

# Tales from a Dilly Bag

## ROTARY DISTRICT 9600 LITERACY NEWSLETTER

June 2010



I am sure there were some celebrations of literacy in March for the dedicated Rotary Literacy month. There is still much to be done to support literacy internationally, nationally and locally with many throughout the world still unable to access education and learn to be literate. For many living in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands the opportunities for education are still low.

Figures for Papua New Guinea show that “40% of the population are living in poverty on less than \$1.00 per day. Papua New Guineans have a low life expectancy and high infant and maternal mortality. Violence against women is common, and access to education and employment opportunities is much less for females than males” (Australian Government AusAID website <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/country/papua.cfm>).

The situation in the Solomon Islands also is one where there is much to be done to support the people living there. “The people of Solomon Islands live on a scattered archipelago of mountainous islands and coral atolls covering about 28,000 square kilometres. Solomon Islands have a population of over 500,000 people, predominantly Melanesian (95 per cent), and sixty-three distinct language groups (Australian Government AusAID website <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/country/country.cfm?CountryID=16&Region=SouthPacific>).

“Only about 63% of children attend primary school and the adult literacy rate is 76.6%. Limited provision of schools and teachers and poverty, means that many children miss out on school education through non-enrolment or dropping out because of the cost of school fees. Most people in the villages are involved in food production - farming or fishing. In the towns most people are involved in the provision of services (20%) and a small number of people are involved in industry (5%)” <http://www.globaleducation.edna.edu.au/globaled/go/cache/offonce/pid/143>

### ***Tales from a Dilly Bag News***

Round 5 for *Tales from a Dilly Bag* closed in March 2010 and the support from Rotary clubs and other sponsors was once again very pleasing. To date, 33 classes of young children have been sponsored to support the development of emergent literacy skills and understandings for young Indigenous children and their classmates. Schools are using the kits in a number of different ways, and we know that more than 825 young children have benefitted from having quality children’s literature read to them on a regular basis. A similar number of older student reading mentors are using the kit to share stories with younger children.

Recent feedback received from schools where kits have been donated to early years’ classes tells us the kits have been well received and are being used in a range of different ways. Our most recent feedback came from Western Cape College Weipa, where the Rotary club of Caloundra donated two Dilly Bag kits. The head of the Junior school sent us detailed feedback about the ways the school is using the kits. I include some excerpts from the written feedback received from Weipa.

*“We began using the kits as part of the parent/student program and daily reading. We also have a ‘STOP, Give and Read’ Program, when the whole community and Senior school teachers*

and students are invited to read and adopt a class from 8:30 to 9:00 every morning. The kits are used every morning in reading time.”

One of the children’s books included in the Dilly Bag kits sent to Weipa was “We’re going on a bear hunt” by Michael Rosen and the Head of the Junior school explained how the teachers had used this text to make links with their studies of insects.

“Year 2 students innovated on the text to make their own story, as they are learning about ants and insects. We're going on a Kai Kai Hunt is their version with ants going on a food hunt. Kai Kai is Torres Strait Islander word for food.”

Finally, another innovative way the teachers have been using the Dilly Bag kits included Year 2 students reading to children who attend the local kindergarten.

“The Year 2 class have practised reading the Pamela Allen books to a point where they are now going to visit the local Creche and Kindergarten to read the stories to the children there.”

It is certainly gratifying to receive such positive feedback and know the Dilly Bag kits are being used so creatively in schools.

Statistics relating to sponsors for Tales from a Dilly Bag project to the end of ROUND 5 (closing 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2010) are as follows:

<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Number of sponsors</b>	<b>Total number of kits</b>
Rotary clubs in D9600	11 clubs	22 kits
Inner Wheel club, Rockhampton Sunset	1 club	3 kits
Earlyact club, Samford SS	1 club	1 kit
Rotary clubs from other districts – Victoria	1 club	2 kits
Indigenous Higher Education centre at ACU	1 centre	2 kits
Rotaract Club, Port Moresby	1 club	1 kit
Interact Club, Ferny Grove State High School	1 club	1 kit
Dame Carol Kidu, PNG	1	1 kit
		<b>TOTAL 33 kits</b>

### **Future of Tales from a Dilly Bag**

The D9600 Literacy project is continuing. **Round 6 will close on 13<sup>th</sup> August and the cost remains at \$750.00 per kit.** The sponsorship form is attached to this June newsletter. All funds are sent to the District treasurer, Don Richards, as directed on the form.

### **LATEST News about *Tales from a Dilly Bag***

Since my last Literacy newsletter in March 2010 some very exciting developments have arisen concerning our D9600 Literacy Project and I share these below:

- Rotary District 9680 has adopted *Tales from a Dilly Bag* as a project they will support in the 2010/2011 Rotary year. This adoption arose when DG, Walter Buchan, spoke of our literacy project and the DGE for D9680, George Papallo, decided to adopt the project as it aligns with his plans. I have been invited as a guest speaker at the D9680 Rotary Conference in March 2011 that being held in Canberra.

