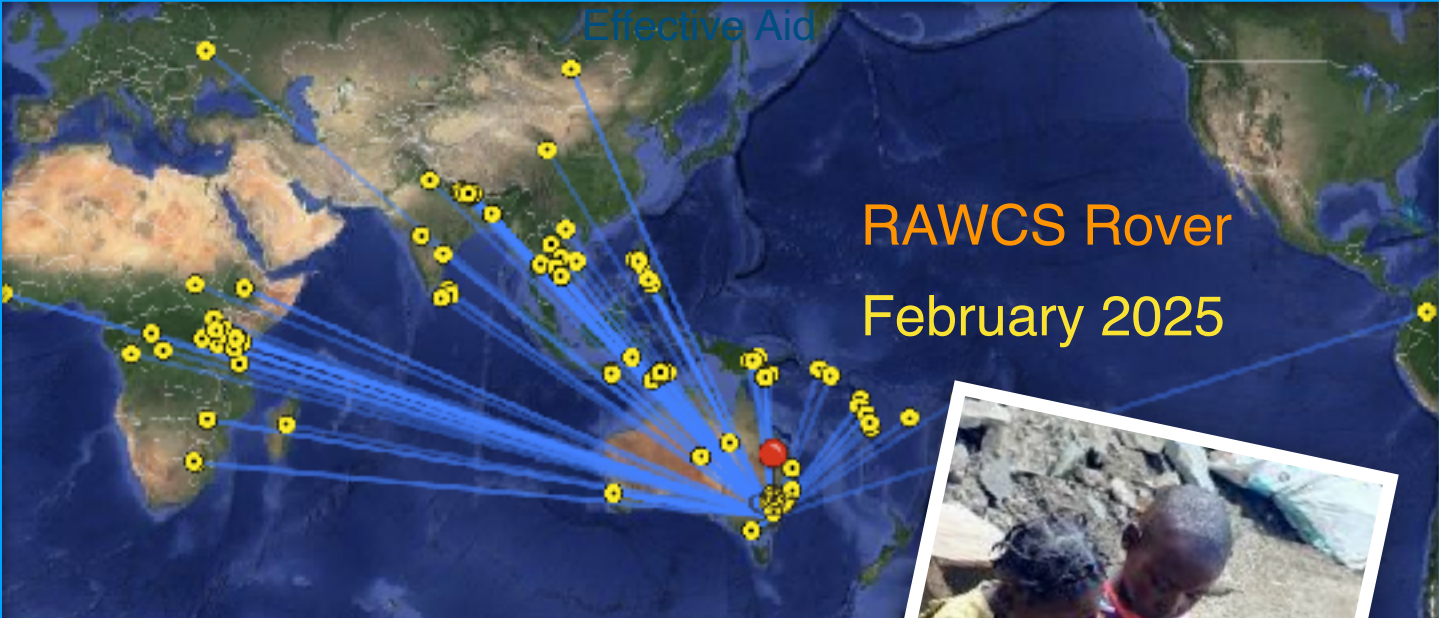




RAWCS Rover February 2025



Making a Difference in a Troubled World!

The Rover aims to support RAWCS project teams to form, learn, grow, share, collaborate, and succeed!

Our cover photo shows orphaned street children in Goma, DRC, sharing food given by a stranger,

The world news can be dreadfully depressing and scary lately, but Rotarians are bringing hope, in many ways and places.

Doing our bit helps those in direst need, and supports our own battered spirits too!

This edition has some news, some hope, some ways to help, and some ways to find support for your own on-going projects.

Your hands-on, hearts-on support for the World Community matters so much!

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Does your project involve education or medical needs?

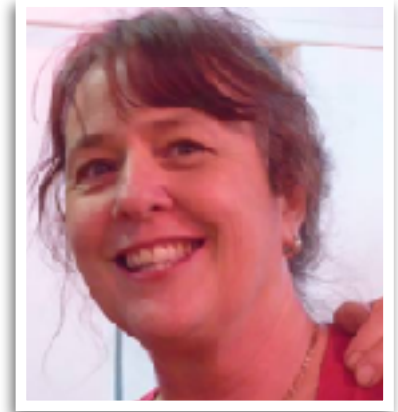
Do you work in the education or medical sector and see useable equipment being replaced and going to landfill?

In either case RARE (Rotary Australia Repurposing Equipment) might be able to help.

