

Issue 1 | VOL 1 | 2026

RAWCS



"60 years - an incredible achievement for an incredible organisation that does so much to deliver Rotary's humanitarian, development and disaster relief projects both in Australia and internationally. Whatever your role in RAWCS, as a volunteer, project manager, donor, supporter, staff, a member of a regional committee or the Board, you, individually and collectively are the reason we can do so much. Thank you."

HEATHER CHONG, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Celebrating 60 Years of RAWCS: Honoring Our History and Our Heroes

The Diamond Jubilee of Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) is fast approaching and is a historic milestone to recognise our collective legacy and extraordinary individuals who have contributed to our mission. We are thrilled to announce that our Patron, Her Excellency Ms Sam Mostyn AC the Governor-General of Australia, will be hosting this celebration at the Governor General's House in Canberra on the 15th of May.

In commemoration, we are launching Project 60:60. Sixty stories representing sixty years of RAWCS from volunteers, project managers and friends about their most memorable experience at RAWCS will be shortlisted.

This will be compiled into a digital commemorative book to be launched by the Governor-General in May.

In tandem with documenting our history, the RAWCS Awards Committee is calling for nominations for the Humanitarian Service Award in recognition of direct support by a Rotarian to the delivery of a RAWCS humanitarian service project either within Australia or overseas.

Nominations are to be submitted to the Awards Committee by either a Regional Co-ordinator or an Activity Manager by 18 March 2026 to be considered for the unique presentation by the Governor-General this May.

Limited to one per Region or Activity each year, recipients receive a specialised lapel pin and a Humanitarian Service Certificate signed by either the Regional Co-ordinator or Activity Manager and the Chairman of RAWCS; and

The CEO may also nominate donors or other external stakeholders who have made major contributions in the form of financial support or help to advance the causes of RAWCS.

Please refer to the nomination form (attached) and send all submissions to info@rawcs.org.au as we look forward to honouring six decades of extraordinary service.

REGIONAL VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

We are actively looking to fill a number of roles, please reach out to your regional coordinator or Paul Thomas (coord.rep@rawcs.org.au) for further details

Natural Disasters: A Road To Recovery

Through our Bushfire and Floods Appeals, RAWCS continues to support vulnerable Australians impacted by natural disasters. A key focus of this work is assisting families living through our Rapid Response Housing Program which uses Expanda Boxes. This ensures they have access to essential items, safe living conditions and stability during recovery.

From providing immediate relief and essential household goods to supporting longer-term rebuilding efforts, RAWCS works alongside local Rotary clubs and community partners to ensure funds raised are directed where they are needed most. As climate-related disasters increase in frequency and intensity, this appeal remains critical in helping families rebuild not just their homes, but their sense of security and hope.

