

RAM NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 Number 7

My Rotary Friends and Friends of Rotary
I should start with an apology – an apology for it being so long between Newsletters. No excuses – I’m no different to many Rotarians in that I might have just a little too much “on my plate”.

Quite a lot has happened since the last Newsletter. The most important was the annual Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM) Conference held in May at the Australian Army Malaria Institute at Enoggera, Queensland. It was an extremely interesting venue, and we were made most welcome by Professor Denis Shanks and his staff. We had some very interesting speakers, and also were brought right up-to-date on the various aspects of RAM – Papua New Guinea, the Solomons, Timor-Leste and Adopt A Village. It was great to have two representatives of the Timor-Leste Ministry of Health join us

I won’t go into detail here as a report on the Conference can be found on our website.

One important development is that, thanks to a very dedicated Canberra Rotaractor and member of the District 9710 RAM Committee, we’re now in the 21st Century, and have a Facebook page. Check it out –

<http://www.facebook.com/ram.australia>

In the Papua New Guinea section below I have included some material from a report prepared by RAM Port Moresby . There are some quite incredible figures. Our Port Moresby RAM colleagues are doing a tremendous job.

There is a very “good news” story appended to the report from the Solomons. It relates to a very recent visit to the Solomons by the Australian Foreign Minister, Senator the Hon Bob Carr.

As I write this, I’ve learned that the nets ordered for the initial RAM distribution in Timor-Leste will arrive in Dili in a couple of weeks. Our Timor-Leste specialist, PDG Phil Dempster, tells me there has been great interest from Australian Rotarians in being part of that distribution. They will join PDG Phil who will be spending some time in Timor-Leste representing the RAM National Committee.

I’m including a few notes on *Malaria 2012*, a major conference that will be held in Sydney 31 Oct – 2 Nov 2012.

Ian Sayers
Chairman

News from other parts of the world

In a recent Newsletter we spoke of the many other anti-malaria initiatives that are taking place throughout the world. This story was recently picked up, and tells a little about the *Nothing But Nets* program. What it also tells us is that the results experienced in Papua New Guinea are being replicated elsewhere. We’re obviously on the right track

The United Nations is reporting that malaria has dropped from being the leading cause of death among refugees living along the Sudan border. Among the locations where the new malaria-reducing strategies are being employed is the Kakuma Camp for Sudanese refugees in northern Kenya.

Not long ago, malaria killed more Sudanese refugees than any other disease. But now, while it is still deadly, the U.N. reports it is only the fifth leading cause of death among the estimated 38,000 Sudanese refugees living in the Kakuma refugee camp in northern Kenya.

The reason - a five-year campaign called *Nothing But Nets* run by The United Nations Foundation. *Nothing But Nets* is the largest grassroots campaign in the world and it hopes to end malaria deaths by 2015.

Now, *Nothing But Nets* has launched an emergency appeal to send 100,000 life-saving bed nets to help thousands of South Sudanese refugees fleeing conflict and violence along the Sudan border.

Thirty-seven-year-old Achol Deng is a mother of three from Jonglei state. She is among thousands of new arrivals in the Kakuma refugee camp. Deng received mosquito nets that she will need to save her young family during the rainy season.

Deng says the mosquito net she received will protect her children if she uses it the way she was instructed. She says she hopes because of the net, her family will be free from malaria.

Refugees free from the disease are what malaria campaigners, partners, and supporters want to see as they make a two-day visit to the Kakuma refugee camp to distribute mosquito nets.

Chris Helfrich is the Director of the U.N. Foundation’s *Nothing But Nets* campaign. On a recent

visit to the Kakuma camp he says life is tough enough for refugees, and they should not have to worry about dying from malaria.

"It's a tough situation here in Kakuma, obviously, but we are happy to bring hope and do a little of something; these people, they have very tough lives but we are happy to bring nets because with everything else they have to deal with, malaria shouldn't be one of them."

The *Nothing But Nets* campaign was started after American sports journalist Rick Reilly challenged his readers to donate at least \$10 to help purchase bed nets. Now, the group raises millions of dollars from hundreds of thousands of people worldwide.



American sports writer Rick Reilly

Canadian actress Serinda Swan, who is best known for her role in the series "Breakout Kings," is just one of many celebrities who have joined the campaign.

"We've come here to help bring awareness and stop malaria. It's a killer of a child every 60 seconds in Africa and that's a statistic that needs to stop. We are here to distribute nets, we here to talk to people, we are here to figure out what is going on in the camp, what can be improved just get their story out..."

