

Newsletter No 4 April 2007

FRIENDS OF

HELENA GOLDIE

HOSPITAL



PARADISE IN NEED OF REPAIR

WELCOME TO NEWSLETTER NUMBER 4

Paradise in need of repair.....

The slogan that we chose for the HGH Newsletter has proved tragically prophetic for much of the Western Province. The media have battled the inaccessibility of the region to bring news to the rest of the world of the tragedy and destruction. Most of us are aware of the rising death toll, the loss of shelter and the disruption of facilities. At the time of writing the aftershocks were subsiding, relief teams were reaching Munda and Gizo and help was reaching many of those who had suffered injury or loss. Sadly the full extent of death and damage to villages on outlying islands is slowly being established..

HOSPITAL AND MEDIAL SERVICES

While the Hospital at Gizo was extensively damaged we understand that Helena Goldie Hospital was structurally unscathed although there was disruption of the water supply and sewerage. Nevertheless wards were evacuated and patients sent home or transferred to a nearby school. There have been stories of emergency surgery and deliveries performed in the open air. Medical and Nursing staff in the relief teams have been able to help with some of the acute and ongoing health care load. By default HGH is now the major hospital facility in the Western Province and at once questions will arise about the future roles of HGH and Gizo Hospital. There will inevitably be discussion about the scope of rebuilding or expansion of facilities, the cost involved and of course the source of funding.

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It has been both heart-wrenching and heart-warming to have been part of the extensive network of colleagues, friends and relatives as news has come out of the Western Province by email, phone and word of mouth. It had become apparent previously that for Rotarians from many Clubs in many parts of Australia Munda has a special place in their memories. That awareness and affection has already spread to many others and one positive effect of the Tsunami has been the widening public awareness of the Solomon Islands and the Western Province in particular.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

In the present Emergency/Relief phase many well-wishers including Rotarians, Friends of HGH and others may be wondering how to help. We suggest:-

(a) The Western Solomon's Tsunami Appeal fund has been established by the Rotary Club of Brisbane Planetarium. Donations are tax deductible. Cheques should be made out to the Western Solomon's Tsunami Appeal and sent c/o Hon. Secretary, Rotary Club of Brisbane Planetarium, PO Box 750 Toowong Qld. 4066. Alternatively funds can be transferred directly into the Commonwealth Bank account BSB 064012 a/c 10141642.

(b) If you have construction or technical skills to offer your time may not yet have come. However the Emergency/Relief phase will come to an end sooner rather than later and the long hard slog of reconstruction will take over. It is likely that Rotary with its long experience of the region will be officially involved. In the meantime offers of help of any kind can be registered with the Australian Red Cross by email to Donna McSkimming at dmcskimming@redcross.org.au .

FRIENDS OF HELENA GOLDIE NEWSLETTER

The original Newsletter No.4 was about to be distributed when the Tsunami struck. This edition is by way of an interim report and it is planned to circulate No.5 soon to bring recipients up to date, to correct any errors and to try to outline future plans more accurately.

CONCLUSION

Although HGH is relatively undamaged it remains in need of refurbishment, water. sanitation. While the media concentrated on Gizo the damage in Munda and Lambete is extensive and no less in need of repair. A brief phrase in one of Trevor Cumberland's emails bears repeating : "Do not forget us....."

DONATIONS

a. To make a donation toward the Helena Goldie Hospital Program please forward cheques to John Caddy, HGH Program Rotary Club of Burnside, PO Box95 BURNSIDE SA 5066
Cheques should be made payable to Rotary Overseas Aid Fund (Helena Goldie Hospital 41/2005-6).
Private donations are Tax Deductible.

b. To support the Rotary Tsunami Appeal please forward cheques to the Hon. Secretary, Rotary Club of Brisbane Planetarium, PO Box 750 TOOWAONG QLD. 4066
Cheques should be made payable to the Western Solomon's Tsunami Appeal. Private donations are tax deductible.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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