



**Newsletter Autumn Update
District 9940**

- **Helping Kiribati**



- **ROMAC Global Grants**



- **and much more...**



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Part of being a Rotarian...



... is understanding that Rotary is bigger than each of us, it is bigger than our Rotary Clubs, and it is bigger than our districts, Rotary is truly international. The work of Rotary through the Rotary Foundation is how we do our best international work.

In March I travelled with two Rotarians to Kiribati to assist in a scoping exercise for a Global Project our District has committed to support in the next twelve months. In fact, there were three reasons for the visit to Kiribati...

Kiribati is the poorest of all of the Pacific Islands and is part of District 9920 (Auckland). I have long wanted to visit Kiribati, but it is hard to get to and unless you are specifically going there you will never pass through it. To get to Kiribati you have to travel via Fiji or the Solomon Islands.

District 9920 had two clubs in Kiribati and for various reasons these clubs closed over the years. Part of our visit was to present to a new style of club their certificates as the newest members of the Rotary Community Corp. A Rotary Community Corp is a club that operates in a similar way to a Satellite club, the members all do what we do in Rotary but there are no charges for membership, they are in fact volunteers/friends of the charter club in this instance the Rotary Club of Otahuhu in Auckland.

The second reason to go to Kiribati, was to hold an interest meeting to see if we could establish a new Rotary Club in Kiribati. The interest was high, and I believe we will see a new Rotary Club in Kiribati before too long.

The third reason was to view a project which District 9920 will be submitting as a Global Grant Application in the next few months. Our district has agreed to support this Global grant by

donation \$5,000.00 USD to what will see a Hydroponics project expanded which will see families in Kiribati given the opportunity to grow through Hydroponics fresh vegetables in their own villages.

Kiribati is the country that is sinking into the ocean, or rather the ocean is rising to take over the country. The highest point in Kiribati is three meters above sea-level. Poverty has many faces, when visiting Kiribati, the many faces of Poverty are all present.

There are Water and Sanitation issues, environmental issues everywhere on the island, basic vegetables are difficult to grow due to the nature of the coral and lack of suitable vegetation for growing food. Income to the country is limited and this affects the ability to provide good free education to all, unemployment in some villages is at 60%, diabetes is a continued problem for the Kiribati people.

If your club would like to make a difference in one of our Island communities, there is no better country in our own back yard that would be a most deserving recipient on our focus.

If your club or any Rotarians in your club that would like to contribute to the Hydroponics Project, then please make contact with me, and I will ensure you are connected with the project when we get to the point of committing funds to make a difference in the many struggling families in Kiribati.

Our international projects can be funded by clubs or Rotarians in our district, so if you are a Rotarian that would like to donate to a specific area of focus, please feel free to give me a call and I can connect you with an appropriate project that will make a difference in the lives in communities anywhere in the world.



Construction of Check-Dams



Construction of Check-Dams in Murbad & Bhiwandi Taluks of Thane District, Maharashtra State, India

Murbad & Bhiwandi taluk of Thane district in the state of Maharashtra, India falls under a semi-tribal, hilly region and during monsoon it rains heavily but all the water washes off to the sea. The tribal farmer community living in there is mostly illiterate and have no other mean of



earnings than depending on farming, grazing animals and dry wood-picking from the jungle. Lower income and non-availability of the funds from the government bodies have been the biggest hurdles for their growth. Under this GG project, we intend to construct of total of 9 check-dams in Murbad & Bhiwandi taluks, which will help the farmer community to take 2nd crop and may be even 3rd crop, as well as will



help in increased milk output from the animals thereby adding to their income. Properly maintained check-dams through year-on-year desilting will help the tribal community to improve their living standard for years to come.

Total Budget \$47,250.00 USD
District 9940 Contribution
\$5,000.00 USD

Taveuni Eye Project 2019

The Taveuni Eye Project 2019 plans to restore the sight to around 340 Fijians.

The project is scheduled for October 2019 and will provide expert Eye Surgical Intervention to remove cataracts and pterygiums.

The patients will have been pre-screened, and mostly come from the poorest and most remote Fijian villages across the whole Fijian Group. The project includes the pre-screening, supported travel, accommodation, food & laundry, medical assessment and surgery consumables. Four experienced voluntary Ophthalmologists are expected.