RARE facilitates the reuse of recently obsolete medical and educational supplies. There are guidelines, of course, about the safety and quality.

People's lives are saved or improved by the generosity of donors who bother to work with RARE.

TO DONATE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT OR SUPPLIES RING DAVID ON 0401 995 996



Goma under M23 Occupation



Goma women fleeing conflict. Photo by AFP

Goma under M23 Occupation



Escalating conflict in Democratic Republic of Congo - webinar recording from Feb 25 with 4 experts including Australia's first Ambassador to the DRC

On the morning of 26 January 2025, rebels from the March 23 movement (known as M23) swept into the city of Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), further escalating a decades-long conflict. The fighting has been horrific, displacing 700,000 people and exacerbating an already catastrophic humanitarian situation. The United Nations Security Council has now unanimously condemned M23 for their advances into the eastern region of the DRC.

Over 9 thousand have also been killed, including 13 peacekeepers from the long- running United Nations Organization Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). The International Criminal Court is closely following events on the ground since the launch of a probe into alleged war crimes in October 2024.

Bodies are strewn across the city. Burials, healthcare access and livelihoods are suspended. Food, rent and cooking fuel are still necessary. Children who have lost their families in the chaos are knocking on doors asking for food and shelter. Increasing violence and subsequent displacement are occurring in North and South Kivu provinces. A regional war is feared.

The city of Goma sits on the northern end of Lake Kivu, close to the border of the two provinces and Rwanda. The situation is pushing the humanitarian response to the brink of collapse and civilians are paying the price. For example, recent outbreaks of monkeypox (Mpox) continue across the DRC, exacerbated by conditions including poor sanitation, a lack of access to healthcare and inadequate shelter.

Currently several Rotary Australia World Community Service projects are impacted by the conflict, as well as Goma-based Rotarian projects.

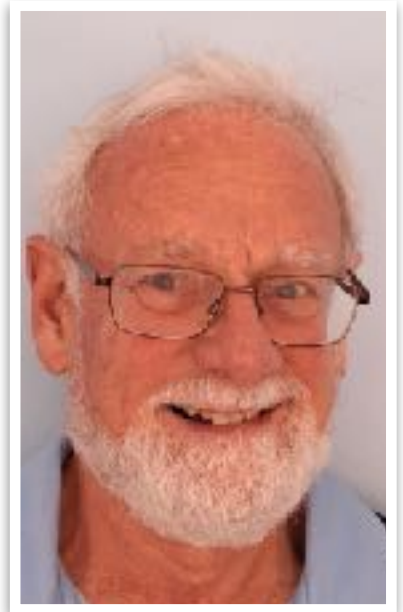
For insights on what is behind this escalating conflict, why it matters, how women and children are impacted, and what advocacy steps each of us can take to help facilitate peacebuilding and humanitarian aid, **have a listen this webinar hosted by HandUp Congo on February 25, 2025:**

[HandUp Congo Care in the midst of conflict webinar 24022025.mp4](#)

For more information contact Rotarian Lucy Hobgood-Brown on handupcongo@gmail.com or +61 417 272 101

The ER Co-ordinator's Report

Eastern Region continues to be very active with 158 active RAWCS projects. There were 122 ROAF (Rotary Overseas Aid Fund) projects, 18 RABS (Rotary Australia Benevolent Society) projects, and 18 RACG (Rotary Australia Compassionate Grants) projects. There have been 19 teams of volunteers that have travelled to work on projects overseas including Nepal, Timor-Leste, Cambodia, Fiji, Tonga, (D9660 - 2 teams, D9675 - 2 teams, D9685 - 13 teams and D9705- 4 teams). My thanks to the District 9685 team of Jan Pryor and Sue O'Neill for organised an excellent Eastern Region February quarterly meeting at Norwest. I would also like to thank Belinda Griffen and Pauline Lane for their coordination of the weekend.



CEO Mahir Momand and the National RAWCS Team have also been busy updating RAWCS strategic plan and facilitating external funding of RAWCS projects through the accreditation of RAWCS by ACFID and by providing guidelines on the options for project managers to obtain external funding. Mahir has conducted several webinars which were very information and are available on YouTube and can be viewed via the RAWCS website <https://rawcs.org.au/operational-guidelines-templates/>. I strongly recommend taking the time to view these webinars.

The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID)

In my last quarterly report, I mentioned that the Board has endorsed the strategic initiative to seek re-accreditation with the Australian Council for International Development.

