



The State of Play at West Footscray DIK.

As most people are aware, Laurie and Bob have indicated their intention to step back from their extensive DIK involvement at the end of the year and we have been chasing replacements for them. The end of the year looms and how have we done?

As reported in an earlier edition, Frank Dri who has been looking after the clothing and has shipped containers to Samoa put up his hand and is learning what Laurie's role involves. He still has his L plates on, so please help him get to grips with the role.

We are very pleased to report that the DIK Inc secretarial aspects of Bob's role will be taken over by George De Souza. George is the treasurer of Rotary Camberwell, and a long time DiK Inc member. Many thanks George.

Other aspects of Bob's role are being reallocated within the regular volunteers at the store **BUT** there is still a real need for at least another person who is able to commit to the regular days: Tuesday and Thursday at DIK. This involves receipt of donations and freight, preparations of goods for shipping and all manner of tasks in the store itself. If we are not able to have someone put their hand up, it could mean that activities at DIK might be curtailed somewhat. Please ask around at your Club for people who might be interested.

Last Wednesday October 25th was the AGM of DiK Inc. Given the current process of reorganization taking place at the store, it was resolved that all of the current office holders, except for the secretary would carry on for a further year, ahead of preparing to establish a different Board structure with which to carry DIK to its next period of growth and operations.

The current appointees are:-

Chair – PDG Geoff McIlvenna – Rotary Preston
Deputy Chair – Maurice Lichter – Rotary Brighton
Secretary – George De Souza – Rotary Camberwell
Treasurer- PDG Bronwyn Stephens – Rotary Brighton North
Members – Laurie Fisher – Rotary West Footscray, Don Jago – Rotary Camberwell
John Francis – Rotary West Footscray and Clarke Ballard – Rotary Balwyn.

The store is in quite a strong financial position with adequate funds to operate, a healthy balance in the rental account (bearing in mind that we have to find around \$10,000 per month to keep the doors open) as well as some freight funds. However, we are always ready to welcome additional Clubs as DIK Inc members. If you are interested, please give Bob a call.

There is a belief that the store is a District 9800 activity. That is how it started, a project of West Footscray Rotary but as you will realise, it is now far bigger that that with clubs from other Districts sharing as members to help carry the financial load but also sharing in what the store can offer in project support.

We welcome the Rotary Club of Williamstown as a member of DiK Inc.

Bob Glindemann

Do you know of an organisation which could support us? Donations in many areas have dropped this year, particularly new clothing, hospital beds, medical equipment and educational supplies.

Please share this newsletter with your networks, especially those who could consider donations.

Bob and Laurie are always pleased to discuss donation opportunities with organisations.

Donations in Kind is a registered charity with ACNC and is registered for Deductible Gift Recipient status.



In the recent newsletter we told you about the wonderful donation through Western Region Aged Care which allowed us to purchase a new small van for the store.

The **Renault Master Van**, has become part of the fleet and here it is proudly wearing the Donations in Kind livery, all bright and shiny, newly sign written and ready to spread more of the word about Donations in Kind. We were so fortunate that this wonderful Renault was available and it is perfect.



The back doors are able to accept forklift access. The interior has been inlaid with lining and the floor with wood as protection. As you can see, out on the road, no one can miss its purpose.

More and more often, we are called on to deliver or accept mobility aides and to provide community assistance. This is just the perfect vehicle for buzzing around in and it will park readily in residential streets, where parking the truck is quite difficult.

We are a diverse bunch at DIK. Sister Hermione is packing for Tanzania for her school, Rosemarie is a volunteer and also cares for a volunteer with an acquired brain injury. Pam and Bronwyn are the resident librarians.

We wouldn't tackle driving the trucks but would readily manage this wonderful new van. Our boss, Laurie, isn't looking too relaxed at the prospect but....



Bronwyn, Pam, Sister Hermione & Rosemary

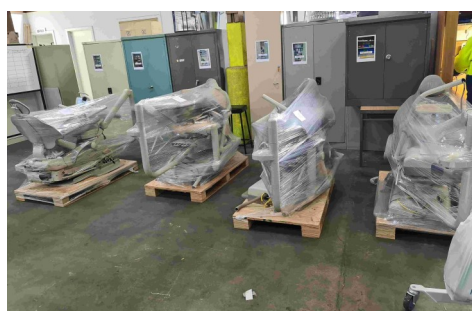
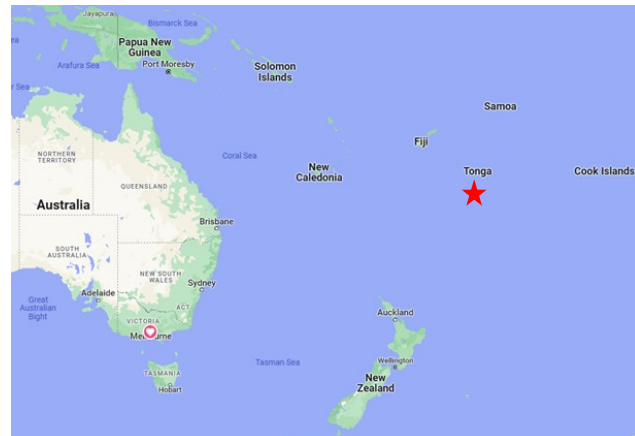


Tonga:

Thank you DIK! The Tonga container is now on its way!

