



Rotary **DONATIONS** 400 Somerville Road West Footscray

Experience the magic that is stored within these walls. See the treasure which is donated for use in underprivileged communities, both locally and overseas. Find out how you can volunteer here.

2024 OPEN DAY

Saturday 10th August
10am to 3pm
Store tours every hour

Enjoy a range of food, tea & coffee, soft drinks and conversation



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.

RSVP for catering purposes please.

There are currently 27 DiK Inc clubs across several districts but there is always space for more. Do you know who these clubs are? Balwyn, Balwyn North, Berwick, Brighton, Brighton North, Camberwell, Canterbury, Castlemaine, Central Melbourne, Cranbourne, Essendon, Flemington-Kensington, Footscray, Hawthorn, Keilor East, Lilydale, Melbourne, Melton, Mornington, Pakenham, Port Phillip, Prahran, Preston, Toorak, West Footscray, Williamstown, Wyndham. 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 is used to cover the rent at the warehouse.

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



New volunteer Claire Downey has been working with Colleen on a number of admin tasks. She also welcomed Mariah Porto, a newly-arrived Rotary Exchange Student, sponsored by The Rotary Club of Nova Friburgo, Brazil. Mariah who is hosted by the Rotary Club of Brighton, visited DiK during her school holidays.

Donations In Kind Activity Report May 2024

Containers Shipped 2023 -24

20' container units.

District	Club Container	Units	Store	Units
9780	Tonga	2	Timor Leste	8
9820	Zimbabwe	2	Somaliland	2
9800	PNG	3	Tanzania	4
9790	Vanuatu	2	Kiribati	2
9800	Nigeria	2	Ukraine	4
9800	Timor Leste	2	Ethiopia	4
			Chile	2
Total YTD		13		26



Snippets:

We get all sorts of things at the store. Recently we received the two mobility items specifically designed for use on sand. Is there a Rotary Club that has some relationship with a Surf Club who might be interested in these item for use in their beach environment? They are available free of cost to any Club interested. All you have to do is collect them from the store. First in - best dressed!! Enquires to Colleen d'Offay at the store.

The Care Bag and clothing project:



Supporting The Alfred, Box Hill, Forensicare, St Vincents, Mercy Werribee and Maroondah Hospital's Psychiatric Wards. [READ MORE.](#)

The care bags are a welcome gift given to all inpatients on their arrival for a stay at the psychiatry ward. A local sewing group of volunteers make and provide the bags. Inside are items suggested by the ward's nurses and social workers to make the inpatient's stay more comfortable. These items include hair brush, moisturizer, lip balm, water bottle, a writing journal, pens, colouring pencils, warm socks and more.

They are gifted from across the Australia-wide community, to show support and care for people with mental illness.

Since many of the inpatients arrive in an emergency or involuntary context and 60% are homeless, basic, new clothing is also generously provided for the staff to distribute as required. The psychiatry ward at "The Alfred", for example, in total comprises approximately 100 beds with an average of 2,000 inpatients each year. The project aim is for all inpatients to receive a care bag upon their arrival to the ward.

Rotarians are busy people. PP Alan Bruno from the **Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington**, semi retired and living his best life at Portarlinton is now involved with the Bellarine Agricultural Society. They needed chairs for a show, so who did he call? DiK came to the rescue and Alan collected 50 chairs from Frank and Andy with help from Flemington members John Sklenar and Lesley McCarthy. DiK is not just for international projects; they provide items for clubs, local charitable organisations, physiotherapists and schools as well.



Bound for Balibao:

A container of school furniture headed to Sulilaran School (122 students) in Timor Leste was packed on 9th April. The container included tables, chairs, desks and teachers' desks. Also included were clothing and other goods for the students.

This project was funded by **Rotary Clubs of Keilor East and Pakenham** and with a **Rotary Foundation district grant.**

This project assists a Timor School initiative, by [Spend It Well.](#)



Kiribati:

Ruth reports that the container filled with much needed goods has arrived at Tarawa.

- medical supplies for clinics and hospitals
- library books for pre schools, primary schools and JSS
- sewing machines and equipment for AMAK women
- Educational resources for students
- Mobility aids for people with disabilities
- Solar Buddy lights



This project was supported by the Rotary Club of Sydney, Caring | Church of Jesus Christ and SewAid Australia.



