

Report for RAM National Committee Meeting on 4 December 2020

Dr. Jenny Kerrison, National RAM Manager

Introduction

One of RAM's strategic goals this year is to develop a strong RAM network by strengthening our Regional and District RAM networks. Thus, much of our attention this year was to inform, educate and empower our members to spread the word that RAM offers opportunities for Rotary Club's international service to end malaria in our partner countries.

This report presents information on key national activities over the last three months. Some of the information in this report were also in my November report to our bimonthly RAWCS Board meeting.

Key National Information & Activities

1. RAWCS update

A new powerpoint on RAWCS and it's recent activities is available. The powerpoint is called "RAWCS 30 Minute Presentation 2020" by RAWCS Deputy Chair David Pearson. It is the last item listed on the webpage – to access, click here <https://rawcs.org.au/key-documentation/presentations/>

2. National RAM Vacancies

We are searching for nominees for the following vacancies:

- i. Southern Region RAM Supervisor – application being processed
- ii. National RAM Secretary – to recruit now for a vacancy in July 2021
- iii. National RAM Deputy Manager – vacant now.

In addition to the above vacancies, I wish to flag the need for us to consider 'succession planning'. Thus, I wish to remind all National RAM Committee members who have been in their position 3 years or more, to discuss with me in regards what they wish to do i.e. to continue in their position or would like to find a member to mentor for the position. In 2021, I will be reviewing our National RAM Committee structure and functions, our meetings, and our strategic goals.

3. National RAM Information Sessions for Districts RAM

Over the last three months, National Secretary Gloria Hargreaves and I have been working closely with several new and recently recruited National, Regional, and District RAM members.

With several new District RAM Supervisors in place across the country, we felt it would be helpful to provide sessions on national RAM Information for the Districts as well as for anyone new to RAM. With support from the Regional RAM Supervisors, we organised two sessions on RAM Information. These sessions were held on 21 & 28 November with 22 attendees on the 21st and 19 attendees on 28th November. Thank you to all RAM National Committee members who presented sessions for us, and to those who attended the sessions. We have heard from several attendees that the two RAM information sessions were useful. Thus, we may run an annual RAM

Information meeting. The annual information event may sound like an overlap with the annual RAM Conference but in fact, the information presented is specific to RAM with little information on research updates.

4. National RAM Scientific Committee

This committee has provided important services to RAM over the last 18 months such as scientific information for our quarterly RAM newsletter (Dr. Bruce); conference program planning (Dr. Ivor Harris); and inputs to the PhD scholarship program (Dr. Sue McDonald).

DG Dr. Bruce Anderson D9790 is head of the RAM Scientific Committee. Last year, National RAM recruited to the RAM Scientific Committee the following members: two Rotarians (Dr. Ivor Harris D9600 and Dr. Sue McDonald D9800) and one non-Rotarian (Dr. Maxine Whittaker, James Cook University).

On 26 November, a meeting was held with National RAM and the RAM Scientific Committee, to review the Committee's goals established in 2019. Some of the key points raised were:

- The Committee or a nominated member will continue to participate in Conference program planning for our annual RAM Conference.
- The Committee or a nominated member may engage more in Rotary Grant or other Grant applications. For example, RAM Scientific Committee member Dr Ivor Harris via his Rotary Club contributed to developing the Rotary Global Grant for New Ireland Province (PNG). National RAM and previous NIPMA (New Ireland Province Malaria Alliance) consultant Ross Hutton were also instrumental in the Grant application.
- RAM PhD scholarship program is on hold in 2021 until our income improves. One possible idea posed at the meeting was that if RAM does not have sufficient funds to support a PhD scholarship in 2021 then we may wish to consider providing a scholarship for other shorter courses. Dr. Sue McDonald will explore the costs and options.
- The 2021 Annual RAM Conference will be held in Newcastle and the proposed dates are: 11th and 12 September. To be approved by the National Committee.
- It was agreed that meetings in the new year will be held 3 monthly. The next Committee meeting will be scheduled in February.

5. RAM “Adopt-A-Project”

Solomon Islands: Central Regional RAM Supervisor Cheryl Fleming will set up a RAWCS Project to raise funds for Solomon Islands. The Team (Edgar, Adam, Andrea, Gloria and Jenny) will focus on developing a community-based project in “hot spots” malaria transmission areas in Honiara. More information will be reported by CR Supervisor Cheryl.

Vanuatu – The Southern Region RAWCS project will continue to fund raise for 2022. Wil Cornelissen is continuing as the RAWCS project manager.

6. Annual RAM Conference

Potential dates for the 2021 Annual RAM Conference are 11th and 12 September - to be approved by the National Committee.

District RAM Steve Carroll D9670 who assisted our previous ER RAM Supervisor John Macpherson to identify a venue in Newcastle for 2020 Conference has advised that the Airport Mercure is the best option for 2021. The hotel's price and terms of venue hire have remained similar to last year's quotation. Steve will email us the new Hotel proposal. A Conference Committee of three to four people will need to be established this year.

