

## RAWCS Rover August 2023



### Magic Pudding Edition

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

This edition looks at how far Australia has come in the last century and how far other countries have still to go.

We hope you enjoy an insight into Tarree's big achievement in providing oxygen to those in need in Kenya.

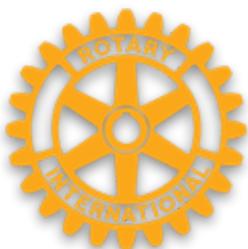
The Eastern Region RAWCS Meeting will be in person on Saturday the 5th and Sunday 6th of August 2023 at the RAWCS office in Sydney- more detail inside.

We hope to see you there!

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**Rotary**  
Australian Districts



**ROTARY AUSTRALIA  
WORLD COMMUNITY  
SERVICE**

## Australia's Own Magic Pudding

The Magic Pudding is an iconic comic fantasy for children's book written and illustrated by Norman Lindsay in 1918. It is a classic of Australian children's literature.

The Magic Pudding, Albert, lives, and loves, to be eaten. Albert describes himself as a “cut-and-come-again” pudding which can never be used up, no matter how much it is eaten. Better yet, the type of pudding magically adjusts to the eater's preference.



Published at the end of World War One, and in print throughout the Great Depression, it is not hard to see the appeal of an endlessly responsive and self-replenishing pudding! Australian families could starve to death.

Since 1908 Australians have had pensions for age and for some disabilities. Maternity allowance was introduced in 1912, but that was all, in 1918. Very few Australians could have their pudding and eat it too.

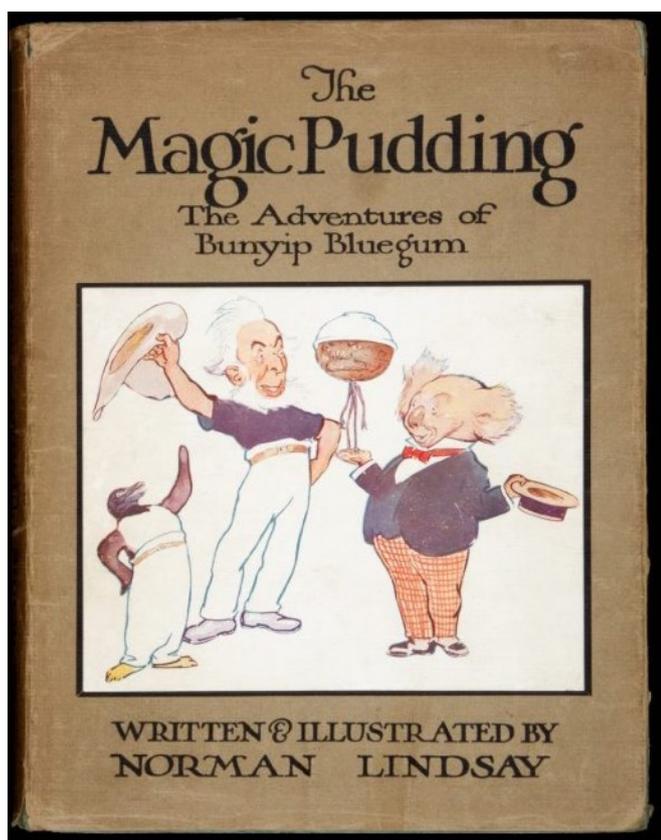
By 1963, when Rtn Keith Hopper returned from a slightly shocking holiday in Indonesia, things in Australia had improved a lot.

Australian Social Security, by then, included: child endowment, a widows' pension, a wife's allowance for invalids and age pensioners, additional allowances for the children of pensioners, unemployment, sickness and “special” benefits, free medical and hospital treatment for pensioners, supplementary assistance for pensioners paying rent, and a higher “single” rate of pension to reflect the expense of living alone.

You could say that Australia had, in a very real sense, provided cut-and-come-again pudding for Australians in need.

