



Rotary New Zealand = NEWS UPDATE =

www.rnzwcs.org

No. 21 – March 2010

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NEW ADDRESSES

RNZWCS Limited has a new, simplified web site address www.rnzwcs.org and a new email address for Administrator, Stuart Batty stuart.batty@rnzwcs.org

TWENTY FIVE YEARS ON

Twenty five years ago the combined New Zealand/South Pacific Rotary Districts came together to form a national committee, called Rotary Overseas Aid Projects [ROAP], which over time has become Rotary New Zealand World Community Service and, in 2003, RNZWCS Limited. This milestone will be celebrated on 19 May at a Parliamentary Reception to be hosted by John Hayes MP, Chair of the Foreign Affairs, Trade and Defence Select Committee.

The Committee came about because of a need to obtain recognition by MFAT as a Non Governmental Organisation which could access aid funds. As MFAT did not have the capacity to deal with a multitude of Rotary clubs and districts it was necessary to form one central organisation for the purpose.

In subsequent years the focus of management of New Zealand's external activities shifted from aid to development assistance and from a direct government activity to self management by the NGO community. In order to continue accessing development funding RNZWCS applied to join the Council for International Development [CID]. To join CID the Committee had, amongst many other things, to become a legal entity. Thus, RNZWCS Limited was registered on 11 December 2003 following agreement by the then District Governors. RNZWCS Limited was granted full membership of CID in 2004.

As an approved organization of the KOHA-PICD programme, RNZWCS Ltd. is able, on behalf of Rotary Clubs throughout New Zealand and the South Pacific, to apply for Community Development funding for projects overseas as well as for Emergency and Disaster Relief funding.

The acceptance of Rotary's community development role by the NGO sector and the public in general, as signified by their response to Rotary's recent emergency response appeals, is largely due to the many years of service by the Administrator,



Past District Governor, Stuart Batty who notes that **“Poverty elimination is dependent on well managed participatory community development projects.”**

RNZWCS Limited operates in two spheres, as a conduit for humanitarian development projects and as a disaster relief organisation. Whether or not it is a consequence of climate change or just coincidence the call for disaster relief has escalated in recent years. The recent revamping of the Emergency Box Scheme into a much more professional Emergency Response

Kit, designed for use in the South Pacific, is symptomatic of this growing need.

The past 25 years has seen the organisation grow from a multi district committee to a professional organisation well respected in the humanitarian development and disaster relief fields. There is much still to be done and Stuart Batty is of the firm belief that **“Our contribution to the elimination of poverty is dependent on Rotary clubs entering into long term relationships with international communities to build capacity through sustainable development projects. World community service requires building community infrastructure, improving water, sanitation, education and income generation, all essential ingredients for self determination. The greatest thing we, as Rotarians, can do is improve quality of life.”**

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

In more recent times the world has seen more catastrophic earthquakes, tsunami and weather related disasters than in recent recorded history. Rotary Clubs have responded through their donations for emergency response activities involving the supply of emergency shelters and essential home wares for the immediate need of survivors.

In the Pacific, Rotary invariably is the first organisation in country to respond. Rotary's emergency response is designed to assist family units and recognise

gender, vulnerability e.g. age, disability etc. as well as family support which usually falls to the women of the household. Whilst this is an essential part of World Community Service, it is diverting Rotary to a greater degree from the poverty elimination programmes that were pioneered in the past.



Emergency Response (Aid) programmes generally are “band aids” and a quick fix to an immediate need, but there has to be a balance between Aid and Community Development (Poverty Elimination) if we are to improve the quality of life through capacity building for our Pacific neighbours and those further afield. Disease prevention and treatment, water and sanitation, maternal and child health, basic education and literacy, economic and community development needs to be the focus of every club’s world community service.

Rotary Clubs are invited to combine their resources by linking with other New Zealand clubs and taking advantage of matching funds. Register your interest with your WCS District Committee or PDG Stuart Batty, email: stuartbatty@e3.net.nz

HAITI – THE ROTARY RESPONSE



RNZWCS Limited (Rotary New Zealand) have received \$70,000 from a special round of funding from NZAID’s Humanitarian Action Fund which set aside a total of \$600,000 for

Emergency Response to the People and Communities of Haiti Affected by Recent Catastrophic Earthquake. The application specifically targeted support for the supply of Shelter Boxes to Haiti.

Rotary New Zealand launched a public appeal and at the time of writing donations are still be received from clubs, but with a greater number from individual Rotarians and the general public. The donations will be used by the 17 Rotary Clubs in Haiti for longer term sustainable community rehabilitation and support.

