



RAM NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 Number 6

My Rotary Friends and Friends of Rotary

As a Rotarian and a member of Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM) I'm very proud of what we're doing. However (there's always a "however" isn't there?) we are only a very small part of what is really a massive, world-wide, campaign to rid the world of this dreadful disease. The more I learn about what

is being done, worldwide, the more convinced I become that malaria can, and will, be beaten. I'm staggered at the number of NGO-type organisations, in some cases massive ones, that are now very directly involved in the anti-malaria fight. To name just a few there – Nothing But Nets, Malaria No More, The Malaria Consortium, and Buy-a-Net.

I'm including a special item on the Global Fund in recognition of its tenth year in operation.

We will also have reports from the members of the RAM Executive who are directly involved, and specialise, in our target countries – Papua New Guinea, the Solomons and Timor Leste. I'm sure you'll share my delight in knowing we will well and truly meet the target we set ourselves to get the *Adopt A Village* program going in Timor Leste.

There will be a short section dealing with the annual RAM Conference to be held weekend 25/26 May.

Please make sure you read that section and take any action needed – numbers are restricted because of space. I'm also attaching a notice on the Conference with more detail.

I'll also be writing about *World Malaria Day*, and our version, *Malaria Awareness Day*. Because of the coincidence of *World Malaria Day* with one of the most important days in our national calendar, ANZAC Day, we have to be different, and just a little bit cleverer to get our message across.

The "big news" early in the years was the announcement that the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation renewed its commitment to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Announced at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, the Gates Foundation is giving \$750 million through a promissory note—a new and innovative funding mechanism.

"These are tough economic times, but that is no excuse for cutting aid to the world's poorest," said Bill Gates, co-chair of the Gates Foundation. "The Global Fund is one of the most effective ways we invest our money every year."

Providing funding through a promissory note gives the Global Fund the flexibility and authority to distribute funds efficiently based on immediate needs, leading to greater impact.

For those who may not be aware of this, Bill Gates issues an annual letter. To view the latest go to - <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/annual-letter/2012/Pages/home-en.aspx>

Ian Sayers
Chairman

The Global Fund – 10 years on

In January 2012, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS TB and Malaria marked the end of its first decade. The President of the United Nations Foundation, Timothy E Wirth, issued the following statement -

"A decade ago the United Nations General Assembly created the Global Fund. A bold, unprecedented roadmap that brings people living with the disease, implementing countries, donor governments, private sector organizations, and community groups together to build effective partnerships to solve some of the most complex global health challenges. The Global Fund was established to raise and distribute money to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in developing countries. Today, on its ten-year anniversary, we should applaud the Fund's successes, commend its courage to learn from its mistakes and reconfirm our commitment to support efforts to prevent and treat people in countries that are most affected by HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

The Global Fund has translated funding into action. By providing billions of dollars to developing countries, it has expanded HIV prevention to millions, including half the world's HIV-positive pregnant women in need of medicine to prevent transmission to their children, decreased the number of annual cases of tuberculosis since 2006 and reduced the number of

malaria cases by 17 percent globally between 2000 and 2010.

Since answering the United Nation's call to action in 2001, the UN Foundation has mobilized resources and worked in close partnership with the Global Fund. In particular, the UN Foundation has been proud to partner with Product (RED) to raise more than \$57 million for the Global Fund, and with the United Methodist Church in its Imagine No Malaria campaign, as well as the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and Lutheran World Relief in their Lutheran Malaria Initiative, which could result in up to \$41 million for the Global Fund.

If we want to continue to see success from these investments, we must reconfirm our commitments to the Global Fund. If we do and continue scaling up successful programs and interventions by 2015, we can dramatically reduce deaths from AIDS, end malaria deaths, and achieve significant declines in TB mortality. Investing in the Global Fund is in the best interest of us all. It will help improve the lives of millions of people and help ensure global stability and progress."

Former United National Secretary-General Kofi Annan, reflecting on the start of the Global Fund, recently said –

In country after malaria-endemic country, we see remarkable falls in child mortality thanks to the widespread availability of bed nets and effective treatment.