While the *Nothing But Nets* campaign is saving lives, U.N. officials are concerned about a possible wave of new refugees fleeing violence between Sudan and South Sudan. Chris Helfrich of the U.N. Foundation says the *Nothing But Nets* campaign will continue as long as needed.

"We will continue raising money from Americans working tirelessly to try to save nets. We are committed to making sure that every refugee in Kakuma and across the continent has a net over their heads to keep them safe from malaria. We are not going away; we are going to stay committed to this."

With the help of partners at the UN Refugee Agency, the United Nations Foundation's *Nothing But Nets* campaign has distributed bed nets in more than 20 Sub-Saharan countries, helping to cut malaria deaths by one-third within the last decade, according to the World Health Organization

2013 RAM Conference

Reserve the date.

The 2013 RAM Conference will be held at Caboolture, Queensland, over the weekend 18/19 May 2013.

Details of the venue will be advised later, but meantime please note the date in your diaries. We are hoping we will be able to again meet at St Columban's Catholic Secondary College, McKean Street, Caboolture, and will be able confirm this later.

Past attendees will recall that there is motel accommodation very close by.

Update – Papua New Guinea

As everyone is aware, RAM Port Moresby, has the Global Fund contract to distribute long lasting insecticide treated mosquito nets (LLINs) throughout Papua New Guinea. At the risk of being repetitious, can we say again that all Rotarians can be extremely proud of what RAM Port Moresby is achieving.

The following information has been taken from a recent PowerPoint report prepared by RAM Port Moresby. Just have a look at the numbers involved. It's quite incredible. The first column relates to quarters.

Nets Delivered to Household Level

Team	Dates	District	Province	Nets Delivered
Phase Two	Nov 09 - Oct 11	50 Districts	18 Provinces	1,890,448
Q9	Nov-11	Angoram	East Sepik	400
Q9	Nov-11	Nuke Aitape	Sandaun	99,756
Q9	Nov-11	Ihu and Kerema	Gulf	1,486
Q10	Feb-12	Nawae, Bulolo	Morobe	9,223
Q11	January/May 2012	Kainantu, Daulo and Ungai Benna	Eastern Highlands	114,584
Q11	January/May 2012	Kundiawa Gembodl and Sinasin Yonggomugl	Chimbu	65,638
Q11	January/June 2012	Bulolo, Lae and Huon	Morobe	166,343
Q11	January/June 2012	Mount Hagen and Jimi	Western Highlands	78,639
Total Q9 + Q10 + Q11				527,440
Overall Total Phase One and Phase Two				2,417,888

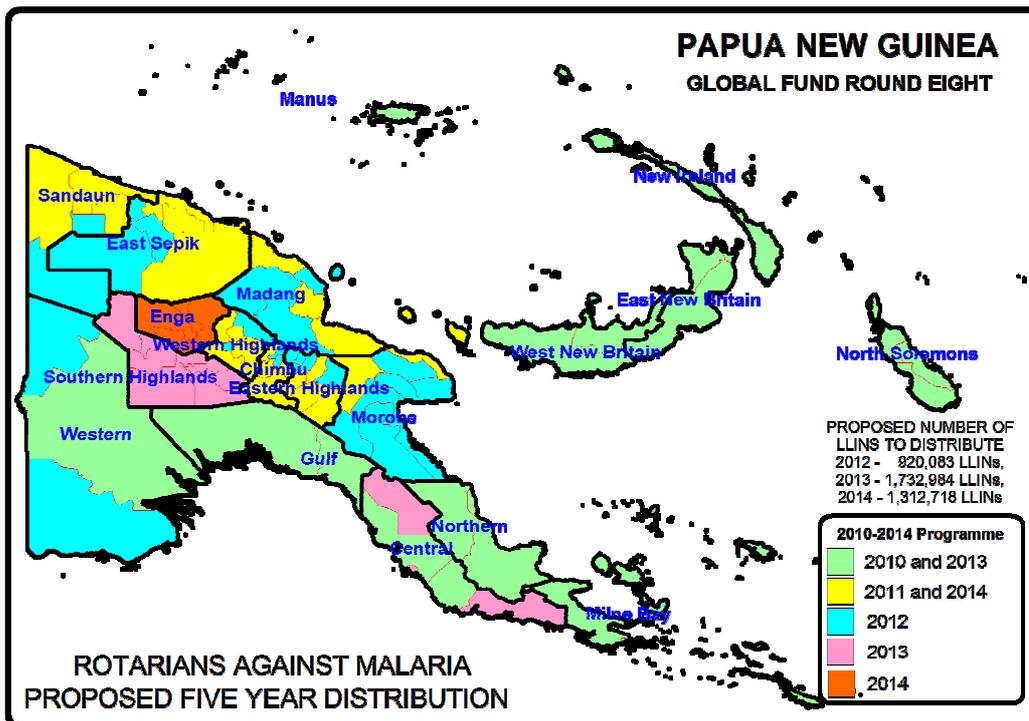
Note - Little distribution in Q10 due to late arrival of nets

