

Projects Update

Australian Bushfires Update

Men's Sheds - Batlow NSW

Batlow township was heavily impacted by the 2020 bushfires, at one point being described as "undefendable". Many local properties, including farms, orchards (Batlow is famous for its apple production) houses and other buildings in the township were lost in the fires.

The stress of uncertainty and threat of the fires as they developed, and the impact of the fires as they unfolded, had a substantial traumatic impact on the community.

In our Newsletter Issue 2/2020 there was an article about this project that the Disaster Recovery Trust was getting involved with and we are pleased we can share with you how this project is progressing to date.

The project involves the construction of a men's shed near to a building that is already used for community activities and the primary focus of the shed, as with all Men's Sheds, is the men of the Batlow Community. However, access will not be restricted to men. The committee envisages that other groups, including women and people with disabilities, will seek access and will be made welcome.



Site for Men's Shed

The land where the Shed will be built is owned by the Council and will be leased to the Men's Sheds committee.

Approval for the lease has been granted. So, the building will now be able to commence. We will be reporting in future newsletters as the project progresses.

RC of Moruya - Eurobodalla Shire

During the Black Summer Bushfires of 2019/20 in Eurobodalla Shire, the Eurobodalla Showground in Moruya became one of the focus evacuation centres for the community during the week immediately following the bushfires.

At least 2000 people per day were housed there in a basketball stadium as well as in tents and caravans located on site. Some people remained at the showground for weeks as it was too dangerous to return home or they had nowhere else to go as they had lost everything.

All of these people along with the many volunteers had to be fed three times a day and it soon became apparent the kitchen facilities were not adequate and so it was decided that the kitchen facilities had to be renovated to a standard that is safe for volunteers who provide meals to many people during disasters such as the bushfires, which unfortunately are quite regular.

The facility will also support the local community into the future. So, the Rotary Disaster Recovery Trust was approached to see if they could help through their appeal and working with a Past District Governor in New South Wales, the Rotary Club of Moruya, the Bush Fire Recovery Committee and Eurobodalla Show Society the project has been agreed by the Disaster Recovery Trustees and work is set to commence.

Laparoscopy Equipment

Trustees of the Disaster Recovery Trust have to be constantly aware of the diversity of requests in the time of natural disasters. Our latest involvement in Pakistan has been one such for the provision of Laparoscopy surgical equipment. Equipment permitting a surgeon to access the inside of the abdomen and pelvis without having to make large incisions in the skin – a procedure we more commonly refer to as keyhole surgery or minimal invasive surgery.

In a time of crisis when numerous patients need to be assessed

and with many requiring surgical operations the healing process involves long periods of hospital occupancy which sadly in turn deprives another disaster patient an urgent surgical procedure. The equipment, with Rotary plaque financed by our donors, will help alleviate many such long term stays and subsequent possible morbidity.

I am pleased to say we are involved very closely with Past District Governor Shehzad Ahmed, the Rotary Club of Lahore Garrison and staff at the Mayo Hospital, Punjab Province, Pakistan. Needless to say everyone appreciates our involvement and your generosity helping to supply such long term life saving medical equipment.

Meet our New Trustee



Darren Hands PHF
Rotary Club of Roborough
District 1175 (Rotary South West Peninsula)

Darren has been a member of Rotary since 2002 having formed the Plymouth Albion Rotary Club – one of the initial “pilot project” Rotary Clubs. This followed being a member of Rotaract since 1996 – so Darren has been involved in the Rotary family since 1996.

Darren’s background is in Finance and Internal Audit and yet the many positions he has held for his club and district have centred around Marketing and PR.

When Rotary International brought out the “This Close to Ending Polio” images, very few people realised back in

2011 that they also provided a template for clubs to produce their own. Through using this template, Darren produced a local variation of the images using celebrity TV chefs, local media personalities and local sports personalities including several Olympians (such as Tom Daley, Toni Couch and Helen Glover). These were used for bus advertising within the West Devon and Cornwall areas, later being copied by other districts on a smaller scale. These images also resulted in him being jointly awarded the RIBI Public Image Trophy that year.

Through Darren’s efforts in promoting various campaigns in the Devon and Cornwall area relating to Rotary’s End Polio Now efforts, in 2017 he was one of 10 recipients to be awarded Rotary’s European “Regional Service Award for a Polio Free World.”

In 2017 Darren founded the Rotarians4MentalHealth mental health awareness campaign “Don’t Bottle It Up” which continues to grow and has now become a global campaign. So, it is no surprise that he is currently a member of Rotary GB&I Health and Humanitarian Service Team leading on Mental Health.

Current Positions held:-

- Trustee of Rotary GB&I Disaster Recovery Trust (Social Media)
- Member of Rotary Jaipur Limb Project (Social Media / Publicity)
- Member of REMIT (Rotarians Eliminating Malaria in Tanzania)

Darren brings with him a wealth of expertise to the Disaster Recovery Trust Team with his knowledge of Social Media and he is also young enough to hold down a full-time job (not sure where he finds the time) thus reducing the average age of the Trustees.

On behalf of all the Trustees we welcome Darren onto our Team.

New Appeals

Caribbean Earthquake Appeal (Haiti)



In August 2021 a powerful 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti, causing over 80,000 homes to be destroyed or damaged, with that number expected to rise as the search, rescue and recovery phase continues.

Days after the earthquake, Tropical Storm Grace made landfall, bringing heavy rains with the possibility of deadly mudslides and flooding.

If you wish to donate, please see how to make a donation at the end of this newsletter.

European Floods Appeal

Following catastrophic floods across northern and central Europe during July 2021, the Rotary Disaster Recovery Trust has launched an appeal to help long-term community rebuilding.

The flooding has been caused by record rainfall, with countries Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands badly affected. As of 20th July, over 180 people have died, with hundreds missing and tens of thousands forced to abandon their homes.

If you wish to make a contribution to this appeal, please see how you can make a donation at the end of this newsletter.

Applying for Funding and Making a Donation

Criteria for Grant Applications

To be considered for a grant from the **Rotary GBI Disaster Recovery Trust**, projects must:

- Address a community need, with the aim of providing sustainable development.
- Demonstrate a benefit to the community as a whole, and not an individual person. The project must not directly benefit a Rotarian, spouse or descendent, a member of a Rotary Club, Rotary District or other Rotary entity.
- Have significant Rotary involvement and visible Rotary identification.
- Rotarians from RIBI and, where appropriate, from partner Clubs or Districts overseas must:
 - a. be actively involved in each grant project,
 - b. take responsibility for the implementation of the project, and
 - c. be responsible for regular reporting on the status of the project and related expenditure.
- Exclude any liability to the RIBI Disaster Recovery Trust except for the amount of the grant.

For an application form please go to our website: rotarygbi.org or contact Brian Stoyel (Chairman) at brian@stoyel.co.uk

Making a Donation

Rotary GBI Disaster Recovery Trust is a long-term helping hand to communities affected by disaster, both home and abroad.

Donations can be made on the **Disaster Recovery Trust** "Virgin Money Giving" page, using the QR code below, or by cheque to:

Disaster Recovery Trust
Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland
Kinwarton Road
Alcester
Warwickshire
B49 6PB



QR Code to
Disaster Recovery Trust
Virgin Money Giving page

Charity No: 1119688
Facebook: [/RotaryDisasterRecoveryTrust](https://www.facebook.com/RotaryDisasterRecoveryTrust)