

MALARIA VACCINE PROJECT NEWSLETTER – ISSUE 2

A Rotary Project Registered with Rotary Australia World Community Service

Goal
\$500,000



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As I write this introduction to the second newsletter, I feel overwhelmed and humbled by the support that the Malaria Vaccine Project has received from Rotary Districts, Rotary Clubs, Rotarians, business organizations and individuals from across Australia and Papua New Guinea. We have now reached a total of more than \$275,000 and have been able to make our first distribution of \$200,000 to the Institute for Glycomics.

This distribution is really special because it has enabled preliminary work on the clinical trials to begin. This includes culturing and treating of malaria parasites for the vaccine and carrying out key processes vis-a-vis ethical standards. Early in the New Year a sample of 12-15 people will be selected and the actual testing and assessment will begin after the Commonwealth Games in early April. This is a huge boost for all of us to press forward to our target of \$500,000 and to open the doors for this promising vaccine to save lives all over the world.

My heartfelt thanks go out to Rotarians all over Australia and PNG for the heavy lifting they have done in bringing us to this point. You have raised almost \$200,000 using some very creative ingenuity and a commitment that resonates with "doing good in the world". Special thanks to Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM) for your unselfish adoption of our project and to RAWCS/RABS for providing the infrastructure that makes it all possible.

It is also my privilege and pleasure to acknowledge the generous support given by Kenton and Rachel Campbell [Zaraffas Coffee] and by former NSW Judge John Nicholson and Patsy. Both of you understand the impact that a malaria vaccine will have for the many marginal people in our world and you share a special bond with Rotary and its dedication to humanitarian service.

Finally it is my delight to welcome three Patrons of our Malaria Vaccine Project: Past Rotary International President Glen Kinross AO, Hon Lawrence Springborg, former Queensland MP and Opposition Leader, and Rotary International Director Noel Trevaskis OAM. All three of you bring great distinction to our endeavour and we thank you for adding your imprimatur, support and connections to our Project.

Graham Jones - Chair Malaria Vaccine Project Committee

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For Online Donations: <https://malariavaccineproject.com/>

Committee members: PDG Graham Jones (Chair), Hon Sam Doumany, PDG Sandra Doumany, Gerard Brennan, Laraine Brennan, PDG Michael Irving, Neil Jones, Mervyn Powell, PDG Dai Mason, Teresa Dawson, Karin Kolenko, Dr Danielle Stanistic, Louisa Marmion and Regina Tucker.

UPDATE FROM PROFESSOR MICHAEL GOOD AO



Thanks to the amazing support from Rotary, we have been able to commence the planning process for the clinical trial. Over \$200,000 has been raised so far and this is sufficient for us to be able to undertake the test of the first dose of the vaccine. The vaccine, PlasProtecT, is made by culturing malaria parasites and then treating them with a drug *in vitro* to irreversibly stop them from growing. Our plan is to administer three inoculations of treated parasites to 12 volunteers. Initially we will administer 30,000,000 parasites with each dose. Our first goal is to assess whether the vaccine stimulates a population of white blood cells, called T-cells, which we know are capable of killing the parasite. With further funding we will then test lower doses of attenuated parasites (3,000,000 and then 300,000) and build a comprehensive data package that will be critical for regulatory approval to enable further testing of the vaccine in malaria-endemic countries. If the T-cells have been stimulated by the vaccine the volunteers will be given a live malaria infection and, under very close medical supervision, we will assess how the immune system controls parasite growth. Our future goal is to test the vaccine in a malaria-endemic country and we will consider Papua New Guinea and Uganda as places to test the vaccine. Malaria is highly endemic in these countries and we have excellent collaborative networks in both places to facilitate these future trials.

We are extremely grateful to Rotary and the many supporters who have contributed to this effort. We remain very confident that we are on the right track and that the vaccine will be effective.

