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# ROTARY GIVE EVERY CHILD A FUTURE NEWSLETTER

March 2021

## WELCOME TO OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER

We are expecting to hear soon that the first vaccines of the Rotary Give Every Child A Future project are being administered. After years of planning this is indeed exciting news and it felt like the right time to launch our newsletter.

Rotary Give Every Child A Future is the largest 'Rotary Down Under' Centenary project and the only one to span both New Zealand and Australia.

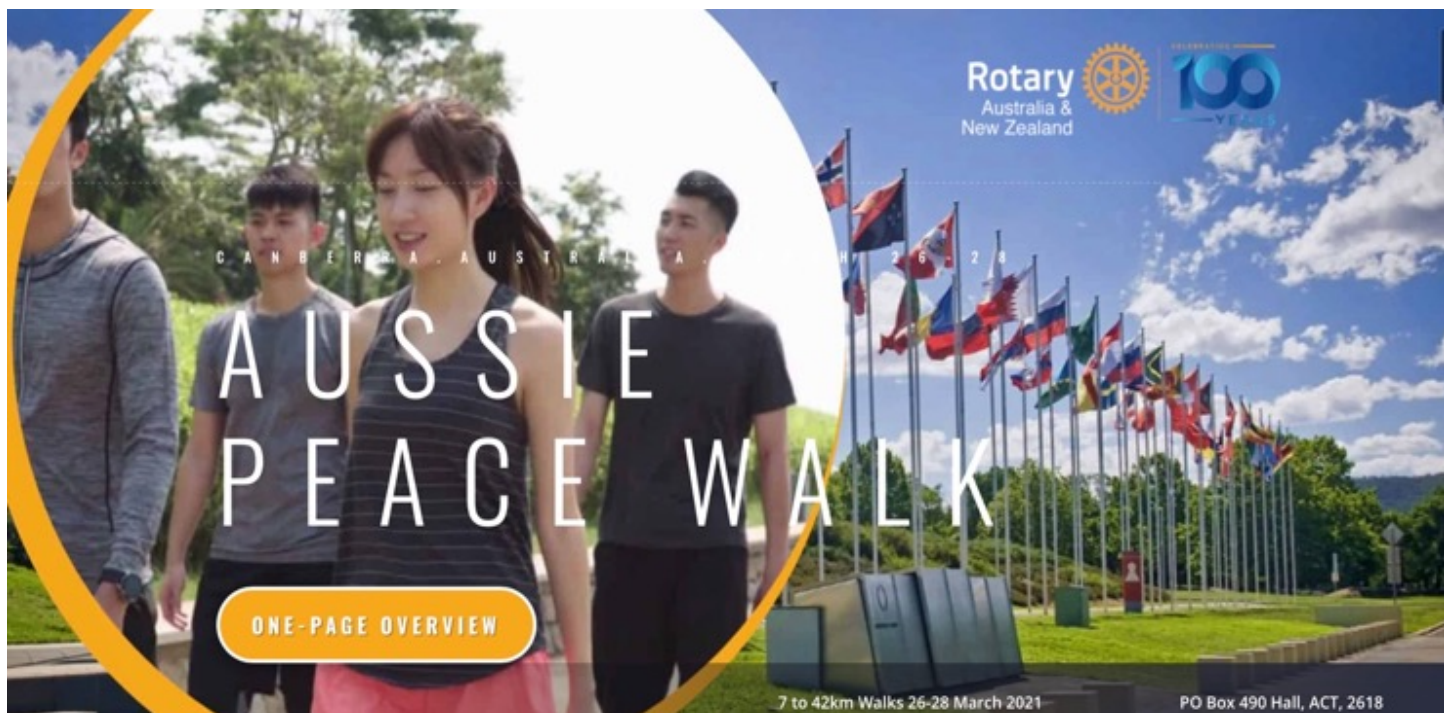
The project aims to involve every Rotarian, every Rotary club and every Rotary district across zone 8 over three years. The goal? To vaccinate 100,000 children across nine Pacific Island Countries protecting them against three, life-threatening diseases.

So, enjoy, and please share our newsletter and talk to fellow Rotarians about how you can get involved.

