



*Crisis does not change who you are.  
Crisis reveals who you are. – Jakub Janda*

## 2019-20 Annual Report to Members

### 1. Activities during the year

This year we report against our Strategic Plan initiatives under its three main headings:

#### **AWARENESS and ADVOCACY**

All our activities have a component of Awareness as we publicise them to our members and beyond. We are not aware of any large scale advocacy work by our members beyond the Everywoman Treaty, which we continued to support and publicise to Districts.

In January 2020 we sponsored UK EMDR expert and senior lecturer at Worcester University Dr Derek Farrell to present at the Rotary World Peace Conference in Ontario, Ca. on Trauma-informed treatments after disasters and the need for training community members. This led to numerous useful contacts and potential partnerships. The RAG also shared a Booth there and was represented by the Chair. On his subsequent visit to Australia Dr Farrell also spoke to a Rotary audience at a specially arranged dinner, which helped to pave the way for support for our Trauma Recovery project .

Our Board Members Dr Frank Stechey and Pam Brown spoke to several Rotary Clubs each to explain forensic dentistry and how to recognise abuse, and how Trauma develops and what we can do about it, respectively. Member Dorothy Gilmour continued to introduce Rotary Safe Families to Clubs in several countries, even after Covid shut down physical meetings. Chair Norman participated in several Club meetings and presentations to introduce the work of the RAG.

#### **EDUCATION**

We still await results from some programs that were interrupted by Covid, mainly relating to in-school initiatives.

We assisted two Global Grants indirectly.



A member in Malaysia provided funds in February 2020 to allow **GG2095620** (promoted by RC Vitória Mata da Praia in Brazil) to start on time, despite the Covid-19 related dropout of a funder at the last minute - 3 Clubs responded quickly and positively to our urgent appeal, stimulated by our members in those Clubs.



We first publicised the 2095620 in Brazil in late 2019, without response at the time, so we were pleased that when the need was urgent, the funding appeared. Three groups ('classes') were formed and trained. This is an example of how microfinance could help women escape poverty into self-employment, given the right context of support.



**GG1876956, Family and Community Conflict Resolution in Mongolia, Vocational Training Team**



Member Jennifer Scott was an expert participant in conducting Mediation Training in Mongolia to improve the way men are treating their families. The project benefitted from DDF and TRF funding of A\$ 22,000 plus Club and donor funding of A\$ 8,000. This project included trainings for senior community members, social workers from all over Mongolia, and all the 44 mediator members of the Judicial Council - who undertake all the Family law cases there. It is estimated that this training of senior community members as trainers in July and August 2019 will impact nearly 100,000 children in such cases. Single fathers with responsibility for over 300 children were also trained in non-violence.



**In the Philippines**, members in RC Palanyag Paranaque led 15 other Clubs in District 3830 in 'a project about Personal and Family Safety Prevention/Preparedness and management to minimize risks, if cannot be totally avoided' and trauma to individuals. Local government, hospital and fire services also participated. 300 families who live in the Mission Area were the beneficiaries, and the budget was Pesos 40,000.

We arranged a seminal training over two days for therapists **from around Australia** in February 2020, using the good offices of Dr Derek Farrell from England, who provided Professional Development for EMDR specialists around trauma-informed disaster work, and the options that exist and are in development. A key learning from this event was how the availability of evidence-based therapy is restricted by the small number of fully qualified therapists – most of whom only work in the private sector, as governments do not allocate sufficient training budgets for their mental health staff to benefit from such training. This means we must extend the reach of the experts who do exist, by enabling paraprofessionals



and allied mental health staff to participate in supervised group work. We are starting a training initiative this year supported by a District grant to help provide capacity in communities that are repeatedly exposed to disasters, and would like to extend this work to other countries.