In addition to delivering LLINs to villages, RAM Port Moresby also delivers nets to vulnerable groups as shown in the following table.

Nets Delivered To Vulnerable Groups

Totals	Antenatal	Schools	Prisons	Others	Totals
Phase One	208,602	43,242	4,656	5,158	261,658
Nov-Dec 2010	15,089	4,740	0	507	20,319
Jan-Mar 2012	11,697	0	0	1,821	13,535
Apr-Jun 2012	68,542	0	0	168	68,710
Total PH 2	95,328	4,740	0	2,496	102,564
Total Prog	303,930	47,982	4,656	7,654	364,222

Past and future distributions have also been mapped – see following map



What is even more telling are the achievement figures shown below – have a look at the percentage achievements.

Achievement Of Targets

RAM Indicators	Targets Cumulative			
	Phase One	Q9	Q10	Q11
Number of LLINs distributed through mass campaigns	2,064,431	0	150,000	500,000
Number of LLINs delivered to ANC and ART centers and other vulnerable groups	228,042	0	50,000	100,000

RAM Indicators	Achievement			
	Phase One	Q9	Q10	Q11
Number of LLINs distributed through mass campaigns	1,890,448	93,013	102,236	528,264
Number of LLINs delivered to ANC and ART centers and other vulnerable groups	261,658	20,319	33,854	102,564

Percentage Achievements Of Targets (Accumulative)				
RAM Indicators	Phase One	Q9	Q10	Q11
Number of LLINs distributed through mass campaigns	91.6	NA	68.2	105.7
Number of LLINs delivered to ANC and ART centers and other vulnerable groups	114.7	NA	67.7	102.6

Update – Solomon Islands

The Malaria Division has continued with its program of distributing bed nets and spraying of houses during the first six months of 2012. 11,005 bed nets have been distributed. With regards to testing, 91,248 people were tested and 10,833 were positive, of those tested 6,993 were infants with 638 tested positive. Unfortunately I do not have the figures for the number of cases per thousand although indications are it has remained static at 40-45 per thousand.

The *Adopt A Village* tools program is continuing with support from the Ministry of Health through its Healthy Community program. A further nine (9) communities have applied, and been approved, and tools will be distributed later this month. The balance of funds held for the program is AUD\$6,100 which would be sufficient for another ten (10) communities.

A team from the Rotary Club of Heidelberg, District 9790, together with local contractors erected the prefab house for the malaria staff at Marau Guadalcanal. The malaria officers from Marau are very grateful that they finally have a house. Funding has been applied for to construct the two remaining houses at Seghe, Western Province. Once funds have been received two volunteer teams will be organised.

Senator Bob Carr, Australian Foreign Minister, visited Solomon Islands from 17-20 August and whilst here announced further funding of AUD\$14.75m for the 2012/2013 to 2016/2017 financial years for the malaria eradication program. The World Health Organisation office is to be upgraded to Country Representative office and will be the lead technical agency for the Malaria program. The PacMISC contract has been extended to December 2013.

The following article appeared in the *Solomon Times Online* 20 Aug 12. It expands on what was reported above (final paragraph). There will be more about the conference mentioned in the final sentence later in the Newsletter.

Australia Assists in Fighting Malaria

Australia will aim for the long-term elimination of malaria in the Solomon Islands, starting with delivery of an additional \$14.75 million over four years.



Australian Foreign Minister, Bob Carr meets with local nurses at Tulagi Hospital

The money will be used mainly to treat bed nets, mosquito spraying and community education over the proposed period. Speaking from Tulagi Hospital in the Solomons Central Province, Senator Carr said Australian assistance had already prevented 77,000 cases of malaria since 2003. "We're delivering practical measures to fight this preventable, yet potentially fatal disease," Senator Carr said. "This new funding would cover treated mosquito nets for beds, spraying programs and community education, particularly for children and pregnant women. "Australian aid has already reduced malaria incidence in the Solomon Islands from 199 cases per 1000 people ten years ago, to just 46 cases per 1000 people today.

