

News Update | Summer 2015-16

While our work continued overseas, we have been busy in our office, won an award, made some exciting plans, and welcomed another member to the *Disaster Aid International* team.

A few months back, we took a decision to produce these News Updates on a quarterly (seasonal) basis but, circumstances prevented us publishing a Spring edition. Our apologies: we hope this one will make up for that. It is most important to remember we have regular editorial commentary in *Rotary Down Under*, on our website, and in Facebook.

DISASTER AID NEW ZEALAND

A project of the Rotary Club of Wellington (supported by RC Port Nicholson and RC Karori)

Discussions held at the 2014 Rotary Zone Institute in Wellington, have led to **Disaster Aid New Zealand (DANZ)** being officially launched at a meeting of the **Rotary Club of Wellington** on 16 November 2015. It was attended by representatives of Disaster Aid International and Disaster Aid Australia.

At the launch [L-R]: William Sommerville (RC Wellington), Bob Powell, DAA chairman, David Langworthy (DAI chairman), Kane Patena (RC Wellington and DANZ chairman)



DISASTER AID WINS ROTARY AWARD IN SOUTH AMERICA

Rotary Districts in that country recently combined for their **2015 Golden Wheels Awards**. and DAI Chairman, **David Langworthy** was excited to hear from friends at the RCs de Plaza Matriz and Montevideo (Uruguay) that the RC Endeavour Hills was announced, "the winner of the International Category for its Disaster Aid International Rotary club project".

Maria Rezk, President of the Plaza Matriz club told David, "the ceremony was well attended, including the RI Regional Public Image Coordinator", adding, "our club is really proud. We even got the Ministry of Public Health to declare it an *event of national interest!*"

DAA OFFICE – "Welcome Jan"

We recently appointed **Jan Burney** to a part-time position as Office Manager. Jan has experience in administration, including MYOB accounting, and is in the office for several hours three days a week.

She is assisted from time to time by volunteers, mostly from within the RC Endeavour Hills. The office, in Dandenong (SE Melbourne) has been kindly and generously donated by a club member on a rent-free basis.

Jan welcomes enquiries – best by email – to:
admin@disasteraidaustralia.org.au or ☎ 1300 881 913



WORK CONTINUES IN PHILIPPINES AND VANUATU

In September, DAA sent the second of three large infrastructure placements to the **Philippines**. Ten **Sky Hydrants** (Australian water filtration system) were sent and received by our partner, the Balay Mindanaw Foundation.

An Australian DART (Disaster Aid Response Team member) re-visited **Vanuatu** in October following a deployment post-Cyclone Pam in March. Although there has been significant aid provided, small village communities are still affected with tarps still on some rooves.

The mobile sawmill (restored from funds donated to DAA), has enabled stronger buildings to be constructed. A central building used as a classroom (kindergarten to year 3) also doubles as a community meeting room. The people of Vanuatu are currently experiencing a drought and were delighted to see a returning Disaster Aid International DART from Australia.

NEW AID PRODUCTS

We now use two new products **Sawyer Filters** for small family groupings, easily assembled to a small container (pictured). These were used in Nepal and are about to be sent to Vanuatu. That was from a Rotary Foundation Grant to **RC Wynyard**, Tasmania (D9830).



And **Greenco Pak Flat** water tanks (<https://greencowater.com/>) recently deployed to Vanuatu by DAA complement the *SkyHydrant™* systems.

OUT AND ABOUT IN THE ROTARY WORLD

Some notes about our visits to clubs and events

We have attended many clubs recently, including in NSW for a 'road show', **Wollongong South**, **Milton Ulladulla** and **Liverpool West** where we were surprised and delighted with a donation of \$60,000 by members of the Vietnamese community (through that Rotary club and others), specifically aimed at assisting our continuing work in Nepal.

Liverpool West President Alvan Freeman with DAA director, John O'Reilly and a *SkyHydrant™* water filter.



In Victoria, we visited the Rotary clubs of Bendigo, Echuca-Moama, Rochester and Traralgon, while in Tasmania, the RC **Youngtown** will have soon visited every District 9830 club (well done **Ted Burton**). In D9500, RC **Whyalla Norrie** had a display in their shopping mall.



We have been represented at District events at Melbourne's **Victoria Market**, Southland Shopping Centre, Moorabbin, and recently deployed DARTs have spoken at many community organisations and groups.

The interest and support amongst Rotarians and members of the public continues, for which we are most grateful.

At Southland Shopping Centre are Martin Pater [L] and Gus De Hoog [R] from RC Endeavour Hills with D9810 Governor, David Tolstrup.

DISASTER AID AT THE ZONE INSTITUTE IN MELBOURNE

RI President Elect John Germ visits the DAI booth

The 2015 Rotary Zone 8 Institute was held in the Docklands precinct 20-22 Nov. and Disaster Aid International (Australia) was represented.

