



**Experience**

**THE MAGIC OF ROTARY**

**Donations in Kind Open Day**

**Saturday 10 August 10-3**

**Formal opening at 11am**

**Store tours each hour**

**Shed 39, 400 Somerville Road West Footscray.**

Please book for catering




We look forward to welcoming Rotarians, colleagues, family and friends to the Open Day.

Take a tour; learn more about how DiK can help your club, meet others and learn about the projects which DiK supports; become a DiK Inc member, make a donation.

Please invite your local politicians, councillors and connected organisations to join you and see how Rotary helps in our local communities.

RSVP for catering purposes please. Food and drinks will be available on the day.

<https://events.humanitix.com/donations-in-kind-open-day>

There are currently 31 DiK Inc members across several districts but there is always space for more.  
Do you know who these clubs are?

Balwyn, Balwyn North, Bendigo Sandhurst, Berwick, Brighton, Brighton North, Camberwell, Canterbury, Castlemaine, Central Melbourne, Cranbourne, Essendon, Flemington-Kensington, Footscray, Hawthorn, Keilor East, Kew, Lilydale, Melbourne, Melton, Mornington, Pakenham, Port Phillip, Prahran, Preston, Toorak, West Footscray, Williamstown, Wyndham.  
The Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations has now joined as a member. District 9800 is also a member.

They each pay \$3500 pa with a minimum 2 year commitment allowing them free access to the services and goods in the store for their international and local projects. This fee is used to cover the rent at the warehouse.

We are also very grateful to clubs and districts who make a donation of a lesser amount. These donations help keep the store viable and pay the rent. In recent months we have received donations from Rotary Clubs of Bendigo South, Carlton, Dromana, Lakes Entrance and Traralgon. THANK YOU!

**Membership of DiK Inc allows clubs to access goods in the store for their international AND local projects.  
Not a member, then a financial contribution will be asked from you for goods.**

**Donations In Kind Activity Report  
Rotary Year 2023 - 2024**

Containers Shipped 2023 -24

20' container units.

District	Club Container	Units	Store	Units
9780	Tonga	2	Chile	2
9790	Vanuatu	2	Ethiopia	6
9800	PNG	3	Kiribati	2
9800	Nigeria	2	Somaliland	2
9800	Sri Lanka	2	Tanzania	4
9800	Timor Leste	2	Timor Leste	12
9820	Zimbabwe	2	Ukraine	4
<b>Total YTD</b>		<b>15</b>		<b>32</b>

**Local community snippets:**

Thanks to **Brighton Rotary's** membership in Donations in Kind, the Club secured 100 new pairs of football boots, which were subsequently donated to Team Sports 4 All. <https://teamsports4all.com.au/>

With each pair valued at approximately \$90, the total donation amounted to approximately \$9,000. The boots were generously provided by Rebel Sport, a regular contributor to DiK.

A thank you note was received from Director Fiona Gathercole.

*As you can see the boots you donated are already going to good use. This pair has just been passed onto a young boy who plays U7 soccer and had grown out of his old boots. He was very very happy with his new pair and wanted to keep them on to go out to the park to practice. The boots you have donated are very much appreciated by all at TeamSports4All and will make many kids very happy. Donations such as these are invaluable to us and allows us to kit kids out in brand new gear which makes them feel proud and also saves us a lot of money which can then be used to get more children playing sport.*



**The Rotary Club of Lilydale** was able to source football boots and sorts bags for their ongoing support to the Football Integration Development Association {FIDA} of the Montrose Football Club.

Arun, Andrew, Jenny, Tad, Judith and Des attended the presentation and Des reported that to see the smiles on the recipient's faces was more than enough thanks for the excellent effort from Donations in Kind.



Des Shiel  
Rotary Club of Lilydale, President 2024-2025  
E: [deshiel3@gmail.com](mailto:desshiel3@gmail.com) Mob: 0418 389 695

**The Rotary Club of Kangaroo Flat** hosts Community Meals each Tuesday at Gateway Park. The attendance at the Meals continues to grow. In 2022, which was limited to 34 meal nights by COVID restrictions, the average attendance was 50. In 2023, this had increased to 72 over 48 meal nights. Currently the club is serving 79 meals with takeaways provided for regular guests who are unable to attend due to health issues.

Many of their guests are living in less than desirable conditions. Some are street sleepers, couch surfers, tent dwellers. Without exception, all or guests are experiencing challenges. Purchasing any clothing is just not an option for many of our guests. Thanks to a generous donation from Vista Printing, DiK was in a fantastic position to assist.

The \$ value of the wonderful donation by DiK of new shirts, was substantial. The value of the donation, measured by the increased self-esteem, having new clothing, knowing they were cared about and just seeing the happy smiles, is unmeasurable.