Adopt-A-Village Program

The RAM Adopt A Village Funding Coordinator, PDG Richmond Manyweathers, advises that total contributions towards the work of RAM for all projects since we commenced the *Adopt A Village* program in 2003 are \$1,114,879.57.

This excludes the many Matching Grants and the two very large 3-H Grants in the Solomons.

Personally, and also on behalf of PDG Richmond, may I remind everyone that we have to raise \$100,000 to fill that contain of LLINs (referred to in the Timor Leste Update below). We're getting much closer, but still have a way to go. So, when anyone is interested in donating to *Adopt A Village*, ask that the donation be directed to Timor Leste.

2012 RAM Conference

A notice giving details, to date, of the Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM) Conference is attached with this Newsletter.

Repeating a few points on the Conference that are in the notice. We have been very kindly invited to hold it at the Australian Army Malaria Institute at Enoggera. Space is limited, so if you intend joining us, please let me know as soon as possible. My address details are at the end of the Newsletter. **Attendance is restricted to no more than 60 so early advice of attendance is essential.**

If you will be attending I need to know –

If you will need lunch on Saturday?

If you are attending the dinner Saturday evening?

Because the Australian Army Malaria Institute is located on an Australian Defence Forces base, **I must know names of those attending by no later than close of business 11 May.**

Update – Papua New Guinea

As most of you are aware, RAM Port Moresby, has the Global Fund contract to distribute long lasting insecticide treated mosquito nets (LLINs) throughout Papua New Guinea. All Rotarians can be extremely proud of what they're achieving. It's a really incredible result.

What follows is largely based on a report presented to a recent Northern Region RAWCS meeting by PDG Phil Dempster.

December saw the end of the second year of the Global Grant project to net the whole of PNG. The details and the table below show their success over the last two years.

Results

Between November 2009 and December 2010, RAM staff had been involved in the distribution of nets in 10 provinces and the National Capital District (NCD). During this period RAM distributed about 822,000 nets to household level and about 92,600 nets to vulnerable groups. In 2011, from January to December, the programme worked in 9 provinces. During 2011 the programme delivered about 1,186,696 nets to household level and a further 182,883 to vulnerable groups.

For more information, please see the table below.

Date	District	Province	Nets Delivered
Oct 09 - Feb 10	National Capital;	NCD	56,961
Mar - May 10	Kairuku, Hiri, Rigo	Central	79,485
Apr - Jul 10	Kerema, Kikori	Gulf	72,534
May - Jun 10	Manus	Manus	26,770
Jun - Aug 10	Kavieng, Namatanai	New Ireland	77,760
Jul - Sep 10	Ijivitari, Sohe	Oro	91,036
Aug - Oct 10	North, Central, South	North Solomon's	114,741
Sep - Oct 10	Middle Fly	Western	37,605
Oct - Dec 10	Talasea, Kandrian Gloucester	West New Britain	121,852
Nov 10 - Jan 11	Kokopo, Rabaul, Gazelle, Pomio	East New Britain	143,400
Dec 10 - Feb 11	Alotau, Kiriwina Goodenough, Samuraim and Esa'ala	Milne Bay	123,430
Jan 11	NCD	NCD	49,596
Feb - Apr 11	Goroka, Henganofi, Lufa, Obura Wonenara, Okapa	Eastern Highlands	199,228
Feb - Apr 11	Anglimp/South Waghi, Dei, Mul Baiyer, North Waghi, Tambul Nebliyer	Western Highlands	211,759
May - Jul 11	Gumine, Karamui Nomane, Chuave, Kerowagi	Chimbu	115,000
May - Jul 11	Markham, Tiwae Siassi	Morobe	59,757
Jul - Oct 11	Rai Coast, Bogia, Madang	Madang	146,396
Aug - Oct 11	Angoram, Maprik, Yangouro Saussi, Wewak	East Sepik	163,032
Oct - Nov 11	Vanimo Green, Aitape Lumi, Nuku	Sundaun	116,868
Oct 11	Kerema, Kikori	Gulf	1,486
Total			2,008, 696

Distribution is based on the needs of a family. •

One net for mother and father and up to two children under the age of 6.

One net is given to boys between the age of 6 and 16 (one net for three boys)

One net is given to girls between the age of 6 and 16 (one net for three girls).

