

# RAWCS Rover November 2024



## Wrapping Up 2024!

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

The Rover is still seeking a new editor but Penny Vos is filling in for a bit longer until a new volunteer appears. Is it you?

The next Regional RAWCS meeting will be at the Norwest Office on the 15th and 16th of February.

Come and show off your project and do some networking with other awesome project people!

Best wishes to all for the festive season!

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## Youth and Hope

A boy I started supporting 7 years ago, so he could be readmitted to the school that expelled him for poverty, is now an intern Human Rights Lawyer at the African Union.

I couldn't be more proud of him, and dare to hope that he might be one of the rare few who can solve the systemic problems that our projects tackle, on a smaller scale.

He said, " ...This diploma that I have just received is dedicated to you, in recognition of your sacrifices for the education of desperate young people in Goma and elsewhere. I am the fruit of your dedication to this noble cause.

My family and I have nothing to offer to express our gratitude, but we promise to use this knowledge for the good of humanity, defending the rights of the vulnerable in my community and in the world. We have embarked on the path of global justice with this diploma. Today, thanks to your help, I am an intern at the Coalition for an Effective and Independent African Court in Arusha, Tanzania. From this experience, we hope to gain professional expertise for a promising future in the field of justice.

This diploma in no way elevates my status as a child in relation to you. I am and will remain the child of Solidarité Bonne Volonté. I will continue to serve as a volunteer within the organization. I love you so much."

I'm so glad to have been involved!



I gave a [SchoolKits for Congo](#) talk to Cooma EarlyAct recently.

The maturity of these Primary School Students was so impressive, such excellent questions and plans to help!



## Looking for unique Christmas gifts? Look no further...



Enjoy a festive dose of Christmas spirit French-style on Saturday, December 14 from 10 AM to 3 PM at the French International School's fete. HandUp Congo will be selling honey and handmade wares made from colourful Congolese fabric. All proceeds from the HandUp Congo stall will go to Rev. Dr. Marthe Kondemo's women's initiatives in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In case you have forgotten, Marthe was sponsored by our club from March to May, the first Congolese to receive a Royce and Jean Abbey vocational scholarship.

During her stay, HandUp Congo facilitated a program where Marthe explored women's health and livelihood projects with the goal of replicating some back home.

Come along on Dec 14th with your family and friends and enjoy live music, children's activities, food trucks and more! For info contact Lucy Hobgood-Brown on [handupcongo@gmail.com](mailto:handupcongo@gmail.com).

[www.condorcet.com.au](http://www.condorcet.com.au)

**FEMMES PROTESTANTES DU CONGO**

**tecc**  
AMPLIFY DRC WOMEN VOICES  
Educate. Empower. Transform

**APPLY NOW  
COME  
MORE INFO**

**SAT.  
14/12  
2024**

**FRENCH  
CHRISTMAS  
MARKET**

10 AM  
to 3 PM

by Lycée Condorcet de Sydney  
Maroubra | Moverly Rd

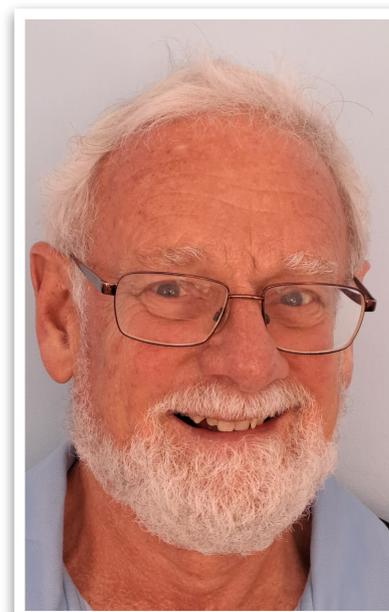
**FREE**

**SHOP • E**

**Lycée Condorcet  
Sydney** THE INTERNATIONAL  
FRENCH SCHOOL

## The ER Co-ordinator's Report

Since its formation in 1966, RAWCS has processed about half a billion dollars in project donations, delivering thousands of international development projects and engaged tens of thousands of Rotary volunteers. The project impacts have saved and enhanced countless lives in fifty developing nations and continues to be strongly supported today. At the end of 2023-24 Eastern Region had 124 active overseas aid projects representing 40% of the total Overseas Aid Fund (OAF) projects. Similarly Eastern Region has a significant number of Rotary Australia Benevolent Society (RABS) projects, 17 projects representing 31% of the RABS projects and 15 Rotary Australia Compassionate Grants (RACG) projects (44%).



During the past year the Board has endorsed several strategic initiatives aimed at underpinning the sustainability of our organisation and supporting clubs provide community service, as well as continuously improving our systems and efficiency. These include seeking re-accreditation with the Australian Council for International Development which once accreditation is achieved will provide the opportunity for clubs to apply for government grants for their projects. The Board has been modernising the RAWCS accounting system and further developing the communications channels. The Board has also appointed a part-time Fund-Raising Manager and is committed to engaging with external funding and project delivery partners.

