

Donations in Kind brings joy to local children at Christmas

DiK Store Manager Colleen D'Offay was offered a gift from Good360 in Sydney. 20 pallets of new Lego for the cost of freight, was she interested? Silly question.

The team quickly reached to DiK Inc member clubs – were they interested in a pallet of Lego for a local community project for the freight cost, about \$750? Within 24 hours 18 pallets were committed and Good360 was ready to send.

Clubs which took up the offer were Albury, Balwyn, Berwick, Cranbourne, Essendon, Flemington Kensington, Kew, Lilydale, Malvern, North Balwyn, Port Phillip, Preston, Warragul, Werribee, Williamstown, Wyndham Harbour.

There was great excitement at the DiK warehouse on 26 November when the truck arrived. Andy was quickly at work with the forklift and the pallets were unloaded and ready for clubs to pick up.

Additionally, Rosie and Pam organised boxes of small trinkets and Christmas themed items to go with the Lego. Collections began on 28th with Frank working on the Saturday to facilitate collections.

Each pallet contained some 250 sets of Lego valued at \$12-\$100 each with donations going to Albury Tots2Teens, Bendigo Bank Seddon Christmas Appeal, Boroondara Community Outreach, Anglicare Preston and Epping, Berry Street Preston, the Bluebird Foundation, the Koala Kids Foundation, St Matthews Church Albury, Upper Murray Family Care, Terry Floyd Foundation, CareVan, the SS&A Club for St Davids, Casey North Community Information and Support Services, Windermere Child & Family Services, St Vincent de Paul, Vincentcare Glenroy, Flemington Community Centre, Lilydale Proactive Policing Unit and Boorndawan Willam Aboriginal Healing Service, West Welcome Wagon, The Venny, Wingate Avenue Children's Services, Vinnies Warragul, Salvation Army Warragul, Quantum Support Services, Longwarry Relief, Warragul Regional College Chaplaincy Program, and more.....

Through this initiative coordinated by DiK, 18 clubs across Victoria have donated new toys valued at \$240,000 retail to community and social service organisations supporting children in need. What a fantastic hands-on community service project having such an impact in our local communities.

Thank you to Colleen and the DiK team for their facilitation and initiative.



GOOD360 supports us with toys again!

Another magical toy offer came to us this year as Colleen negotiated more support for local projects through Donations in Kind.

This offer was for several pallets of new toys, mixed pallets including Lego, Star Wars, PlayDoh, PeppaPig alphabet, BeyBlades, Transformers, Nerf guns, My Little Pony, Baby Alive Dolls and more.

The toys were sorted into 24 boxes valued at \$500 and offered to clubs for \$100/\$150. They were snapped up very quickly for a range of local community projects—not available for international.



Rotary
Districts of Victoria

Donations in Kind

Free - fabric offer

Rolls of new school
uniform material,
wrapped in plastic.

18 different types, available
at DiK from 17 April.

Full rolls only.

Colleen@rotarydik.org

Another offer sent out to clubs was for new fabric thanks to a donation from a school uniform supplier. Contact Colleen to order.

Item	Fabric Image	Roll Count	Total m's	Fabric Weight (GSM)	Width	Composition
9059		40	1801.5	275	148cm	65% Polyester 35% Viscose
8450		3	196.1	124	148cm	65% Polyester 35% Cotton
8442		25	1138.3	124	148cm	65% Polyester 35% Cotton
8431		40	1883.3	124	148cm	65% Polyester 35% Cotton
8427		24	1318.2	124	114cm	65% Polyester 35% Cotton
8411		37	2089.2	124	148cm	65% Polyester 35% Cotton
8398		13	735	124	148cm	65% Polyester 35% Cotton
8344N		4	179.7	124	114cm	65% Polyester 35% Cotton
7194		6	223.7	124	148cm	65% Polyester 35% Viscose
7188		27	1063.1	170	148cm	65% Polyester 35% Viscose
7186		17	901.3	170	148cm	65% Polyester 35% Viscose
7173		8	369.7	170	148cm	65% Polyester 35% Viscose
7172		10	525	170	148cm	65% Polyester 35% Viscose
7184		24	1096	170	148cm	65% Polyester 35% Viscose
7150(C)		4	252.3	170	148cm	65% Polyester 35% Viscose
7142		6	245.7	170	148cm	65% Polyester 35% Viscose
4446		3	81.1	250	148cm	65% Polyester 35% Viscose
4046		48	2456.3	145	148cm	65% Polyester 35% Cotton
Total			339	16561		

President Margaret Brett and Sandra McGuire from **Rotary Yarraville** hosted His Excellency Mr. **Joe Tapera Mhishi** – Ambassador of Zimbabwe on a visit to Donations in Kind recently.