We were pleased that RI President 2016-2017 **John F Germ** was able to spend some time with us learning about our humanitarian work.

Peter Faulkner, Martin Pater (and see below) and **John O'Reilly** with RIPE **John**.



... and an honour for Martin Pater

A long-standing member of RC Endeavour Hills and a tireless DAA supporter and committee member, **Martin Pater** was made a **Life Member** of **Life Education Victoria** recently, recognising some 25 years of service to the organisation. *LifeEd* has worked closely with Rotary in providing vital drug and health education to Australian children

Martin Pater is pictured with LifeEd Vic. CEO, **Michelle Wood**



ON THE ROAD AGAIN ... with Des Watts

Having traversed most of Australia on his BMW motorcycle over *many* years raising funds for Rotary programs such as Australian Rotary Health, **Des Watts** – a member of the RC **Berri** in SA – will set off in the new year raising awareness of **Disaster Aid Australia**. However, his back will not allow him to travel those distances astride his motorcycle now so, one of the members of the RC Endeavour Hills is loaning Des a *Toyota Land Cruiser* to visit Rotary clubs along and near the east coast of Australia. It will be emblazoned with Disaster Aid livery.

Planning has commenced and Des is set to leave from the DAA office, Dandenong on **Monday 1 Feb 2016**. He will return in time to attend the next DAA Conference in April (see below).

We have started contacting clubs about the possibility of having Des as a guest. If you would like to know more, please email:

admin@disasteraidaustralia.org.au



Des Watts [R] with [L-R] **John O'Reilly, Martin Pater** and **Jan Burney** at the DAA office

➤ **3rd Disaster Aid Australia Conference, 15 – 17 April 2016**

Invitations will be sent shortly to all clubs. This weekend will provide attendees with an insight into this dynamic international Rotary Club project that helps those in need. We are also looking for expressions of interest in becoming a DAA representative in their district.

OTHER NEWS SNIPPETS

- The **DAA Executive** and **DARTs** held a discussion day on Sunday 8 November that included ideas exchange, direction focus and goal setting. It was seen by all as a positive exercise in communication as well as understanding the development of the organisation.
- DAA is excited to be attending two **Western Australian Rotary District Conferences** early next year and to be given the opportunity to share information about our project with our Rotary colleagues in the west.
- Disaster Aid is currently in discussions following enquiries from within **Rotary District 3460 (Taiwan)** about the possibility of forming **Disaster Aid Taiwan** and becoming an associate of Disaster Aid International. Those discussions have been very encouraging.
- In May 2016 DAA and DAI directors will meet to strengthen relationships with Rotarians in **Colombia, South America** and pursue a Rotary Foundation grant aimed at providing Australian *SkyHydrant™* water filters to some eighty (80) Colombian schools.
- Disaster Aid International looks to investigate areas for possible aid in **Myanmar** as well as revisit **Vanuatu** and **Nepal** in 2016. Future News Updates and our website will provide information as it is processed.



All at Disaster Aid Australia extend season's best wishes, especially for a safe, happy and healthy 2016. Thank you so much for your interest and support in making a difference. And please remember, a donation to Disaster Aid Australia makes a wonderful gift ... at any time of year.



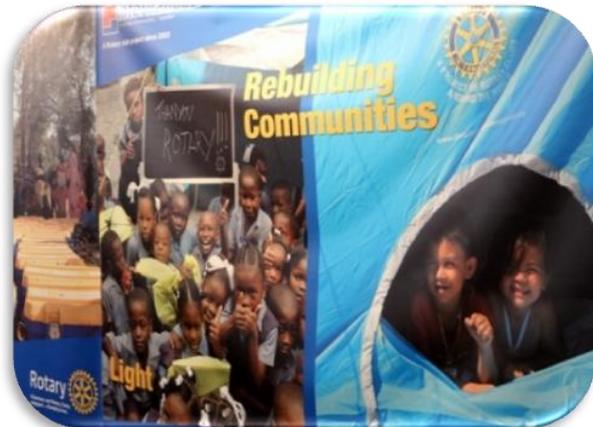
Will you please help support the work of Disaster Aid Australia?

It is a Rotary Club project that really is ... *making a difference.*

Do you have a question, a comment, or need information about items in this News Update?

Office **Jan Burney**
 admin@disasteraidaustralia.org.au
 1300 881 913

Editor **PDG Ray Stewart**
 rstewart@westnet.com.au



An Australian Rotary Club Project, with international associates in Rotary Clubs in Malaysia, New Zealand, UK & Ireland, and the USA.

Please look for news on our website: www.disasteraidaustralia.org.au



<https://www.facebook.com/disasteraidaustralia>



Patron
Max Walker AM

