

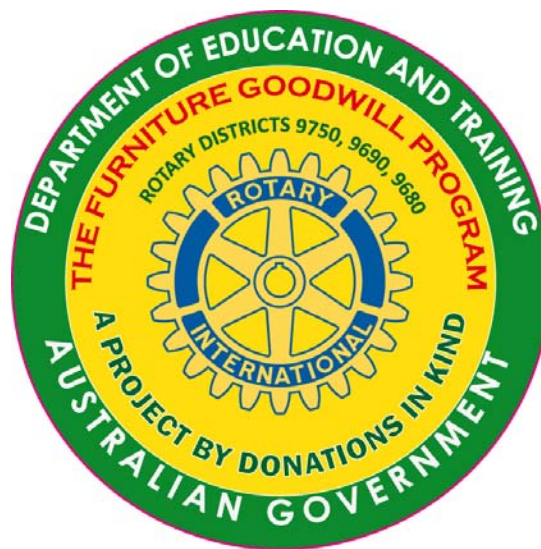
ROTARY FURNITURE GOODWILL PROGRAM

A joint initiative between Rotary and Dept of Education

RAWCS Project No. 8/2010/11



RAWCS CREATES A NEW BUILDING EDUCATION REVOLUTION (BER)



This sticker is attached to each desk

AUGUST 2010 REPORT – (RAWCS PROJECT 8/2010-11)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Rotary Furniture Goodwill Program has changed the way Rotary manages the surplus or redundant equipment emanating from Government Departments and Institutions.

Redundant furniture coming from the Federal Government's Building Education Revolution (BER) Program will be shipped to developing countries at the cost of the original owner Department of Education (DET). Many needy countries will benefit from this initiative. It is my estimation that if Rotary had attempted to financially and physically resource the furniture in a traditional way, that is Rotary clubs raising funds and volunteers packing containers, only 10% would have been sent overseas. This means that 180% of potential schools both here in Australia and those overseas would have had no benefit. This would be a tragic circumstance.

There is a dual benefit in this program – Furniture and Goodwill! Firstly, there is the furniture being re-used by overseas students to give those students opportunities for a better education. Secondly, the Goodwill Program where students from donor schools in Australia and recipient schools overseas will communicate with each other for mutual benefits. The goodwill part has many benefits and particularly in Australian schools. They are given the opportunity to discover cultures and learn communication skills with other countries.

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HOW IT CAME ABOUT

A new education revolution was the brainchild of Hansen Yuncken Company director, David Beslich (Past President of Rotary Club of Sutherland District 9750). With great observation and lateral thinking the Rotary Furniture Goodwill Program was conceived.

David combined his management skills with that passion for humanity through his involvement with Rotary Internal and the conservation and sustainability ingrained in his family upbringing to create the concept of taking redundant furniture and shipping it to developing countries.

From the embryo of an idea developed a whole strategy. David enlisted the aid of another Rotarian Graeme Boler (Past President of Rotary Club of Sutherland, District 9750) to “run with it.”

Shipping donated goods to developing countries is not new. The concept of having the government department accept its responsibility of disposal is new and has changed the paradigm. Much equipment has been shipped out of Australia but each time it is sponsored and paid for by the community. For about the same cost of responsible disposal within Australia the goods can be shipped to developing countries for “a new lease of life.” The BER has afforded this special process and should be congratulated on the initiative and foresight.

After submitting a plan to the Department of Education and lengthy negotiations a truly multi disciplinary joint venture has emerged. There is the DET who own the furniture working with Rotary International who have the distribution network around the world and Hansen Yuncken providing the catalyst and facilitation at this end.

Under both state and federal policy all materials left over from the BER program shall be disposed of in an environmentally friendly and sustainable way. That means the furniture cannot be just dumped at a landfill tip. It must at least be recycled. This has not sustainability in comparison with a reuse overseas. David Beslich’s plan met all the criteria set down for the BER program and is the only viable option.

Studies show that the cost of transport and shipping is very similar to the recycling alternative as there is considerable labour in breaking up the furniture and properly managing the recycling process.