Margaret is operations Manager at the Australia Africa Chamber of Commerce and brought along Linton Tarisai who is a Committee member as well. Yarraville Rotary is working on a project to send medical equipment to Zimbabwe hospitals.



They thanked **Bronwyn Stephens** and the DIK team for the tour and always being so friendly and helpful. Margaret said that she was always amazed and inspired every time I go there by the size of the warehouse and volume of donated goods the many volunteers sort and package for reuse overseas. A wonderful Rotary program which has an impact across the world.



Teresa and the crew from the Ukraine Federation were hard at work again packing another container to ship to Ukraine.



Michael Portelli from Essendon Rotary brought their Royce Abbey scholar Gregory Ortaro to visit. Gregory was able to meet Jama Farah from Footscray {Horn of Africa projects} Abdi Hassan from Flemington Kensington {Somalia} and chat. They spent some time in the clothing aisle unpacking and sorting new school uniforms.

Bronwyn received a lovely thank you letter particularly thanking Neil:

My sister Leigh had a door-to-door delivery from DIK today of a shower chair and wheelie walker. The hospital had provided her aides for 30 days post discharge after surgical repair of a fractured neck of femur which had necessitated a month in hospital. After a month the post-hospital service expires. Leigh messaged me absolutely amazed and delighted. She said that the aides from DIK are cleaner, in better repair and smarter than the hospital provided aides. That says loads about your quality of workmanship and standards Neil. It also speaks volumes about your commitment to providing first rate appliances without discrimination to all the allied health professionals, then further for the clients they serve.

Mary Ward International Australia and the Loreto Sisters in Lukulu, Zambia



This project was initiated in 2022 to transport essential medical equipment and supplies to the Loreto Sisters in

Lukulu, in support of the Sancta Maria Nursing and Midwifery College, along with four other local clinics and hospitals located in the Western Province in Zambia.

In collaboration with the College and each hospital, Sr Pat Hanvey put together a “dream list” of what they would like to receive. Over the following three years, Rotary, Mary Ward International Australia, and key logistical contacts worked together with Sr Pat in Lukulu to make it a reality.

The container was packed at Donations in Kind in October 2024 and the shipment was carefully managed across several ports from Melbourne to Singapore then onto Dar es Salaam before the roadtrip to Lukulu.

It was welcomed at Lukulu on the evening of 19 January 2025 but became stuck in sand, requiring the local council road grader to free the truck. Then, the team, including staff and students from the College, began offloading.



The next challenge was getting the empty container off the truck. Thankfully, the town engineer was onsite and came up with a plan to use the grader to pull from the back while the truck moved forward.

The container slid off safely - though not without a little extra assistance to unlock it from the truck bed. With this, the container was successfully moved to its final location, with the help of the College tractor which pushed from behind to keep things moving smoothly despite the sand.

By the end of the day, the team had safely offloaded all the equipment, and the container was exactly where it needed to be.

This will definitely be remembered as a momentous day by the entire community. Everyone involved did an outstanding job, and delivery and unloading was a great team effort.

Mary Ward International Australia and the Loreto Sisters in Lukulu, Zambia extend our sincere appreciation to all at Rotary and Donations In Kind for investing in the development of the Sancta Maria College of Nursing and Midwifery and the future of the community of Lukulu.

maryward.org.au



Rotary Club of Footscray—Horn of Africa Projects:



PP Jama Farah reports that the latest container has reached its final destination of Sitti General Hospital in Biki in the Somali Regional State of Ethiopia.

The container was unloaded on the 27th of February 2025, in a ceremony that was attended by the Somali Regional State of Ethiopia Health Bureau Vice Minister Mr. Mohamed Ayanle, Somali Regional State of Ethiopia Sitti Zone Administrator Mr. Ibraahim Hussein, Sitti General Hospital CEO Dr. Ibraahim Abdilahi Abd, Sitti Relief and Development Organization Chairman Mr. Ibraahim Osman Burale and diaspora representative Ms. Asma Ali.



Jama acknowledges the tremendous support from far and wide and would like highlight the incredible work of Colleen d'Offay, Frank Dri and the DiK volunteers, without whom this project would not have achieved the success. Also the members of the Rotary Club of Footscray, of which one member has provided enormous financial support but has chosen to remain anonymous. Under the leadership of president Dr Bob Newman we have sent 5 containers so far.