Extra nets are given for other family dependents

Also in 2011, the programme started a new provincial programme of distribution of nets to pregnant women through antenatal clinics. In this programme, all provincial health authorities were given a stock of single nets



equivalent to about four months needs together with register books to record the nets distributed. In this programme provinces can get more nets by sending in copies of register books to the National Department of Health (NDOH) or RAM showing how they have distributed their nets. For every net distributed to pregnant women they receive more. This programme is working well in some provinces such as Central, NCD, Western Highlands, Eastern Highlands and East Sepik, but in some provinces feedback has been very poor and in 2012 RAM together with NDOH staff will follow up to find out what has become of the nets distributed.



Isn't this what it's all about – child with net

Conclusion.

RAM has shown increased performance in 2011. With the programme starting almost five months late in 2010, RAM has managed to finish its Phase One programme only four weeks later than planned. During this time, not only has performance increased, so has its ability to monitor its activities more effectively and overcome difficulties of bad weather, difficult terrain and often difficult circumstances, such as when two vehicles in Madang became involved in tribal fights and were severely damaged with two RAM staff injured through these attacks

So far in 2012 we have not delivered anything as we are waiting for new supply of nets but have started surveys of Morobe and Eastern Highlands Province.

In Geneva during the first week of February PP Ron Seddon, Rotary Club of Port Moresby, on behalf of RAM, signed for Stage 2 of the Global Fund Grant.

As already said above, what an incredible result.

Update – Solomon Islands

In 2011 the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) distributed over 46,000 long lasting insecticide treated mosquito nets (LLINs) as part of the campaign to maintain high population coverage with LLINs. This is following the distribution of just over 316,000 LLINs in 2010. Reports from a survey conducted in 2011 indicates that 91 % of all households surveyed owned at least one ITN (LLIN) and 81.5% of households owning more than one ITN (LLIN).

The 2011 Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) campaign saw over 37,900 households sprayed with insecticide. This intervention, coupled with high LLIN coverage has significantly reduced the transmission of malaria in Solomon Islands, such that the annual incidence of confirmed malaria cases (Annual Parasite Incidence) has decreased markedly to under 47 cases per 1,000 population in 2011 (actual data available at present indicates an API of 46.5 cases per 1,000 population in 2011) This is down from 75 cases per 1,000 population incidence in 2010.



IRS in the Solomons

There has also been significant gains in the roll out of diagnostic capacity in health facilities across Solomon Islands, with approximately 94% of health facilities having access to either microscopy services or available stock of rapid diagnostic test kits for malaria.

To increase community awareness of malaria, and to encourage community acceptance of key malaria interventions, the NVBDCP with the Solomons Ministry of Health and Medical Services Health Promotion Unit have been actively visiting schools. In 2011, over 230 schools were visited, with presentation of malaria information and educational materials provided.

Just have a look at the figures in the rest of the report provided by “our man in the Solomons” PDG Wayne Morris OBE. Australian Rotarians – you can feel very pleased with yourselves. The Rotary Foundation 3-H Grant eleven years ago started all this.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE MALARIA ACTION PLAN 2012

As a result of a multi-faceted interventions approach, there will be:

- A reduction in the national annual parasite incidence rate (API) in Solomon Islands from 55/1,000 population in 2011 to 40/1,000 population by 2012
- A reduction of the API in the highest transmission rate provinces (Honiara City Council, Guadalcanal Province, Malaita Province) to less than 80/1,000 population.
- To maintain the current gains in reducing annual malaria-related deaths in Solomon Islands at less than 1/100,000 population by 2012

The above targets will be achieved through the following **programmatic objectives**:

- To achieve/maintain high coverage (>80%) of the population at risk of malaria with appropriate vector control measures (LLINs, IRS) and maintain coverage throughout the year
- To ensure universal access to early and quality assured malaria diagnosis, effective treatment and prevention for populations living in malaria endemic areas by end of 2011
- To maximize utilization of malaria control services through strengthening of community mobilization efforts/BCC
- To strengthen routine malaria surveillance, monitoring and evaluation, as well as operational research to inform programme management and implementation strategies
- To accelerate malaria elimination efforts in the two targeted provinces (Temotu and Isabel) through intensive surveillance and active response to foci.
- To improve programme management through strengthened national leadership and governance, decentralized implementation and strong partnerships.