Among the first international relief workers to reach Haiti were volunteers from ShelterBox a U.K.-based disaster response organization supported by Rotary clubs worldwide.

“Rotary had an incredible infrastructure established before the quake, which has made our relief efforts very effective,” says Richard McCombe, a member the Rotary Disaster Relief Action



Group, noting that Rotary was in good position to help in Haiti, with 33 projects already underway to provide water, sanitation, medical care, and education even before the earthquake. Richard has been heavily involved in the task force delivering Rotary aid to Haiti. The following are a series of extracts summarised from his extensive reports.

20 February

“We had a very exciting and productive day yesterday in Port au Prince. Although it was painfully real it also gave me a better sense of our direction going forward and a comfort that we were in Sync with the Rotarians in Haiti and the Government of Haiti. The “Haiti on the ground team was extraordinary”. Their warehousing centre was an instant education. They are working from a yard and a couple of 40’ containers as their distribution point. We have a vessel planned leaving Nassau the second week in March. It can carry 60 containers and we will buy them and leave them there.

After the distribution site we toured Port au Prince and Petion-Ville. I can only tell you that I felt my expectation of what I would see was based on my experience in Haiti and a very informed understanding of what the infrastructure was pre earthquake. I was shocked beyond words at the destruction and magnitude of the disaster. Besides the imploded buildings, fallen walls, cracked and broken structures, the entire infrastructure was also laying on the ground pushed to the side. This was amplified by the sewerage and water running down the streets carrying the garbage and loose possessions. Anywhere

that there was a clear spot, tent cities had popped up. Some tents were framed from reused reinforcing steel from crumbled buildings and wrapped in cardboard and remnants of clothes found after the earthquake. Others were framed from sticks and covered with pieces of material rescued from the streets after the earthquake.

15% of the country is now homeless, additionally 10% are displaced. Estimates are that, if they take 1000 loads of rubble per day from the streets, it will take 2 years to remove all the destruction. The latrines should ideally be distributed to a ratio of 1 per 50 shelter residents. They are currently about 1 per 2000+.

We met with the Prime Minister of Haiti to better understand the planning process for the medium and long term recovery efforts for the Country. There has been a **Post Disaster National Assessment Committee (PDNA)** put together to formulize a plan scheduled for local review in mid March and for presentation to the United Nations at the end of March. The PM agreed to give Rotary a seat on that Committee and we will be involved in the development and production of the plan as a result. We are going to be a part of the planning process from the beginning and as such will be knowledgeable of all the elements and understand the full scope of the recovery initiative. This coupled with the Rotary Clubs in Haiti being in the communities will give us a very clear understanding of our role in whatever sustainable initiative we decide to undertake.



The pressure to do it soon is also critical as the patience of the population is already being tested. They need to see and hear the plan and then, immediately, initiatives that indicate that it is a reality and not rhetoric.

25 February

In the very short term, food, shelter for individuals and for schools, Schools, scholarships, water and specific medical supplies are still the priority but this should only be for the short period. We must now bridge the gap between the acute relief stage, and the recovery stage

The Challenge is that this period requires solutions which might only provide temporary relief and will make the lives of individuals a little better, but must also be consistent with the long term sustainable recovery plan recommendations derived from the **PNDA**.

2 March

We have asked each Haiti Club President, through the Assistant Governor, to identify one school in each Rotary Community that needs our assistance and to supply us with an exact list of what we can provide for each school to meet our objective of providing a place for schooling and social activity for the refugees.

8 March

We have purchased 10 large heavy duty 30' wide x 48' long x 16' high Tents for additional classroom space in 10 communities. Additionally we are providing sufficient material to build 900 desks and Chairs to be constructed in Haiti by the refugee community in a number of regions giving them jobs for the short term. We have also agreed to fund \$50,000 towards the Seed Program run by one of the Clusters overseen by the United Nations."

It is proposed that the New Zealand appeal money will be used to assist with the school fees for the many children that have been orphaned or displaced and whose parents are not in position to pay the fees.

AND – ON TO CHILE

Rotary districts in Chile are organizing efforts to aid tens of thousands of homeless people in areas devastated by a powerful earthquake and tsunami that struck the country's Pacific coast on 27 February.



Chile's government, along with other international aid organizations, has supplied food and water to desperate survivors as the death toll has risen to nearly 800. Many coastal towns were destroyed, first by the 8.8 magnitude quake, then by surging tsunami waves. Luis Veliz Severino, Governor of District 4320, has allocated an initial US\$9,500 to relief efforts. Four clubs in the hardest-hit areas of Bío-Bío and Maule have set up donation drives for clothes, shoes, and blankets. A ShelterBox response team flew to Santiago, to deliver an initial shipment of 448 ShelterBox containers. The Rotary Club of Santiago has assisted with the distribution.

