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Newsletter No3

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# FRIENDS OF HELENA GOLDIE HOSPITAL.

## Paradise in need of Repair

### **WELCOME TO NEWSLETTER Number 3**

There is much to report since the last Newsletter. In spite of the recent diplomatic differences between Australia and the Solomon Islands the news is very positive.

Late in July John Caddy and Chris Hughes spent a very productive day in Sydney in discussion with the senior members of the Uniting Church which has a continuing interest in the affairs of the Helena Goldie Hospital ( HGH).As a result of the meeting John and Jeff Kite( engineer with Uniting Church Overseas Aid) together visited Honiara and Munda for 10 days in September. Friendships at the hospital were renewed and new contacts made with local United Church officials. Local contractors and suppliers were identified. Officials in the Solomon Islands Department of Health gave helpful advice. It was a visit of fundamental importance to the long term success of the project.

### **THE FUTURE OF HELENA GOLDIE HOSPITAL**

Coincidentally with the involvement of Burnside Rotary Club, HGH has lifted its gaze to the future. There is now no possible doubt that the hospital is an essential part of the health network of the Solomon Islands and of the Western Province in particular. The HGH's own recent Newsletter reports that a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Health and HGH was to be signed in September. The same Newsletter reports on VISION 2010 in which the Ministry of Health , the Nursing Council and the HGH Medical Board have agreed that the Nurse Aide Training School should be upgraded to a Diploma in Nursing School beginning in 2007.

It has become apparent that significant funding for upgrading the hospital structure might be available through the Ministry of Health if a Strategic Plan could be lodged with the Ministry by the end of the calendar year. This goal might be hard to achieve but it underlined the urgent need of an accurate up-to-date survey of the hospital site and structures. The Friends of HGH agreed to underwrite the cost of the survey.

### **ZONTA**

The Zonta Club of Adelaide has continued to support the training of nurses and nurse aides. The club recently forwarded the second component of a grant to assist in the further training of nursing

personnel based in the communities around the coast of the Western Province. Course participants arrived by water, spent several days at HGH and departed full of new skills and confidence. The Hospital Secretary has since forwarded a list of text books that will be required by the new Diploma of Nursing students when they enrol at the beginning of 2007. The list is being circularised to all our known nursing contacts and can be easily forwarded by email to anyone interested.

#### **THE CONTAINER**

On returning to Adelaide from Munda in mid 2005 we had a list of specific items of equipment that would be of use in various parts of the hospital. Most of these items were identified at Rotary's "Donations in Kind" facility north of Adelaide and eventually packed in a container and sent to Munda. John Caddy's recent visit occurred soon after the arrival of the container at the port of Noro ( just north of Munda). Its clearance through Customs and transport by truck to HGH was helped by Rotarians from Gizo , the regional capital on a neighbouring island, and it was particularly helpful for John to have been part of the process .When despatching containers to Munda in the future, plans regarding route, timing, clearance etc can now be made with much greater confidence than before.

#### **PACIFIC POLITICS**

The poor relationships between the Governments of Australia and the Solomon Islands have naturally been a cause for concern. However, after the recent Pacific Forum it seems likely that RAMSI will continue in its present peace-keeping role unchanged for the time being. It is worth emphasising that by dealing directly with people that we know and trust whilst having a continuing voice in jointly agreed plans there is negligible risk of wasting funds through corrupt individuals or agencies.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Over a year has passed since members of Burnside Rotary Club visited Munda to complete a Rotary Against Malaria Project . Progress has seemed slow at times but we are now confident that our approach to the HGH refurbishment project has been correct. The Zonta Club of Adelaide's parallel project with nurse training has been particularly effective. The first container has arrived and its contents have been welcomed. Foundations have been laid for improvement in the facilities at HGH in agreement with the Ministry of health and the United Church. We have made many friends and have many useful contacts. We are in receipt of great good will.

#### **STOP PRESS**

**1.SURVEY COMPLETED BY AN EXPERIENCED LOCAL SENIOR SURVEYOR.**

**2. FROM THE CONTAINER**

- a. Beds have replaced the old beds in the Children's Ward.
- b. Two wheel chairs are already in use.
- c. Books distributed to local schools
- d. Other items being sorted and distributed.

#### **PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION**

In addition to this periodic Newsletter information about the HGH program is available on an attractive display stand and also as a ten minute MS Power Point presentation with commentary. Speakers are readily available from Burnside Rotary Club and are prepared to go almost anywhere at anytime.

#### **DONATIONS**

To make a donation to the HGH Program please forward cheques to:

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

Cheques should be made payable to:

Rotary Overseas Aid Fund - Helena Goldie Hospital (41/2005-6)

Private donations are tax deductible

#### **THANKS**

We grateful acknowledge recent generous donations from the Rotary Club of Gawler SA, the Rotary Club of Glen Osmond SA, and the Inner Wheel Club of Holdfast/Marion SA.

**Friends of Helena Goldie Hospital**