

**Imagine .....**

Rotary for me, allows one person to help another person, a community, a country or even the whole world, and for like minded people to join together and make it happen. This is a story of the everyday miracle of that statement and the plus of having a DIK store that brings it all together..

Dr Neil Browning learned of the plight of 200,000 displaced persons in a refugee camp on the border of Uganda and South Sudan. Staggeringly, this is the same population size as Geelong. It is difficult to imagine the reality of lack of infrastructure, amenities, and basic requirements that all add up to awful suffering. Citizens fleeing conflict are in this desperate situation. The closest town with a hospital is Moyo which is 485km north west of Kampala. It has a population of 4,000 and the hospital had decent midwifery services but not a lot else.

Neil and his wife Sue decided to relocate from their cosy home in England to Moyo and help. Neil prepared by spending 6 months undertaking orthopaedic training. When they arrived, he found an operating theatre and wards without the basic gear he required - no sterilisers, no anaesthetic machines, no orthopaedic operating tables, and no operating X ray machines.

He contacted everyone he could think of with an urgent SOS. This call reached me at Rotary Donations in Kind. I put a call out to Rotarians and 2 Rotary Clubs assisted with funding, The Rotary Foundation provided a District International Grant. And shipping a 40 foot container was provisioned.



Dr Browning's wish list included specialized orthopaedic X ray machines, equipment and instruments. This list was shared with nurses, surgeons, anaesthetics and hospital contacts of DIK. Within 3 months the items were procured. Retired biomedical engineer Ed Hingley and his apprentice John Francis liaised with Philips and GE to ensure that radiation safety and X ray testing protocols were correct. All equipment was tested and operational.



**The written down value of the goods donated is a staggering \$300,000.00.** The experienced DiK management team advised purchasing a shipping container and securing it from DIK to Moyo Hospital to minimise the chance of theft. This was great advice.

Shipping delays were hugely impacted during COVID. The container was packed at DiK and sat ready at the store for 12 months with Laurie Fisher continually chasing shipping lines over that time, trying for passage. The X-ray equipment needed to be unpacked at one point and recharged to avoid the batteries discharging fully. Volunteers in the warehouse, without complaint spent a full day unloading the container and packing it – yet again!



The equipment and goods have now arrived safely at Moyo Hospital and Dr Browning is thrilled. *“ Yes, Friday was a good day here in Moyo. We had to unload the container before taking it off the truck with much anxiety but the hospital hired about 15 prisoners and it went without incident. I have spent the last 3 days opening the 400 or so boxes to get an idea of what was sent. The amount of equipment you guys sent was overwhelming. I feel truly humbled to have been a recipient, together with the hospital of all this equipment.”*



This is a story of value for money, the best of collaboration, of tenacity and DIK's team getting on as they do every day to assist folk they haven't met and never will, through Rotary Clubs they probably will not meet either.

DIK can be a resource for all Rotary Clubs and for many projects. It is an incredible asset to be supported and valued. Our Rotary Foundation is Rotary's Charity and provides our project support. This huge community need on the other side of the world seemed insurmountable, However sharing the challenge and drawing on the many resources available has delivered a wonderful outcome.

PDG Bronwyn Stephens and Bob Glindemann

[Media](#)

Donations in Kind is located at Shed 30, 400 Somerville Road West Footscray. It is open on Tuesdays and Thursday, <https://rotarydik.org>

## RAWCS and Donations in Kind.

Over the past several years, in fact since the mid seventies, the Donations in Kind project has operated across Australia. In the past 6 or so years, there has been a variety of discussions about changing the name to be (in some people's eyes) more representative of what the project does.

There have been a wide variety of views and suggestions and you will have seen names like "In Kind Donations"; "HERRA" and of course "Donations in Kind" used regularly.

In 2010, following a review of the several Victorian stores operations at West Footscray, Essendon and Pakenham, it was agreed to consolidate their operation at West Footscray and serve a majority of the Victorian Districts. Another facility in Geelong was not included and continues to operate in its own right.

The licence for the facility at West Footscray had been originally executed by District 9800 but it was recommended that the licence at Somerville Road should be transferred to the Clubs involved. These Clubs had ongoing projects through the store and agreed to take the licence in their own right but needed an Incorporated Body to execute the licence. Accordingly, "Donations in Kind Incorporated" came into being on May 4<sup>th</sup> 2010.

In the period since incorporation, West Footscray as "Donations in Kind Inc" has registered with the [Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission](#) (ACNC), is registered for GST and has received DGR accreditation from the Australian Tax Office.