The training programme will strengthen the quality of Pre-Screening in Villages to reduce the

cost of transporting patients who can't be operated on. It will also further build local sustainability.

Total Budget \$91,080.00 USD
District 9940 Contribution
\$5,000.00 USD



Cancer Detection and Medical Check-up Van



Breast cancer cases are found to be spiralling world over and India is no exception. India's health profile predicted that by 2020 breast cancer will overtake cervical cancer as the most common type of cancer among women in India.

India is a developing country and Faridabad is an industrial town in the vicinity of the national capital-new Delhi. Faridabad and Palwal are two districts in Haryana with 426 villages & 4.1 million populations. There are many slum areas in Faridabad and industries where mostly female employees are working. Early detection and screening are the backbone of treatment. Mammography plays a central part in early detection of breast cancer. The use of screening mammography increases the chances of detection of small abnormal tissue growths confined in the breast which

may otherwise be not detected on physical examination. Early recognising of cancer by screening and awareness is a big tool to reduce mortality due to breast cancer.



In India most of the women in rural areas are not at par with men as far as preventive check-ups are concerned and due to illiteracy and lack of awareness about the early diagnosis of the cancer and hence delay in its early detection and proper treatment. Most of the patients report to the hospital at the

advance stage and hence we lose the chance to cure. Keeping these things in mind, the members of rotary club of Faridabad midtown decided to provide a mobile mammography unit which will have facilities of mammography(for early detection of breast cancer), facilities to take pap smear(screening of early detection of cancer of cervix) and portable x-ray machine. This mobile van will go to the villages, slums and urban areas where there are no facilities for these investigations. We will also cover offices and industries where most of the employees are females and due to scarcity of the time, they postpone the preventive check-ups.

Total Budget \$69,000.00 USD
District 9940 Contribution
\$5,000.00 USD

District Grants 2018/2019

Eastern Hutt - Education: iPad for special needs students at Naenae College. \$1,721

Hutt City - Education: Innovative Young Minds: Contribution towards cost of this programme. \$1,360

Hutt River Valley - Education: literacy: Dictionaries in schools. \$680

Hutt Valley - Education: 2019 Teacher Exchange Programme: Building on the reciprocal teacher exchanges of 2017 and 2018, a team of four teachers from NZ and four teachers from China will make reciprocal visits in 2019. The visits will last 2 weeks for each visit with unique professional learning and development opportunities to improve their own language and teaching skills, deepen their understanding of another culture and share new curriculum pedagogy in their schools on their return. The 2019 exchange will build on the relationships developed from 2015 and will develop the sustainability of the exchanges. \$3,401

Kapiti - Health: volunteer services - "Volunteer Dental team to visit to Taveuni: The aim is to make year 7 & 8 children at 9 schools on the island dentally fit. As well as tending to their dental needs, undertaking restorations (fillings) they teach them oral hygiene and preventative training - both in teeth cleaning and diet counselling. They provide toothbrushes, toothpaste, and information packs on healthy eating choices. This is to set the children up so that they can concentrate on learning and not have to take time off school for major dental work when they are at High School. \$2,721

Levin - Health: Distribution and education about "Days for girls" kits to Ambrym Island Vanuatu. This is part of a worldwide project to empower girls through providing sustainable menstrual health solutions to girls who would otherwise miss school. Each kit lasts each girl up to 4 years. \$1,700