NZAID'S DON CLARKE MOVES ON

Don Clarke resigned as Director, Global Group, from NZAID on 17th January 2010 to take up a position with the United Nations. He had been director of NZAID's Global Group since the agency was established in 2002. Don has extensive experience in the NGO sector, especially in the area of international aid and development. He will be missed by the NGO community throughout New Zealand. His professional experience includes national-level administration, strategic planning, programme development, policy development and advocacy in organisations such as the Council for International Development, where he was Executive Director from 1990–1994, and the Commonwealth Foundation (London), where he was Deputy Director from 1995–1998.



HELPING HAND

A 70-year-old stroke victim, Eseta Laulu, who featured in the Samoa Observer's Helping Hand page, will now find her daily life more bearable. A commode, wheelchair, hospital bed, walker and bedding were given to Eseta by the Rotary Club of Apia. Her daughter, Leinafo Laulu, visiting from New Zealand could not find words enough to thank Rotary as she spoke through her tears. "I want to thank you (Rotary Club of Apia) for all the good work you have done," she said. "God has shown the way for you to come to us and help us care for our parents."



END POLIO NOW

On 23 February, Rotarians celebrated the 105th anniversary of the establishment of Rotary International. This year, Rotary clubs are focusing specifically on promoting awareness and support for Rotary's highest priority – the global eradication of polio. They have dedicated more than US\$850 million to rid the world of polio. Rotarians in New Zealand have contributed more than US\$4.06 million to this historic global public health campaign.



Rotarians around the world are currently engaged in the "End Polio Now" fundraising campaign to provide urgently needed financial resources to ensure every child is protected against polio. In addition to providing necessary funds, Rotarians participate in immunization campaigns in the remaining polio affected countries and also work to ensure that their government leaders – at the community and national level, are focused on the tangible global achievement of a world free from polio.

Tremendous strides have been made toward our goal of a polio free world. Polio struck more than 1000

children each day in 1985 when Rotary launched its PolioPlus Program. Today only four countries, Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan, remain polio endemic and there were fewer than 2,000 cases worldwide in 2009. Rotarians are committed to ensuring that we conquer polio in the few pockets of the world where it remains.

DISTRICT 9930 BRIEFS

District Director, Patrick Cummings reports - Several Clubs are supporting a request for RC Taveuni Island for both money and personnel, to assist with the rebuilding of a pre school. Taveuni Island seems to feature prominently in D9930, with a team of ophthalmologists from Hamilton, led by PDG John Tarbutt, visiting the Island in November, to carry out eye operations, under the funding and support of RC Taveuni Island.

Mt Maunganui Rotary Club is active in the WCS world, with a recent stall at the Tauranga Airshow, concentrating on what Rotary does overseas. They were assisted by RC Tauranga Sunrise, and concentrated on Shelterboxes. They are also planning a water project in Vanuatu.



A Water project was undertaken in mid-December, in the village of Tutu, on Taveuni Island. This project is the result of a long-standing relationship between Whakatane West and the village Mission. Rotarians

from Hamilton and Whakatane West clubs, under the leadership of PDG Doug Bull, traveled to the Island with the necessary equipment to pump the existing water supply to where it is most needed, in the surrounding villages. The water supply comes from the hydro power scheme which serves the community and the Tutu Agricultural Training facility. It comes from two streams at the top of the property and is collected into a large storage tank. The water to the 70 homes in the villages is supplied from the surplus via a gravity pipeline. The problem was that this supply was variable despite there appearing to be enough water. In the past, each home had simply tapped into the pipe as it passed their bure and there was a tendency to leave the tap on 24 hours in the hope of there being enough in the basin each morning for use. Traditionally water is supplied to a tap outside the bure and taken inside as required. The homes on the higher ground were often left without water as a result.

The real problem was that the undulating pipe contained a number of airlocks and so the team established a number of outlets on the high points of the pipe to allow the air could escape and again on the lower points so silt could be removed. To ensure the reliability of supply for an increased number of bures in future.

The key to the project's success has been the involvement of the village chiefs in developing their understanding of the system and their participation in the solution. It also provides a clear partition of responsibility and an appreciation of the importance of water storage.

In 2005, the Rotary of Mt Maunganui, with a grant from NZAID arranged by Rotary New Zealand built a Special Needs School at Tutaga Primary in Savai'i, Samoa.