### **Volunteer Travel Support**

RAWCS has been investigating ways to assist volunteers to travel to their overseas projects and to provide well-deserved benefits and discounts. Last year, 67 teams consisting of 343 Rotarians travelled to work on RAWCS projects and it is estimated that about \$1.2 million was spent on travel costs.

After reviewing various options, the RAWCS Board identified Flight Centre (known as FCM) as the company to provide "bulk discounts" anticipated to range from 12% to 20% on airfare and accommodation. Information on how to take advantage of the benefits has been sent to project managers and team volunteer members. RAWCS has created an organisation-wide account with FCM to facilitate the discount. FCM will make the account details available to project managers and volunteers to take advantage of the discounts FCM are providing.

### **Rotary Australia Trust for the Environment (RATE)**

RAWCS has now established a charitable trust to support and facilitate environmental projects of Rotary clubs. The trust to be known as Rotary Australia Trust for the Environment (RATE) is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) as a charity. RAWCS will issue tax deductible receipts for donations to projects registered as RATE projects in the same way as RAWCS issues tax deductible receipts for donations for OAF and RABS projects.

The principal purpose of the RATE is the protection and enhancement of all aspects of the natural environment both in Australia and in developing nations by delivering project activities relating to air and water quality, waste minimisation, soil conservation, protection and restoration of land, coastal, marine and freshwater resources and promotion of ecologically sustainable development principles. RATE projects can also support the provision of information or education, or the carrying on of research, about the natural environment or a significant aspect of the natural environment.

The project activities must relate to the natural environment as distinct from other types of environments such as built, cultural and historic environments. 'Natural environment' includes all aspects of the natural surroundings of humans, whether affecting them as individuals or in social groupings. It can include:

1. Significant natural areas and ecological zones, such as rainforests
2. Wildlife and their habitats
3. Issues affecting the environment such as air and water quality, waste minimisation, soil conservation, and biodiversity and
4. Promotion of ecologically sustainable development principles.

### **RAWCS Logo Competition**

RAWCS has been using "We back doing good" as a tagline on the logo. Rotary International has requested this tagline be phased out. As such the RAWCS Board is in the process of drafting up a new tagline and has launched a competition for the new tagline. To enter the competition your suggested tagline (no more than 20 characters including spaces and special characters) should be emailed to [belinda.griffen@rawcs.org.au](mailto:belinda.griffen@rawcs.org.au) by Friday 29 November 2024. The RAWCS board will then review suggestions and the winner will be awarded a \$500 gift voucher.

### **Eastern Region Communications Supervisor**

At the RAWCS Eastern Region AGM no nomination was received for Communications Supervisor position. We would welcome anyone who is interested in taking on this position. Please contact me if you know of anyone who would be interested in taking on this role.

Brian Goldstraw  
RAWCS Eastern Region Coordinator  
November 2024



## 200 Child Victims of War Equipped for School

District 9685 and The Rotary Club of Kowloon Golden Mile co-funded the provision of 200 SchoolKits to children in Goma, DRC.

The children have recently fled the violence of armed militia on foot, with only what they could carry. Local schools are trying to accommodate them without fees, even though the government funding, which is supposed to pay teachers, is very unreliable. The schools do not have books or paper or writing tools to spare for children arriving without so the provision of bags, new uniforms and school supplies feels like a small miracle to them.

Water is in short supply for the refugees, requiring long waits at the communal pump some distance from their tents and shelters. This makes laundry extremely difficult when children are wearing their only uniform for 6 days running. Scabies thrives and spreads under these conditions and the new uniforms will help to control this pest, which leaves children vulnerable to other infections.

The bags and uniforms are sewn in Goma by the Mama Wimbi sewing team equipped, trained in the SewAid workshop. The team were subsisting by begging but have been progressing towards independence through their work and setting a good example for their own children.

All involved in [SchoolKits for Congo](#) are very grateful for this support!



See  
Our  
Video!

## Fundraising Invitation

Northlakes Toukley  
**Rotary**  
Club



**FUNDRAISING  
OPPORTUNITY  
FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS**

### **SEEKING APPLICATIONS COMMUNITY RAFFLE**

This is your opportunity  
to raise funds for your  
local community group.  
No strings attached  
Your community team  
keeps all funds raised.

CONNECT WITH US

FOR MORE INFO:  
[HTTPS://NORTHLAKESTOUKLEYROTARY.ORG.AU/CONTACT/](https://northlakesToukleyRotary.org.au/contact/)

**WE PROVIDE ALL PRIZES**

**1ST PRIZE \$3500 CASH**  
SPONSORED BY DOYALSON  
WYEERSL

**IF YOU ARE A:**

- SPORTING GROUP
- SCHOOL GROUP
- NOT FOR PROFIT
- CHARITY

## Community Raffle

Your project, or any community group, school, sporting team, Not-for-Profit or charity that would like to raise funds, can join the Northlakes Toukley Rotary Community Raffle .Every dollar raised through this online raffle goes to the group.

