



A project of the Rotary Club of Denton & Audenshaw

From the desk of the Chairman

Our Newsletter is just one of the ways we use to try and keep in touch with our supporters. Others are, of course, speaking engagements at conferences and clubs, Exhibiting at Rotary events, and responding to queries, usually by email.

Over the past few months we have been encouraged by the continuing interest in what we do and how we do it. The expressions of support and appreciation really do “gee us up” and “spur us on” to help those left in difficult circumstances by whatever disaster they suffered.

If you were one of those people then, “Thank you.”

Robert

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### Cyclone Idai:

As this Newsletter is being written, our two-person assessment team, Peter and Suzie, have just returned from Mozambique where they successfully carried out a detailed investigation into what kind of aid is needed.



Coastal areas, such as Beira, suffered from winds and floods, but inland it was mainly the aftermath of flooding, caused by the unprecedented amounts of rain, that survivors were having to contend with.

After a week of travelling in the 300 x 400km area devastated by the cyclone, and contact with Rotary clubs in Beira and Chimoio, our team's first recommendation was to provide shelter repair kits to two communities that other agencies were reported to have 'missed'.

After obtaining approval from the local authorities they acquired supplies of metal sheeting, lumber and the necessary nails, tools, etc. that should allow 76 families in Machacuaari and Machabonha to escape from sheltering under tarpaulins.

They also distributed 100 Sawyer water filters via Rotary clubs in Beira and Chimoio, and examined a SkyHydrant installation that our colleagues from Disaster Aid Australia had provided but was out of action due to a failed pump. Recommendations on how to fix the problem have been relayed back to Disaster Aid Australia as our team ran out of time to solve the problem before it left.

Such is the scale of this disaster that, after some 2 months, and now that our team has returned and can report in full, we are now reviewing



Team Leader, Peter

# Newsletter: 2019 -1

if we can return to Mozambique and provide more aid.

Our Cyclone Idai Appeal for funds is still open and having enough cash will be one of our considerations.

Details of options to make a donation can be found on our website at: <https://disasteraiduk.org/donate>

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Kerala - 2

In our Newsletter 2018-1 we headlined an article with **“Water, water everywhere, nor any drop to drink”**. Little did we know then that we would receive requests for help from the same area where drought conditions followed the floods of 2018, and water was now being taken from sources not usually used or deemed as ‘safe to drink’.

The fears were that water-borne diseases would spread but our preferred, small Sawyer water filters can help prevent diarrhoea and the like from causing untold miseries.

We despatched Matt, one of our DART Volunteers with field experience in instructing and training in the correct use and maintenance of these filters, to work alongside a number of Rotary clubs. The water filters and buckets were all acquired in-country and delivered prior to his arrival.

After 2 weeks of travel, and meeting many generous Rotarians and their families, Matt returned home safely but, impressed by the beauty of India, has indicated that he would like to return - even if it has to be at his own expense!

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## Conferences, Showcases, etc. past and future

If you came across us at last year’s Rotary Institute in Stratford-upon-Avon, or the recent Showcase in Nottingham, I hope we got a chance to speak to you.

For us, these events fluctuate between periods of hyperactivity before the plenary sessions and during the coffee breaks, and long periods of inactivity during the plenary sessions.

In the opening months of 2019-20 we have plans to exhibit at Rotary events in Southport, Scarborough, Caernarfon, Clydebank, Llandudno, and Aberdeen.

If your district would like us to attend its conference, or another event, then please, please get in touch sooner rather than later, especially if it falls in the busy period of September/October.

I will not name it, but there is one Rotary District that keeps asking us to come to their event. It is now the third time we have had to decline because they left it too late and we were fully committed elsewhere.

We hate to disappoint but things could have been so different if the request had been made much earlier (hint, hint).

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Disaster Aid International held its AGM on June 14, and as of July 1, 2019 **Kok K Looi** (Disaster Aid Malaysia) will replace our own Robert Strachan as Chairman of the Council of Country Partners.

Larry Agee (Disaster Aid USA) will become Chairman-elect, and **Pam Joyce** (Disaster Aid UK & Ireland) will become Chairman-nominee.

Disaster Aid International has country Partners in: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, India, Malaysia, New Zealand, United Kingdom and Ireland, USA, and Uruguay.

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