Professor Michael Good AO

ZARRAFFAS COFFEE

Founder and Managing Director of Zarraffa's Coffee, Kenton Campbell, was shaped from childhood to achieve something more in life, to ensure money wasn't an issue and to provide his own kids the settled life that he never had.

The opportunity to do just that came through coffee, first as a cart operator in Seattle, and then as a coffee store owner on the Gold Coast.

Kenton opened his first Zarraffa's Coffee store at Australia Fair, Southport, in 1997 and the second came two years later at Harbour Town, franchising his first store not long after in Brisbane's Myer Centre.

Today, there are over 75 Zarraffa's Coffee stores across the nation with plans to expand into New South Wales, further into Western Australia and eventually into New Zealand.

Kenton is known as someone with endless drive putting everything into his business, conservation efforts in Africa, his family, and his fight against cancer.

"One of my favourite quotes is 'the power of momentum happens at the end, not at the beginning' and for me, it has been a 22-year 'overnight' success," jokes Kenton.

"I have to remind myself that just because I plan something doesn't mean it can happen overnight. I need to give people around me the time they need to do the tasks at hand and not push it too hard."

The same could be said of important medical research and is one of the motivating reasons

Kenton is so passionate about giving back and supporting those efforts that can really change lives.

"I really believe in the power of research and when I heard about Griffith University's Institute for Glycomics' research project to create a vaccine for Malaria, I was intrigued."

A vaccine which could spell the end of the scourge of malaria may finally be within reach. Researchers at Griffith University's Institute for Glycomics have been able to induce malaria immunity in animals and are now progressing with human trials. One of the most exciting findings in this research is that the vaccine protected against multiple strains of malaria, as this has been the greatest obstacle to date in developing an effective vaccine.

There are currently 198 million cases of malaria across 109 different countries. Of the 600,000 sufferers who die each year, 80 per cent are young children who are simply not strong enough to fight off the killer parasite. Across the world nearly one million people die annually from malaria, many of them children and pregnant women.

"Malaria has such a huge impact in large parts of the world and if there is a chance to assist in a financial or other way, both myself and wife Rachel are compelled to do our bit."



Above L-R: Kenton Campbell (Zarraffas), Professor Mark von Itzstein, Rachel Campbell (Zarraffas), Vice Chancellor - Professor Ian O'Connor

Left L-R: Graham Jones, Rachel Campbell, Kenton Campbell

Jack Olsson OAM PDG PHF- 1919-2017



Jack was a great Rotarian and he has left a wonderful legacy. He was very proud of the fact that he had the same birth date 23 February as that of Rotary. It can truly be said that Rotary was in his DNA.

Jack served with the Army in World War II where he rose to the rank of Captain. He took part in the landings in British Borneo in May 1945 which were designed to liberate the Island from the occupying Japanese forces. Jack was an accountant and a member of the CPA. He set up his own practice in Canberra which later became Deloittes.

Jack was a long serving member of the Rotary Club of Canberra and a Past District Governor of District 9710. He worked on many Rotary projects including the international PolioPlus campaign. He raised funds to bring a Doctor from the Ukraine to undertake specialist

studies in Australia so that he could treat children affected by radiation from the Chernobyl disaster. The Doctor became a Professor and established a hospital in the Ukraine to treat the children. Jack's photo occupies pride of place in the foyer of the Hospital.

One of his other achievements was the re-establishment of Rotary in Poland.

More recently he set up a Committee in the Rotary Club of Canberra designed to overcome what he saw as one of Rotary's problems namely the annual changeover. He saw this as depriving Rotary of some momentum. His vision was for the Club to establish some projects which would be long term.

This led to the RYDA program in Canberra, the Foyer program for homeless youth and the adoption of a strategic plan for the Rotary club covering a five year period.

Late in 2016 he learnt of the Malaria Vaccine Project on the Gold Coast. He had suffered from malaria during the war and subsequently. He knew only too well the terrible effects of the disease. He became an ambassador for the Project in Canberra and obtained the financial support of several clubs including of course his own. He came to the Gold Coast in March 2017 to attend the launch of the Project by the Governor General.