Another local project which utilises stock from Donations in Kind is the 1,000 Stories Project of **Rotary Flemington Kensington**. Each month, cartons of children's picture story books are collected from the DiK Librarians and delivered to the Maternal & Child Health nurses at 3 centres in the Flemington community. Books are then given to every child who attends a M&CHN visit {and siblings} ensuring that children have access to books at home, and are read to and exposed to vocabulary and the joy of reading before school. Most children will receive at least 20 books. Books are also obtained from the Op Shop and community donations.



Sally and Peter Dell from **Woodend Rotary** have travelled to Alice Springs regularly to deliver and donate goods to indigenous communities. Sally is a District Champion with the **End Trachoma project**, and this has led to visiting many organizations in Alice Springs and surrounding communities.

Each visit to the maternity ward delivers baby clothing and blankets, quilts to the pediatric ward for the children to take home, blankets to the Purple House organization with blankets for clients having dialysis and clothing to the Women's Shelter.

On the last visit, a request was made for children's shoes, and once delivered they were distributed in several days. So, the **Shoes on Project** was created. Shoes including children's women and men's shoes will be distributed in August when Sally & Peter return to the Alice. A recent trip to DiK resulted in 230 new pairs of ladies sandals and a smaller quantity of men's sandals to be shared amongst communities.

There are many benefits of footwear for children-

1. It helps to create a habit: the said reality of our indigenous people is the high incidence of diabetes, associated peripheral neuropathy, and lower limb amputation. By instilling a habit into young people of wearing of footwear, this may translate into their adult life as a reduction in impact of the physical and mental burden associated with diabetes related foot pathology.
2. To encourage more outdoor based activity and participation in sport. Often the ground is harsh, baked and frequently littered with stones, pebbles and even glass. Foot protection is paramount in the participation of outdoor activity.
3. Prevention of soil borne infections. The soil can carry infectious diseases- fungal spores, bacteria and parasites reside in the soil. Footwear is the only barrier to prevent these infections.
4. Pride of Ownership: where there are a few personal possessions, the acquiring of quality footwear can lead to a sense of pride in the child.

Every child should have access to the basics of life, and footwear is no exception. Just because a child lives remote doesn't mean they should miss out on these basic clothing items. Australia is not a 3rd world country, and assistance to ensure all children have shoes is a duty of all Australians.

Sally is collecting new shoes for children (sandals, thongs, runners, school shoes) and secondhand shoes that are in excellent condition. Contact Sally on 0417037079 email [petersally22@gmail.com](mailto:petersally22@gmail.com)



Bronwyn and Pam have put out a call for supplies for the book and stationery aisle.

Clubs are asked to consider donations of items needed or a financial donation to allow us to purchase. The educational aisle provides teacher and class kits & junior fiction reading materials for all projects. We need help please to restock depleted supplies.

- \* Coloured pencils and Grey lead pencils
- \* Textas and crayons
- Exercise books
- Pencil sharpeners, erasers and rulers
- Children's scissors



[Bronwynstephens@gmail.com](mailto:Bronwynstephens@gmail.com)

*Did you know?*

The store holds a large range of mobility and disability support aids. These are offered to visiting medical and ancillary support services. Donations are received from hospitals, aged care and nursing homes as well as private donors.

In 2023-2024 Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists from a large number of medical support services **visited the store 209 times last year, chose 346 items and helped around 240 clients.** From wheelchairs to crutches, walking frames to shower chairs, toilet seats and overbed tables, the range and quantity of items is vast.



**FOCUS ON AFRICA**

PP Jama Farah and the **Rotary Club of Footscray** worked with the Australian Tigray Alliance (ATA) to send off a shipping container of desperately needed medical equipment and supplies to Ayder Hospital in Tigray, Ethiopia.

Tim Watts MP attended on the container loading day. As Minister for Gellibrand, he has supported members of the ATA for a number of years now and has heard first hand about the horrific consequences of the conflict that has devastated the region. The Tigray-Australian diaspora community in Melbourne's West has experienced enormous trauma and anxiety for friends and family suffering in the conflict which only ended 18 months ago and has left the country devastated.

