

August 2007

Issue 1

R.A.M. Newsletter

(Australia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Timor Leste)



Chairman's Message

My Rotary friends and friends of Rotary,

The fight against malaria in our region has been, and continues to be, very successful. Anticipated outcomes constantly exceed expectations. Australian Rotary clubs and private individuals maintain a high level of financial support which has a significant impact on the successes we are achieving through the Adopt A Village (AAV) Programme. The success we achieve relates, in no small part, to the dedication, commitment, and leadership of our past Chairmen, namely, PDG Dr. John Reddish, PDG Richmond Manyweathers, and PDG Peter Thomas. However, each of these people would readily acknowledge they could not have recorded the success achieved during their period in office without the ready cooperation and direct involvement of so many committed people in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, as well as in Australia.

Rotarians are generally known to be people who recognise a need, and then go about doing it, despite obstacles they may face along the way, and without looking for any recognition of the success achieved. However, I believe it is timely we come out from under that 'mushroom' and communicate our successes to others. In this way we are ensuring many more people are better informed of the problems being faced with malaria – including it's impact on children under five years and pregnant women, what we are doing to alleviate the problem in our region, and what malaria control activity may be occurring in other parts of the world.

It is intended this quarterly newsletter will provide the communication link that will assist in ensuring a better informed reader. A critical element in this information link is distribution to all 23 Australian Rotary Districts through their District Governors and District

Governors-elect. It is hoped that each district will circulate this newsletter to their members.

Circulation will include other interested parties. I have received requests from a number of people to be included in the distribution from places as widely spread as Alaska, England, Malaysia, New Zealand, and Australia.

Finally, our objective is,

"The prevention of mortality, and a reduction in morbidity and social and economic loss caused by malaria through a progressive improvement and strengthening of local and national capabilities in malaria control."

*PDG Bill Dethlefs
National Chairman*

Adopt A Village

Although the first contributions under this initiative commenced on 3 September 2003, the actual "Adopt A Village" (AAV) Program was developed for Papua New Guinea (PNG) at the initial annual RAM Conference in Brisbane in June 2004. Contributions increased significantly thereafter. The program was extended to the Solomon Islands (SI) in April 2005. Even though the records commenced with effect from September 2003, significant contributions towards the work of RAM had been made since the mid 1990's. All those who have been involved in the program, including clubs and individuals, can be justly proud of the successes achieved through the development of this initiative including the RAM Chairman in PNG PP Ron Seddon and his team without whom the initiative could not have achieved the significant level of success being experienced. The AAV program is a real success story that is the envy of many people in other parts of the world.

At 30 June 2007, a total of A\$511,891.99 has been contributed to the AAV program. This figure excludes funding by clubs and districts through Matching Grants and some other contributions. The following schedule (excluding MG's) reflects the support for the work of RAM by Clubs and Districts since 3 September 2003.

National Geographic

The July 2007 publication includes an excellent article titled,

'Malaria – Stopping a Global Killer'.

RAM Deputy Chairman Ian Sayers advises the article can be downloaded at:

<http://www7.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0707/feature1/>

District	Papua New Guinea		Solomon Islands	
	# Clubs	A\$ Amt	# Clubs	A\$ Amt
9450	1	2,500	1	1,000
9460			1	500
9470	1	2,500	3	2,500
9500	5	4,000	5	3,350
9520	17	18,262	8	7,950
9550	1	1,000		
9570	3	4,750	1	1,000
9600	3	4,170	1	1,028
9630	1	1,000		
9640	8	5,763	2	650
9650	10	17,146		
9670	9	5,840		
9680	24	55,397	1	1,000
9690	13	20,690	7	10,285
9700	9	6,600		
9710	30	32,355	10	12,550
9750	15	32,300	8	2,429
9780	5	6,445	7	6,500
9790	21	34,300	6	6,500
9800	22	40,250	10	21,450
9810	27	39,608	2	4,500
9820	11	13,056	9	12,312
9830	2	2,000	4	4,250
TOTALS	238	\$349,932	86	\$99,754

The information provided by PDG Richmond Manyweathers in the preparation of this article is greatly appreciated.

Solomon Islands

The Rotary Foundation has recently approved a Health, Hunger & Humanity (3-H) Grant for malaria control in the Solomon Islands. The total amount of the grant project is US\$220,000 with the Rotarian Contribution of US\$20,000 being funded by District 9830 (Tasmania) and a number of clubs in that district.

Primary International Partner is Rotary Club of Kenmore in D9600. The Solomon Islands is a country within that Rotary District

The immediate aim of the project is to reduce the incidence of malaria in the urban area of the City of Honiara by the application of proven malaria control

methods, from the previous incidence in 2004-2005 of 234 cases/1000/year, to less than 80 cases/1000/year by the year 2008-2009.

Specific activities include: the effective distribution of longlife insecticide treated bednets to all residents of the City of Honiara; retreatment of any nets already in use as required; residual spraying of all dwellings within the City limits; effective education of recipients.

A spending plan has been submitted to the Foundation and flow of funds is awaited. In the meantime an order has been placed for the first shipment of Icon, the chemical used in the IRS

program, for delivery in October. An order for the first shipment of treated nets has recently been made.

Work will be undertaken by a volunteer team from D9830 in August to erect a storage shed within the Honiara City Council works area to store the nets, chemicals and spray equipment to be purchased for the 3H grant project. The shed is being provided under the Global Fund program at no cost to the 3H project or Rotary, but it is a vital component in the success of the project.

The information provided by PDG Peter Thomas in the preparation of this article is greatly appreciated.

