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MARKS THE SPOT

*By Patrick Burke
Rotary Club of Kippa Ring-North Lakes, Qld*



Rotarian Patrick Burke, with the help of the Rotary Club of Kippa Ring-North Lakes, Qld, has devised an innovative way for Rotary clubs around the world to share project information.

Even in our tightly connected and data-rich world, we often have difficulty finding the information we need. In many cases, it really is problematic getting the right answers or even knowing where to look for data on specific projects or regions.

There are few parts of the globe Rotary has not reached over the past 100 years with our desire to create a positive impact in the world, with projects totalling billions of dollars. In every location Rotarians implement projects, funds are raised, research completed, contacts made, and local individuals are inspired to assist projects through to completion.

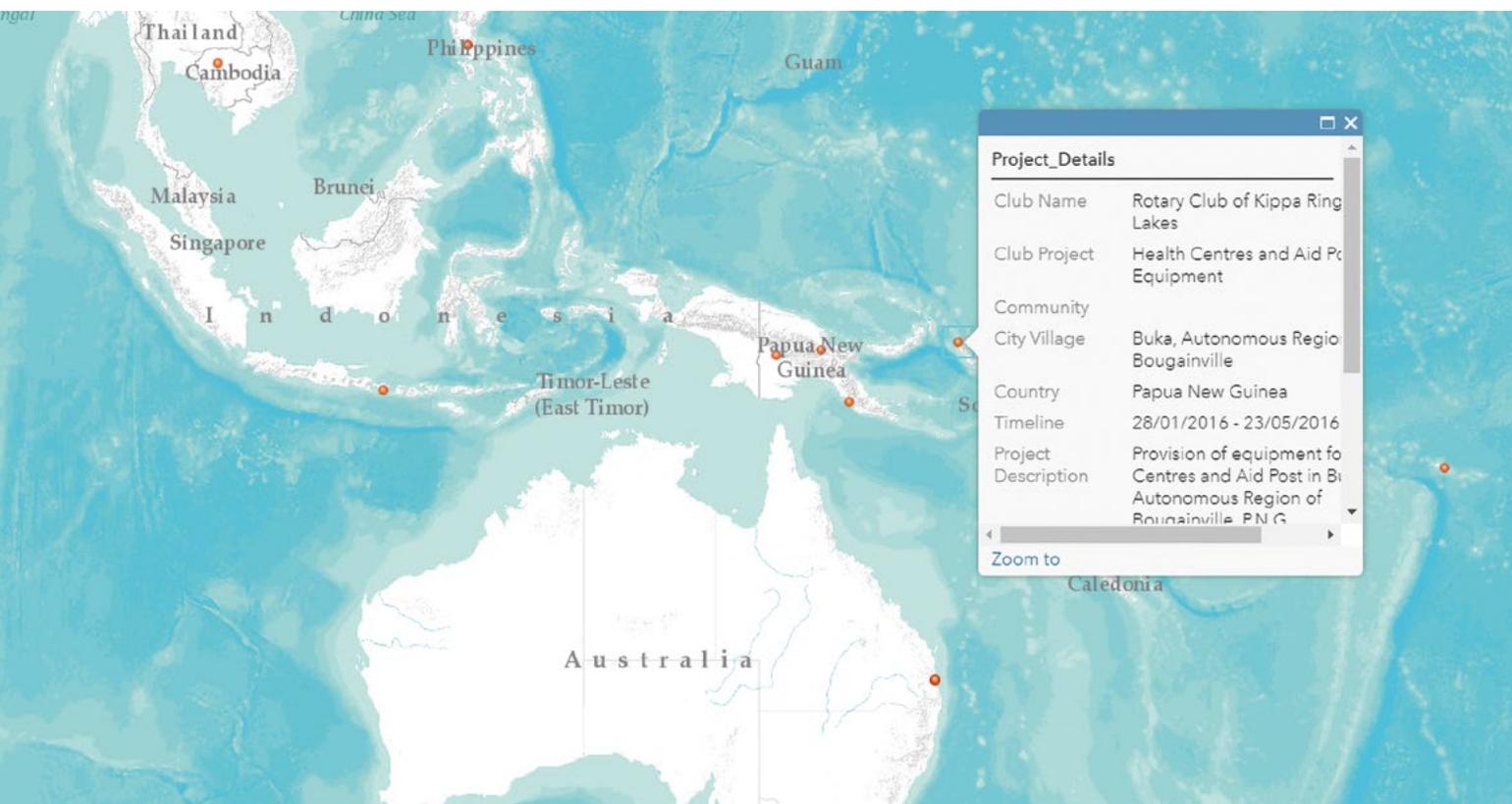
Unfortunately, however, much of this valuable knowledge usually remains within the individual club in an "information silo", so to speak, gathering dust. What was the transport company we used to get the pipes to the highlands three years ago? Were any social or tribal conflicts encountered? Was there an international company interested in funding a portion of the project because of its location? Was a previous, similar project a failure, and why?