He was a strong advocate and a passionate supporter of the Project. He believed that the eradication of malaria should be the next major international project for Rotary after the successful outcome of the PolioPlus campaign. We will miss his invaluable contribution, his assistance and his wise counsel.

PP Gerard Brennan

For Online Donations: <https://malariavaccineproject.com/>

A MEMORIAL TO A SPECIAL ROTARIAN: BRIAN HAMILL OAM



Dr Danielle Stanisic and Mrs Betty Hamill

Recognition Night for the Malaria Vaccine Project was the scene for the first presentation of the *Brian Hamill Memorial Malaria Research Excellence Award* to Dr Danielle Stanisic, a senior scientist in the Institute for Glycomics. Danielle is not only an outstanding scientist she is a tireless worker for the Malaria Vaccine Project. The award to Danielle was made by Brian's widow Betty Hamill OAM, a member of the Rotary Club of Mt Warning AM. We were also glad to welcome Murwillumbah Rotary President Tony van't Riet, Past-President Barry Longland and Betty's grandson Eamonn Hamill to the event.

Brian Hamill was an outstanding member of the Rotary Club of Murwillumbah for many years

and was President of the Club in 1993-94. He had a rich reputation for bringing new members to the club and played a key role in Youth Exchange including working on the establishment of a Trust Fund to help exchange students with financial issues. He was a strong advocate for the formation of the Mt Warning AM club which at the time was the only club in Murwillumbah with women members and was also an Assistant Governor in District 9640. Brian and Betty both received OAMs on the same day for their work in community service.

The origin of the memorial to Brian Hamill is captivating. It arose out of a major gift to the Malaria Vaccine Project by the Rotary Club of Murwillumbah; a substantial part of this gift being donated by former NSW District Court Judge, John (Gus) Nicholson and his wife Patsy. Brian and John were life-time friends and that friendship carried on through their families with John giving a memorable eulogy at Brian's funeral. In Brian's name John and Patsy have been wonderful benefactors of our Project, recently giving another marvellous donation to the development of Professor Michael Good's promising vaccine.

SUPPORT THE MALARIA VACCINE PROJECT

To date Hope Island Rotary Club have donated over \$15,000



Many of our District 9640 Rotary Clubs have Charity Golf Days, and have varied beneficiaries who benefit from the profit on the day. The Rotary Club of Hope Island has in the last two years have made the Malaria Vaccine Project one of their beneficiaries. This is a wonderful initiative. Right from the start of the Project,

Hope Island have had five of its members on the main Steering Committee PDG Sandy & Sam Doumany, Gerard & Laraine Brennan and Karin Kolenko. Karin also made a very generous donation of 50,000 bottles of Benji Water to the Malaria Vaccine Project. When an order is placed each bottle costs \$1.50 and the entire amount goes to the Project. If a Club sells above \$1.50 then the profit goes to the Club. Rotary in partnership with the Griffith University is so excited at the progress Professor Michael Good is making with his development of the Vaccine. The Professor is the epitome of "Service Above Self" and Rotary is helping to "Make a Difference"

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RON SEDDON: A MAN WITH A MALARIA MISSION IN PNG



It has been an extraordinary battle trying to eliminate Malaria from PNG. However, thanks to 20 years of dedicated cooperation between the PNG Departments of Health and Education, the Rotary Club of Port Moresby and massive funding from the Global Fund, WHO, ANCICEF, the Asian Development Bank, the Australian Government and the PNG Government, enormous inroads have been made. In fact, the 2015 statistics show that the overall rate of malaria admissions in PNG is down by 85%.

