

WOMEN IN ROTARY

Project No 26/2006- 2007



This is a project whose appeal for volunteers be they young Rotoractors, women, or skilled builders, has stood the test of time.



OUR VOLUNTEERS work side by side with Fijians building homes in Koroipita, Lautoka

A Rotary Australia World Community Service project sponsored by the R/C of Latrobe, D9830 Tasmania

This wonderful program which was initiated by Rotarian Peter Drysdale many years ago.

The aims were to alleviate subhuman living conditions for impoverished families by providing housing, education and a better quality of life through community development services to enable them to manage their own affairs and break free from the poverty cycle. This project would have been difficult to complete if not for the support of the many Rotary volunteers. Many continuously return to work and see how their contribution has turned out for the greater good of the families in Fiji. Volunteers normally work for two weeks at a time and some longer term volunteers work for up to 3 months. Peter said volunteers working with community residents have built 705 homes in country areas and 111 homes at "K1" & "K2" subdivisions at Koroipita community, Lautoka. "K1" with 84 homes is complete and "K2" is now

being developed. Around 3600 people have been housed of which 405 presently live in Koroipita. The project provides infrastructure, water and housing. Community Development services cover education and training on management of their own and community affairs. A kindergarten, library, two playgrounds, sports facilities, a shop and community meeting facilities have been built. Many resident groups have been formed for crafts, sports and youth. Residents are provided with income opportunities and training to attain the skills necessary to provide for their families. Rotary through RAWCS has an aligned project number 57/2009-10 "The Fiji Schools Project". This provides improved facilities at many schools in Lautoka which benefit all students including Koroipita. The community fosters the Rotary humanitarian ethic of a "hand up", not a "hand out" and some residents work with volunteers thus learning building

and other skills. Some residents have successfully moved into the general community through skills learned. The Fiji Government now sees this project as a model for the future to be replicated elsewhere in Fiji. The Fiji Government and the New Zealand Aid Projects (NZAP) a New Zealand Government Department, now partner with Rotary to provide "K2" funding and Governance. One second time Rotaract volunteer summed up the project to a prospective team " It's a project that gets right under your skin, and once you've spent a couple of weeks with the crew on-site, you'll have made friends for life!" If you wish to join a Volunteer group, or Donate to the project, please contact Project Officer PDG Lew Pretorius via his email lewp@precons.com

www.rawcs.com.au