DATE CLAIMER

NATIONAL RAM CONFERENCE

17 & 18 MAY, 2008

**Shaftesbury
Citizenship Campus,
Burpengary, Qld**

**(on the northern
outskirts of Brisbane)**

Bed Net Program March/May 2007

This program was supported by PNG Sustainable Development Program Ltd (PNGSDP), Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM) and Australian Doctors International Inc (ADI). The project began with the signing of a PNGSDP/ADI funding contract in Port Moresby, followed by ADI consultations with RAM Chairman, Ron Seddon, and Western Province's Department of Health Director, Alice Honjepari, in Port Moresby and Daru.

10,000 survey forms were printed (in books of 50) and house by house surveys conducted in North Fly District. Around 100 villages and refugee camps were surveyed. The town of Kiunga (population 10,000) was also included. Health workers from several health

centres/aidposts were recruited as Survey Officers. Others were sourced through the District Malaria Officer, Rumginae Rural Hospital and Montfort Catholic Mission. Over fifty individuals were engaged and contributed to the program's success.

Both the survey and distribution were managed by ADI, operating from Montfort Catholic Mission.

Once completed, the survey forms were summarised by serial number, family and location on computer spreadsheets. The spreadsheet printouts for each location were the basis of the distribution of 19,600 nets.

Where it proved impractical to reach a computer the survey forms were summarised and analysed by hand.

It was clear from the outset that the general public was delighted that the bed net distribution was taking place. This was reflected in ready assistance being provided by anyone who realised their help could contribute to the project's success. Co-operation and support at all levels was excellent.

The PNG Army's Forward Defence Unit stationed at Kiunga was also a great help. For three weeks the Unit provided an army truck, driver and a dozen soldiers to distribute bed nets throughout Kiunga – a contribution much appreciated by the local community.

*George McLelland,
ADI Field Director*

R.A.M. National Structure

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

with effect from 1 July 2007.

POSITION	NAME	RESPONSIBILITIES
Chairman	PDG Bill Dethlefs	Liaison with RAWCS; setting and managing the annual conference agenda; issuing a newsletter at least quarterly; establishing a continuing liaison with our NZ counterparts and others as may be appropriate.
Deputy Chairman	PDG Ian Sayers	Development of a procedures/reference manual; manage the functional arrangements of our annual conference; provide support to the Chairman as may be required.
PNG Liaison	PDG Richmond Manyweathers	Generation of support for RAM through contributions to Adopt A Village in PNG & SI and in general coordination with PP Ron Seddon in PNG.
SI Liaison	PDG Peter Thomas	General coordination with PP Dr. Nathan Kere in SI; managing the malaria control 3H Grant to a successful conclusion.
Timor Leste Liaison	PDG John McLaren	Primarily a liaison role with RC of Warringah and their association with RC of Dili.
Scientific Advisory Committee Liaison	PP Dr. Diana Hart	Maintain liaison with this committee.

DID YOU KNOW

Each and every day of the year, the number of deaths in the world resulting from malaria exceeds the number of deaths ensuing from the September 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington.

Tanzania

The Rotary Clubs of The Island & Royal Manor of Portland in the UK and Arusha in Tanzania have been awarded a 3H Grant from The Rotary Foundation worth in total US\$349,684 to support the Rotarians Eliminating Malaria in Tanzania (REMIT) project. This project has already received two Matching Grants worth, in total, £140,000 and, in the areas where these grants have been implemented, the morbidity and mortality from malaria have dropped by 50%.

The project plan has six objectives, namely:

To reduce the mortality from malaria by 50% (or more) in the Arusha area of Tanzania through the integration of all available facilities;

To reduce the number of missed school days by students (estimated at 10% at present).

To reduce the number of missed working days from malaria;

To reduce problems brought about by misdiagnosing malaria in hospital;

To reduce the incidence of malaria in pregnant and nursing mothers by 50% initially; and,

To publicize to a wider audience the benefits of using insecticide-treated nets to prevent malaria.

The loss to the African economy because of malaria is estimated at \$12 billion annually. The World Health Organisation agrees that the best method of attacking malaria is by the provision of insecticide-treated nets. WHO wants to see a net over every bed in Sub-Saharan Africa within the next ten years.

This project fits in with that aim.

Source: Information obtained from 3H application to TRF and associated material.

Global Fund

Earlier this month the Pacific Islands Regional Multi-country Coordinating Mechanism submitted a proposal to the Global Fund requesting US\$52.29 million over six years commencing July 2008 to intensify malaria control activities and to move towards elimination in pilot provinces in both the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

A number of people directly involved in the development of the proposal are known to RAM Australia including Dr Jeffery Hii representing the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The Global Fund Board will make their decision on 13-15 November 2007 in Kunming, China.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Papua New Guinea – www.ram.com.pg

Solomon Islands - www.ramguadalcanal.com.sb

Others - www.map.ox.ac.uk
www.remarag.org

THE WASHINGTON POST : WHO's Flexibility on Mosquito Control

Wednesday, August 22, 2007;

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In the Aug. 17 news story "WHO Backs Free, Treated Mosquito Nets to Prevent Malaria," The Post's Stephanie McCrummen described an important issue in malaria control but contributed to a fundamental misunderstanding of the [World Health Organization](#)'s guidelines on insecticide-treated nets.

The document posted on the WHO Web site says clearly that there are strong advantages to using both free net distribution to rapidly boost coverage, and maintaining subsidized distribution to ensure continued high coverage. The system for routine distribution, according to the WHO document, should follow national guidelines and conform to the context of each country's health system and its experience.

It is misleading to suggest that free distribution is WHO's recommendation for all situations. Malaria is too complex a problem to be solved by using a single method in all countries. The sooner we all realize that countries matter and that each situation is unique, the sooner we can ensure that programs operate at maximum effectiveness.

MATTHEW LYNCH

Director, Global Program on Malaria

Johns Hopkins University Center for

Communication Programs

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Contributions and comments are welcome.