

Tuesday, 7 March 2023

PRESS RELEASE

Rotary District Governor official visit to Tonga

Allan Smith, District Governor (DG) 2022-23 of Rotary District 9920 paid an official visit to Tonga, accompanied by his wife Sue from 1st to 6th March 2023. During their visit they were hosted and supported by members of the Rotary Club of Nuku'alofa (RCN) and current President Marcellina Wolfgramm Haapai. Their visit was the first by a District Governor in over 3 years and this trip enabled them to share updates from across the District, share best practice and discuss opportunities that will be offered from the upcoming reform program aimed at making Rotary a more dynamic organisation supporting the communities it operates in.



DG Allan was accompanied by his wife Sue who is the New Zealand Operations Manager for Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC). This organisation provides surgical treatment for children who cannot be treated in their own country - and has benefitted children from Tonga over the years.

The visit included locations impacted by the January 2022 Hunga Tong Hunga Ha'apai Tsunami, dialogue with Rotary partners and those organisations who have been recipients of Rotary aid to see first hand how the support has positively helped them as well as discuss potential further rotary support.



During the week they visited the newly established Dental Units and sick bays at Queen Salote and Apifo'ou College (delivered by Dr Goldsmith and his team from the Rotary Club of Ballarat West and Rotary Australia World Community). They were welcomed by Dr. 'Ana 'Akau'ola, Superintendent of Vaiola Hospital – a regular recipient of

Rotary support which has included ambulances and other medical equipment, with upcoming projects benefitting the hospital such as the Hearing Aid Project led by the Rotary Club of Hampton in Australia.

They were welcomed at MORDI Tonga, a key Rotary partner, who have been pivotal in distributing Rotary Emergency Response Kits (ERKs) following the tsunami. Each kit is valued at NZD\$800 with almost 600 ERKs distributed in 2022. Other visits included Mango Tree, Alonga Centre and Women & Children Crisis Centre who Rotary regularly support.



On behalf of the Rotary Club of Nuku'alofa, DG Allan presented a



donation of T\$20,000 towards “Ko e Paletu'a Project”, to assist with the relocation and rehabilitation of the Mango Island Community to the island of 'Eua. This project is managed under Her Majesty Queen Nanasipau's Charity which is looking to rebuild homes for the displaced communities of Mango Island and Kanokupolu. The cheque was received by Town Officer Sione Vailea.

ENDS.

About Rotary Club of Nuku'alofa

The Rotary Club of Nuku'alofa (RCN) was established in 1967. It is a non-political and non-religious organisation that has supported, funded and organised numerous projects focused on the development of health, education, water, women, environment and poverty alleviation throughout Tonga. We draw on membership from all parts of society, who share and are committed to the principles of Rotary International, and the building of trust, goodwill and service. If you are interested in these ideals, we would be happy to hear from you.

For further information about the RCN's Media Release or if you are interested in learning more about RCN, please visit the Rotary Club of Nuku'alofa Facebook page, or contact our Area Governor Peter Poulsen on 770 1956 or peterpoulsentonga@gmail.com.