Like the pudding, social security benefits would regenerate as they were used, and could be personalised to taste, provided as they were (and are) in the flexible form of cash.

Hopper was appalled at the lack of safety net for those outside Australia's care and floated the concept of an international humanitarian service arm of Rotary in Australia, FAIM, which in time became RAWCS.



Since the sixties, Australia's social security has improved still further to include: payment for lone parents not receiving a widow's pension, a new allowance for the parents of children with disabilities, automatic increases in pensions and most other benefits to compensate for price increases, a mobility allowance to defray the costs faced by people with disabilities in getting to work or vocational training, low-income supplement for working families with children, a pension for carers of a spouse with disabilities, the Jobs, Education and Training scheme for lone parents and the Child Support Scheme, and, most importantly the advent of a national scheme of universal health insurance, Medicare, which stops us dying from most treatable illnesses.

While governments since the nineties have been more focussed on restricting "pudding" quality and access than enhancing it, it is worth taking stock of the real security that social security provides to all Australians.

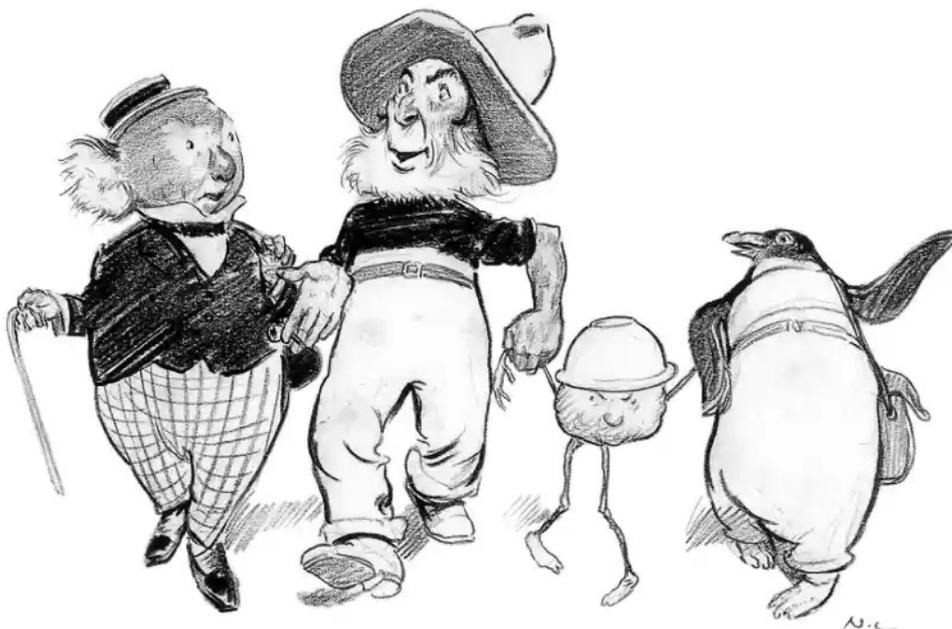
RAWCS projects continue to build capacity for those who have no such provision, no such security.

The current beneficiaries of our sustainable development initiatives are still as fundamentally unsupported as the Indonesian folk who impressed Keith Hopper in 1963.

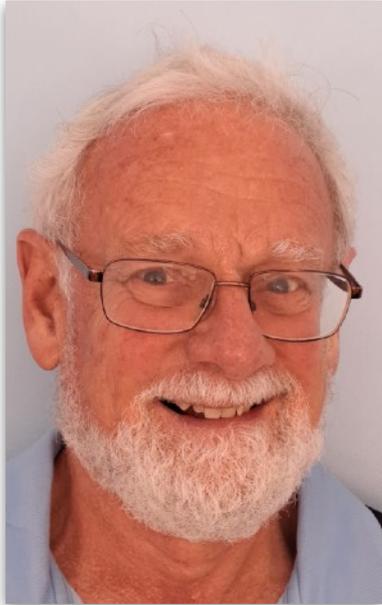
Our international work in peace and conflict prevention/resolution, disease prevention and treatment, water and sanitation, maternal and child health, basic education and literacy ,economic and community development, and environmental protection occurs in the context of communities without safety-nets.

