

International Service Projects 2019

Introduction

As the first Australian E Club we have members living in different parts of the world who are running or facilitating meaningful international projects. This makes us unique, with a diverse range of activities touching the lives of people in dozens of countries.

Our club has 11 active RAWCS registered International Projects as well as several new initiatives underway. We have projects specific to: Timor Leste, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo (2), Kenya, Nigeria and Cambodia, together with 3 worldwide projects that have provided assistance in the last year to Fiji, PNG, Kiribati, the Philippines, Cambodia, Laos, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Thailand in our region and, in Africa, to Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, DRC, Malawi and Sierra Leone.



In addition, in 2018-19 our club has sponsored a **Rotary Global Grant Scholar**, Garrett Milne (pictured left with 2017-18 RI president Ian Riseley). Garrett is based at Sydney University. Here is what he has to say about his experience: "Having the opportunity to be a Rotary Global Grant Scholar has been life altering. The scholarship has allowed me to further my education in Australia, and get an experience that I would not be able to get in Canada. I have had opportunities to engage with professors, students and colleagues, from both inside Rotary and out, that have shaped my experience for the better.

From engaging with other Rotary Grant scholars and being able to network with other students who have shared similar experiences, to attending a world class university, the Rotary Global Grant Scholarship offers a powerful opportunity."

22-2006-7

SewaID International

Worldwide

SewAID is a program which offers selected women in very poor countries the opportunity to not only learn to sew, but to also provide them with the machines, equipment and skills they need to start a small home business in dressmaking, alterations and repairs.



The SewAID program is primarily a teaching program and we rely heavily on our wonderful volunteer teachers who donate their time and expertise as well as fund their own travel to each program, dedicated to providing the skills, knowledge and equipment so these poor women so they can make a better life for themselves and their family. This project is the initiative of PP Tony Castley OAM.

78-2018-19

The United Mission Hospital

Nepal

The United Mission in Tansen, Nepal continues to benefit from support of the EClub and supporters. The most recent outreach provided funding for a C-Arm X-Ray machine.

The local hospital, known as the trauma centre, has now purchased the C-Arm X-Ray machine (pictured) especially for use in orthopaedic surgery. Accidents are common due to poor infrastructure. Having this equipment at the hospital now allows life-saving procedures to be undertaken. Rtn and EClub member Val Bland sells Rotary Christmas cakes to raise funds to support this project.



7-2009-10

School for Life Foundation

Uganda

School for Life Foundation (SFL) is an Australian non-government organisation seeking to transform developing communities through providing high-quality education, health care, clean water, vocational training, employment and infrastructure. Under the leadership of Founder and Club member Annabelle Chauncy OAM, the foundation seeks to provide innovative and sustainable tools to break the cycle of poverty.

Currently, SFL operates 2 primary schools and 1 high school at Katuuso in Mpigi, Uganda. The schools provide access to high quality primary education to 1000 students, as well as providing health care and clean water to over 1,500 residents of the village. The school promotes the value of equal opportunity; allowing both boys and girls to attend the school,

including those with special needs. The school also provides employment to 120 Ugandan staff including teachers, cooks, builders and security guards as well as providing accommodation for its teachers.

47-2009-10	Medical Equipment Project	Worldwide
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This project was set up in 2009 to fund the supply of portable ultrasounds, vital signs monitors, basic ECG machines and a small range of new medical equipment for hospitals in developing countries with limited resources. We source new, robust basic medical equipment in bulk to enable us to support in a higher capacity. Working with in country partners, we can assess, distribute and ensure adequate training on the equipment to have maximum impact.

In the past year we have donated over 650 pieces of equipment to 16 different countries.

Highlights include:

- Partnering with Emergency Medicine Kenya Foundation to provide vital signs monitors and ECG equipment to 47 county referral hospitals. This was done in conjunction with training to strengthen the emergency medical care system in Kenya.

In addition ultrasounds were provided for training in emergency obstetric use in partnership with the Centre for Public Health and Development.

- Partnering with LifeNet International to provide basic equipment for healthcare clinics in DR Congo. Equipment includes dual fuel autoclaves for clinics with no access to electricity.
- Burundi, a new project area, is one of the poorest countries in the world. Providing equipment for healthcare clinics in the region.
- Ongoing support for our partner One Heart Worldwide donating portable ultrasounds to provide integrated training programs for midwives and traditional birth attendants in rural areas in Nepal.

The cost of getting heavy, antiquated donated medical equipment from Australia was, in some instances, no cheaper than buying brand new mass-produced, simple to commission, life-saving equipment from China and USA. And so a project was set up in 2009 which has now delivered over 2,000 medical devices into more than 40 countries in the developing world.



The flagship item is a Portable Ultra Sound Scanner. More than 500 units have been distributed. In many cases training courses are arranged before the clinic or hospital takes possession. Thousands of mothers and babies' lives have been saved by providing this technology to places where it never would have gone otherwise.