### In this issue...

- Welcome to RGECAF
- UNICEF and Directors reports
- Fundraising for RGECAF
- Upcoming events





## WALKING FOR PEACE, SAVING PACIFIC LIVES

The 30th Canberra Walking Festival on 26-28 March will become the inaugural Rotary Aussie Peace Walk and we were so excited to hear that the proceeds raised will go to Rotary Give Every Child A Future.

The event which includes 7-42km walks, will officially start at 4:30pm Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March at the Canberra Rotary World Peace Bell in Nara Park. A short welcoming ceremony by indigenous and Māori representatives will be followed by a few words from Past International President Ian Riseley, His Excellency The Governor General of Australia and a representative of the New Zealand High Commission. Following the official welcome, those attending the Centenary Peace Dinner, will move to the National Museum where four indigenous artworks which have been commissioned for the event, will be auctioned at the dinner. Full details of the Peace Dinner can be found [here](#).

The proceeds from the Centenary Peace Dinner, the auction and the Rotary Aussie Peace Walk will be donated to RGECAF.

To find out more, or register for the walk please [click here](#)

Huge thanks to Chris Edwards, other organisers and the participants. We wish you lots of success for the event and look forward to reporting on it in our next newsletter.

## Auckland Rotaract run for RGECAF

The Rotaract Club of Auckland City supported RGECAF as this is a project close to their hearts! They participated in the ASB Auckland Marathon and raised an amazing NZ\$10,120. In addition,

Rotaract Clubs around the world jumped on board pledging “to move” with the Auckland Rotaractors. Clubs from Brazil, Guatemala, Mexico, Jamaica, USA, Canada, Denmark, The Netherlands, Australia, Turkey, Bosnia, Uganda, South Africa & NZ biked, ran and did a yoga session on the same day.

Others joined in and initiated little challenges on social media - #MoveForRGECAF





## DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Rotary Give Every Child A Future is supported by The Rotary Foundation. In 2020, nine global grants (one for each country) were



approved with a total value of approximately US\$1.3 million. These grants are funding the first year of the project, although with the delays caused by COVID-19 the timeline for this first phase will probably extend to 18 months. All the New Zealand districts and most Australian districts supported these global grants with contributions from their District Designated Funds.

Additional global grants have been submitted to cover the next phase. We plan to submit a total of 27 global grant applications, one for each country for each of the three years of the project. We are delighted that an increasing number of Rotary clubs and Rotarians are getting behind project and planning Centenary events to raise funds for RGECAF.

On behalf of the people of the Pacific, I would like to thank everyone who is supporting this project. This program will save many lives amongst our near neighbours. It will provide Pacific children with the vaccine protection that parents in Australia and New Zealand take for granted.

With governments committed to continue with these vaccine programs once Rotary had funded the expensive implementation phase, RGECAF is sustainable and will have a lasting impact. If you, your club or your district is not yet involved please consider donating. We can only succeed with your support.

### R100 Australia Day event

Rotary Australia celebrated the country's National Day on 26 January with an online event that you can still watch it [here](#). RGECAF is covered for about 5 minutes from 35m50s.



### Chinese New Year banquet fundraiser

A sold-out Chinese New Year event was organised by the Rotary Club of Wellington in favour of better health for Pacific children.

More than NZ\$11,500 was raised for Rotary Give Every Child a Future during a superb ten-course Chinese banquet at Dragons Restaurant, Wellington on 21 February, held to mark the beginning of the Year of the Ox.

The event was attended by dignitaries including the Australian High Commissioner (an active supporter of Rotary's Trans-Tasman Centenary), and well-known epidemiologist, Professor Michael Baker of Otago University was the guest speaker. To read more visit our [news webpage](#).



# UNICEF FEBRUARY REPORT

As with most activities and initiatives planned for 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on program delivery timeframes. Whilst none of the nine countries involved in the program reported any cases of COVID-19, border closures, flights reductions and import



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restrictions across the Pacific region have resulted in delays to some of the planned activities. In addition, over the past two months Fiji has been hit by two tropical cyclones. However, we are pleased to report that significant progress has still been achieved during these challenging times.