Papua New Guinea:

Late last year we shipped, for Rotary Brighton, 2, 20ft Containers of medical and School goods to the OK Tedi Gold mine in Papua New Guinea for the communities that live adjacent to the mine. It is quite a trip. Rail to Brisbane, then shipped into Port Moresby followed by a long and challenging river trip then onto road for the final leg to the mine site.

We have just sent another 20ft unit – this time filled with 6 playgrounds through RORP and for the same mining community. Thanks to Rotarians from the Glenferrie Cluster lead by Bob Allardice at Rotary Nunawading, the container was filled at the playground storage yard at Kilsyth and is now on its way.



Timor Leste:

On behalf of LETS, I thank you most sincerely for your continued support to help us send beneficial items to the students and families in Letefoho, East Timor.

This Certificate of Appreciation is for everyone at Donations in Kind. Our group has enjoyed and appreciated working with both Bob and Laurie to arrange this delivery. We are looking forward to working with Colleen and Frank in the future.

Lorna Hammond

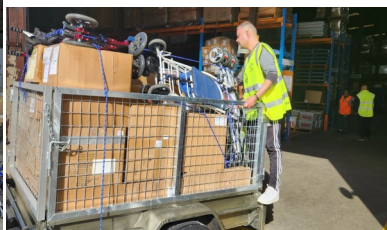
LETS – Letefoho East Timor Support

lets.net.au

Afghanistan:

A group of volunteers from the Bahktar Community were recommended to DiK by Rowan McLean at Rotary Balwyn North. They have been a welcoming and supportive presence in the lives of over 2000 Afghan and Ukrainian refugees in Victoria. With the help of Rotary, local schools and community organisations, Bahktar have provided a range culturally appropriate food, clothing and household goods during an incredibly difficult time for many. They were collecting goods to send to communities devastated by flooding in Afghanistan.

Bassir Qadiri, Managing Director got his hands dirty helping load and had a tour of the store with Colleen.





At the end of 2023, DiK received a magnificent donation from Vista of new clothing. Pierre Hinton, Plant Director at Vista Melbourne replied to Bronwyn:

“we are humbled that we were able to have such an effect on so many people. This has made my day. I can't wait to share this with our Team. It's perfect. Thank you for allowing Vistaprint to be a part of something so impactful.”

A large number of clubs responded with requests—

Albert Park:

Wintringham specialises in the housing, support and care of older people who are experiencing or vulnerable to homelessness. Clothing was provided for residents.

Altona City:

Altona Basketball Association & Laverton College.Rotary Club's Sports Program for Underprivileged and Disabled Children and Adults.

Balwyn North:

Booroondara Community Outreach support people who are socially isolated or living with a mental illness, to live with dignity and engage in community. Pallets of clothing were provided for folk.

Bendigo Sandhurst:

Lightening Reef Primary School support of students sports and casual clothing.

Rotary Berwick:

Club projects supporting disadvantaged in the community.

Brighton:

Lighthouse Foundation Lighthouse Homes, Foster and Family Care and In Community care environments provide support to reach children and youth who need it, where they need it, for as long as they need it.
Papua New Guinea Tabubil. This remote area was provided clothing via a shipping container.
Walungurru School – Northern Territory—This school is one of Australia's most remote communities and is a 650KM drive to Alice Springs. See report on page 6.



Brighton North:

Small comforts from community— Providing bags of care and comfort to Mental Health Units in Hospitals as well as new clothing without discrimination.
The Break supports people working through a broad range of issues including homelessness, unemployment, addiction, trauma, psychosomatic disorders, psychological problems, disability and physical ailments, isolation and loneliness.

Central Melbourne:

Hosier Lane Youth Services. YHOP is an assertive outreach service that engages and connects at-risk young people aged 12 to 25 years to individualised housing, mental health, education, training, employment and crisis supports across Hume, Merri-bek and Western Melbourne.

Chadstone/East Malvern:

WomenCAN provides women with free training, employment, and a program of peer support.
Progress Pikinini—Vanuatu is a South Pacific Ocean nation made up of 82 islands that stretch 1,300 kilometres. With a fairly large population for the island's size, around 260,000, Vanuatu is home to thousands of children that need your help. Less than 50% of Vanuatu children go on to high school. Many schools lack the basics for education, and with continual natural disasters causing immense damage to community's infrastructure the children of Vanuatu are continually supported.