7. National RAM's support for four Rotary Global Grants

Details of the funding for the four Grants are displayed in Table 1 below. An analysis reveals that if all Grants are successful then RAM National would have donated AUD195,290.

Also, if all Grants are successful, the net gain for RAM is USD248,702 (AUD337,417). Thus, I wish to emphasise the need for RAM Regions and Districts to support more Grants application in the near future.

No.	Country	RAM Cash	Rotary Club	DDF	TRF Matched	TOTAL Rotary GG
1	Vanuatu	34,076	0	30,000	46,948	111,024
2	New Ireland Province, PNG	19,868	2,988	10,000	16,416	49,272
3	Timor Leste	45,000	1,000	19,000	42,000	107,000
4	West Timor	45,000	5,100	25,100	50,150	125,350
TOTAL:		143,944	9,088	84,100	155,514	392,646

Table 1: Funding for the four Rotary Global Grants submitted in June 2020.

In line with our strategic goal to strengthen RAM, a plan for 2021 is to establish a "RAM Consulting Team" with experienced project managers and pro bono malaria expert consultants. Anyone willing to be challenged and are not afraid to write grants are encouraged to join the Team.

8. Updates from RAM partner countries

Vanuatu: MOU activities will now be completed in January 2021. The last activity on the MOU is to map households in two provinces (Sanma and Malampa). The data will be used for the national Indoor Residual Spraying program. The mapping is a vital activity that will dove-tail with the new Rotary Global Grant project.

The Rotary Global Grant application for Vanuatu of USD111,024 was approved in November. Our first meeting was on 1 December with Rotarians from Rotary Clubs Santo and Port Vila. PDG Lindsay Ford NZ D9910 is the Grant Project Manager. Our International Host is RC Waverley and Wil Cornelissen is our Project Manager. As Wil is exceptionally busy, Gloria Hargreaves has kindly offered to be the project lead for RC Waverley for the duration of the 12-month Grant project.

PNG: A MOU is in place between RAM Australia and RC Port Moresby for the Chasing Malaria Program. RAM PNG Project Manager Tim Freeman is preparing the next quarterly report that will include our first financial report.

PNG - New Ireland Province: A meeting was held in November with Dan Evans and Ross Hutton (previously from NIMPA) to receive updates on the Global Fund funding for New Ireland Province. Dan and Ross have advised that RAM Australia is not have to apply for a Perpetual Trustees Grant this year for 2021 funds. Also, the RAWCS Registration to fundraise for NIP will be delayed until we are clear in regards how the Dan and Ross plan to use the funds for the NIP malaria elimination project.

Solomon Islands: Gloria Hargreaves and I have contributed to meetings and development of survey questionnaires for a community needs assessment that will be conducted when project commences. The questionnaires were adapted from the ones developed in early 2020 by National RAM Manager and the West Timor RAM Volunteer Team. The Solomon Islands Team has added a new set of questionnaires for a needs assessment at primary schools.

Timor Leste:

The Rotary Global Grant USD251,334 (managed by RC North Hobart D9830 and RC Dili Lafaek D9550) has recently purchased 70 WHO microscopy bench aids, and another 5,000 bed nets. A balance of USD11,281 is available. Some of this money was for printing of messages related to their Behavioural Change Communication strategies. As Timor Leste country's borders have remained close, the Behavioural Change Communication Consultant's trip to Timor Leste was postponed. The RC North Hobart has submitted a request to TRF for a second project extension for two months. If successful, the project will close end of February.

West Timor:

In October, National RAM Manager held a meeting with WHO, UNICEF Jakarta and malaria program Ministry of Health, to discuss Rotary Global Grant application that was submitted for West Timor in June 2020. This was an important meeting to raise awareness in Jakarta of RAM's work in West Timor. A total of seven Rotarians from Rotary D3410 and 3420 Indonesian were present. The Rotarians were RAM-Global Rotary Action Group Ambassadors established by RAM-Global Secretary in September. The West Timor Malaria Program Manager and WHO Consultant for Timor Leste Dr. Manel also attended the meeting.

9. RAM-Global Rotary Action Group: A global role in malaria elimination

In early November, RAM-Global Chair Drake Zimmerman, RAM-Global Secretary Jenny Kerrison, and RAM-Global Ambassador Program Director Dai Mason, met via zoom with Asia Pacific Leadership Malaria Alliance (APLMA). The aim of the meeting was for RAM-Global to engage with APLMA to host a joint zoom seminar on "Accelerating malaria elimination in Indonesia", in January 2021. There is also the potential for RAM-Global to collaborate with APLMA, to accelerate malaria elimination in other parts of Asia Pacific; and for sharing of malaria country program information.

If you wish to contribute to a global malaria elimination campaign, please join RAM-Global Rotary Action Group via this site <https://ram-global.org/>