

**Paradise  
.....on the  
Mend**



**FRIENDS OF  
HELENA GOLDIE  
HOSPITAL**

**WELCOME TO NEWSLETTER NUMBER 7**

**Greetings! Most Friends of HGH will recall the Tsunami of April 2007 which changed the lives and plans of many people in that part of the Solomon Islands. Although HGH itself was virtually undamaged, repercussions of the event are still being felt. Members of Burnside Rotary Club's HGH Committee thought it was time for another on-site visit following in the footsteps of John Caddy who went there on behalf of the Club in September 2007.**

**On this occasion Chris Hughes was the delegate and he made the trip with Club support under the auspices of RAWCS with help and advice from PDG Peter Thomas (Rotary Against Malaria), Rotarian Peter Geer (Project Volunteers) and Travel Agent Jeff Kahl. Not surprisingly it all went smoothly!**

**Chris was made warmly welcome, not only at the Hospital itself but also by the Moderator and his staff at the nearby United Church Office and at Agnes Lodge, during his stay in Munda. (An incidental bonus on the way home was an enjoyable evening with the Rotary Club of Honiara.)**

**He spent useful time in discussion with Dr.Dina and colleagues at HGH, with the Moderator and staff at the Church Office and later with Mark Leeming, Acting Director of the Nurse Aide Training School. Before leaving Munda there was also a productive meeting with the current batch of medical students from Cornwall U.K. spending their elective at HGH.**

**There were many positives to report—the Children's Ward looked much better with the new beds and its flooring and bright decoration. The extension to the General Ward prompted by the extra workload post-Tsunami seemed to be working well. The upgrade to Outpatients recently completed with the help of Bundaberg Rotary Club looked very attractive. The new Malaria facility (Loxton Rotary Club) also looked smart and business-like. Work was in progress on the new truck garage. The new well recently established with the technical assistance of Jeff Kite (Uniting Church Overseas Aid) continues to function well serving both hospital and neighbouring village effectively.**

**Sadly but inevitably there were some negatives to report: the large autoclave sourced eventually at DIK Adelaide, transported by container to Noro, moved to HGH and manhandled into position with great difficulty has proved to be incomplete and useless. The plan now is to revert to using a number of small sterilisers based on each ward. The aluminium and fibreglass boats damaged in the Tsunami remain out of service partly because of the damage but also for lack of staff &/or funding needed to visit health clinics along the coast.**

In spite of all the problems Staff morale remains high. They work well together to perform miracles with the minimum of equipment and facilities that are available. James is managing well as Acting Director of Nursing and Mark Leeming is working on a new curriculum for NATS and updating the hospital library.

A cause for surprise was the steady stream of medical students in recent years who have chosen HGH as their elective posting. Some come from Australia or New Zealand but many, like the present group have come from medical schools in the U.K. They perform a useful role in patient care especially in the Outpatient clinics and on routine ward rounds. There was discussion on the advantage that would come to all concerned if low rental accommodation for students could be made available on site. This project might form the basis of a Rotary-led initiative using local labour sometime in the near future.

A major topic for discussion was the long-term future of HGH. Should it be relocated or redeveloped on its present site? Many factors come into the equation including the future of the regional hospital at Gizo, possible upgrading of the nearby WWII airstrip and the optimal use of the land generously allocated by the United Church on the northern side of the airstrip. Uncertainties about demographic change in the community and whether or not the campaigns to control malaria, HIVAids and TB are successful cloud the picture still further. Advice had previously been received that community consultation would be an essential part of any forward planning. This might be time consuming and require an experienced facilitator but the concept was well received by the parties involved including representatives of the Hospital, the Church and the Ministry of Health. Rotary could be only a minor player in this process. However Burnside Rotary Club continues its commitment to the welfare of HGH, Staff and patients. It will continue to locate and supply items of equipment on request and it will continue to act as part of an information network about HGH and its needs. From time to time it will no doubt support a working visit by another Rotarian fortunate enough to enjoy HGH and Munda hospitality.

INFORMATION about the HGH Program is available on an attractive display stand and also as a 10 minute MS Power Point presentation with commentary. Speakers from Burnside Rotary Club are available & can go *almost* anywhere at almost any time. Contact John Caddy [caddyys@bigpond.net.au](mailto:caddyys@bigpond.net.au) The Editor (Chris Hughes) would always welcome comments or queries about the Newsletter or HGH. Email: [emandcee@bigpond.com](mailto:emandcee@bigpond.com) M: 0418 835 977

## DONATIONS

To make a donation toward the Helena Goldie Hospital Program please forward cheques to;

John Caddy, HGH Program,  
PO Box 95, BURNSIDE SA 5066

Cheques are payable to –Rotary Overseas Aid Fund (Helena Goldie Hospital).

*Private donations are Tax Deductible.*

Friends of Helena Goldie Hospital