### Great Prizes

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize** \$3500 cash donated by The Doylo

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize** \$1000 donated by Northlakes Toukley Rotary

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize** \$500 Bunnings Gift Card donated by Bunnings Lakehaven

For further information hit the link ->

[Link](#)

## Transforming Education through Smartboards and Spoken English Training



The Rotary E-Club of Greater Sydney, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of The Hills-Kellyville and the Rotary Club of Colombo Regency, has delivered an impactful project bringing Smart Interactive Boards and Spoken English Training to three schools in remote and underserved areas of Sri Lanka.

This initiative, supported by the Rotary Foundation and the Sri Lankan diaspora, exemplifies how global partnerships can drive meaningful change in local communities.

The smartboards provide access to a vast array of curriculum resources, enabling teachers to deliver lessons more effectively. For students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, this technology offers an opportunity to experience a modern learning environment, bridging the educational gap between rural and urban areas.

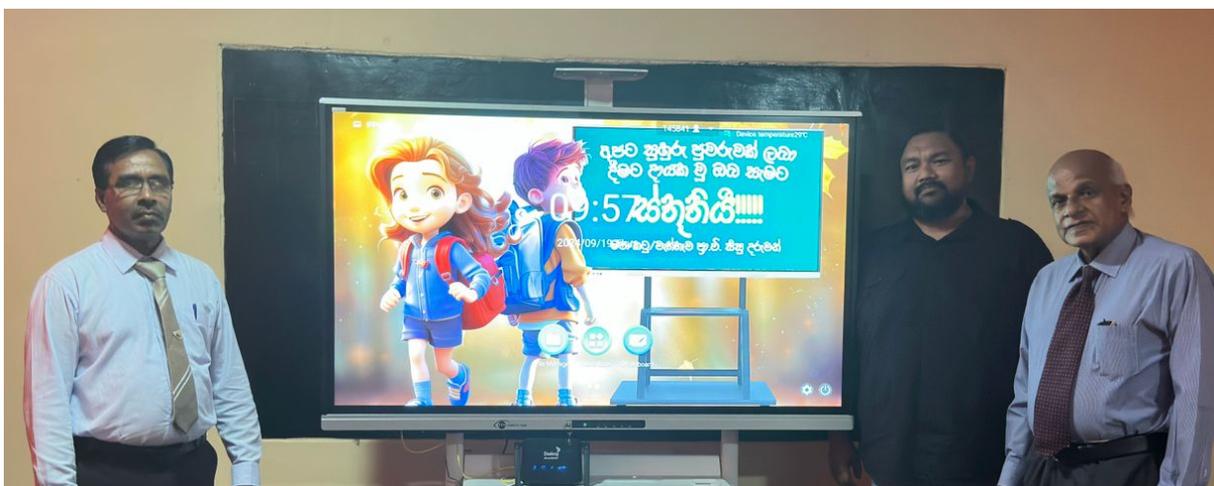
In tandem with the smartboard initiative, Spoken English Training programs are being conducted across schools in Sri Lanka's Eastern, Northern, and Upcountry regions.

These programs are designed to help students gain the confidence to communicate effectively in English, a critical skill for accessing higher education, career opportunities, and global platforms.

In-country, the Rotary Club of Colombo Regency and its members, led by Rtn. Anura, ensured the successful delivery of this project. Their dedication and coordination with local schools exemplify Rotary's commitment to service above self.

Together, we are not just enhancing education but building a foundation for a more equitable and empowered world.

Haran Ramachandran



## Promote Your Project

'Friends Who Like RAWCS' Facebook Group (HERE ) is a great platform for all project managers to share and promote their awesome work.

Join the group and share a small description and some great photos that tell the story.

<b>SAVE THE DATE</b>	<b>EASTERN REGION MEETING</b>
15TH-16TH FEBRUARY <b>2025</b>	<b>RAWCS</b> Rotary Australian Districts     <b>RAWCS</b> WE BACK DOING GOOD
<b>NORWEST OFFICE</b>	<b>LEARN</b> <b>SHARE</b> <b>FELLOWSHIP</b>

The next Regional RAWCS meeting will be at the Norwest Office on the 15th and 16th of February.

Come, and show off your project, and do some networking with other awesome project people!

# Australian Rotarians Against Malaria



**Australian Rotarians  
Against Malaria**

Walk together to raise funds to Finish the Fight against Malaria

When Rotarians come together things get done. By organising a March Against Malaria (MAM) event in your Rotary Club, your actions can help support the work of Rotarians Against Malaria by increasing awareness of, and contribute to the elimination of, Malaria. Across the month of March (or any month if you wish), you have the chance to join your fellow Rotarians and local communities in walking to raise awareness and funds for Malaria elimination.

All funds raised will support Malaria elimination programmes in the Western Pacific Rim region of Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste.



## 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!