

Hello fellow Rotarians. By way of introduction my name is George de Souza and I am the current President of Camberwell Rotary, having joined the club in 2016.



I now have the responsibility of taking up the role of Secretary (formerly held by Bob Glindemann) so have big shoes to fill and just attended my first DiK Inc meeting on the 7th March. No doubt Bob will provide us with some “consultancy services”.

It was great to meet many members of the other clubs and it was pleasing to see the enthusiasm in the room for what DiK does now and what it could do in the future. However, the assistance of additional clubs and support of other districts not only from a financial but manpower perspective is vital to the continuing operation of DiK.

On a sad note we did hear that we will lose a member (RC Melton) as they will be handing back their charter in May. We currently have 25 DiK Inc member clubs.

However, there was a lot of positive discussion around topics such as future DiK structure, Memberships, Club visits, Open day etc so watch this space.

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Colleen D’Offay, International Chair of Rotary Brighton has stepped in to fill Bob’s shoes as Operations Manager on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She will assist Frank Dri in the administration, scheduling, logistics and volunteer management. Colleen is the manager at Mentor Match and has many years experience in senior management roles.



Colleen cdoffay@bigpond.net.au

At the end of the store’s operations in December, a farewell lunch was held to acknowledge the work of Laurie Fisher and Bob Glindemann. PDG Bronwyn Stevens gave a moving tribute before DG Ron Payne read a tribute prepared by David Dippie.

Bob and Laurie have a combined service at DiK greater than most have been in Rotary. Bob began his commitment in 2000 after returning to Melbourne after so many years all around Oceania with Shell. Laurie came from Rotary West Footscray, lured by Bill Dagg to the work.

Together, their incredible dedication and expertise supervising over 2 million volunteer hours, the loading of 679 containers and the dispersal of goods valued at more than \$750 million to many disadvantaged communities and countries is a feat we are in awe of. And so many of these valuable items would have ended up in landfill.



TIMOR LESTE WATER PROJECT

Providing safe drinking water to improve health and eliminate plastic waste.

Clean, potable drinking water is vital to reduce sickness, especially in children. Where clean water is not readily available from a tap, water in plastic drinking bottles needs to be brought in, which is expensive and leads to an enormous waste problem. Another issue is that boiling 1,000L of unfiltered water requires 77kg of fire wood, which contributes to deforestation.

The Rotary Projects Timor Leste East (RPTLE) team, led by Rotarian Max Bird at the Rotary Club of Kwinana, have been assisting the people of Timor Leste by installing SkyHydrant water filter systems and tanks at orphanages and schools. These simple and reliable systems are highly effective at removing bacteria without chemicals, have a moderate initial cost and minimal ongoing costs.

Their most recent trip to Timor Leste in October 2023 saw the installation of 3 new SkyHydrant water filters, directly helping over 8,000 students. Data from schools in India with SkyHydrant installed indicates that this access to clean water provides an 88% reduction in illness. Timor-Leste now has 17 water filters thanks to this Rotary project: 13 Max SkyHydrant Water Filters installed, and 4 smaller Gem SkyHydrant water filters installed at orphanages.

Each unit can provide 10,000L of clean filtered water; this has also saved 13,090kg of firewood been harvested from the forest to boil water ensuring its safety for cooking and drinking.

Thanks to their support, by March next year 26,000 students will have access to clean filtered water, which is also saving 50,000 plastic bottles from ending up in the jungle, ocean or landfill. A further 5 units will be installed in the near future, with the consultations and feasibility studies been carried out during the teams visit in March 2024 bringing the total numbers of filters installed to 23 units

This valuable work is able to be conducted thanks to West Australian Rotary Clubs: Albany Port, Bridgetown, Bunbury, Byford & Districts, Cockburn, Esperance, Esperance Bay, Kojonup, Kwinana, Manjimup, Mount Barker, Palm Beach, South Bunbury; the Rotary Club of Phillip Island & San Remo in Victoria, and Timor Leste Rotary Clubs of Dili Lafaek and Dili. This is in partnership with Water for Hungry Months (Doncaster Victoria), East Timor Roofing, Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS), Disaster Aid Australia and the Don Bosco community in Comoro, Timor Leste.

Would you be able to help?

- Make a tax-deductible donation to this project
- Contact Max Bird at the Rotary Club of Kwinana

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From little things big, important, meaningful and sustainable things grow

“Small comforts from community” started as a conversation in November 2018 between Elsa Carr (former head of Allied Health mental health unit (MHU) at The Alfred Hospital (TAH)) and Rotarian Bronwyn Stephens. Elsa explained that research in the UK had found that a welcoming environment in MHU’s improved outcomes for patients by up to 25%, and that provision of a care bag on arrival is a key factor in that welcome space. Other attempts to procure the care bags had failed. Could Rotary assist? Bronwyn chatted with other Rotarians, and we began the project in January 2019, Rotary Donations In Kind agreed without hesitation to supply care bag goodies, and off we went, right when COVID hit.

The project expanded, and currently care bags and clothing are being provided to all patients on arrival to MHU’s at TAH, Box-hill and Forensicare hospitals. St Vincent’s have approached the committee wishing to be supplied with bags.

Rotary Clubs involved are Albert Park, Brighton North, Hawthorn, and Malvern. Mercy Werribee, Maroondah Hospital MHU’s are supported by provision of clothing by Lilydale and Wyndham Harbour. Rotary Donations in Kind (DIK) provides the clothing bay and resources for some care bag supplies. Warehouse storing of care bag supplies and hosting packing days is generously provided by a Rotarian within the consortium clubs. Financially, we are so fortunate to have donated goods from DIK, GIVIT and Good360. St Stephens Anglican Church, Gardenvale provided op shop support and ACNC status.