- In April 2010 I presented about *Tales from a Dilly Bag* at a symposium held within the International Reading Association (IRA) Convention in Chicago (April 25-28). Rotary International has a memorandum of understanding with IRA called IRARI, and presenters spoke of literacy projects in Rotary that have connections with IRA. Speakers from six Rotary districts presented about their projects. The newsletter from April 2010 showing IRA and Rotary projects is on our District website.
- In May while collecting for the Red Shield appeal with a Rotary colleague, the Minister for Education, Geoff Wilson, (our local member) walked up to us and made a donation. My Rotary colleague urged me to tell the minister about *Tales from a Dilly Bag* and he was very interested, gave me his card and asked me to send him more information. He was about to visit Aurukun. The day after I sent the information I received a call from the electoral officer asking me to come for a meeting. I asked if it would be possible for us to get an evaluation of the project in State schools as we have donated kits to 19 State schools within the first 5 sponsorship rounds. Following this meeting, we now have a commitment that the Department of Education and Training (DETA) will conduct an evaluation in a sample of schools. This will provide some valuable information for our district about the different ways schools are using the Dilly Bag kits.
- In January 2010 I became aware of the State Government's Q2 Partners program and submitted an application to have *Tales from a Dilly Bag* recognised as a Q2 Partner. The application was supported by DG, Walter Buchanan. This program "recognises businesses, community, industry, non-government organisations and local councils who deliver projects and programs that directly contribute to the achievement of the Q2 targets. The program is open to all Queensland businesses, communities, non-government organisations and local councils delivering programs and projects that are contributing to the achievement of the Q2 targets. Applicants must be able to demonstrate how the delivery of their program or project is directly contributing to the achievement of at least one of the 10 targets, and the organisation's values must reflect the five Q2 ambitions"  
[http://www.towardq2.qld.gov.au/tomorrow/q2\\_partners.aspx](http://www.towardq2.qld.gov.au/tomorrow/q2_partners.aspx)

*Tales from a Dilly Bag* has been accepted as a Q2 Partner as it fits within the Smart Education category and seeks to contribute to Target 1: *All children will have access to quality early childhood education so they are ready for school*. I have been told the project will be listed on the Q2 Partners website in the near future.

- I have continued to share information about *Tales from a Dilly Bag* and in recent weeks have made presentations at the District 9600 Conference; District Assembly, and the Rotary clubs of Toowong and Nundah.

### **Rotary Literacy Awards**

As you make plans for the 2010/2011 Rotary year, please remember to include literacy-related activities. Your club may then be eligible for a District or Zone Literacy Award. Five literacy activities need to be completed before mid April 2011 for a District award and 10 literacy activities are needed for a Zone award. Further information was attached to the March literacy newsletter and is on the D9600 website.

Yours in Rotary

### **Dr Janelle Young**

Chair, Rotary District 9600 Literacy Taskforce  
 Rotary Club of Samford Valley  
[jyoung14@gmail.com](mailto:jyoung14@gmail.com)

# Sponsorship Registration Form

## *Tales from a Dilly Bag* District 9600 Literacy Project

Tales from a  
Dilly Bag



### ROUND 6

Closing Date: 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2010.

Rotary Club of ..... agrees to sponsor a class/classes of young children by purchasing ..... kit/s of materials at a cost of \$750.00 per kit.

Total cost: .....

Sponsoring Rotary Club contact person: .....

Details for the contact person: Tel: ..... Email: .....

### Nominating your school/centre (please list below)

School/Centre name/s: .....

If you are not sure of a school/centre for your sponsorship, contact Janelle Young for assistance.

**Please note:** *If clubs wish to sponsor a school/centre located outside of D9600, then the club is responsible for paying for the transport of the kit (approximately 30kg in weight).*

Please complete this Sponsorship Registration Form and send it with your cheque to:

Mr Don Richards  
Rotary District 9600 Treasurer  
PO Box 693  
Strathpine Q 4500

**Cheques to be made out to:** Rotary International District 9600

**Please forward a copy of your completed sponsorship form to Janelle Young by scanning and emailing the form or posting a copy to the address below.**

Kits for ROUND 6 will be ready for clubs to deliver to schools/centres in late September 2010.

**Dr Janelle Young**  
Chair, Rotary District 9600 Literacy Taskforce  
Rotary Club of Samford Valley

Email: [jyoung14@gmail.com](mailto:jyoung14@gmail.com)  
Address: 48 Domrow Road, Camp Mountain, Qld 4520