Our projects keep giving, year after year, and keep on responding to the needs of recipient communities.

It's the Aussie thing to do.



## The ER Co-ordinator's Report



As we start the year, we welcome our new General Manager, Mahir Momand. He has been appointed to replace Andrew Woodward who resigned at the end of last year. Mahir brings a great range of executive leadership experience both in the not-for-profit and financial services sectors. He has worked for the World Bank, United Nations, and served as a financial adviser to government. Mahir has an MBA specialising in finance, and a Master of Commerce from the University of Sydney specialising in project management. He is also a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and has held executive positions in several not-for-profit organisations.

Mahir was born in Afghanistan and as a refugee child, was a beneficiary of the support provided by a range of international NGOs. As such, Mahir knows first-hand the value of the work that not-for-profit organisations, do especially in third world countries. He was shot by the Taliban in 2012 which forced him to seek refuge in Australia. He is now an Australian citizen and calls Sydney home. His life experiences have taught him an appreciation for life, resilience, determination and is deeply passionate about service to humankind.

Outside his day job, Mahir serves as a director on the board of the Benevolent Society, sits on the Human Rights Watch committee in Australia, and is a director of the HADIA Foundation. He is a past member of the Rotary Club of Sydney. Mahir has 4 children and has a keen interest in sport.

Mahir is planning to join us for the RAWCS Eastern Region quarterly meeting in Norwest on first weekend in August and is looking forward to learning about Eastern Region's contribution to RAWCS and meeting those who have a passion for our RAWCS projects.

In 2022-23 Eastern Region RAWCS has certainly been achieving "world community service" goals in terms of raising the profile of RAWCS within Rotary, as well as raising the profile of Rotary within the Australian community. Eastern Region has also continued to shine in terms of projects registered and undertaken providing humanitarian service.



Our new General Manager, Mahir Momand.

It was great to see the article in the July edition of RDU highlighting the visit by RI President Jennifer Jones to the Didi Foundation RAWCS project in Kathmandu, Nepal. During the visit Jennifer Jones said that “the work in itself is inspirational”. The Didi Foundation project was founded by Jan Pryor in 2013 to support and educate women, children, and communities facing hardships. Over 6,300 women have attended the Didi Foundation courses since 2013 with more than 3,500 gaining employment and over 1,100 starting new businesses. The Foundation has come a long way since the first donation of five sewing machines which enabled its establishment. I personally visited the Didi Foundation in 2019 and was greatly impressed by what is being achieved to motivate the women to change their own lives and other families within their community.



Jan Pryor of the Didi Foundation at work in Nepal

Following the Singleton bus tragedy, PDG Gerard McMillan from the Rotary Club of Singleton Sunrise, and Past RAWCS Eastern Region Chair Brian Coffey registered a RABS project in the record time of 16 hours to support those who had suffered injury or loss of loved ones.

They coordinated the support provided through RABS project and other organisations to ensure a fair distribution of assistance. Singleton Rooster AFL and Warrandyte Cricket Club both raised funds through Go Fund Me adding to the total support.

When NSW Premier Chris Minns held a press conference in Singleton following the tragedy, he endorsed Rotary’s project as the main manager of funds being donated to the victims, survivors and others impacted.

The efficient and proactive management of the project has ensured the fast distribution of funds so that it is anticipated that the project will be completed and closed by the end of August, thus setting a model for management of similar projects.

## The ER Co-ordinator's Overview

### Statistics for Registered RAWCS Projects for 2022-23

During 2022-23, RAWCS had a total of 553 projects which have been registered in the 5 regions and by the National Board.