Members of the ATA have spent countless hours working with Footscray Rotary to secure donations of medical equipment for the major hospital in the region and have raised the funds necessary to deliver a shipping container to the region. The Australian Embassy in Ethiopia has been able to support these local efforts with a grant to fund the delivery of one of these shipping containers through its Direct Aid Program. It's no exaggeration to say that the contents of these containers will save lives. [Link to SBS News story](#)

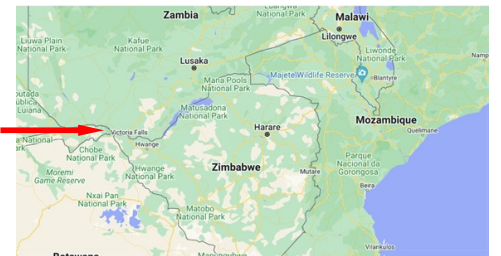
The Tigray Region is the northernmost regional state in Ethiopia and its capital and largest city is Mekelle. It is the homeland of the Tigrayan, Irob and Kunama people. Tigray is the fifth-largest by area, the fourth-most populous, and the fifth-most densely populated of the 11 regional states.



ATA members with Tim Watts MP, Footscray President Bob Newsman and Jama Farah.

The Rotary clubs of **Pakenham, Berwick, Casey, Cranbourne, and Dandenong in District 9820** collaborated to send a container to the Rotary Club of Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. This was filled with essential hospital equipment and school furniture supplies, including:

- 30 hospital beds accompanied by mattresses and side drawers, ensuring enhanced healthcare facilities.
- Crucial medical apparatus such as a resuscitation machine, baby cribs, transfer trolleys, and other equipment vital for emergency care.
- Pharmaceutical drugs to support medical interventions and healthcare services.
- Additionally, the donation included 72 chairs and 36 desks, enriching educational environments for students.



This collaborative effort exemplifies the power of international partnerships in fostering community development and providing vital resources where they are most needed.

Formal handover ceremonies took place at Chamabondo Primary School and Victoria Falls Hospital and these were attended by key figures including the District Medical Officer and hospital dignitaries, representatives from the Rotary Club, Wild Horizons, Chisuma clinic, Marist Brothers, journalists and Mkhosana Adventist Primary School. At the school, a significant milestone was marked in the school's development. Special recognition was extended to David and Susan Makanza and Barbara Murasiranwa, whose pivotal role in fostering communication with the generous donors in Australia, George and Sue Blenkhorn ensured the realization of this invaluable contribution.





**The Maldives:**

Through the club's connections with Sri Lanka, Flemington Kensington Rotary were approached by the Australian High Commissioner to the Maldives with a request—could we help with supplying books to schools on the remote atolls of the Maldives. Away from the capital Mali, there is little support for communities and schools. There was money to cover shipping if it could be done by 30 June. Of course we could.

Bronwyn offered 4 pallets of children's books from the book aisle and also suggested some teacher and student stationery which was gladly accepted. PP Peter Cribb then set about locating sufficient quantities of books. These were fund through a connection with Albert Park's bookshop, a generous donor supplied another 4 pallets of books.

Another Rotarian contact provided transport via air through a company at Tullamarine, {backfilling another load, no container required} so Andy and Peter delivered the goods and they are now in Mali awaiting transfer by boat to the schools.

So, an international project using DiK resources as well as club contacts, external financial support and fabulous collaboration.



**Samoa**

Store manager **Frank Dri** has returned from a visit to Samoa with **Sunshine Lions** where he saw the recently shipped container unpacked with Helping Hands Mission and the Uniting Christian Church Samoa. Sunshine Lions have been supporting the schools and hospitals through this project for **20 years** now. This container was filled with hospital beds, musical equipment, reading materials for children, and even farming tools and a food caravan. As always the visiting Lions were treated to a sumptuous feast.



**Mongolia**

Kathy Ballard, daughter of Clarke Ballard of Rotary Balwyn has recently travelled to a remote part in the west of Mongolia near the Altai Mountains. She put out a call for a pack of items to take along and Bronwyn and Pam compiled a parcel. Kathy previously visited Nepal as a guest teacher and took along student educational materials, balls and soft toys from DiK. She sent through these photos.





**Corporate volunteering** continues to provide a steady stream of arms and legs in the store. Some inspiring individuals from **Morgan Stanley** set aside their thrilling work day of financial planning to generously contribute to our cause by sorting out the remaining ladies shoes.

Claire, a dedicated volunteer who has been actively involved with DiK for the past couple of months was supervising and passing on information about Donations in Kind..



Shed 39, 400 Somerville Road,  
West Footscray

*Did you know?*

Donations in Kind is an inspiring destination for Corporate Volunteering. Corporate Volunteering provides a sense of purpose, promotes connection and has positive social, environmental and economic impact.

Does your company offer this social service opportunity?

Bob Glindemann reports that this week, we had a dozen Rotarians from **Whittlesea District 9790**, visit the store for a tour. Most had never been there before and they were very enthusiastic after the visit to the point where they are most likely to become DiK Inc members – a good afternoon's work!  
[President Michael's Facebook post.](#) They have now been added to the newsletter mailing list!



Do you know of an organisation which could support us? We are very short of hospital beds and donations in many other areas have reduced 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>



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