East Timor:

East Timor is a nation that has faced a plethora of hardships over the past decades with the basic infrastructure of the country destroyed by civil war. 'The emotional pain caused by the enormous loss of life during the civil war resonates through every family,' Rose said. Rose believes that nothing compares to hearing the heartbreaking stories of the Timorese;and although the people of Timor Leste live with next to nothing and have suffered tremendously, they live their lives with such a joyous aura full of hope and selflessness.

Keilor East:

Bolton Clarke Homeless Program provides a primary healthcare response to people on the streets, in parks, at food programs, in low cost hotels, boarding houses, caravan parks or living in crisis accommodation. Vista clothing and bags were used to distribute T shirts, caps and polos to folk.

Mount Eliza:

Toilet bags. “We support victims of violence with toilet bags. The library bags will enable us to provide clothing and more with toiletries.”

Philip Island:

Food relief hamper and pantry support our local community house on Phillip Island which included a food relief pantry. The reusable bags are ideal for clients to offer with food hampers.

Kew:

Servants Community Housing supports those at risk of homelessness with long-term tenancies, live-in house managers and established connections to support agencies, community groups and neighbours.

Hampton:

BayCISS (Bayside Community Information and Support Services) provides case work, family counselling and essential supports including emergency relief, information, referral, advocacy and support for vulnerable, at-risk, homeless and low-income community members.



Rose Paduano (CEO of BayCISS) and Geoff Tickner (RC of Hampton Community Services Chair), displaying some donated Vista T-shirts.

Preston:

Jacobs Well School and Orphanage Centre in Odessa in the north of India. Jacob’s Well sinks fresh water wells, establishing health and resource centres and providing life changing education for children from tribal villages and the slums.

Africa Aus Aid

Richmond:

Ethiopia A 40’ shipping container of hospital and medical goods to Ethiopia added pallets of clothing to be donated to patients and staff at the hospital.

Wyndham:

Reclink Australia strives for Improved physical health, mental health and greater social inclusion. St Vincents Community projects, sharing clothing with local folk in need.



Polio Plus promotion.

This signature program of Rotary has polio largely eradicated in the world. There are still just a few cases in Afghanistan remaining. Until there are none the children of the world are at risk. Rotary and the Gates Foundation are contributing billions to vaccination programs.

The education aisle has been busy again lately. As well as packing student and teacher packs, they have received a generous and very large donation from the Education Department—excess stock from the Bastow Foundation. Notebooks, folders, drink bottles and more. Barry, Rosie, Pam and Bronwyn will be happy to assist clubs with items.

Also received, a large donation of Christmas novelties and gifts—clubs looking for items for gift packs at Christmas, see Bronwyn, Pam or Rose.



Northern Territory:

The Rotary Club of Brighton stumbled upon a modest plea on Facebook through the remote Op-Shop Project, originating from one of Australia's most isolated schools. **Walungurru School**, nestled in **Kintore, NT**, is a tight-knit Aboriginal community boasting a population of roughly 400 individuals. Situated 650km southwest of Alice Springs, near the border of Northern Territory and Western Australia, it serves approximately 160 students. The school reached out for a number of items and clothing donations to assist families, citing a lack of adequate attire as a common reason for children's absenteeism.

As a DiK Inc member, the Rotary Club of Brighton had the privilege of accessing a vast array of items from the DiK store at no extra expense. This allowed the club to procure three pallets of goods, with the responsibility falling on the club to cover the freight costs. The dedicated team at DiK expertly packed these pallets, which embarked on a three-week journey, passing through Adelaide and Alice Springs before ultimately arriving at their destination in Kintore.

Included were:

Polo Shirts, T Shirts, trackies and shorts, caps and socks, AFL sports clothes
Tennis Balls, Softballs and small bouncy balls and other sports equipment, footballs and basketballs
Lego and Duplo, marbles, matchbox cars, stickers, colouring books
Watches, hair clips and ties, crocs shoes
Musical Instruments, Water Bottles, Back Packs, Red Material and Gurneys



The Principal had requested gender-neutral clothing to streamline distribution and ensure easier acceptance by children. Polo shirts were particularly appreciated, given their suitability for the climate and popularity rather than knit T-shirts. The school colors are gold and brown, with the current uniform consisting of navy or black track pants or shorts paired with a yellow T-shirt. During colder weather, navy polar fleece jumpers or vests are worn, sometimes with a plain knit T-shirt underneath the yellow school shirt. Red material was also requested for use in ceremonies. They also asked for items for a prize box, including socks in dark colours, baseball caps, beanies, and sports attire such as basketball and football shirts and shorts. Other popular prize box items include marbles, kites, rubber bouncy balls, elastic bands, hair ties, grooming items, sports equipment, toys, stationery, art supplies, and various accessories. Donations for kids sizes 3 to 12 are welcomed with gratitude.