But the program doesn’t just ship furniture to developing countries. Through another vision of Rotary International it is stated that Rotary believes in “World Peace, Goodwill and Understanding” and strives to achieve tis goal. This has been rolled into the Rotary Furniture Goodwill Program by engaging schools here in Australia and seeking to establish communication with the recipient schools in other countries. I can report that every school given the chance has embraced the concept and is embarking on the opportunity to exchange cultural and humanitarian experiences with other schools and students. Each school will gain benefit from this initiative. Beyond that rotary clubs have been engaging their clubs in other parts of the world

A pilot was set up to gauge the viability of the scheme. The results are outstanding! The program is currently running the Hansen Yuncken area of South West Sydney they are managing contractors in the BER Program. Approval has recently been given to complete the program in SW Sydney region.

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Other Managing Contractors have shown a keen interest in the program and with further negotiation with the DET all will be able to participate. That begs the question why then not the rest of Australia. It will probably "snowball" when the benefits are recognised.

It has often been said that education is the foundation of development of a nation and its prosperity. The furniture is a building block in that foundation.

Countries that are benefiting from the scheme will be: Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, East Timor, Chile, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Uganda, Fiji, Tanzania, Zambia, Indonesia, Mongolia and more.

PROGRESS TO DATE

We have shipped 24 containers with 240 classrooms of furniture to Papua New Guinea (9 containers), Vanuatu (10 containers), East Timor (2 containers) and Chile (3 containers). Another five containers will be sent in the next week to PNG (3), Philippines (2)

Negotiations have commenced with three Managing Contractors, Bovis Lend Lease, Abigroup and Brookfield Multiplex. It is anticipated that these companies will provide an even greater impetus than experienced so far.

Every Principal has so far has embraced the program both from the furniture side and the Goodwill exchange. It is very heartening to see the enthusiasm.

LIST of Containers Sent or Planned:

Country	Destination	Containers	Australian Operative	Sponsor
PNG	Lae	3	Jacqui Wood	RC Salamander Bay, NSW
	Lae	2	Wendy Stein	RC Salamander Bay, NSW
	Lae	4	Christine McCormack	RC De Why/Manly, NSW
	Port Moresby	1	Ernie Lohberger	RC Port Moresby, PNG
	Port Moresby	1	Dr Genevieve Nelson	Kokoda Track Foundation, Aust.
	Oro Bay	1	Dr Genevieve Nelson	Kokoda Track Foundation, Aust.
Vanuatu	Tanna Island	1	Miriam Jacka	RAWCS, Eastern Region
	Vila	5	Miriam Jacka	RAWCS, Eastern Region
	Santo	2	Miriam Jacka	RAWCS, Eastern Region
	Vanua Lava	1	Miriam Jacka	RAWCS, Eastern Region

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	Vanua Lava	1	Sid Kelly	Windsor Rotary Club, NSW
East Timor	Dili	2	Daryl Mills, East Timor	RAWCS, East Timor
Chile	Arica	3	Stuart Fraser & Russell Paine	RC Bondi Junction, NSW
Philippines	Cagayan De Oro	2	Dr Grace Maano	RC Penrith, NSW

ALLIANCES

Kokoda Track Foundation

Through an associate I was introduced to Dr. Genevieve Nelson, Executive Director of Kokoda Track Foundation. I have formed an alliance with the Foundation to supply furniture to the villages along the Track. The main thrust is to create awareness between schools under the Goodwill component of the RFGP. What is really special is Genevieve has taken up the idea of visiting schools as I have tried to encourage Rotary clubs (with very limited success). She will present the two facets of the program and her promotion at the same time. Another nice touch is I have aligned Holsworthy Public School with the Kokoda Track schools and this will build a delightful synergy with military people of today at the Holsworthy base.

Australian Defence Forces

I have started dialogue with the Australian Defense Forces with the view of gaining support in several of our destinations. The discussions are proving very positive and could change the way we deal with importation in some countries. It has been my limited experience that papers get "lost" because of belief that some form of corruption must first be negotiated. This is such a difficult area for Rotary. However, the ADF has no such limitations and a "uniform at the wharf" could be all it takes to change that problem. I will report on the progress in future reports.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. I would like information presented on RAWCS web site. I can provide a considerable amount of information plus photos. It would be good to present progress from time to time.
2. I would like to hear from any Country representatives who would like furniture sent to their country of interest. They need to provide an importer in that country, a release agent who will take care of getting the container off the wharf. Other interested people or clubs would also be welcome.
3. Promotion of the program to other RAWCS regions would be good. It would seem that other states are doing little in regard to redundant furniture which means that many children are missing out in other countries.