

Further Information Contact:

Burnside Rotary Club

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**Paradise
in need of
Repair**

FRIENDS OF HELENA GOLDIE HOSPITAL

WELCOME TO NEWSLETTER NO.5

Yes! The Friends of Helena Goldie Hospital are alive and well, although you are quite right we have not been very communicative in recent months. Let us blame the Tsunami. It caused not only deaths and destruction of homes, schools and health facilities but also caused confusion and changed plans in all sorts of ways.

In November Burnside Rotary Club offered hospitality to Jeff Kite, an engineer working with Uniting Church Overseas Aid (UCOA). He visited Munda recently and was able to bring information on the current situation at the Helena Goldie Hospital. In summary the Tsunami caused only minimal damage to the hospital (although it is only a little above the high tide mark) but to make things worse the ground subsided nearly a metre due to the seismic activity. Helena Goldie Hospital was asked to take over the role of the Gizo Regional Hospital, which had been put out of action mainly due to catastrophic destruction of the staff housing. As the new regional hospital, Helena Goldie Hospital has had a marked increase in workload. Fortunately, Dr Dina has an extra medical colleague to help him and, we believe, an increase in nursing staff.

As a consequence of the Tsunami there is now a firm intention to relocate the hospital to a new site. Preliminary plans will need significant refinement before being acceptable to the Solomon Islands Department of Health. The time frame for the relocation is 5 years.

The original plan developed by the Rotary Club of Burnside for improving facilities at the hospital will still have relevance in these altered circumstances.

Stage1 – focussed on water supply and sanitation-a substantial part of this stage has been achieved by a new well which has been sunk (under Jeff Kite's direction) not far from the proposed site for the new hospital. It will provide water for the new hospital and already provides ample water for the present hospital. Less effort will need to be put into the collection of rainwater and reticulation at the present hospital but work still needs to be done for the safe disposal of sewage and other waste.

Stage 2 included minor repairs, painting, installation of flywire and similar jobs designed for upgrading and refurbishment. These jobs remain unchanged and relevant for the remaining years of the hospital.

Stage3 centred on possible new wards and extension of existing facility. This stage is now largely irrelevant.

We remain in regular contact with Dr Dina, Eddie Pratt and others involved in the hospital administration's future plans. Burnside Rotary Club is happy to remain in a liaison role and, when it is in our power, to respond to expressed needs. All being well another container of requested equipment will be leaving the Donations In Kind facility (DIK) Adelaide site before Christmas.

A major hurdle for the administration seems to be the need to draw up a Hospital Strategic Plan to forward to the Solomon Islands Department of Health. Such a plan will have to be in sufficient detail to satisfy the Department's building standards and to help in costing the new hospital development. This may be an opportunity for Rotary or other Friends to provide some skilled assistance.

Other news:

During December an Adelaide medical Student is visiting HGH supported by Rotary Club of Burnside, Carpe Diem Scholarship Fund. We look forward to his report on returning to Adelaide.

A fundraising "Dinner with a Difference" is planned for the middle of 2008. More information will be included in the next newsletter.

Finally, although not immediately relevant, we are aware that the Pacific Eye Institute is to be established in Fiji, headed by Dr John Szetu, with the aim of providing improved eye care for all in the South West Pacific Area.

On behalf of the Helena Goldie Hospital Committee may I wish you all, a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year".

Editor.

DONATIONS

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

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

Private donations are Tax Deductible

Forward to-

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

Friends of Helena Goldie Hospital

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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