



ROTARIANS AGAINST MALARIA

Around the world April 25th is declared as World Malaria Day. Here in Australia because of Anzac Day, this day has been moved to April 30th. It is a time to reflect on the impact of malaria upon the world and the progress we are making in fighting and controlling it in our countries of focus namely Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Timor Leste.

A recent development is that RAM has facilitated discussions between Timor Leste and representatives from the malaria program in Indonesian West Timor (NTT Province). Cross border collaborative programs are needed to achieve malaria free status for the whole island of Timor.

The battle against malaria continues to be waged on many fronts. We should be very proud that Australia is at the forefront of world research in developing new anti-malarial treatments, and in seeking to find a suitable long lasting, cheap and easy to administer vaccine. Developing such a vaccine is imperative, because in some areas the malaria parasite transferred by an infected mosquito is developing increasing resistance to sprays and drugs.

Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM) works closely with a number of leading malaria research institutions.

One example is the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute in Melbourne where researchers have discovered a way to stop the malaria parasite invading healthy red blood cells thereby stopping malaria infection.

A major project that Rotary supports financially is the "PlasProtect" Vaccine which is under development at Griffith University, Queensland. Malaria parasites that are grown in their laboratory under strictly controlled conditions, are treated so they can no longer replicate or cause infection. The Malaria Vaccine Project instigated to support the research program under RAWCS has reached its original \$500,000 target and human clinical trials have begun in Australia, but more support is needed to finance the human trials.

Malaria Awareness Day is a very important day in the RAM calendar for it is a great opportunity to promote community understanding of the global campaign to eradicate malaria by 2040. The Rotarians Eliminating Malaria Action Group REMaRAG is working with like research groups with similar aims.

Malaria Awareness Day gives us a chance to highlight the outstanding contribution RAM has made in the last 24 years, and to reinforce the need to keep momentum.

Please ask your Club to hold a special event on 30th April to recognise Malaria Awareness Day. MAD flyers and RAM brochures are available to support your activity. For more support, or ideas for activities, contact your District RAM Chair.

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MALARIA AWARENESS DAY (April 30th)

Suggested Activities

- Set up &/or man a display at a suitable venue, e.g., the local shopping centre;
 - Seek a guest speaker two weeks before Malaria Awareness Day; and invite the local press and radio;
 - Instead of a guest speaker gift, donate the dollars to RAWCS Project 32/2010-11 for the purchase of mosquito nets or other RAM activity;
 - Seek to include a RAM speaker in your District Conference programme;
 - Set up a bed net display, and related RAM gear at your District Conference;
- Plan a special dinner and invite other clubs to participate;
- Arrange a sausage sizzle at a suitable high-usage venue e.g., your local Bunnings store;
 - Encourage your Rotaract and Interact Club/s to get involved;
 - Arrange to speak to at least one class in your local school/s;
 - Set up a poster or display in a local shop or business;
 - If you have a market, set up a promotional display;
 - Place an article in your local press
 - Run a special VIP Dinner.
 - Arrange an interview with your local Community Radio Station.