Other equipment includes:

- Vital Signs Monitors
- Patient Monitors
- Pulse Oximeters
- ECGs
- Oxygen Concentrators
- Foetal Dopplers

Over the years Rotarians from right around Australia have facilitated the cartage of equipment to end destination as personal luggage when travelling.

50-2011-12

Sustainable Villages Oecusse

Timor Leste

This project addresses critical environmental issues by enabling informed and active community participation in the building of a life-sustaining society. Participatory action – involvement of the people in their own forward change and development – is the best way to ensure success and sustainability of change.

The core of our project, **Village Environmental Action Planning**, involves villagers in environmental assessment including, resource mapping, water quality testing and identifying key issues. This information is used to develop site specific plans and design strategies to improve village sustainability.

Due to lack of potable water, water borne diseases are endemic throughout Oecusse. To reduce this problem we have designed, tested and are now supplying household bio-sand filtration units. The results are excellent, 100% reduction in faecal coliforms and turbidity with minimal on-going maintenance.

Other activities implemented by villagers include well rehabilitation, provision of pumps and piping for irrigation of vegetable gardens and reforestation.

GREEN TL, the NGO Rtn Judy Charnaud set up in Oecusse, also provides programs specifically designed for youth:

Schools World Environment Day Congress includes public speaking, quiz, poster painting, and traditional singing.

GREEN Games is an annual sporting competition which involves over 1000 participants in soccer, volley ball, basketball and half marathon.



Installing a new pump to aid in irrigating vegetable gardens.

SVO is an empowerment project in the isolated, impoverished region of Oecusse. The objectives are:

1. To assist villagers to make informed decisions and design site-specific strategies to reduce the impacts of environmental degradation on their village life style.
2. Reduce incidence of water borne disease, provide potable water.
3. To promote reforestation in catchments therefore decrease erosion and water turbidity.

An additional, and highly successful program to engage young people and promote environmental awareness is the Youth-in-Action GREEN Games, an annual event which attracts over 1000 participants.

Club member Judith Charnaud runs the program and lives there much of each year.

17-2014-15	Maternal and Child Health (MACH)	Worldwide
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MACH is a consolidation of more than 12 individual projects that had previously been managed by a number of different Rotary Clubs around the country.

There are 4 pillars to the MACH cluster of Maternal and Child Health projects:

- Maternal & Obstetric Services – especially obstructed labour emergency
- Family Planning – Options for poor women to space their families
- Birth Injury Repair Surgery – Obstetric Fistula and Pelvic Organ Prolapse
- Neo Nate and Child Special Care – Emergency Newborn and Paediatric Care

The objective of MACH is to partner with local organisations in the poorest countries that have demonstrated capability and passion to provide genuinely cost effective and sustainable outcomes in our target areas. MACH currently works in Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia.

72-2013-14 | Kisaru Nkera Initiative (KINI) | Kenya

KINI is a community project in the Trans Mara region of Kenya which provides support to Maasai children and their families through education, health care services, community programs and maintenance of a safe environment.



KINI now sponsors 141 children to receive education from primary school to tertiary level. KINI have been given land and is in the process of raising funds to build a rescue centre for girls and a home for orphaned and vulnerable boys.

Rtn Barbara Parkins currently lives in the Maasai village and cares for 14 children in her own home, who have nowhere else to go or are there to be protected from FGM and forced marriage.

20-2013-14 | Lotumbe Community Development | Democratic Rep. of Congo



The territory of Ingende in Equateur Province, in which Lotumbe Village is located, is a vast area in what is the world's second largest rain forest. Food traditionally found in the forest and rivers is being depleted by the numbers of refugees displaced by war and ongoing conflict. HandUp Congo <http://www.handupcongo.org/> in collaboration with Rotary Australia World Community Service and other project partners, works with the Lotumbe

community on a wide range of capacity-building projects.

In spite of being accessible only by canoe or forest paths, Lotumbe is a rural hub, with K-12 schools and a reference hospital. A population of 87,976 accesses these social services, which are only made possible by civil society due to the country's weak government.

Rtn Lucy Hobgood-Brown's father was born in this village, and Lucy lived there as a child. She regularly takes volunteer teams to this province, to work with Congolese colleagues on such projects as sustainable beekeeping, women's health, duck and fruit tree planting (sales from the eggs and fruit pay for Pygmy orphans' school tuition), and women's micro credit. Lotumbe benefited from a Rotary District Grant in 2017-18, facilitated by the EClub of Greater Sydney.