"Over the next four years we're aiming for further major reductions in the Solomon Islands malaria rate, reducing the burden on hospitals like Tulagi and helping save local lives. "And in the longer term we'll be working towards elimination of malaria in Solomon Islands communities." Australia's additional four-year anti-malaria funding in the Solomon Islands would commence later in 2012. Australia would also host a regional anti-malaria conference in Sydney from October 31 to November 2, 2012, to better co-ordinate Asia-Pacific campaigns to fight the disease.

Update – Timor-Leste

It's taken a while, but RAM ordered and paid for a large consignment of long lasting insecticide treated nets (LLINs) and these will arrive in Timor-Leste in early October. The nets are Olyset nets, made by Sumitomo Chemical. The chemical with which the nets are impregnated is permethrin. For those interested in learning more about these nets go to <http://www.olyset.net/olysetnet/>

A number of Australian Rotarians have expressed an interest in accompanying the net distribution teams once this starts later in October. The nets will be taken to the villages of Manatuto, Lalea, Laclubar and Soibada. The RAM National Committee's Timor-Leste specialist, PDG Phil Dempster will travel to Dili in October to help with the distribution planning.

Adopt-A-Village Program

The following has been provided by RAM Adopt A Village (AAV) specialist, PDG Richmond Manyweathers.

The following is an historical outline of support for RAM up to the end of July, 2012

I generally cut off 'yearly' donations at the end of July because of the slow passage of club contributions when cheques are drawn and posted at the end of June and into early July.

The summary of club contributions for 2011/2012 is also ready in hard copy and will go to Chairman Ian for distribution via the web site.

FUNDS RECEIVED by YEARS:

2003/2008	\$713,096.13
2008/2009	\$129,740.14
2009/2010	\$179,854.36
2010/2011	\$114,387.43
2011/2012	\$133,747.90
Total	\$1,270,825.96

FUNDS ALLOCATED TO PROJECTS SINCE RAM INITIATED AAV (2003)

AAV in PNG	\$867,894.35
AAV in the Solomons	\$195,708.34
AAV in Timor Leste	\$134,020.42
D.9810 Special Project in Timor-Leste	\$14,850.00
MAD	\$1,035.40
General	\$57,317.45

A mighty effort with more to be done.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed, and who are continuing to contribute – as PDG Richmond said, there's " ...more to be done.".. A special thanks to those who met the request for funds to initiate the *Adopt A Village* program in Timor-Leste. The target was achieved and, as you'll read in the Timor-Leste update, the distribution of LLINs will commence shortly.

Conference - Malaria 2012

This conference is hosted by the Australian Government through the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). It will be held in Sydney 31 Oct – 2 Nov 2012 at the Intercontinental Hotel.

The following is taken from the conference website and describes what it's about

Malaria is a life-threatening disease that causes enormous human suffering and hundreds of thousands of deaths globally. Malaria is both preventable and treatable

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there are more than 200 million malaria cases globally each year, with more than 30 million cases and 42,000 lives lost in the Asia-Pacific region in 2010 alone. More than 90 per cent of these deaths were in India, Burma, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.

Great progress has been made by countries in the Asia-Pacific region in controlling malaria over the past decade, but these gains are now threatened by the emergence

of drug resistance in the region.

The *Malaria 2012* conference aims to accelerate progress towards the global target of a 75 per cent reduction in malaria cases and deaths in the Asia-Pacific region by 2015. The conference will bring together representatives of regional governments, international donors, the business sector and non-government organisations. It will culminate in a ministerial level meeting hosted by The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Bob Carr and the UN Special Envoy for Malaria, Mr Ray Chambers. Our goal is to save lives by controlling and ultimately eliminating malaria.

Further information may be obtained from the website - <http://malaria2012conference.com/>

At least three members of the National Rotarians Against Malaria Committee have registered, and will attend *Malaria 2012*. Their report will be the subject of a special Newsletter that will be forwarded as soon as possible after the conference ends.



I've got my net, how about you?

Did you know:

Over the centuries, many famous people have died of malaria, these include the Spanish Explorer Alvaro Mendana de Neira, discoverer of the Solomon Islands in 1568, who died of malaria in 1595, and Oliver Cromwell who died of malaria in 1658.

*This newsletter has been produced by PDG Ian Sayers, Chairman RAM Committee (Australia),
Email: isa34235@bigpond.net.au*

Contributions and comments are welcome.