Every cause needs a champion and Ron Seddon has played that role with distinction in PNG. As

Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM) -PNG Chairman, Ron and his team from the Rotary Club of Port Moresby have led the way with the provision of Long-Life-Impregnated Nets (LLINs) as part of the “Adopt A Village Program”. This Program has been critical in the reduction of malaria admissions in PNG and currently, with funding from the Global Fund, RAM is delivering LLINs to meet the needs of every household in the country. In conjunction with the LLIN activity RAM is operating an educational program in schools. Children are learning about malaria and how to track down stagnant pools and other locations where Malaria mosquitos might lurk. They become a source of valuable “hot-spot” data.

A special thanks to Chairman Ron and RAM-PNG for their significant support of the Malaria Vaccine Project and to Ron and Janetta for making the long journey from PNG for the Governor General’s Launch in March. Hopefully this will be the forerunner to a special partnership associated with Clinical Trials for PlasProtect® in PNG.

Report from District RAM Chair

I am pleased to report continuing excellent progress with the Malaria Vaccine Project which is based on a solid working partnership between Rotary and the Glycomics Research Institute at the Gold Coast campus of Griffith University.

Thanks to the elevated profile of the Project resulting from the Governor General’s launch last March 27 and some valuable recent coverage in Rotary Down Under, our progressive total funds raised now exceed \$270000- well past the half way mark to our first stage target of \$500,000.

This has now enabled the research team led by Professor Michael Good AO to begin working on preparations for the conduct of onshore human trials of the PlasProtect® Vaccine in the second quarter of 2018. This success has been due in no small measure to the leadership of the Project Committee in the hands of PDG Graham Jones AM and the strong support from Rotary in District 9640, District 9710 (Canberra & Bega), Hornsby and PNG, backed up at all times by RI director Noel Trevaskis, PDG Michael Irving and national RAM Chair David Pearson. His early endorsement of the Project in August 2016 placed us firmly under the RABS/RAWCS banner.

The fundraising has been generously augmented by several substantial personal contributions which will be officially acknowledged at a function at the Glycomics Institute on 14 November along with the announcement of three eminent Patrons:

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- Past Rotary International President Glen Kinross AO
- Hon Lawrence Springborg (former MP, Parliamentary Leader & Minister)
- Rotary International Zone Director Noel Trevaskis OAM

As well as seeking the continuing financial support of Rotary Clubs and Rotarians for the Project I would encourage contributions to Rotarians Against Malaria to maintain the important control measures and programs particularly in neighbouring countries in the South Pacific region.

Finally I would like to salute the sterling efforts of two great RAM supporters and warriors in the fight against malaria who have passed on in recent months namely PDG Richmond Manyweathers and PDG Jack Olsson OAM (District 9710).

Sam Doumany

RAM Chair & member of the Malaria Vaccine Project Committee



Laraine Brennan, Gerard Brennan, Sandra Doumany, Sam Doumany, Marion Jones, Graham Jones

PROFILING OUR PATRONS



Past Rotary International President –Glen Kinross AO

Glen's contribution to Rotary is truly remarkable. He has touched every benchmark, highlighted by his

service as Rotary International President in 1997-98 where his theme was "Show Rotary Cares-For your community-For our world-For its people". Some of Glen's other contributions include:

- Member and Past President of the Rotary Club of Hamilton and Past Governor of District 9600 in 1973-74
- Director, Rotary International 1982-84, 1996-98
- Member, International Polio-Plus Committee, 2000-02
- Vice-President of Rotary International, 1983-84
- Trustee, The Rotary Foundation, 1995-96, 1999-2003 and Chairman of Trustees in 2002-03

In these roles Glen made huge contributions to Rotary International in various ways but none that he cherishes more than his contributions to Youth

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Exchange, Low-Cost Housing in Bangladesh and to PolioPlus. In many ways he took the Rotary Foundation to new frontiers in humanitarian service.

In his professional life, Glen was a joint proprietor of John Kinross & Company Ltd., a furniture manufacturing firm established by his family in 1911.