The school was designed for 13 special needs students, which had been identified as living in the surrounding villages. Following the opening of the

school, 23 more special needs children, (unknown to the authorities previously) have come forward and the school accepted them. The school is staffed by 2 special needs trained teachers & 3 teacher aides.

An additional classroom is desperately needed and the Rotary Club of Katikati after completing due diligence in country has confirmed it will partner a project with the community in Samoa.

The budget for materials has been set at NZ\$15,627.63. The school committee would oversee the project, which would enlarge the existing building to provide for the second classroom. Further information can be obtained from John Buchanan gofa.zip@orcon.net.nz

BOOKS FOR BOUGAINVILLE

An initiative by Bill Saxton of Hampden, North Otago has resulted in the education of thousands of school children in the Province of Bougainville being greatly enhanced. On visits to Bougainville (daughter Kate is an aid worker there), Bill became aware that the primary and high schools were severely under resourced, a legacy of the long civil war. He ascertained, from teachers in Bougainville, the educational books that they most needed. On his return to New Zealand, Bill set about obtaining the required books from schools in the Otago area. This was done over two years. In 2009, some 10,000 books were shipped to Bougainville and distributed to primary schools by members of the New Zealand Police contingent who are based in the area.



This year, Bill repeated the exercise with some 17,000 books being gathered up and placed in 250 cartons, which were addressed to the respective high schools. These were shipped to Bougainville where New Zealand police members are again doing the distribution.

The Rotary Club of Tawa was the lead agency in managing the project. Project manager, Rotarian Paul Mears, said “this included coordinating fund raising, arranging transportation, and ensuring that each book included a stick on label identifying contributors to the project.”

Other persons/agencies had significant roles in this very successful project. These included the New Zealand High Commissioner in Papua New Guinea and the Rotary Clubs of Hutt City, Plimmerton and Tawa which all made generous grants/donations; Fliway International which transported the books from Hampden to Auckland free of charge and generously kept its other charges to a minimum; Rotarians from Tawa and Hutt City Clubs, students from Tawa College, and the Saxton family who all affixed labels; the New Zealand police based in Bougainville who are distributing the books and Police National Headquarters in Wellington which printed the labels.



The project's success can be attributed to a team effort comprising a highly motivated philanthropist who assessed the needs at first hand and then acted; donors of books, a

reliable group in situ who were able and willing to distribute the books; a major transport company which helped reduce costs; donors, including Rotary Clubs, willing to make financial distributions and to work together for the good of people who needed help.

SAMOA TSUNAMI UPDATE

Rotary Clubs and the general public responded magnificently to the Rotary Appeal for the Survivors of the Tsunami which struck on 29th September 2009. Included the contributions received, the appeal has supported the following projects.



420 Emergency Response Kits sent to Samoa. (Each kit provides basic reestablishment necessities' for one family)

50 Kits for Kidz (Each kit provides enough stationary for one classroom for a term)

3 Shipping Containers of Donations in Kind (health and education supplies)

Rebuilding the School at the village of Poutasi.

Installing guttering around the larger community buildings and supplying water tanks for the villagers along the Aleipata District Coast
Scholarships for 2010 schooling

Health Screening for survivors

Donations for Rotary New Zealand's aid effort, including Emergency Response Kits, can be made to Westpac Bishopdale, Christchurch, Acc. No. 03 1702 0192208 02 or cheques/drafts can be made payable to RNZWCS Limited and posted to PO Box 20309, Christchurch, New Zealand 8543.

EDITORIAL CHANGES AFOOT

This publication has come of age with its 21st issue. It is thus an appropriate time for myself as the Editor, for all 21 issues, to lay down my pen, or keyboard as the case may be.

It has been my pleasure to bring you the stories of Rotary New Zealand's efforts in the humanitarian and disaster relief fields. It is often said that Rotary is an unsung organization and I have certainly encountered this when endeavouring to wrest good news stories from reluctant Rotarians.

There are those who say that Rotary, as an organization, does not attract the share of publicity it deserves. The answer lies with every Rotarian who has an individual responsibility to promote the organization for it is only by keeping the name Rotary to the forefront that it will grow and prosper.

I wish my, as yet unnamed, successor well and I look forward to reading future News Updates in whatever format they are promulgated.

PDG Morris Robertson
Editor



GUIDES TO KOHA-PICD FUNDING

Clubs contemplating a KOHA-PICD project application should commence the process by referring to the Guide Documents published on www.rnzwcs.org. These simplified guides enable clubs to test the viability of their proposed projects and take them step by step through the process.

Material wanted

To contribute to the newsletter please send details to PDG Stuart Batty, PO Box 20309 Christchurch 8543.

Email: stuart.batty@rnzwcs.org