ACFID is an independent national association of Australian non-government organisations working in the field of international aid and development. Once RAWCS has received accreditation we will have several advantages. We will have the collective power to try to influence government policy on development as well as having access to similar organisations in the field to amplify impact of the work we do in developing countries. We will have access to funding which is allocated by DFAT under its Australian NGO Cooperative Program (ANCP). Given that RAWCS sent over 600 volunteers overseas last year means that we are recognised as making a significant contribution in developing countries. The ANCP establishes partnerships between the Australian Government and NGOs (Non-Government Organisations) and provides funding to support work of NGO that operate overseas in developing countries. Once we receive accreditation, we will be eligible to funding up to \$400,000. It will also provide a way to connect with DFAT and Australian Embassies and High Commissions overseas.

ACFID require submissions on 93 policies which demonstrate we observe the highest ethical standards in all our activities for each of the policies. RAWCS is applying for full membership (not partial membership) and have been advised that it could take 18 months, however ACFID has been impressed with the quality of submissions it is likely to take less time to receive accreditation.

We have started on a journey of partnerships and have just officially partnered with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and have signed an MoU with them initially with two objectives:

- 1 Collaborating with UNHCR to assist the people in the Turkey and Syrian following the earthquakes which happened in 2023. We raised funds for that and have not been able to fully acquit the funds so we need a partner body to acquit the funds raised in a responsible way.
- 2 More broadly it opens the opportunity for each of our projects to collaborate with UNHCR in a beneficial way. When collaborating in this way the impact is far greater.

Further information regarding the ACFID accreditation was provided by RAWCS CEO Mahir Momand webinar which is available on YouTube link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekOsnfDjz0M>.



AUSTRALIAN
COUNCIL
FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

RAWCS Disaster Preparedness Training

RAWCS (Rotary Australia World Community Service) offers free disaster preparedness training to Rotary Clubs and their communities across Australia, equipping them with essential skills to respond to disasters and build resilience.

The target audience for the training are Rotary Clubs and their community members across Australia. The focus is to develop life-saving disaster response skills, enabling clubs to respond effectively when disasters strike. The benefits are to equip clubs with essential disaster response skills, to empower communities to bounce back stronger after disasters and to offer no-cost training with expert guidance.

Traditionally RAWCS projects have been supported by Rotarians, Rotary Clubs and their network of supporters. Unfortunately, Rotary numbers are decreasing, both Rotary membership and number of clubs hence there is a need to diversify the sources of funding for our projects. RAWCS Chairman David Pearson has prepared a brief video "RAWCS Disaster Ready Fund Proposal" which provides information on this proposal which is available as a YouTube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RD-HXGtTreQ>.

Update on the RAWCS Branding (Logo has New Tagline) & Website Launch

In April last year the Board of RAWCS launched a new strategic plan. There were four pillars to the strategy which are Organisational Renewal, Financial sustainability, Communication and engagement, and Operational excellence.

RAWCS was established in 1966 by Rotarians to support Rotary clubs undertaking humanitarian aid projects. In the last 58 years we have implemented thousands of projects overseas and in Australia addressing poverty, providing disaster relief, fighting disease and promoting educations.

The work we have done and the benefit that we have provided in these areas has been recognised and associated with the brand RAWCS. Rotary International has now directed that RAWCS is to change the tag line on the logo and that we can no longer use “We back doing good”. Following the request for suggestions the Board has adopted the new tagline “Enabling global good”.

The logo with the old tagline is no longer to be used and all items with the old logo, e.g. leaflets, business cards, clothes, badges, pullup banners etc. are to be replaced with ones using the new logo.

Further information on the update of the RAWCS Logo was provided by RAWCS CEO Mahir Momand webinar which is available on YouTube link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Q-VWjifObg>.

We are also looking for photographs and videos of the excellent work being achieved through the various projects by our volunteers to promote success stories of RAWCS through the social media.

The RAWCS website has recently been renewed. The URL has not changed however the website has been upgraded with the layout being designed to provide information for the general public. All the information that was previously available specifically for Rotarians is now available by clicking the “Rotarian Centre” button which is located at the top right of the screen. Further information about the renewed website is on this YouTube video starting at 1 Hr 25 Mins.