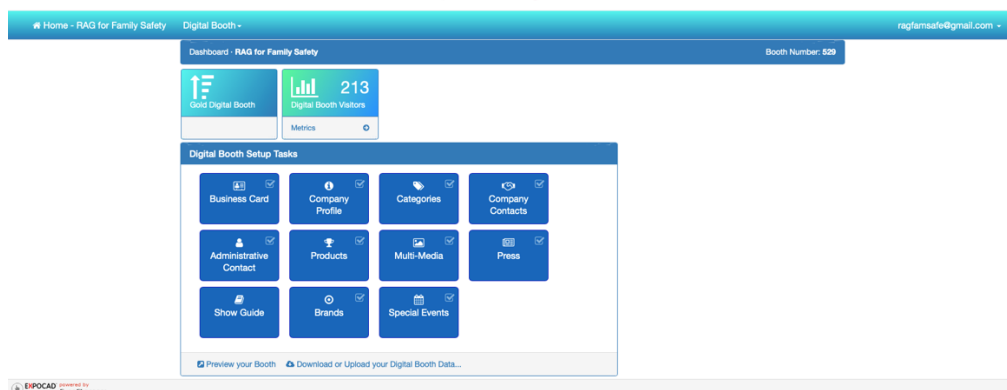
We took on board the publicity of the Safe Families ‘active bystander’ program developed by RC Melbourne for adults, which we supported from the outset. This was published online in April 2020, and we have all the materials available for members to customise this program in their own areas. This is well suited to presentation first at our Rotary Clubs and then to the community at large. Please contact us for details.

### RESTORATION - also known as HEALING THE HURT

We finalised our strategic plan during the year and have been able to develop the key project of Trauma Recovery into a website project (now up and running at [www.traumarecovery.network](http://www.traumarecovery.network) ). Starting in May with the design, we were able to secure a District Grant, and support from several Rotary Clubs to create our traumarecovery.network website, which went live for Therapists in September 2020.

This website has since recruited over 80 Therapists into our membership, offering their services from a humanitarian motive. This year we will be extending this work with the help of further District Grants and hopefully active participation by Clubs in bushfire-prone communities, as well as local health networks.

## 2. Member Engagement



We featured Rotary Safe Families in our Virtual Booth at the online RI Convention in June and July, along with talks by two of our Board members, and an inspiring presentation by





Sylvia Whitlock to the eClub of Global Trekkers, with whom we are exploring a youth-oriented project. We have a YouTube Channel which carries a number of our video presentations which you can access at:

<https://youtube.com/channel/UC7CFJbpnMr80GAQIXcuk-Eg>

We have found that our Basecamp facility is not being used to best advantage and we are exploring Slack as an alternative.

### **3. Partnerships**

So much time has been lost everywhere due to Covid, that most discussions have been on hold. During the year we continued to explore partnerships, and had fruitful discussions with MBBi and Shelterbox, as well as IEP. We continued to promote the Everywoman Treaty.

We continue to explore opportunities with GIST-T.org and with [grainesdepaix.org](http://grainesdepaix.org) .

We believe there are good reasons for us to partner with other RAGs, especially Slavery, Maternal and Child Health and Microcredit, but we have not yet been able to engage properly with any of those RAGs. If you have useful contacts, please let us know, as well as suggestions for other partners.

### **4. Organisation and Finance**

The establishment of the Trauma Recovery Network and events leading up to that helped us to progress financially, and to raise our profile. This is continuing apace in the current year. We continue to rely on Donations to cover our basic expenses, so we would appreciate more of you taking up Paid membership, at the modest cost of A\$5 a year.

Our largest country memberships continue to be in Australia and the USA, followed by the Philippines, Nigeria and Canada. Membership grew to 346 during the year. We did lose some members who retired or changed emails without notifying us. Please remember to let us know of changes!

### **5. Board Changes**

Covid had an influence here too. With pressure on his business activities, Garry Higgins had to step off the Board. We hope he will be able to rejoin soon.

We were very happy to have Pam Brown join us and take over the Secretary role as well as continuing to lead our Trauma activities. We thank Kerry Kornhauser, who remains on the Board, for her time as Secretary, and congratulate her on her Australian Honour (OAM) for her work for the advancement of women. Last and not least, we have extended our Board



to Canada, with the addition of Dr Frank Stechey, who has made a great contribution already.

We still have Board positions open, and would welcome more input from Asia, Latin America and Europe. And we could definitely use many more volunteers to help drive our strategy forward!

**Yours in Rotary**  
**Norman Taralrud-Bay**  
**Chair**

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