

News Update | Winter 2017

We report from the Philippines, and our work with *Balay Mindanaw Foundation*; a visit there by DAA Board member John O'Reilly and wife Stevie; introduce our latest DAA Board member (along with some more energetic Rotarian volunteers); our new website; reports on our recent Conference and, support from the corporate sector. And more ...

RESPONDING TO LATEST CRISIS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Since May this year, news reports have told of prolonged fighting that has continued between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and rebels in Marawi City. It is reported that more than eighty-four thousand families have been forced to leave their homes.

The Balay Mindanaw Foundation, Disaster Aid's long term partner in the Philippines immediately responded to the crisis and we continue working with them.

A key resource in the aid has been three Australian SkyHydrant™ water filtration systems provided by Disaster Aid to supply safe drinking water to the displaced families.

These SkyHydrants have been operated by Balay Mindanaw volunteers. By 25 July, Balay Mindanaw had already provided over 140,000 litres of potable water to more than 1,800 families in thirteen Evacuation Centres.



The photo shows an old fire engine that has been used to transport raw water, and, with the addition of a SkyHydrant treat the water, making it safe to drink before its distribution.

Additional SkyHydrants are currently on the way to the Philippines, and Disaster Aid tents and tarpaulins are also being used. Balay Mindanaw and Disaster Aid continue to monitor the situation and respond to the humanitarian needs of the affected families.

MORE ABOUT THE ORGANISATION BEHIND THE SKYHYDRANT™ SYSTEMS

SkyJuice™ Foundation Inc is a not-for-profit Australian organisation based in Sydney . It was incorporated in 2005 and supplies sustainable water treatment systems (*SkyHydrant™*) for humanitarian projects and emergency and disaster relief.

They proudly boast a variety of working partnerships with NGO groups such as Oxfam, Rotary, **Disaster Aid Australia**, Siemens Stiftung, World Vision, Red Cross, UNICEF and many others.

⌘ **Does your Rotary club project need clean water? If so, please let us know.**



NEW WEBSITE

We have made some extensive changes to our website. It is still a work-in-progress (please remember, we *are* a volunteer organisation) but encourage you to have a look:

www.disasteraidinternational.org

AUSTRALIANS SEE PROGRESS IN PHILIPPINES

DAA Board member **John O'Reilly** and his wife, Rotarian **Stevie O'Reilly** recently spent about a week (self-funded) in the Philippines – mostly in Mindanao east coast – primarily to meet with Rotarians and our Balay Mindanaw friends to see firsthand the SkyHydrants in use.

And John was also keen to drink the water from each installation ... →

Here are some of his and Stevie's reflections, and a few photos that also tell their own stories ...

John: "Probably the most emotional moment was at Libertad, a very remote Barangay (village) in the hills. A mother came up and hugged me and told me her son was now in Medical School, saying our SkyHydrant had helped keeping him at school. Just proved to me, clean water education breaks the poverty cycle. I was happy to take the hug on behalf of all our Disaster Aid team.

"The last big experience was turning on the water of the new Sky Hydrant for the Barangay of Bacolod ... a very special day."



Stevie: "The photo that *still* melts my heart, is seeing the children in each Barangay, freely and confidently accessing the clean water from the taps. Particularly the little boy holding up two glasses of sparkling clean water. His smile says it all.

"I felt such pride for my Rotary Club of Phillip Island & San Remo when I witnessed the installation of the SkyHydrant in Bacolod. For just \$5,000 we were able to deliver the means to clean water right to the people's doorstep. How amazing! It's a wonderful feeling knowing the lives *and* the health of hundreds of people have been helped."



DID YOU KNOW you can donate to Disaster Aid on a monthly basis? Just go to **DONATE NOW** under the "Support Us" tab on our website. Our need is constant: not just following a natural or other disaster. *We believe "a child without safe water is ... a disaster!"*

SOME LOCAL DISASTER AID 'PEOPLE' NEWS ...



Howard Bradfield

Our latest Board member, Howard is a member and past President of the Rotary Club of Woodend. He is actively involved as a DART and in 2016 was named a Paul Harris Fellow recognising his humanitarian work with Disaster Aid Australia. Howard holds a Bachelor of Commerce Degree and is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He is the Support Services Manager for a Victorian rural hospital.