Western Health and Austin Health have generously donated an abundance of vital equipment and from Footscray Rotary Aged and Community Service Fund, headed by Darcy Brennan, we received a significant financial contribution.

The previous container was sent to the Ayder Hospital in Mekelle in the Tigray Regional State of Ethiopia. The staff have quickly set up and put to use the equipment sent.



The **Australian Ambassador to Ethiopia**, who attended the ceremony to open the container, noted that they were proud to see Australia's visible assistance to the Ethiopian people and noted that while hostilities have ceased recently, there is still an immense need to rebuild medical services.

PP Jama Farah
Rotary Club of Footscray



Collaborating to support stroke victims in Sri Lanka



The Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington in District 9800 partnered with the Rotary Club of Colombo District 3220, the Australian Sri Lankan Association in Adelaide, RARE SA and Rotary Donations in Kind to deliver equipment to outfit stroke units in 9 hospitals.

Following a meeting between the Minister for Health, PDG Senake Amerasinghe and PDG Pubudu De Goysa from Rotary Colombo, Dr Harsha Gunasekara, President of the National Stroke Association, and PP Peter Cribb a detailed and extensive 'wish list' was compiled by Dr Gunasekara and his team and conveyed to Rotary Donations in Kind. As hospital beds were still in short supply following the COVID pandemic, Peter Cribb reached out to RARE who were able to assist. With assistance from former MLA Craig Ondarchie, a connection was made with the Australian Sri Lankan Association in Adelaide. Through their President Nishani, funds were collected to pay for shipping of a container from RARE in Adelaide.

ASLA members worked with the RARE team led by Manager Dave Cockshell to identify equipment and load the container. They were assisted by Dr. Charitha Perera and Dr. Mihiri Pere from the Sri Lanka Consulate of Adelaide.



Meanwhile, a second container funded by Flemington Kensington Rotary was organised through Rotary Donations in Kind, West Footscray. This container was loaded by Flemington Kensington Rotarians and the DiK crew and shipped 2 months later.

Equipment sent in both container included 86 hospital beds and mattresses, patient monitors, blood pressure machines, transfer trolleys, examination tables, 47 wheelchairs and 24 walkers, 23 walking sticks, 16 toilet overframe seats, 6 medication trolleys, 15 cupboards, 5 tables, 24 patient chairs and 11 cartons medical supplies.

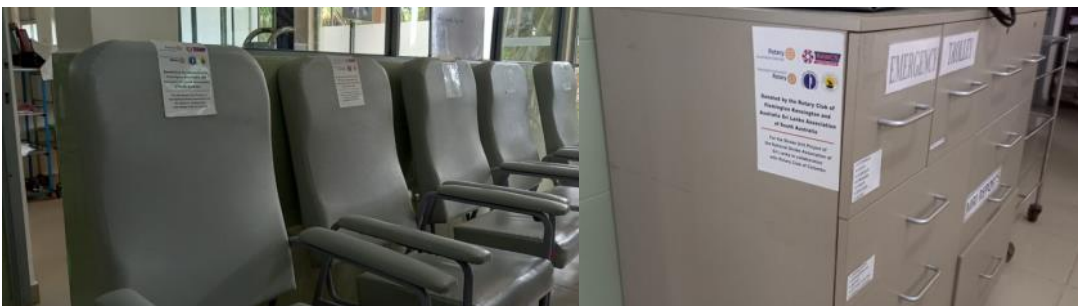
The first allocations went to the Teaching Hospital in Nagoda, in the Southern Province.

Dr Harsha Gunasekara reported that the hospital staff were delighted with these items, which have already made such a difference to patient care.



Donated by the Rotary Club of
Flemington Kensington and
Australia Sri Lanka Association
of South Australia

For the Stroke Unit Project of
the National Stroke Association of
Sri Lanka in collaboration
with Rotary Club of Colombo



This project shows the **strength in Rotary connections**; the tentacles of **reach** which come together to have such **impact**, and our **engagement with the broader community**.

Bacau Dental Clinic, Timor Leste



18 months ago a container filled with dental and medical equipment arrived at the David Alex Dai Tula Veterans Clinic, Baucau.

Since then, there have been some challenges in installing the equipment as the original technician was unavailable. However, a Timorese technician assisted Dr Dewa and Anna the Dental Technician and now we are up and running.

On another positive, the healthy teeth programs have continued and in May 2024 we held dental promotion and screening programs within the 2 local schools.

Approximately 250 students were seen over the course of program over the year. The children are responding well and it is great to be able to run programs in the community with a focus on prevention and healthy teeth.