Colleen D'Offay received the following thank you -

We are immensely grateful for the generous donations that reached Walungurru School. Situated in one of Australia's most remote communities, our school is a daunting 650 kilometres away from Alice Springs, the nearest regional centre, straddling the NT/WA border. Transporting goods to our community comes at a steep price, often doubling or even tripling the cost of the items themselves. In our local shop, basic necessities like a simple Kmart blanket can be exorbitantly priced at \$60, compared to its retail value of \$10.



These donations have been instrumental in addressing some of the fundamental needs of our children, particularly in terms of clothing and warmth. It's challenging to effectively educate children who are cold, unkempt, or sleep-deprived due to inadequate shelter or clothing. Having these items readily available at school not only encourages attendance among children who may otherwise lack suitable attire but also helps alleviate any embarrassment or shame associated with old or soiled clothes. Moreover, the provision of clothing has bolstered our hygiene program, contributing significantly to our efforts to combat scabies, lice, trachoma, hearing loss, and boils among our students.

Furthermore, these donations have strengthened our School Wide Positive Behaviour Program, which emphasizes and rewards positive behaviours, shifting the focus away from negative conduct. Students are motivated to earn rewards from the prize box for their academic achievements, safety awareness, acts of kindness, attendance, and displays of respect. Their diligent efforts to earn items such as caps, drink bottles, football boots, and sports attire have been commendable.

Given our extreme remoteness, Walungurru School often misses out on the services and attention that other remote Aboriginal schools receive. Visitors, attention, and gifts are rare occurrences for us. Therefore, the community was deeply touched by the thoughtfulness and kindness of the donors, realizing that people from other parts of Australia cared enough to send these items. The teachers, too, expressed their gratitude, acknowledging that while the donations are not directly for them, they have significantly aided their efforts in advancing the well-being of the children and the community as a whole. It is heartening to know that despite the challenges of remote work, people across Australia are actively supporting and advocating for the welfare of remote Aboriginal children.

Somalia:

The Rotary Club of Footscray and PP Jama Farah continue to deliver aid to the poorest areas of Somalia.

The Horn of Africa project was commissioned to provide those living in the Horn of Africa region with the resources and materials that would make a positive difference in their lives. In particular, the project aimed to provide medical equipment to local hospitals that were in dire need, and to support locals who would otherwise travel long distances to receive the basic medical care that they needed. The beneficiaries of these donated resources can now boast of much improved facilities and vastly superior patient care.

Through the generous contributions and support of our community, in particular Rotarians, the Somali community and the Harari community, our crowdfunding campaign was able to raise \$47,809, which has covered the transportation costs of three containers loaded with donated materials and equipment. We are pleased to report that the first container reached its destination of Berbera Port in November 2023, and two more containers were sent shortly after and also successfully reached their destination of Berbera Port in March 2024.



Two containers were loaded with medical equipment and distributed equally between **Jig-jiga University Sheik Hassen Yabare Referral Hospital** and **Harar Regional State Health Bureau Jugel General Hospital** in Ethiopia. The third container was loaded with food and clothing, and was distributed between multiple sites within Somaliland, including Erigabo Boarding School, Xaaxi Boarding School, Burcao City, an orphanage in Hargeisa and Borame, among other places.

While we have enjoyed enormous support from far and wide, we would like to give special thanks to some contributors.

First and foremost, we would like to highlight the incredible work of the **DIK management and volunteers**, without whom this project would not have achieved the success that it has had so far, and the **Rotary Club of Footscray**, including the past president Maria Silber and current president Dr Bob Newman, who have provided essential support throughout the lifecycle of this project.

Western Health, which has generously donated an abundance of vital equipment such as I.C.U beds, Transfer trolleys, ECG Machines, Ultrasounds, Defibrillators, Radiography, Patient monitors, Ventilators, I.V Holders, Monitor screens and Tower Endoscopies. **Austin Health**, which has generously donated dialysis equipment which is much needed in the smaller communities of the Horn of Africa region. **Baker Heart & Diabetes Institute**, which has generously donated numerous mini health monitors, with more hopefully to come.