Brian Ashworth

Brian volunteers part-time at the Disaster Aid office, including working on improving our new website. A Rotarian for over twenty years, he transferred to the Rotary Club of Endeavour Hills earlier this year. He is a recently retired Water Engineer with forty years experience working in the UK and Australia. He owns and edits a website which provides advice to people who want to have a new house built.

OUR 2017 CONFERENCE

Our **Third Annual Conference**, held at the **Dandenong Club**, saw delegates from around Australia and from Fiji, India, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan and the Philippines. One of our guest speakers, **Ariel Hernandez** from *Balay Mindanaw Peace Center* in Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines, peaked our interest telling of the powerful and transformative change experienced by his fellow countrymen through the installation of the SkyHydrant and of their myriad possible future sites. And PDG **Danny Low** (D9680), accompanied by his wife Dr **Angeline Low** gave an address of considerable interest referencing extant need and aid opportunities in Myanmar.

Photos from the conference and its participants, highlight the emphasis on, and interest in safe water.

Ariel Hernandez, a former representative to the Philippine Congress, Ariel (Ayi), has been a social development professional for more than twenty-five years.

He has extensive and intensive background in planning, leadership development, security sector partnerships, microfinance, technical vocation school development and disaster response, and resiliency building.

Ayi's work performance towards peace and development in Mindanao was recently acknowledged by **The Eisenhower Fellowship** as the **Distinguished Fellow of 2017**.



PDG **Danny Low**



Nick Hurley – former New Zealand High Commissioner



Howard Bradfield and **Dave Tuzewski** create safe water



DARTs **Peter Collins**, **Howard**, **Dave**, **Di Holland** and, a toast



Dianne Holland, one of our senior DARTs will end this 2017 Conference report with:

"This project is indeed unparalleled in its simplicity and uniqueness. I am just so proud to be a respected member of the DAA family and to work with fellow Rotarians as we deliver aid so much needed in developing countries."

Conference MC, PDG Ray Stewart 'awarded' Di with the **Best Quotation** at the 2017 event, viz: *"We're a bloody good investment!"* Now, who could *possibly* disagree?

ROTARY ZONE INSTITUTE in DARWIN

SkyJuice Founder and Disaster Aid Patron Rhett Butler is a keynote speaker

Our Patron, **A/A Prof Rhett Butler AM**, the founder and chairman of The **SkyJuice™ Foundation**, a not-for-profit charity that provides sustainable water solutions for humanitarian and disaster relief worldwide, will be a **Keynote Speaker** at the **Rotary Zone Institute in Darwin NT, Fri 1 – Sun 3 September, 2017**. Past, present and future Rotary District Governors from around Australia will be delegates at this important annual event.



CORPORATE SUPPORT in 2016 - 2017

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support, totaling more than \$60,000 from:

- * Norman Disney and Young
- * Macpherson Kelley Foundation
- * Ayr State High School Interact
- * The Executive Connection (TEC)
- * St Patrick's College
- * Mulnott Pty Ltd
- * Explorers Early Learning
- * PAK Welfare Centre

And lastly, we salute another of our legendary DAA stalwarts

From the southern isle, a special thanks to **Ted Burton** from RC **Youngtown (D9830)**. He joined the club in 1989 and has been an active member since, including twice as President.

In 2010, when DAA was formed, they signed on to be the coordinating club for D9830 and became very active in promoting Disaster Aid Australia around Tasmanian clubs. About four years ago Ted became chairman of his club's DAA committee and even more active in organising fundraising activities.



"I find the enthusiastic response received when talking to clubs about the SkyHydrant water filter and promoting 'Safe Water for Every Child' most rewarding. The simplicity of the system has been commented on by many people. The money raised from clubs in our District has been amazing, and I would like to express my gratitude to all concerned."



**Will you please help support
the work of Disaster Aid?**

**It is a Rotary Club project that
really is ... making a difference**

For more information, including **DONATIONS**
(*tax deductible*), please contact us at:

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Editor PDG Ray Stewart



An **Australian Rotary Club** project with
Rotary associates in ten countries ... *and growing*

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE at www.disasteraidinternational.com



PATRON
A/A Prof. Rhett Butler AM