Eastern Region has 207 projects which represent 37% of the total RAWCS projects. In term of donations received for Eastern Region, projects generated 57% of all RAWCS donations. This year, Eastern Region has had 135 volunteers working a total of 164 days. This represents a total of 151 man days.

Of the 18 outstanding audits nationally for Jul-Dec 2022 Eastern Region has at the time of preparing the report only three which are anticipated to be completed shortly. I would like to express my appreciation to everyone in RAWCS Eastern Region for their ongoing contribution through their various RAWCS projects.

Region	2022-23 Active projects	2022-23 Project %	Donations %
Eastern	207	37%	56.68%
Southern	159	29%	11.88%
Northern	81	15%	8.93%
Western	49	9%	9.22%
Central	24	4%	1.42%
National	31	6%	11.64%

Brian Goldstraw  
RAWCS Eastern Region Coordinator  
July 2023



Rotary Brisbane Water RAWCS project provides Water in Uganda.

*Join Us for*

## RAWCS Eastern Region Quarterly Meeting including AGM

5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> August 2023

*Hosted by Rotary District 9705*

### Meeting Venue

**Rotary International Office, Norwest**  
25/1 Maitland Place, Norwest, NSW 2153

### Weekend Program

**Saturday afternoon Session – 2:00 - 4:30pm**  
RAWCS Update and Training/Development Session

**Saturday Evening Dinner – 6:30pm for 7:00pm**  
**Guest Speaker: - Ron Marcus,**  
**“50 Years of FAIM and RAWCS”**

**Sunday Morning Session – 9:00 - 12:30pm**  
Annual General Meeting followed by General Meeting

### Saturday Afternoon Session

**Latest Update** - RAWCS Chairman David Pearson will provide an update on RAWCS.

**Our Passion for Our Projects in RAWCS** - Mary Brell will lead a session to share "Who we are" and the different wins and challenges we experience in RAWCS.  
RAWCS has a wide range of projects providing an extensive range of skills that we have and are worth sharing.

- It's about learning from the experienced volunteers.
- It's also about passing on your experiences to those who want to become involved in RAWCS activities.
- How to overcome difficulties running a project.

**Please bring photos of your projects to display around the room to promote discussion during the weekend.**

**Singleton Bus Crash Update** – Brian Coffey will provide an overview of the project.

### Booking Saturday Evening Dinner - \$45

Bookings via TryBooking <https://www.trybooking.com/CJSIS>

Bookings close 29 July 2023.

Dinner will be held in the Rotary Norwest Office

**For Information contact: Brian Goldstraw,**

Mob: 0417 409 755, or Email: [brian.goldstraw@bigpond.com](mailto:brian.goldstraw@bigpond.com)



Ron Marcus (far right) with a Volunteer Team  
Nepal, 2004



Ron Marcus with Cath Lab  
Installed in Sri Lanka, 2008



**Also please invite anyone you know who may be interesting in learning more about international community service and finding out more about RAWCS.**

## Breathe Easy, Kenya!

Where there's a will there's a way.... and two years after this RAWCS project was registered, we are happy to announce that five county hospitals in Kenya each now have an Oxygen Manifold system to ensure efficient and safe oxygen delivery in their Emergency Departments.

The World Health Organization recommends oxygen therapy for all severe and critically ill patients so emergency care centres in Kenya need to be equipped with functioning oxygen systems, including single-use oxygen delivery interfaces and pulse oximeters.

The Rotary Club of Taree through RAWCS Project Manager Dr Grace Maano collaborated with Emergency Medicine Kenya Foundation (EMKF) Founder Dr Ben Wachira to fulfil that need.

RAWCS Project #61 "Adopt an Emergency Department in Kenya" was born in Rotary Year 2020-21 as an International Service project of Rotary Club of Taree. The project aimed to fund one or more oxygen manifold installations in county hospitals in Kenya.