The desire for a name change has continued and recently the RAWCS Board agreed, following a number of discussions involving all of the stores including West Footscray, that the project would in future be known as "Rotary Australia Repurposing Equipment" (RARE).

Apart from achieving the aim of a name change, it also recognised that "Donations in Kind Inc" was in fact the registered name of the West Footscray Store and could not be used by other operations.

So West Footscray will continue operate as "Donations in Kind Inc" and continue to serve the needs of the Victorian Districts as it has done over many years.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this please refer them to PP Bob Glindemann, the Secretary of Donations in Kind Inc.

[bob.glindemann@bigpond.com](mailto:bob.glindemann@bigpond.com)

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## It's a long way from Footscray to Ukraine!

Medical supplies, heavy winter clothing, socks, FORAMEAL and more heading for Ukraine. What a wonderful team effort. 100,000 packs of For-a-meals were transported to the DiK warehouse to be collected by the ADF and sent via Poland to the people of the Ukraine.



**CALL TO ACTION:**

**Ask your local schools to collect surplus pencils and stationery at the end of the year.**



Visiting a school in remote rural Cambodia I remember well the playground. Yes, it was literally the ground. The children sat in the dirt playing with stones. There were no toys or play equipment. The single book provided for the year's tuition was treasured and every little blank space written in neatly. A pencil cherished and used until it was a tiny nub. There were no exercise or other writing books provided.

The team in the stationery aisle at DiK are glad to provide materials for Rotary projects free of charge. Teacher and student kits with "essentials" for a class of 60 children and a teacher. Amongst the exercise books, coloured pencils, sharpeners, rulers, scissors, erasers, and grey leads there is a treat for the teacher – a special memo book, Post It notes, a beautiful pen, stapler and desk set. It is a privilege to provide these free resources to send in containers along with books, desks, chairs, white boards, cabinets and other educational supplies.

**We are running critically low on resources of basic items. There are 2 ways to assist:**

1. In the back-to-school sales would your Club invest in purchasing some supplies for the aisle? Grey lead and coloured pencils, textas, sharpeners, childrens' basic safety scissors, rulers, exercise books and scrapbooks.
2. Contact your local schools and ask for students to donate leftover/unwanted equipment and exercise books. We also need junior fiction and picture story books.

The team pledge to lovingly construct them into kits for class sets to be distributed amongst educational projects and Clubs.

Contact Bronwyn Stephens 0410 324 537 [bstephens.rotary@gmail.com](mailto:bstephens.rotary@gmail.com) or Pam Baker 0488 909 052 [pjbaker@bigpond.com](mailto:pjbaker@bigpond.com)

President Debra Sloggett from Rotary Keilor East with a number of District 9800 Rotarians visited Cambodia in August this year to see the impact of the equipment sent via Donations in Kind.

Supported by the Rotary Clubs of Prahran and Melbourne Passport, equipment was sent to Lighthouse, a registered NGO based in the city of Battambang. Lighthouse provides a secure boarding facility for disadvantaged youth from rural Battambang. They are supported to continue schooling (high school and hopefully university). Students participate in extra learning and community activities. DiK Computers 4 Kids provided 5 laptops for the students at Lighthouse.

*Helen Penna, RC Keilor East with students.*



They also visited Safe Haven, a project for disabled children and families based in Siem Reap Cambodia. A 20 ft container was sent via Perth arriving in Siem Reap in June 2022. Twelve months ago a 40' container arrived in the midst of COVID.

While in Cambodia, Debra and Maria Hicks, OAM, past President of the Melbourne Passport Club were able to attend the function where [District 3350 Governor Iida Mitsutaka inducted 54\(!\) Rotaractors into the newly-chartered Rotaract Club of Siem Reap, Cambodia.](#)

**Multi-Club Project—Democratic Republic of Congo.**

[You will remember the short story in the last newsletter.](#) Bob Glindemann and Lesley McCarthy are now working with Muhindo Matata on a project to send a 40' container of disability and educational equipment to Katogota in the DRC early next year. The wish list includes disability equipment, student desks and chairs, computers, stationery, soccer balls and jerseys, clothing and caps.



With the cost of shipping still very high, and with the challenges involved in transport to Katogota, this project is beyond the capability of a single club. Thus, this is envisaged as a multi club project and clubs are invited to participate.

Muhindo lives in Werribee and is available to present to clubs as a speaker with a [presentation](#) to explain and showcase the need. Please contact Bob Glindemann or Lesley McCarthy to be part of this project or to arrange a visit.

Donations in Kind will close on Thursday 15 December for the Christmas break.

The store will re-open on Tuesday 24th January 2023.

We wish all our volunteers and supporters a very Merry Christmas and a safe and peaceful New Year.