47-2015-16	Building a Healthy Congo	Democratic Rep. of Congo
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A Congo Emergency Medicine Education Project is underway in the DRC, developing a train the trainer program for emergency medical care through the Université Protestante au Congo (UPC www.upcongo.org) and selected educational and medical teaching institutions as well as the Ministry of Health. Emergency Medicine Specialist Dr Vera Sistenich (below, right) leads this initiative for HandUp Congo www.handupcongo.org. She has trained more than 600 doctors and nurses throughout this vast nation, and continues to facilitate training resources based on the African Federation of Emergency Medicine's 'Keystone Curriculum'. The E-Club's Medical Equipment Project along with other supporting foundations have provided vital equipment such as training mannequins and ECGs. This project benefited from a District Grant in 2017-18, made possible by the Rotary Club of Randwick NSW.

In 2018 Vera was named Inspirational Woman of the Year by Rotary clubs and districts of NSW.



Vera Sistenich (R) with nurse
Blandine Diangemba

1-2016-17	Feeding Dreams	Cambodia
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Feeding Dreams was established in 2012 and enjoyed support from many Rotary clubs in Sydney and Brisbane prior to its registration as an official RAWCs project in on July 1st 2016.

Feeding Dreams Cambodia is a grassroots Community School providing free quality education and daily meals for over 800 impoverished children from the poorest parts of

Siem Reap, from kindergarten to young adults. Classes include English language, Math, Computer, Morality and Sport. Each student is awarded Ministry of Education certified qualifications for courses completed.

We strive to keep families united, fight poverty, illiteracy and malnutrition, and help grow tomorrow's community leaders. We also offer university scholarships and ongoing support to the older students so they have the chance to receive a tertiary education, while our Dreams Training Centre offers vocational education and job placement in the hospitality industry.



The Australian Rotarians who have championed the Feeding Dreams Cambodia programs have benefitted from the Rotary international network of business, professional and community leaders who strive to make the world a better place through practical efforts. Aside from grants and donations, individual Rotarians have offered their skills and expertise, assisting us in our accounting, HR policies, architectural advice, management and personnel training and often,

emotional support and encouragement when things get tough for us on-ground.

Collectively the Rotary clubs across Australia have supported the building of our training centre, several of our classrooms, our bike shed, built numerous homes for desperately poor families, contributed to the food program and supported the elderly, sponsored several of our brightest students to attend university, and most recently sponsored some of our most disadvantaged youth to undertake our 12 month Vocational Hospitality Training program, and be placed in employment at 4-5 star hotels so that they can live a life above the poverty line without exploitation.

103-2017-18

Mama Wimbi Buntings for Education and Independence

Democratic Rep of Congo

This project is based in Goma, DR Congo. It has so far equipped 18 vulnerable mothers to sew for their children's school fees. 84 children are in school because of us this year and next year's schooling is already secure for half of them. We are also establishing a computer training centre with the aim of equipping local people with the internet marketing skills to gain self-sufficiency. Their local neighbours have no money to buy anything, so the best chance of sustainable business income is access to the global middle class, through the internet.





Additional International Service Activity

President Oscar Akparanta is leading initiatives in Nigeria and Kenya. These include a Global Grant project in partnership with the Rotary Club of Port Harcourt GRA, District 9141.

This project is the Provision of Water and Sanitary Facilities for two schools in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria benefiting over 1,500 pupils. One of the schools is for special needs children.

Rotary
Club of Port Harcourt GRA
District 9141, Nigeria

In Partnership with **Rotary E-Club of Greater Sydney**, District 9685

Presents

GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY OF THE GLOBAL GRANT PROJECT, FOR SCHOOL FOR SPECIAL NEEDS
Creek Road, Port Harcourt

VENUE: School for Special Needs, Creek Road, Borokiri Port Harcourt
DATE: Thurs 21th, March 2019 | **TIME:** 12:00 - 1:00 PM





The second project is a District Grant to build protective fencing for a Rescue Centre and Early Childhood Development centre in Maasai Mara, Kenya in support of E Club's RAWCS project 72-2013-14.

Days For Girls



In addition to the registered projects listed above, our club is heavily engaged in Days for Girls initiatives, often in conjunction with SewAID (see above), where women are provided with equipment, materials and skills to produce hygiene pads. Rtn and E Club member Alacoque Welsh (centre) has made a number of trips to Fiji in

the last year to assist with capacity building of such programs.



Rtn and eClub member Lucy Hobgood-Brown has introduced Days for Girls in the Democratic Republic of Congo areas where she works. Pictured is a Congolese community leader introducing Days for Girls and women's health/family planning topics to school girls.

District and National Activities

With so much international project involvement by its members there is a lot of interaction with other clubs in the district, particularly on the NSW Central Coast. E Club founder and PP **Tony Castley OAM** continues his Rotary involvement as Director of the Australian Rotary Foundation and Rotary Down Under. He is the founder and manager of SewAid International (See above). PP **David Dean** is the current District Chair for the Rotary Foundation. Our 2017 president **Amanda Barnes** is currently the International Service chair for District 9685. Rtn **Penny Vos** serves on the RAWCS Eastern Region communication taskforce. **Kian Safaei**, the incoming president, is serving a 3-year term as the District Chair for Interplast.

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