All supplies of toothbrushes and toothpastes from the donations received have been distributed with some to our veteran community also.



The clinic also continued to consult some of the older members of our community and mid 2024 we had ACU nursing students visit and join the clinic activities.



We were grateful for the extra manpower and expertise of the ACU students that helped us with better understanding how to use equipment that has been donated. We look forward to continuing work with Paul and the ACU team on their next visit so we can gain greater insights from which to improve both for the dental clinic and wider clinic activities that they also spent time with.

Additionally, a New Zealand group Someone Who Cares have sent a container filled with equipment and supplies which arrived just in time for the visit of the ACU students.

We value our connection with the Australian community, through which we have been able to achieve more than we could have done on our own.

We particularly value the connections between the Australian and Timorese soldiers and veteran communities. As well as the clinic providing health services to our community, it is also able to provide healing and purpose to the Australian and Timorese veterans.



Papua New Guinea—school and hospital project



The **Rotary Club of Brighton** together with **Rotary Melbourne Passport** and **Star West** have collaborated in an extensive and challenging project to supply educational and medical equipment to the Star Mountains area of the North Fly District of Western Province, Papua New Guinea. The area is the main service for the Ok Tedi mines.

3 containers were filled with school equipment, educational supplies, shoes, sporting goods, school bags, hats, scrap books, fiction and teachers kits, playgrounds and medical equipment.

Thanks to Star West, the containers were floated, trucked and carried along the Fly River then overland for distribution.

9 schools were supplied: Finalbin Primary, Mt. Fubilan Pikinini Library & Learning centre, Tabubil Elementary School, Tabubil Primary School, Wangbin Primary School, Kwiroknai Primary School, Rumgenai Primary School, Tabubil High School and St. Gabriel Technical Secondary School.



- 18x Tables, 36 x Chairs for Primary School
- 18x Tables, 12 x Chairs for Primary School
- x4 Soccer Balls
- 100% Cotton, Hhaki Hat Grey Colour for Teachers
- For adults travelling bags
- School bags for Primary School Students
- Teen Fiction - Upper Primary Students
- Student & Teachers Kit (2x20) , (14x40) - Primary School



- First Box x31 & Second Box x29- Mixed Sizes and colours
- Medium Black stripe/ Blue sky and green 8 pkt each
- wooden Toy truck
- Mixed colours for Elementary school
- x4 Soccer Balls
- 100% Cotton, Hhaki Hat Grey Colour for Teachers
- x 27 Small Blue Chairs- Primary School
- x 17 Small Green chairs- Primary School



- Small x36 Pcs Red - Primary School
- Large x36 Pcs Red - Secondary School
- Medium x36 Pcs Red - Primary School
- Medium x36 Pcs Royals or Blue - Primary School
- Small x36 Pcs Grey - Primary School
- x4 Soccer Balls
- 100% Cotton, Hhaki Hat Grey Colour for Teachers
- Bags for adults, 6 blue , 3 red,



- 20 PKTs with Tabs and Insert
- Mixed Items
- x4 Soccer Balls
- 100% Cotton, Hhaki Hat Grey Colour for Teachers
- Shoes for Secondary School Students
- Colour green for Adults/ Secondary Students
- School bags for Primary School Students
- Sky Blue, Small x54 each - For Primary Students
- Sky Blue, Large x60 each - For Secondary Students
- White, small x50 each - Primary Students
- Sky blue and Grey mixed x50 each- Primary Students



- 20 PKTs with Tabs and Insert
- Mixed Items
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- Sky blue and Grey mixed x50 each- Primary Students



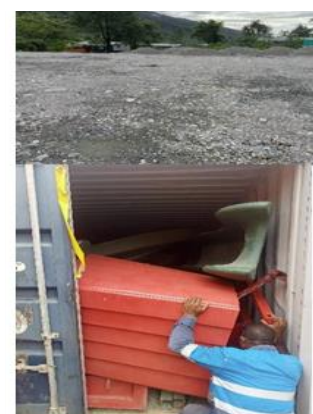
- Shoes for Secondary School Students
- Small, Colour Grey - Primary School
- x4 Soccer Balls
- 100% Cotton, Hhaki Hat Grey Colour for Teachers
- School Handy bags for Primary School Students
- 12x Desk, 24 x Chairs for Primary School
- 12x Desk, 24 x Chairs for Secondary School

These materials will support over 4,500 students!

Ok Tedi Mine are collaborating to install the children's playground at Tabubil which will require some civil construction works and fencing. Town authorities have approved construction.