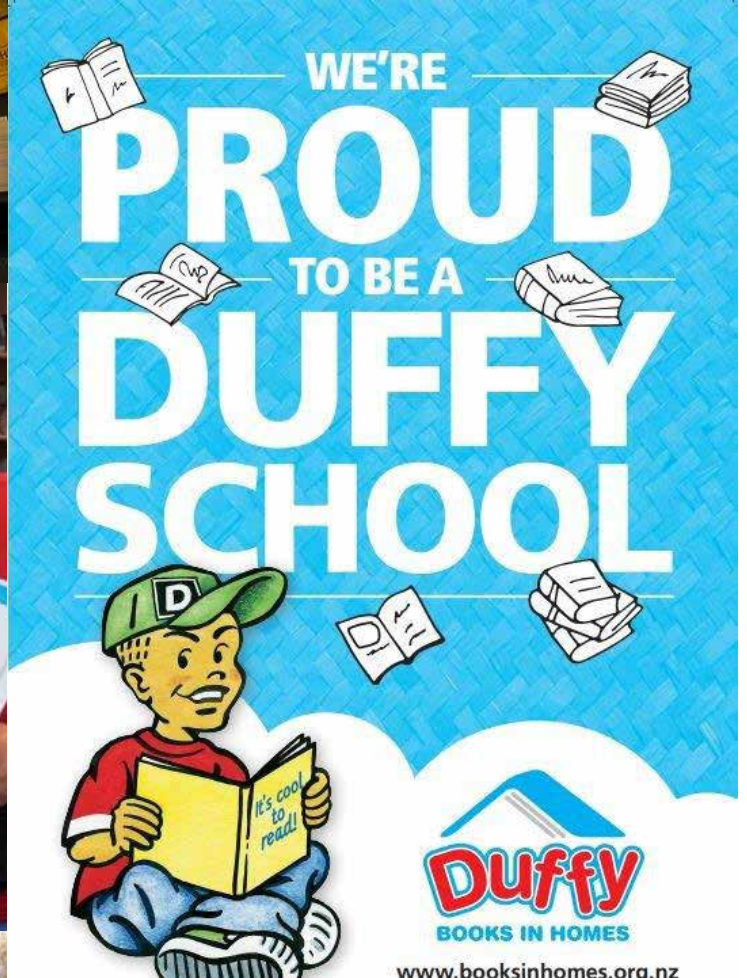
Marton - Education: Literacy - Dictionaries in schools \$599

Otaki - Education: Literacy - Duffy books in schools \$612

Otaki - Education: Literacy - Dictionaries in schools \$612

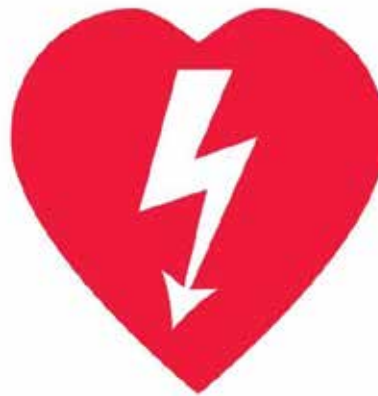
Porirua Education volunteer services - Te Pahi - Sponsoring seats on the community bus to provide transport for children in Porirua to increase access to sporting and educational destinations \$3,401

Port Nicholson - Education: volunteer services - Support the Kahurangi after school sports programme so that it can continue \$1,020





AED



Taihape - Education: Literacy - Dictionaries in schools \$187

Takaro, Palmerston North - Community development: volunteer services - Seniors day out - people living on their own, a day out to help them get to know other people \$340

Tawa - Health: Donate an AED at the local MenzShedd \$1,020

Tawa - Community development: Funding of trees in Duncan Park Tawa to celebrate 50th anniversary of RC Tawa \$340

Tawa - Community development: Funding 100 traps/tunnels for Pest Free Tawa in urban backyards \$340

Terrace End, Palmerston North Education: Literacy - Dictionaries for refugee/migrant families \$372

Upper Hutt – Education -Support for provision of trained teacher aids for special needs students Currently the average reading age of students at Maoribank school is 2 years lower than the national average. This project aims to improve this result by providing classes with trained teachers aids for Gillian phonics 50hours per term and Tuakana Teina buddy reading sessions 25 hours per term for the remaining 3 terms of the year. The aim is to enhance the effectiveness of the teacher by enabling them to have more one on one time with each student. Numeracy Is also well below average and we will provide a teacher aid for 25 hours a term for their spring into maths programme for the remaining three terms also to aid teacher effectiveness. \$2,041

Wellington - Community development: volunteer services Plant 100,000 trees on Mt Victoria to restore native vegetation, reduce weed infestation, mitigate climate change and restore community recreation space \$2,721

Wanganui North - Community development volunteer services: Native Tree Planting in Hilton Park. Aim is to gradually make more of the park useable for members of the public. \$675



GRANTS

Disaster response grants

On 1 April, The Rotary Foundation introduced a new type of grant: Rotary disaster response grants. These grants, funded by contributions to the Rotary Disaster Response Fund, support relief and recovery efforts in areas affected by disaster. Qualified districts in the affected area or country may apply for a maximum grant of \$25,000, pending availability of funds. They may apply for additional grants after they report on any previous disaster response grants.