The Project team led the club into fundraising through donations and raffles until Dec 2021 and managed to raise the equivalent for three oxygen manifolds. Not content with just three, a Global Grant application was lodged the next year to double the funds and serve more county hospitals in Kenya.

The Global Grant and communication with project partners overseas, was no easy feat but it was eventually approved in Sept 2022! The Rotary Club of Hurlingham, District 9212 was identified as another Project Partner.



Dr Grace Maano



In a busy 3 months at the end of 2022, the Rotary Club of Hurlingham (RCH) and Emergency Medicine Kenya Foundation (EMKF) implemented the project, installing the oxygen manifolds in:

- JM Kariuki at Nyandarua County,
  - Iten County Hospital at Iten County,
  - Busia County Hospital at Busia County,
  - Wajir County Hospital at Wajir Muslim County,
- and
- Lamu County Hospital at Lamu Island.

Each oxygen manifold and associated emergency training cost around \$10,000 AUD.

Joseph Sunday, Board Chair of EMKF wrote to Rotary Club of Taree:

“These five emergency departments manage 186,159 critically ill and injured patients annually. Thanks to your support, these departments can now provide oxygen to 50 patients simultaneously at maximum capacity. These achievements would not have been possible without your continued support, and we look forward to your partnership in continuing to strengthen emergency healthcare systems in Kenya to save lives together”.

It was wonderful to note that many Rotary Clubs heeded our call for help back in 2021. Our heartfelt thanks to the Rotary Clubs of Armidale Central, Laurieton, Lower Midcoast, Narrabri and Walcha of District 9660. Even interstate clubs trusted us on this project, our sincere gratitude to Rotary Club of Ararat in Victoria and Rotary Club of Marybrough-Sunrise in Queensland, as well as the One Mile State School of Gympie in Queensland for contributing towards this project!

Taree Community supported Raffle Ticket Sales while Members and Friends of Rotary Club of Taree made personal donations towards the project. Big donors - DAK FOUNDATION, District 9660 and District 9212 District-designated funds (DDF) helped complete the funds. After being matched by a Global Grant, a total project fund of \$36,200 USD was able to target six county hospitals. Unfortunately, the 6th hospital (Hola County Hospital) is under renovation and will not be completed anytime soon so only five oxygen manifolds were installed.

Jan 23-31st was a very fulfilling week for Project Manager Dr Grace Maano who attended the commissioning of the five oxygen manifolds. Moreover, it was an opportunity to meet the local project partner members face to face!

The fifth county, Lamu Island, is a UNESCO World Heritage site and gave the team a chance to have a bit of rest and recreation as well as a chance to meet the members of a relatively new Rotary Club of Lamu.

We all enjoyed the internationality of Rotary – it does not matter if you are meeting for the first time, a sense of brotherhood/sisterhood exists when you meet other Rotarians in other countries!



## Would your club consider “Adopting” an Emergency Department in Kenya?

There are still 14 County Hospitals and over 100 SubCounty Hospitals needing Oxygen Manifolds in Kenya.

**The DAK FOUNDATION – will match every \$2 donation with \$1 from May until October 31st 2023 to maximum of \$15,000.**

You can use this link to donate, or contact

Dr Grace Maano  
Email - [gmaano@gmail.com](mailto:gmaano@gmail.com)  
Phone 0416 745 156

## RARE News



Arthur Wina Memorial Hospital,  
Nalolo District, Zambia  
has received medical supplies shipped from the  
[RAWCS - Rotary Australia World Community  
Service](#)  
repurposing project Donations in Kind at Edinburgh  
(RARE) and shipped by

[Dignity Zambia project Rotary District 9510](#)

## Stay in Touch

Got a Question or  
Suggestion?

You can find the right person  
to ask here:

[Eastern Region Contacts  
List](#)

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### Thanks!

To DR Grace Maano for  
her inspiring story  
and lovely photos.

[The reference for the history  
of Australian Social Security  
is HERE](#)