A key element of the RGECAF project is strengthening the Pacific's broader health systems to ensure the sustainable delivery of vaccines into the future. This is now critically important as we face the biggest health crisis of our generation as RGECAF will undoubtedly assist in preparations for the important roll out of the COVID-19 vaccine in the Pacific.

The first batches of the three vaccines have arrived in Fiji and will be sent from there to the nine countries as soon as current flight and freight constraints allow, whilst the cold chain (vaccine storage and transportation) equipment has been received in each of the countries.

UNICEF is in the final stages of developing a vaccination health worker training program, which will be adapted for each country.

Significantly, this training will encompass several

similar elements to the COVID vaccination training which will reinforce knowledge and quality throughout local health networks.

The Effective Vaccine Management assessments for each country are underway, which will help countries evaluate the performance of their vaccine management practices against a benchmark. Data collected will guide the recommendations for each country's Communication for Development Strategy, developed in collaboration with the Ministries of Health, and social mobilisation strategies designed to encourage caregivers to bring their children for vaccines. These reports will also be used to inform the introduction of the COVID-19 vaccine in each country.

The planning and implementation of COVID-19 vaccination programmes is a current critical focus for UNICEF in the Pacific countries, and the timing expectation for the first rotavirus, HPV and PCV vaccinations in each country is highly dependent on the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines.

We are extremely encouraged by the progress that has been made to date, and we are inspired by the scale, value, and significance of this program evident in its contribution to the countries' COVID-19 vaccination response. The RGECAF project is showing impact on health systems across the Pacific and UNICEF, before the vaccinations have even started. We would like to wholeheartedly express its gratitude to all Rotarians involved in funding this program, which would not be possible without your contributions.

For full report [click here](#)

## Cape Reinga to Bluff for RGECAF

Greenmeadows (Hawkes Bay) Rotarian Alan White is cycling to raise money for RGECAF and the Hawke's Bay Cancer Society, and to profile Rotary in this, the Australasian Centenary year. At 71 years young Alan is a seasoned endurance cyclist but this year he is participating in his first sponsored ride. As we publish he had raised over \$34,000! Starting on 8 February with 3,000km ahead of him Alan crossed to the South Island on 9 March. To donate, or follow Alan's progress, please visit [givealittle.co.nz](http://givealittle.co.nz)







## Remind me. What is RGECAF?

The only Rotary Australasia Centenary project to span the whole zone, Rotary Give Every Child A Future will, through our partner UNICEF, introduce three life-saving vaccines in to nine Pacific Island Countries.

Rotary will fund this \$4.5 million project for three years after which, each country will continue to fund their vaccine programmes, making this a sustainable project with the potential to save lives for generations.

100,000 children will benefit from pneumococcal, rotavirus and HPV vaccines to prevent pneumonia and diarrhoea, the leading cause of death in under-fives, and cervical cancer which claims many more lives in the Pacific than in countries like Australia and New Zealand. Find out more at [everychildafuture.com](http://everychildafuture.com) or email us at [rotary@everychildafuture.com](mailto:rotary@everychildafuture.com)

## ROTARY PEACE SYMPOSIUM SUPPORTS RGECAF

In celebration of its centenary in Australasia, Rotary has invited leaders in peace and conflict resolution to present at the online Rotary 'The future of PEACE LEADERSHIP' Symposium on 21-22 April 2021. Providing perspectives on challenging global and domestic issues and how we can all contribute towards building a more peaceful world over the next 100 years, this event is will appeal to Rotarians, academics, business professionals, lawyers and law enforcement personnel, humanitarian and not-for-profit agencies, community members and leaders, students, and practitioners and experts from the region. For more information [click here](#).

We thank the organisers for supporting RGECAF and registrants are invited to make a contribution to the project.



## Rotary Australasia Centenary links

2021 marks 100 years since the first Rotary clubs; Sydney, Auckland, Melbourne and Wellington were established 'down under'.

While Rotary Give Every Child A Future is the only trans-Tasman centenary project there are many more R100 events and celebrations occurring across the region. As well as the individual clubs websites you will find more information here:

- [rotary100downunder.com](http://rotary100downunder.com)
- [Manga Tangata](#) Rotary New Zealand's history project

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