Lauleti and I, plus 4 other Tongan helpers and the regular volunteers at Donations in Kind West Footscray have been assembling the contents at DiK for months. But everything was packed into the container in less than a day.

A last-minute addition was a new \$11,800 digital X-ray machine and digital CCD sensor which arrived by special Taxi delivery, just in the nick of time!



Most of the items are new dental equipment and medical equipment: plus 14 hospital beds, linen, medical supplies and bedside tables. This will be used to equip a new dental clinic, a 14-bed medical centre at Tonga College, and a new dental clinic for the remote island of Niuafu'ou. The Tonga College Medical Centre will also serve as an emergency evacuation centre in a major disaster such as a tsunami, cyclone, or epidemic.

However, this is not all going to dental or hospital projects. There are also 45 cartons of new school books from Horscham Rotary Club; sufficient for all the church schools in Tonga.



Our previous container in June supplied all the Government schools in Tonga with an English-language early learning program. Joan selected 5 cartons of primary school books for the Kolovai school which put on a small feast for our Rotary team in July.

Also included in the container were furnishings, curtain material, walkers, a lifter, 54 chairs, commodes, and more for the Alonga Handicapped Persons Centre in Tonga, with more planned to go next year.



Lauleti and I will visit Tonga in December to help distribute these donations.

Many thanks to Laurie, Bob, and everyone at DiK West Footscray for making this project possible.

Dr David Goldsmith
Rotary Club of Ballarat West
DGBallarat@hotmail.com

Timor Leste:

School Furniture to Timor Leste.

Over the past couple of years Donations in Kind has been working with [Spend it Well](#) who have been working to build schools in some rather difficult locations in Timor Leste. DIK has been shipping the desk and chairs for each of these schools.

In the last 4 years we have shipped 1665 desks and chairs.

This is in addition to another 1000 shipped directly to the Ministry of Education and probably another 500+ sent to [Rotarians helping Timor](#) for other schools across Timor.

This is really terrific repurposing of this school furniture from Victorian Schools.



Report from Kris Webb, Founder of Spend it Well:



Over the past 5 years [Spend it Well](#) has been heavily involved in improving the education opportunities for children in Timor Leste. In conjunction with the Dept of Education, they have identified locations where new or replacement schools are needed but where funds are not available in Government budgets to meet these needs. So far we have built 19 schools so they have had a lot of school openings now.

Omelai was number 19 but it was so remote that it was an incredibly special experience going out there and celebrating with the community. Dulce Soares, the Minister of Education (she studied in Melbourne and is great) came along together with other departmental staff.

We left from Balibo and travelled **74km in 3.5 hours** - up mountains, down mountains and across vast rocky river beds.

After climbing a final mountain and past the remnants of two houses broken apart in recent flooding, we finally reached Omelai, a small village perched on the side of a mountain looking across the valley to another distant village.



The speeches included one from Jose de Jesus who is from the village and found a way to go to high school in Dili and then on to university. He now runs a youth organisation in Dili and it was he who told us about the school. The Minister also spoke in both Tetum and English and was fabulous. She insisted that the kids all come inside the official tent and sit down, then she spoke to them directly - asking them which of them were going to be teachers and ministers.

The school looks wonderful! To build something of such quality in that location was an extraordinary effort is a tribute to the builder, who is from a nearby village, and Agostinho, the building supervisor who made the trip many times to check progress. Having now travelled that road, I have no idea how they got the huge trucks carrying the roofing material up there. The Minister also had the Director of Infrastructure with her and they were both blown away by the quality of the building and the roofing, particularly given the location.



The classrooms all have the chairs and tables we sent them, and the kitchen will be used to cook the children's lunches. All of the children received a new back pack with school supplies and they didn't let them out of their sight, keeping them on their backs even when they were skipping.

Zimbabwe:

There is no doubt that containers from West Footscray Donations in Kind are destined for many locations. And they often take a long time to get organised.

This one for The Rotary Club of Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe has been organised by a consortium of five Clubs in District 9820: Berwick, Cranbourne, Greater Dandenong and Pakenham. It has been “on the go” for about a year or so after COVID delays and shipping challenges.

However, it is now on its way full of hospital beds, other hospital equipment and lots of medical consumables.

This is a great effort and shows how clubs can work together to make what is quite an expensive project readily able to be completed by all working together.

Donations in Kind is always available to help clubs make the difficult ones a little easier!