Doug Hawley and Tony Laycock of the **Rotary Club of Canterbury**, which through their spectacular For-a-Meal initiative have generously donated around 100,000 meal packs. **Nick Dallas and McGraw Hill**, which have generously donated multiple stacks of medical textbooks, which will no doubt provide inspiration to the multitude of students in the Horn of Africa region.

Finally, to an anonymous contributor who has very generously donated a dental X-Ray machine. It is through the invaluable support of those who have donated their materials, resources, and time that we have been able to make such large strides to achieving our lofty goals.

It is extremely important that we also mention those generous individuals and groups who selflessly donated their time and efforts to fairly distribute the goods once they reached their destination. We would like to mention in particular, **Ugaas Muxiyadin Sh Ismacil** (Somaliland Clan Leader), **Maxamed Axmed Aw Aadan** (Director of Zamzam Foundation in Somaliland), **Dr Aydarus Rabi Tahir** (Jig-jiga University Sheik Hassen Yabare Referral Hospital Director of Dialysis Unit) and **Dr Abraham Salih Sufian** (CEO of Harar Regional State Health Bureau Jugel General Hospital). Without them, these goods would not have reached the places that it needed to go, and it is through their effort that we can say that this project has been an astounding success.

This initiative has generated very good media coverage in Ethiopia, with reporting conducted in multiple languages, including Somali, Harari, Amharic and Oromo. A news conference was held to celebrate the enormous achievement of the Horn of Africa project, which was attended by many notable individuals in the region, including Mohamad Ayaanle Hassan (Vice Minister of Somali Regional State of Ethiopia Health Bureau), Yasin Abdulahi (Harari Regional Health Bureau Head) and Sultan Mahamed Buzayri Niman (Somali Clan Leader), who spoke extremely positively about the project and the amazing impact that it was making to their communities.

To conclude, this has been a period of great success, and we should all feel proud that we have made a positive difference for those who were in sore need of our assistance. It is truly remarkable to see how much we have achieved through our determined and warm-hearted efforts, and it is important to reflect on this success and understand that we are capable of great things. We hope that we will be able to continue this success going forward.

Jama Farah
International Chair Rotary Club of Footscray

Ukraine:

Late last year we despatched a 40 ft container full of medical aid for Ukraine. After a long voyage via many ports, the container has arrived at the port of Gdynia in Poland. The Broker there, one Tytus Swiecicki, a Rotarian from Rotary Gdynia and the proprietor of Baltic Express, cleared the container and loaded the goods into trucks for the final part of their journey to Lviv in Ukraine.

We are of course delighted that the trip was successful and we have sufficient goods remaining from the initial donations for another 40ft Container to be sent in the coming months. This will comprise more ventilators, medical supplies, mobility aids and 10 pallets of "For a Meal" food packs.

Tytus Swiecicki



The photos here show the goods being unloaded at the port ready for the road trip into Lviv and importantly, the goods all in the store in Lviv ready for distribution.

On arrival in Lviv, Borys who is the Rotary Coordinator in Lviv, organised a team to unload and store the boxes and equipment.



Borys with Anna Vasyliv.

The plastic wrapped units are Ventilators from Queensland Health.



Recently, Teresa and her crew loaded another 40' container. Packed by volunteers from DIK and members of the Ukraine community. This project was organised by the **Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations and the Ukraine Crisis Appeal**. The container included medical and humanitarian equipment, including mobile ventilators, patient hoists, dental chairs, wheelchairs and other mobility equipment. The goods were donated by Cabrini Hospital, Queensland Health, Dr. Rowan Storey and many others. The project is a partnering with the Rotary Club Ukraine Unity, a passport club based in LVIV.



Corporate volunteering has become a new volunteer stream for DiK. This month, 7 members of a Telstra team led by Raj Shinde from the Rotary Club of Chadstone East Malvern spent a day sorting and packing clothing. They experienced all the joy that volunteering and fellowship can offer with like minded people.

They packed items for the “*Small comforts for community*” project and were assisted by one of our regular volunteers, Rosie who was most delighted with their positive attitude and energy.



Does your workplace agreement support paid volunteering? Why not give DiK a go? Contact Colleen to organise a date.

PACKING SOON!



Do you know of an organisation which could support us? We are very short of hospital beds. 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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