Elsa reflected recently when she was in conversation with a distressed client. She needed to de-escalate the situation. She offered a new T shirt. This happens over and over. And when she offers the T shirt, or hoodie, or undies, or socks, the client responds with a softening. The conversation and trust open. This is one aspect of our project.

Sandra, the head of operations reflected “One patient shared that: “I did not have any clothes other than what I came in with and had been wearing for days. I could not remember where my belongings were and when the nurse gave me a set of new casual things I felt a little bit more human.”

The provision of Foundation Grant as well as a grant from Rotary Balwyn supplemented by consortium funds was able to fund \$10K in clothing as well as the cost of racking at DIK. The racking and our own aisle at DIK enable storage of bulk donations of clothing.

Richard Blakeman, from the District 9800 Foundation team, commented after completion of the grant. “It is heart-warming to read of the joy and comfort brought by this act of kindness. Congratulations to everyone on your team.”



Care bag packing is satisfying and rewarding. It seems amazing that 200 bags can be packed in 2 hours. Bulk clothing being decanted into manageable sizes for the hospitals a very useful working bee also if your Club can assist.

Please contact Bronwyn Stephens E: bstephens.rotary@gmail.com P:0410 324 537



Tereasa contacted me in DIK's stationery and education aisle with an idea to collect obsolete stationery and library resources from her local schools and their students. Would that be useful? "Wow yes" was my instant reply. This model, as an ongoing relationship is what sustains our ability to provide resources, and most particularly highly sought after stationery, to projects.

Tereasa checks in regularly around the suitability of what is being collected. She sends photos of various types of books, teachers aids, school satchels and checks in as to whether they will be useful as donations. She has support of St Patrick's Primary School Lilydale and Mount Lilydale Mercy College. Teddies knitted by CWA Tarrawarra group have joined also.

Des Shiels from RC Lilydale picks the donations from Tereasa and delivers them to DIK periodically.

Could you consider approaching your local school and developing a similar relationship? A project information sheet is available on the DIK website @ <https://rotarydik.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/School-Stationery-Recycling-Challenge.pdf>.

I would be so pleased to have a conversation and assist. Bronwyn Stephens E: bstephens.rotary@gmail.com or P:0410 324 537.



Boxes for sorting



Stationery ready to deliver to DIK – treasure!



Rotarian Des Shiels and Sister with donated "big books"

Africa Bound----

A container of medical goods and school uniforms, including 29 hospital beds, transfer trolleys, oxygen concentrators, dialysis machines, ventilators, incubators, mobility devices and medical consumables is now packed and ready to ship to Laascaanood General Hospital, in Laascaanood, Somalia.

This city is in the newly-established SSC-Khaatumo autonomous state in inland Somalia. Due to current security upheaval with shipping lanes in the region, the container will initially be shipped to Dubai, and then onforwarded to Garacad Seaport, a new facility on the Indian Ocean coast. It then will be transferred by road 400 kms inland.

This project has been arranged by the Melbourne-based Committee for Khaatum State Somali Community. This is the culmination of a three-year project delayed by civil war in the region. Thanks to the DIK volunteers who collected, stored the goods and packed the container.



Computers for Timor Leste

Camberwell Rotary International Committee recently organised and paid for a consignment of 10 complete computer systems to go to a school in Timor Leste.

The Club was initially contacted by Anna Matarazzo who introduced herself:

'I recently volunteered in Timor Leste at Instituto Profissional de Canossa (IPDC) and The Canossa school in Dili. I am keen to find out how I can get/buy computers for the Canossa school (4,000 children). They currently they only have 25 working computers which are really old anyway). St Vincent de Paul and the Catholic Diocese of Darwin of which I'm part of are happy to find the funds to do this.'

The freight charges were met by the Catholic Diocese of Darwin. 10 PC systems ready for pallet wrapping (cling wrap!) at the Donations in Kind facility, West Footscray.



10 complete PC's ready for packing

Rotary Donations In Kind

Rear Shed 39, 400 Somerville Road West Footscray VIC 3012



Donations In Kind Activity Report for March 2024

Containers Shipped 2023 -24

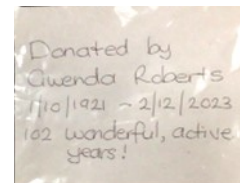
20+ container units

District	Club Container	Units	Store	Units
9780	Tonga	2	Timor Leste	6
9820	Zimbabwe	2	Somaliland	2
9800	PNG	2	Tanzania	4
9800	Ethiopia	4	Kiribati	2
			Ukraine	2
		10		16

Shipping is at the same level as this time last year.

We will reach 2 major milestones very soon: the 700th container to be shipped this century and the 500th container since DiK Inc started.

We regularly get people delivering goods to the store to enable us to continue providing mobility aids for people in need. There is often some story attached to the donation. We thought this one was typical of the thoughts behind the donation. This wheel chair in perfect condition came with the note shown in the picture tucked in the back pocket. It makes the activity at DIK really worthwhile.



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

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

George, Colleen and Frank are always pleased to discuss volunteer and donation opportunities with organisations.

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



Donations in Kind is located at Shed 39, 400 Somerville Road West Footscray.

It is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays. <https://rotarydik.org>

Contact:

Colleen D'Offay cdoffay@bigpond.net.au Mob: 0418 551 551

Frank Dri: frankdri@gmail.com manager@rotarydik.org Mob: 0428 550 574

George De Souza: gdesouza@bigpond.net.au Mob: 0427 305 358

Consultant— Bob Glindemann: bob.glindemann@bigpond.com Mob: 0418 102 702