We love to welcome volunteers from organisations wishing to help.

A very happy group from **Equity Trustees** spent a long morning at the store recently. Amid the dust, this group sorted and packed several pallets of hospital linen ready for hospital containers planned for the next couple of months.

They worked really well and enjoyed the satisfaction of working together in a new environment for a great outcome.



[Equity Trustees](#) is one of the largest providers of philanthropic giving in Australia. In addition to giving money, permanent employees are allowed one full or two half days of paid leave to volunteer in an appropriate activity.

Do you know of an organisation which could support us?

Donations in many areas have dropped this year, particularly new clothing, hospital beds and equipment, and educational supplies.

You can see from the stories in this edition that there is both a great need and lack of some supplies to suit.

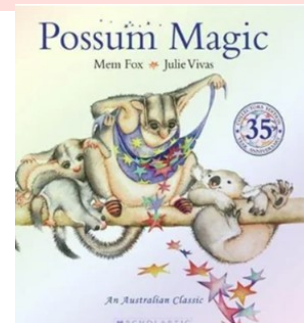
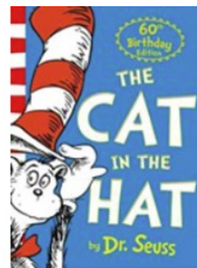
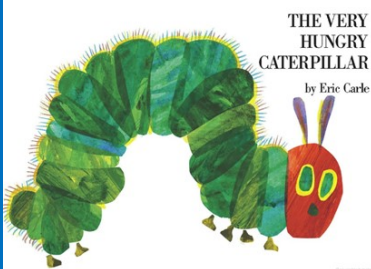
The stationery aisle is particularly bare at the moment, and at this time of year we put out a call to replenish Consumables and reading materials. The educational aisle provides teacher, class and individual student kits with stationery items as well as picture story books and junior fiction books for many Club projects. DiK needs Rotary Club help to restock supplies.

Connect with your local schools to invite donations of end term/year, unused stationery items and primary level reading books from both students and the library. Raise funds and purchase new school items from outlets when they are on special.

To find out more or discuss, contact either
Bronwyn Stephens 0410 324 537 bstephens.rotary@gmail.com

Or Pam Baker 0488 909 052 jbaker@bigpond.com

- Exercise books
- Grey lead pencils
- Colouring pencils
- Sharpener
- Children's scissors
- Rulers
- Erasers



In the last edition we told you about the project to update the **Veterans Dental Clinic at Baucau, Timor Leste,**

The Australian veterans community have worked with the Timor Leste Dental Project to support the clinic and the community. 2 pallets of dental equipment was shipped to Dili from DiK for the veterans clinic. The Rotary Club of Dili and Rotarians Helping Timor representatives helped to unload the container into the pickup and truck for transport to the clinic.

It was a challenge for Dr Dewa to install the dental chair and while we still hope to find a technician to support to achieve full function of the chair its current function is sufficient to treat patients and to start the healthy teeth program the clinic is planning to run with the youth in the community.



The clinic is now better able meet the needs of its patients which includes Timorese veterans, their family and the local community. Last month the clinic was able to run a first of many planned healthy teeth programs for a pilot group of students from the local school. The clinic was filled with young children being educated on good teeth management as well as to have their teeth cleaned, silver fluoride applied and to receive a toothbrush and toothpaste to take home.

Sr,Manuel da Costa Soares Lic. D

Timor Leste:

The Salesians of Don Bosco run 64 schools across Timor Leste. They are led by the Dean, Salesian coadjutor Bro. Adriano de Jesus. Brother Adriano has sent photos of the latest container which was sent from Donations in Kind earlier this year.



220 sets of desks and chair were distributed to the schools in Laga Baucau:

- * Sagadate primary School, 40 Sets, * Beluwali Primary School, 30 Sets,
- * Nunira Primary School, 30 sets, * Larifanu Primary School, 30 sets,
- * EBC Tomagua School, 40 sets and the * ES Tomagua School, 50 sets



10 desktop computers and 15 laptop computers were sent to Laga so the Principal of each school could have a laptop. The desktops were for the computer classes for the students.



Timor Leste:

At West Footscray Donations in Kind we ship all manner of goods to recipients in Timor Leste. Recently we responded to a request from Brother Adriano of the Don Bosco training organisation who asked for a couple of second hand engines to teach the students appropriate mechanical skills. So, we put out the call.

Instead of a couple of second hand engines we were able to ship three large steel crates with 10 complete new Ford engines for their Fatamarka training centre.

Bro. Adriano sent this thank you:

On behalf of the students and all the staff of Don Bosco training Center Comoro Dili would like to convey our sincere gratitude to you for your kindness, as we had received the 10 units of new engine for our students to practice all students and teachers are grateful for the new engines.

We assure you that many more students will benefit from this engine by improving their knowledge and understanding of the modern cars.