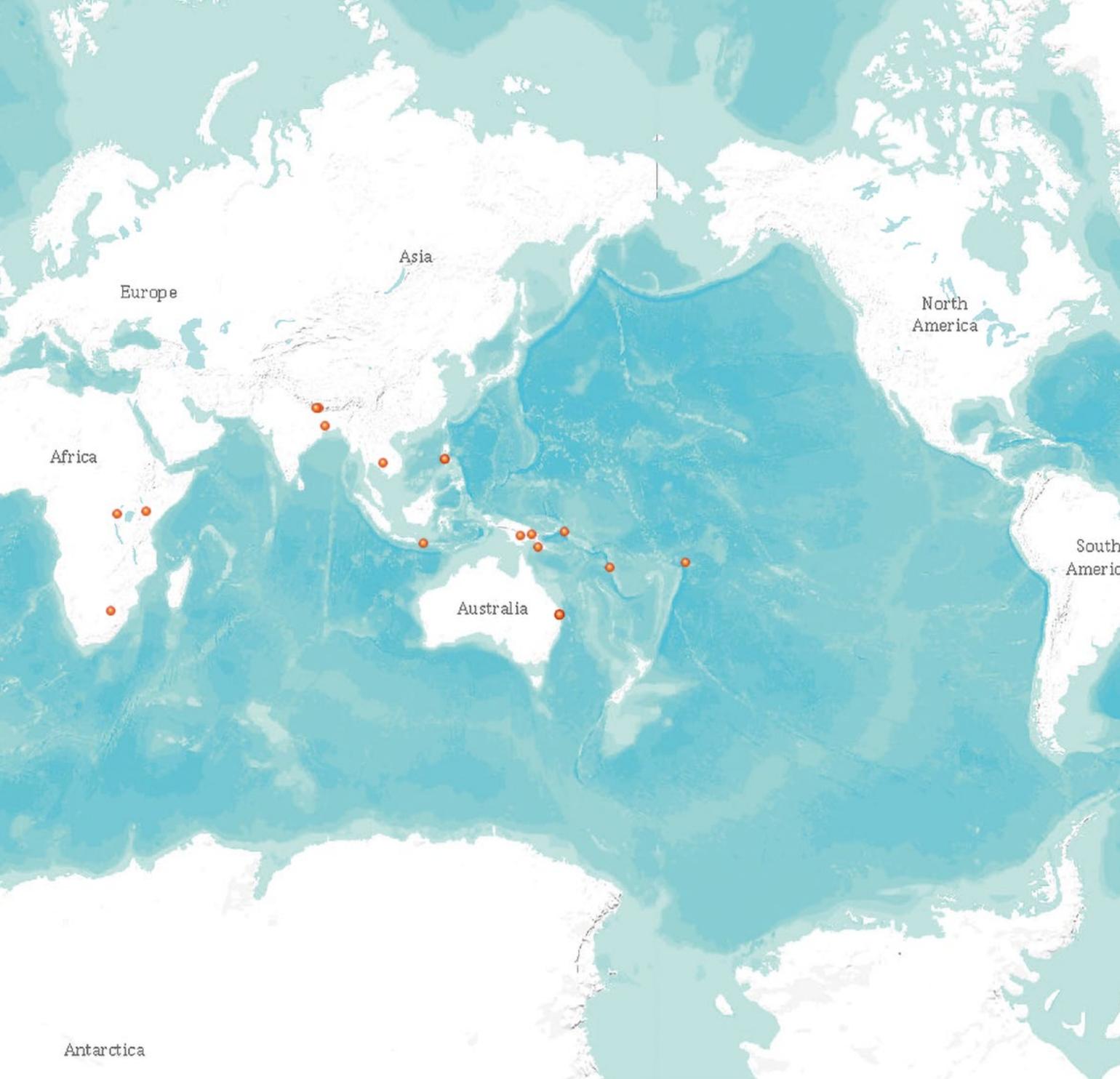
“ROTARIANS AND PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD CAN NOW SEE EXACTLY WHERE HISTORICAL AND CURRENT PROJECTS HAVE BEEN INSTITUTED. RECORDS OF RESOURCES, COMMUNITY INFORMATION AND OTHER FACTS ARE ALSO FREELY ACCESSIBLE BY LINKING TO A PDF.”

The Rotary Club of Kippa Ring-North Lakes and member Patrick Burke, a spatial analyst at Yellow Dot Geospatial, have devised a solution to this problem. They have developed a mapping system that allows the sharing of detailed information. In short, Rotarians and people from all over the world can now see exactly

where historical and current projects have been instituted. Records of resources, community information and other facts are also freely accessible by linking to a PDF.

The online map, which shows the projects that have already been uploaded to the database, is available at <https://arcg.is/1T09Pb>. Even a club





in Norway has used this system to show where one of their projects is located in Africa.

There is also an online form at <https://rotarykipparing.maps.arcgis.com/apps/GeoForm/index.html> where users can fill in details of their projects and place a marker on the map, where the project is located.

The map even allows users to zoom in to see individual buildings and place a marker with a good level of accuracy.

Other maps on this online mapping system are being utilised for water projects in Nicaragua, Central America. These maps have the ability to instantly create a ground surface profile, allowing the user to determine if gravity feed is possible from the start point throughout the planned pipeline corridor.

Sharing is fundamental to this mapping project, both in terms of giving and receiving; it relies on clubs filling out a simple online form with

information about current and past projects and placing a marker on a map. The more comprehensive the map becomes, the more effective it will be.

“It is my hope, through Rotarians helping one another, we can even more effectively help those who are not yet able to help themselves,” Patrick said.

For more information, contact Patrick on 0412 828 919 or email info@yellowdot.com.au •