Regional grants officers can help with your grant applications

Are you considering a global grant project or scholarship? Before you start your application, ask your regional grants officer to review your project idea or scholarship nominee. Your grants officer can tell you whether your project or scholarship is eligible for a global grant, offer suggestions on what to include in your application, and even work with you to design your project.

Global grant changes

The Trustees of The Rotary Foundation agreed in January to increase the maximum global grant award by doubling the maximum amount of World Fund money available for a global grant to \$400,000. The Trustees also raised the threshold at which they review a global grant application. They will now review an application if the grant would use more than \$200,000 in World Fund money. These changes will take effect 1 July.





ROMAC

Global Grant

This Global Grant would enable 7 to 8 children from the islands of the South Pacific (predominantly Vanuatu and Fiji but typically also Fiji, Tonga, Samoa PNG, Solomon Islands and Timor Leste) to receive life saving and dignity restoring surgeries, predominantly cardiac procedures and encephaloceles (brain hernia removal and reconstructive facial procedures).

The sustainability aspect of the Grant would be training programmes of 1 – 2 weeks duration in Vanuatu and/or Fiji, involving nurses and other health professionals (ROMAC has previously provided such training programmes for the last four years and a recent D9920 Grant has enabled a similar training programme in Fiji).

The following are indicative funding and expenditures budgets (USD).

INCOME (USD)

NZ Districts' DDF pledges	40,000
Korean Districts' DDF pledges	40,000
Sub-total [A]	80,000
RC Takapuna pledge [B]	1,000
TOTAL PLEDGES	81,000
Rotary Foundation Grant - 100% of [A]	80,000
Rotary Foundation Grant - 50% of [A]	500
TOTAL VALUE OF PROJECT	161,500

EXPENDITURES (USD)

7 – 8 Surgical Cases	145,000
Korean Districts' DDF pledges	16,500
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	161,500



Our initial goal was to get all NZ Districts to pledge USD5,000 to USD10,000 DDF each. So far four Districts (9910, 9920, 9940 and 9980 from our brief conversation this evening) have indicated support for this Grant Application, but none have been confirmed at this point.

I note your comment that your District has a limit of USD5,000 for DDF pledges to Global Grants.

I should add that:

- Once we can get District pledges firmed up, we would hope to get some more Clubs on board as well but have not approached any yet. Having said that, there are small number of Clubs around the country which have made significant but infrequent donations to ROMAC which might be willing to come to the party on this occasion and the plan is to approach them directly for a contribution;
- If the target DDF is not achieved, the number of surgical cases budgeted for will be reduced proportionately. On the other hand, if our expectations are exceeded, we would consider funding two training programmes (ROMAC has resorted to funding the last two of its two training programmes from its own resources).

District 9940 has confirmed that we will support the Romac Global grant to the level of \$5,000.00 with several clubs in our district agreeing to support this Global Grant as well.





A year-long journey to English fluency

It has been an exciting and fun-filled first two months. The atmosphere among the students is good - I think a reflection of just how much they value the opportunity to keep learning. Seeing just how incredibly talented they are, it's very strange to think that without this opportunity they would not be studying and would be limited to low-skilled careers.

Students are very focused on their mission to become advanced English speakers in just one year and have already made impressive progress. They recently sat their "A1" (beginner) exams and the results were fantastic - with most students achieving A grades. We hope to continue the momentum into the "A2" (elementary) exams, which are just three weeks away.

Language Pledge

Becoming an advanced English speaker in just 12 months is a momentous challenge. Determined to make it happen, students signed a pledge, agreeing to always converse with each other in English. Knowing this would be difficult for everyone, we marked the occasion with a ceremony and celebration. It's a crucial step and the progression it enables is immediately obvious.

Help comes from far and wide

Stephan is an American Peace Corps volunteer who lives in a small village, an hour from Mahanoro. Having heard about Onja, he stopped by say hello. Since then he's returned almost every week to lead classes and co-curricular activities. The students love him and it's easy to see why - he has a contagious positivity and his activities are filled with laughter and music. We are very fortunate to have Stephan's involvement, and with over a year left of his service in Madagascar, it looks like he will play a key role guiding students to English fluency.





As polio goal nears, Pakistan pushes against vaccine misinformation

As Pakistan closes in on eradicating polio, Prime Minister Imran Khan's has urged the country's telecoms regulator to take action against misinformation spread on social media discouraging vaccination against it and other diseases.

