**RCM Water Reticulation Project for Lubang Island, Philippines**

* In 2008 RCM became a partner with a Rotary Club in Udaipur India to treat chemically polluted water used by the village of Bicchadi. There was a great degree of misfiring and various restarts. TRF became involved and it took a long time to conclude and abridged project and for RCM and D9800 to be absolved from culpability.
* In 2009, a sub group from the Public Affairs Committee decided to establish the necessary criteria for a successful implementation of international water projects for our club. They produced a Policy document that stressed the importance to have a project champion as the leader and partnering with experienced people in the geography and technology selected.
* Members of the International Programs Committee (IPC) accepted that they would follow the strategy of President Barry Watts to have RCM engage in the TRF focus area of providing clean water to impoverished communities. IPC also wanted to operate in the SE Asia and Pacific Islands area. TRF was also starting to focus on the Philippines one of its districts joined D9800 in becoming a pilot for Future Vision.
* The investigation by IPC included attendance at RAWCS seminars, review of the listing of Australian Rotary projects overseas and District inputs. It was observed that RC Brighton Beach had developed successful projects in this area and advice was sought from their Ruth Carlos-Martinez on a request received from the Rotary Club of Central Mactan. With help from Ruth the IPC scepticism of the veracity of the project was reinforced and it was quickly declined.
* However the knowledge of Ruth, a native Filipino, gave IPC confidence in her ability. The arrival of a request to support communities in Lubang Island to reticulate water instead of transporting by villagers became a clearly better opportunity for success.
* After much more investigation it became clear that Ruth would be an ideal project champion and leader and RCM was sought to be the partner with RC Brighton Beach. Also RC Brighton North joined the group.
* The project involves drawing water from a quality certified well by use of a wind and solar powered pumping system. The water is then gravity fed by pipe systems to 30 outlets for domestic and community agricultural usage. Villager bucket transport will be replaced by the system and allow more time and more water to assist the farming. The project involves commitment for support from the Council and the villagers to provide training for the operation and for ongoing preventative maintenance. It meets the TRF requirement for sustainability.
* Being one of the first projects to seek TRF support via the pilot Future Vision process was a good learning curve for the three clubs and for D9800 personnel.
* This project was the third to be approved in D 9800 after District submitted its own Vocational Training Team project in East Timor (headed by RCM member Jeremy Oats), followed by a RC Hawthorn project in Uganda.
* RCM approved the project in principle in March 2010 with an allowance of US $5,500. RCBB and RCBN will contribute US $3,500 and US $2,000 respectively. District contributes US $8,000 and TRF US $24,000. RC Lubang Island is contributing US $3,000. The total project cost is US $46,000.
* President Phil Endersbee is currently planning for a work visit by club members to assist in an appropriate part of the project – perhaps in April or May. More to be advised later.