



# ROTARY AUSTRALIA

W.C.S.

## SOUTHERN REGION RECORD



Issue 1-2010

### **RAWCS VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS**

As my reader will know each year at about this time Southern Region sends out to each club a number of Rotary Dinner Badge stickers along with an invoice and a request for each Rotarian to purchase a sticker at a cost of \$2.

The monies donated are set towards, and hopefully cover, the administration expenses incurred by The Region. The last set of accounts available to your editor at this time Dated 30 June 2009 for the 2008/2009 financial year show that \$15,306 was donated and that a further \$109 was earned in interest. Finally and more importantly to us non-accountants this sum exceeded the expenditure by \$1,117.

In the previous financial year we had ended up in the red to the tune of \$134.

So as you can see we tread a fine line between bankruptcy and financial bliss!!

Blessing to all of you Rotarian donors.

[\(A full copy of the financial accounts may be obtained from our Regional Treasurer PP Garry Gunnell\)](#)

One other point, as you will be aware RAWCS has been set up by the Australian District Governors to facilitate International Programs of the Rotary Clubs within the Commonwealth, thereby taking advantage of the NGO status accorded to the Company by the Australian Federal Government.

Rotary Clubs being autonomous members of R.I. do not of course have to avail themselves of this service and many clubs carry out International Programs outside of RAWCS. Consequently these Clubs do not desire to give a voluntary contribution to an organisation that they do not use.

Here finally is the item of news that I would like you to ponder and if you have an opinion to please pass it on to your District RAWCS Chairman!

Chairman Peter reported on the RAWCS contribution system commenced in September 2009 in the Eastern Region.

There the Region charges each volunteer \$10 (as part of their travel donation) all other donations made to the Overseas Aid Fund

are charged a fee of 0.05% up to \$10,000 and for sums greater than \$10,000 a fee of \$50 plus 0.025% of the balance.

Chairman Peter has requested that the meeting delegates discuss this funding system at the next RAWCS Regional meeting To be held on 30 July 2010.

TO HELP THE DISCUSSIONS PLEASE ADVISE YOUR DISTRICT CHAIRMAN OF YOUR OPINION CONCERNING THIS MATTER.

### **SHELTER BOX AUSTRALIA AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE**

At the last Regional meeting David Langworthy accompanied by Jenny Heenan made a presentation to the meeting confirming that the Rotary Club of Endeavour hills had wound up Shelter Box Australia. Due to irreconcilable differences with Shelter box UK. They also advised that The Rotary club of Endeavour Hills has registered "Disaster Aid Australia"

They emphasised that this is a Rotary project with the aim of providing first aid shelter to victims of disaster using shelters designed in New Zealand. The organisation is I believe registered as a tax concession Charity. Unfortunately David has not provided a written copy of his report so we shall have to wait until Endeavour Hills Rotary Club produce some information on how they see this new organisation operating.

It was interesting to note that Australia is not the only country separating itself from Shelter Box U.K I understand that Canadian Rotarians have also severed ties along with the Rotarians in a number of the Western States of the USA.

Finally I understand that Shelter Box UK has also separated itself from it's originating

Rotary Club consequently some doubt now exists over its legitimacy in continuing to advertise as an R.I. project

It is a great pity that these divisions have occurred as the original concept of Shelter Box is wonderful and the execution of the delivery of the Boxes in times of need using the resources of Rotary has worked remarkably well.

Hopefully our District Governors will be in a position to advise us on the appropriate action to take with reference to first aid shelter following disaster in the not too distant future.

The concept and action is too good to important to lose.

### **KENYA IMAGINE Kibera Community Education Project**

Having dealt with the heavy stuff it is now my pleasure to report on a project conceived by two young ladies barely out of university following a holiday in Kenya and reported to us at the last Regional Meeting

This project and the progress to date truly shows Australian Generosity at its very best. We should all be very proud of how these young Australians have represented us in Kenya.

Kenya Imagine is a charitable organisation dedicated to improving the lives of Kenyan children and their families.

Kenya Imagine was founded in early 2009 after a trip to Kenya over the summer of '08/'09, in which Rebecca Sanders and Jacqueline Flynn witnessed firsthand the amazing potential for change in impoverished communities.

Whilst there, Rebecca and Jacqueline worked largely with children, both at an orphanage and a school. It became apparent during this time that simple yet significant changes could be made in order to improve the quality of education for these children.

Thus Kenya Imagine was created with the goal of using education as the platform for change in Kenyan communities.

In the lead up to their Kenya trip of '08/'09, through fundraising and community awareness, they raised in excess of \$2000 for the shipping of donated educational goods which included 12 laptop computers and 500 books. They obtained these donations from Australian businesses including

Telstra (12 laptop computers) and Scholastic Education (500 books). they also worked with staff and students at Avondale Primary School to promote poverty awareness and develop a relationship between Australian and Kenyan students through PenPal letters. With the donations, the Kibera Community Library was built for the students and wider community of Kibera using spare classrooms of Olympic Academy Primary School, Kibera. In an effort to fully establish the library, Kenya Imagine has begun a book drive with an eventual goal for the library to hold 125,000 books, bringing the books to student ratio in line with that of Victorian schools. Currently, the library holds computer classes for students who attend Olympic Academy and adults who wish to learn basic computer skills.

Once again Chairman Peter is the catalyst for this project and has been so inspired by the work output of these two young people that he intends to ask his club to register the project as a RAWCS project so that they and other Rotary Clubs may become involved. [\(For full details of the project including plans for this Rotary year please contact our Regional Secretary Virginia Turner\)](#)