RAWCS Fundraising Guide for Projects Webinar

Traditionally RAWCS projects have been supported by Rotarians, Rotary Clubs and their network of supporters. Unfortunately, Rotary numbers, are decreasing, both Rotary membership and number of clubs hence there is need to diversify the sources of funding for our projects.

The national team of RAWCS has been investigating the options for fundraising outside the core of Rotary, in particular funding sources from the government, the corporate sector and the philanthropic sector. Mahir Momand recently presented a webinar which provided an excellent guide to fundraising and provided an overview on the different sources of funds and what to consider when seeking funds. For example, most philanthropists usually have particular interest so it is important to ensure the project you are seeking funds for matches their interest.

RAWCS has established a donation database and has resources to support project managers seeking funds.

RAWCS has a list of Private Ancillary Funds (PAFs) and Public Ancillary Funds (PuAFs) available upon request. This list is available as an Excel spreadsheet.

RAWCS subscribes to “The Grants Hub” and provides a list of relevant grants on a quarterly basis to project managers and deputies. Project managers can contact Mahir for the login and password. This information is not to be shared.

GrantConnect is the central portal managed by the Australian Government for Australian Government grants and provides information on available grants across various sectors. The link to the GrantConnect website is <https://www.grants.gov.au/Go/List>.

Australian Communities Foundation (ACF) supports philanthropy in Australia and manages funds that support charitable projects across different sectors. Their website provides information on grant opportunities, <https://communityfoundation.org.au/impact/latest-grants/>

Australian Executor Trustees - AET Philanthropy manages charitable trusts and foundations that provide funding for various causes. Their website offers information on their grant programs, <https://www.aetlimited.com.au/services/philanthropy>.

If you are seeking funds for a RAWCS project I strongly recommend watching Mahir Momand webinar which is available on the YouTube link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qj6xxNzJhU>.

Brian Goldstraw
RAWCS Eastern Region Coordinator
March 2025

SchoolKits for Congo

Give child victims of war a new start in life.



1st Prize



2nd Prize



3rd Prize



Enter to Win Our

Monster RAFFLE!

Tickets: 1 for \$5 – 5 for \$20 – 15 for \$50 – 30 for \$100

DRAWN:

26th March, 2025

7pm

Doyalson Wyee RSL

With thanks to Doyalson
Wyee RSL for the 1st prize,
Bunnings Lake Haven and..

Northlakes Toukley
Rotary 



Scan me!

Kini Mara Academy in Kenya

The Rotary E-ClubKINI Mara Academy is fast becoming the "go to" school in the area as well as students wanting to come from 2 hours away! Schools opening again on 8 January and we were planning for an intact of 60 students into our pre-kindy but that increased to 100 across the school. The population of the school is now 390 students up to Grade 4. We are surpassing surrounding schools who go to Grade 9 by quite a number of students. We also now have over 100 in boarding so its a noisy place and resources are very stretched. We have built a new girls dormitory but it is also now too small. The boy's dormitory we are just starting and have enlarged it to fit more in. With growth comes challenges but is amazing to see how blessed KINI has been and the way we are influencing the community and especially the children for a greater future. We have a new dining hall built turned into 2 new classroom for Grades 3 and 4. We have 70 4 year olds in our pre-kindy class so of course need extra classrooms to make it 2 streams. We had a number of girls and boys finish Form 4 this year, so 3 of the girls are now "teacher's aids" in the classrooms, enjoying the challenge but exhausted by the end of the day. We were so happy to see how we have been able to give so many a chance for the future which previously they could only dream about. One of our boys got a straight A and will now be going to Uni to become a doctor, which was his lifelong dream. Others got B+ and B's and all should be able to go to Uni or college for further study, should we get funds to help them. Thank you for your continued support - maybe another Trivia Night needs to be forthcoming to help with funds for a teacher's staffroom as at present they sit under trees!

Barbara Parkins

CEO Kisaru Nkera Initiatives (KINI) Kenya: +254 713747316. www.kinikenya.com





Australian Rotarians Against Malaria

ARAM's "Finish the Fight" Campaign has launched, bringing together and mobilising People of Action to eliminate malaria in the Western Pacific Rim – Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, The Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

The goal is to accelerate the achievement of WHO Malaria-Free Certification for the Western Pacific Rim region with our partners the Global Fund and APLMA

Always looking for help!



Stay in Touch

Got a Question or Suggestion?

You can find the right person to ask here:

[Eastern Region Coordinator](#)

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Thanks to all contributors!