

## **INTERNATIONAL SERVICE**

**Brian Hodgson ( C), Warwick Bisley ( PC), John Hasan, Max McWilliam, Paul Martin, Cliff Riseborough, John Sanders, Neil Tassell.**

At our first meeting, a brief report was made of the previous year's Fiji project. It was decided not to continue with a formal connection with construction or sponsorship of students at Taveuni Island. Individual sponsors would be able to continue their existing arrangements directly with ABCD via Templestowe Rotary Club.

The committee supported a proposal for assistance with e-learning in Mathematics on Taveuni Island. The proposal comprised seeking donation of current but unwanted Computer Algebra System (CAS) calculators from ex VCE students, shipping 60 of these to Fiji and providing a week's professional development in their use. This project was not initiated but is considered worthy of consideration in the future.

It was decided to focus on a Rotary Club of Wandin Interplast Project, to be completed on or before the end of the 2016 – 17 Rotary year. We needed to raise \$50 000. The plan involved



some club fundraising, targeted corporate fundraising, seeking financial support from cluster clubs and the achievement of matching grants from the Rotary Foundation. The first fundraising effort was a Trivia Night conducted on 15 November. Light snacks were provided with the assistance of the Inner Wheel and a bar selling beer, wine and soft drinks was conducted. This made it unnecessary for patrons to bring anything with them and enabled us to 'add value' to the funds raised. The trivia night raised \$7 000, a significant proportion coming from the silent auction and the 'games of skill'.

A movie night fundraiser was proposed and a number of options were considered including screening some older Australian movies at the Wandin Hall and running a program at the Memo in Healesville. It was decided to hold the film night at Croydon Cinemas with a premiere of Aloha and a 'Champagne supper'. The admission fee was \$8 and no charge was made by the proprietor for using the space in the theatre for the supper. By charging \$25 per person our 200 patrons earned us \$3 000 despite the long weekend and an average movie.

With the end of the financial year approaching we encouraged people to make tax deductible donations to "Interplast". Within three days \$3,750 was donated.

In addition to the Interplast project the Club has also made emergency contributions of \$2 000 to both the Vanuatu and Nepal relief funds. Proceeds from the wood raffle are being directed to the Nepal contribution.

General discussion was held about selection of a major International project. Search for a new project focus in Laos / Cambodia is encouraged. We also obtained information about the distribution of the 'gravity light' – a low energy light using a recyclable source – and feel this warrants consideration in the future.

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***Brian Hodgson—Chair***