There were also some interesting comments about the change in the *Adopt A Village* program in the Solomons –

The Ministry of Health have decided to implement the Tools for Villages concept in the Healthy Community program and have appointed someone to oversee the project. It is intended to concentrate on Isabel and Guadalcanal Provinces first. To date tools have been distributed to 8 Communities on Isabel, the cost of tools per community is AUD\$560.

Update – Timor Leste

We are looking forward to again having representatives from the Timor Leste Ministry of Health join us at the May RAM Conference. The visit by two officers last year resulted in us adding Timor Leste to the *Adopt A Village* program. I must also thank RAWCS Northern Region for again finding funds to support the travel of two officers to our 2012 Conference. Our Timor Leste specialist, PDG Phil Dempster reports –

RAM is currently in a position where we can order the LLINs for RAWCS Project 143/2010-2011. To facilitate the delivery of these nets and Rotary’s role in the distribution process Dili Rtn Daryl Mills OAM is currently in discussion with the Timor Leste Ministry of Health.

Everyone will also recall that the TLMOH advised that Australian Rotarians would be welcome to join LLIN distribution teams.

Report RAM PIRMCCM Representative

Our representative on the Pacific Islands Regional Multi-Country Coordinating Mechanism (PIRMCCM) PDG Peter Thomas has been extremely busy over the past few weeks. You will recall that PIRMCCM is the regional, Pacific, body that looks after Global Fund grants within the region. Peter was elected to represent RAM some years ago on PIRMCCM. His value was very obviously quickly recognized, as he is now a member of its Executive. It is a voluntary position.

PDG Peter’s report follows -

The Executive Committee of PIRMCCM is working at a frantic pace to prepare submissions to the Global Fund for Transitional Funding to cover the ongoing work in HIV/Aids and TB control for the two year period (2013-14) when normal Global Fund allocations will not be available. 31st March is the deadline for proposal submission, and we just have to make that date! Coordinating information from right across the Pacific, and overcoming *Melanesian time* is a challenge that must be overcome to ensure the health of these people.

Fortunately, the Malaria Grant continuation funding to cover that difficult period, was approved before the funding crisis hit. The program in the Solomons and Vanuatu will continue in the same very effective manner

Malaria Awareness Day 2012

Every year the world malaria community commemorates *World Malaria Day* on **25 April**. The theme for *World Malaria Day* 2012 - "**Sustain Gains, Save Lives: Invest in Malaria**" focuses on the critical need for continued investment in malaria control to safeguard the gains that have been made over the past decade and to promote health and development in malaria-endemic countries. As you know, in deference to the significance of 25 April in Australia, the National Rotarians Against Malaria Committee decided to recognise **Malaria Awareness Day** on **30 April**.

This year, unlike what we've done in the past few years, we're not going to circulate a Community Service Announcement and ask that it be given to local TV stations. Last year, after the event, I conducted a very short "straw poll" and learned that it wasn't worthwhile repeating the exercise, as it received very limited air time. A number of us spent a great deal of time negotiating with local TV stations to little or no avail.

Let's give some thought, at the local level, to what Rotary clubs might do at that time to recognise the date. In 2012, 30 April is a Monday. One suggestion would be at your Club meeting during week commencing Monday 30 April 2012, invite someone to speak on malaria. Another would be to get an item in your local newspaper – highlight any donation you may have made to, for example, the *Adopt A Village* program. We know that the findings of research in Papua New Guinea on results of the intervention program, already released in draft form, should be available within a few weeks. As soon as we get clearance, we'll get this information to you. It's an extremely good story.

The Australian Government commemorates *World Malaria Day* with special items on the AusAID website, called a Hot Topic. Last years can be viewed at –

http://www.ausaid.gov.au/hottopics/topic.cfm?ID=9184_9992_4064_8108_9971&From=HT

Did you know:

The ancient Chinese called malaria the "mother of fevers" while in India over three thousand five hundred years ago it became known as the "king of diseases" personified by the fever demon Takman.

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Contributions and comments are welcome.