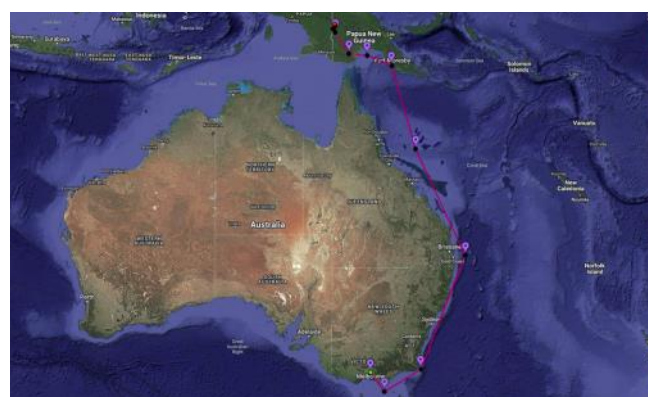


Medical equipment went to Kiunga & Rumgenai Hospitals.



It has been a long journey.

Thank you to Ishmael Ereman for this report, and to Cornelius Deas Doobie Malamamo, Hahut Kamdep, Honray Kake, Morris Malken, Jack Ombo, Joel Jim, Jimmy Waiya, Hosea Nimmy, Gregory Tarangun for all their work.



Ukraine Dental Project— Rotary Boronia

In late 2024, following an approach from Local Dentist, Dr Himashi Amarapala of CathiesLane Dental and her Dentist friends, work commenced on an international project to organise the donation of recovered but very useable dental and other medical equipment.



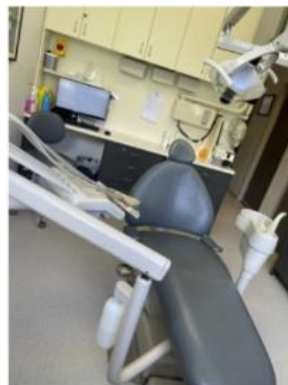
Teresa Lachowicz the Ukraine Aid Coordinator for Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations (AFUO) agreed that their current shipping project would welcome the equipment but storage was at a premium and could Boronia Rotary store it until Mid March 2025.

Simba Global agreed to store the equipment, at no cost, until the items could be packed for shipment to Ukraine. The equipment was removed from the surgeries, packed for shipment, and delivered to Simba Global by Borg Dental Australia- thanks Vasko of Borg again at no cost.

Then Mark and Monique Smith at Dorset Business Solutions - Office Choice agreed to let Boronia Rotary use their large van, at no cost, to deliver the goods to DIK and so the project was set for completion.

The following items were delivered:

- Dental Patient Chair x 2
- Dental X-ray Unit x 1
- Amalgam mixer x 1
- Suction Unit x 1
- Walking Frame x 1
- Wheelchair x 1



Unloading at Donations in Kind

Many thanks to Bec, Dylan and Kirtiraj at Simba Global and Mark Smith at Dorset Business Solution.



Peter Malden
International Committee
Rotary Club of Boronia
Mobile +61 417998082



As at December 2024 Donations in Kind West Footscray has shipped 719 containers of equipment and supplies containing goods worth \$79 million to 36 countries and administrative regions, with a strong emphasis on items that improve education, medical and maternal care. We also support disadvantaged people of the Australian community.

The countries and administrative regions we support, and the areas of activity are influenced by the passion of the Rotary clubs who raised the funds for shipping. We are also guided by Rotary International research that has identified the areas of greatest need where Rotarians can be most effective – Rotary Foundation Areas of Focus.

By numbers, containers have been sent to:

Timor Leste 425	Papua New Guinea 30	Fiji 29
Tanzania 21	The Philippines 18	Somaliland and Sri Lanka 16
Samoa 14	Cambodia and Vanuatu 12	Solomon Islands and Somalia 11
Zambia 9	Chile, Ethiopia and Tonga 8	Ghana, Kiribati and Sudan 7
Uganda 6	Congo, Kenya, Nepal, Pakistan, Ukraine 4	
India, South Sudan 3	Bangladesh, India, Nigeria 2	

There are currently 30 DiK Inc members across several districts but there is always space for more.

Do you know who these clubs are?

Ballarat West, Balwyn, Balwyn North, Bendigo Sandhurst, 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. 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: rent and operating expenses continue to rise!

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.**

Colleen is available to do club visits and share the presentation with your members. This explains how Donations in Kind receives donations and then shares goods with clubs for local and international projects.

Contact Colleen at Colleen@rotarydik.org

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

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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