"The parental refusals due to misconceptions regarding the vaccine are emerging as the major obstacle in achieving complete eradication," Telecommunications Authority, referring to parents who refuse to get their children vaccinated.

Separately, Facebook, which along with other social media companies has faced growing pressure over spurious content spread on its platform, announced it would remove user groups and pages that contained misinformation about vaccinations.

Last month, online video sharing site YouTube, said it would take action to stop advertising revenue to channels promoting anti-vaccination content.

Along with Afghanistan and Nigeria, Pakistan is one of the only three countries where complete polio eradication has not yet been achieved, but case numbers are at the lowest level ever, with only six cases reported in 2019. The country's success follows an intense program based around vaccinating vulnerable children.

Prime Minister Khan said Pakistan was at a make-or-break moment and "cannot afford to become victim of any anti vaccine movement driven by propaganda mongers". "I therefore look forward to your support in blocking out all anti vaccine content from the Internet in Pakistan."

Vaccination campaigns have faced opposition from militant Islamist groups in Pakistan.

The main problem faced by the campaign was lack of access to children whose parents were reluctant to allow them to be vaccinated.

Persistently missed children provide a safe haven to the virus to keep on circulating in the environment.

The questions people have around vaccinations is a direct result of the negative content you have on social media, adding the issue is made more difficult to control because such content is often in local languages not spoken by outsiders.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), polio has been all but wiped out across the world following a sustained vaccination campaign, with only 33 cases reported in 2018 against more than 350,000 in 1988.

There is no known cure, but the disease can be prevented if children are given multiple treatments with the polio vaccine, the WHO says. While it has virtually eliminated, polio remains a threat to global health because as long as a single child remains infected, the virus can easily be spread into polio-free countries and unimmunized populations.

THE POLIO ENDGAME STRATEGY 2019 – 2023

GPEI statement on the strategy to achieve and sustain a polio-free world

Today, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) launched the Polio Endgame Strategy 2019-2023, which will guide the programme and its partners to overcome the final hurdles to eradication and move toward sustaining a polio-free future.

The new plan hones in on addressing today's most pressing obstacles to end poliovirus transmission imminently, integrate polio programme resources into health and development programmes globally, and certify the world polio-free.

In addition to building on the programme's core strategies to expand access to vaccination and improve surveillance around the world, the 2019-2023 Endgame Strategy offers responsive and innovative solutions tailored to communities' needs.

These include establishing a regional hub in Amman, Jordan to enhance coordinated support to Afghanistan and Pakistan and creating permanent Rapid Response Teams to accelerate the programme's response to outbreaks.

The programme will also work to improve immunisation coverage and support basic development needs through strengthened collaboration with immunisation partners such as Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the humanitarian and emergency response communities.

To reach its goals and achieve eradication, the Endgame Strategy requires a US\$4.2 billion budget, of which US\$3.27 billion is to be raised by the GPEI..

The 2019-2023 Endgame Strategy builds on the 2013-2018 Strategic Plan, which brought the world to the brink of polio eradication.

Despite this impressive progress, the last steps to eradication have proved to be the most difficult. Wild poliovirus transmission continues in Afghanistan and Pakistan as well as circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus outbreaks are ongoing in several countries across Africa and Asia.

To overcome these challenges, the new Strategy must be fully implemented with sufficient resources and commitments from governments, donors, multilateral organisations, and local communities.

Club Giving

It is appreciated the effort clubs have made with Polio Giving in the 2018/19 but it is not too late to contribute in this Rotary Year.

Contributions must be received and completed on "Rotary Foundation Giving District 9940 form" by 28th May 2019 at the latest

Polio Update (2nd May 2019)

	2019	2018
Afghanistan	7	21
Pakistan	8	12
Nigeria *	0	0
TOTAL	15	33

* Will be declared Polio Free in August 2019 by WHO



Ride the Train for Polio

Further details will be forwarded to clubs in due course once final planning is completed.

Join us on 24th October "Ride the Train- Next Stop Polio Eradication"
We will be visiting 62 Stations on 24th October 2019 coupled with events at the Wellington Railway Station/ Palmerston North and Masterton.



RIDE THE TRAIN TO END POLIO

Riding the train to enable others to walk.

