually cared. They didn't appear to notice my disfigurement. All they wanted to do was help.

In March 1991, I had my first operation at the Adelaide Children's Hospital, SA.

I have lost count of the many operations I had during that time, but I am now able to proclaim the work of ROMAC wherever I go and express my gratitude for having my life transformed.

After the operations, I returned home and was able to attend normal schools with my siblings. In overcoming my shyness, I was able to attend church functions and socialise with people. I was able to participate in drama in front of an audience and got involved with community service.

ROMAC has meant so much to me in so many ways. It restored my dignity and allowed me to live a normal life.

IS ROMAC FOR YOU?

ROMAC fulfils an exciting and very satisfying role within Rotary. It offers a unique chance to seriously help those who are disadvantaged. The reward received after being part of a team that repairs a child's broken life and sees them return home fit and well, is unbelievable. The contact, humility and gratification are astonishing. It is perhaps why many of us joined and remain in Rotary.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PART OF THE TEAM?

Right now, ROMAC is in the process of fulfilling its orderly succession plan.

The regular introduction of new people and fresh ideas ensures ROMAC continues its wonderful program. A program which, one way or another, has so far saved the lives of 500 children. ROMAC is looking for Rotarians in the mould of those who have gone before; Rotarians who are self-motivated, committed and dedicated.

Three positions are available

- Deputy Chair
- Eastern Region Chair
- Operations Secretary

All positions are for a term of four years, which commence after the ROMAC AGM in Hobart on Friday, September 14, 2018.

YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE PART OF THE TEAM?

Contact ROMAC chair Rob Wilkinson via chair@romac.org.au