Hon Lawrence Sprinborg, former Queensland Member of Parliament & Opposition Leader

Lawrence grew up in Yelarbon and after school worked in agriculture on the Darling Downs. He was elected to parliament in 1989 at the age of 21 years—the youngest person to enter the Queensland Parliament. Over 28 years in the



Rotary International Director, Noel Trevaskis AOM

As Rotary International Director for three years [2016-18], Noel's leadership covers Rotary in Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines. He also serves on the Board of Rotary International and plays a key role in the training and preparation of District Governors. Some of Noel's other contributions to Rotary and the Community are

As in Rotary he provided leadership to industry serving as Chairman of the Australian Council of Furniture Manufacturers and he is a life member and Past President of the Queensland Guild of Furniture Manufacturers.

Queensland Parliament, Lawrence has an enviable record of service to the State of Queensland:

- Leader of the National Party [2003-06], 2008] and the LNP[2008-09, 2015-16]: a key player in the creation and formation of the LNP
- Opposition Leader of the Queensland Parliament on three occasions
- Member for Carnarvon/Warwick /Southern Downs [1989-2017]
- Minister for Natural Resources [1998] [Youngest minister ever]
- Minister for Health [2012-15]

In these roles Lawrence has made an enormous contribution to the people of Queensland especially in the Darling Downs region. His work with the Coal Worker's Pneumoconiosis Select Committee and the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee is particularly noteworthy. Lawrence is also a great supporter of Rotary and events like Opera in the Vineyard organised by the Stanthorpe Rotary Club.

shown below, especially his remarkable contributions to Mental Health in Australia:

- Member and Past President of the Rotary Club of Goulburn Argyle and currently a member of the Rotary Club of Bega
- Governor of Rotary District 9710 [2005-06]
- Past Chair of Australian Rotary Health [2010-11]—national speaker and advocate for their work in mental health
- Past Deputy Chair of the Southern Tablelands Community College-assisting people with intellectual disabilities and special needs
- Adviser to University researchers at Centre for Mental Health Research at the Australian National University

Noel recently retired after a lifetime working in the agricultural industry mainly in sales and marketing. Since his retirement he continues to do consultancy work in the field of agri-business. Noel has been a great supporter of the Malaria Vaccine Project and constantly brings it to the attention of District Governors and other Rotary leaders throughout Australia and overseas.

Recent Donors [Since last Newsletter]

- ROTARY DISTRICT 9640
- ZARRAFFAS COFFEE and ZARRAFFAS FOUNDATION
- JOHN NICHOLSON (2)
- BENJI WATER
- ROTARY CLUB OF ALLORA – District 9640
- ROTARY CLUB OF BALLINA-District 9640
- ROTARY CLUB OF BALLINA ON RICHMOND – District 9640
- ROTARY CLUB OF BROADBEACH (2)-District 9640
- ROTARY CLUB OF BURLEIGH HEADS –District 9640
- ROTARY CLUB OF CARINDALE – District 9630
- ROTARY CLUB OF GLEN INNES – District 9640
- ROTARY CLUB OF GOONDIWINDI District 9640
- ROTARY CLUB OF HALL – District 9710
- ROTARY CLUB OF HOPE ISLAND (3) – District 9640
- ROTARY CLUB OF HORNSBY (2) – District 9685
- ROTARY CLUB OF MINNAMURRA – District 9675
- ROTARY CLUB OF MUDGEE-District 9670
- ROTARY CLUB OF MUDGEE SUNRISE-District 9670
- ROTARY CLUB OF PAMBULA – District 9710
- ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTHPORT (2) – District 9640
- ROTARY SATELLITE CLUB OF SOUTHPORT-GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY—
District 9640
- ROTARY CLUB OF SURFERS PARADISE (2)-District 9640
- ROTARY CLUB OF TWEED HEADS SOUTH (2)-District 9640
- ROTARY CLUB OF WARWICK SUNRISE – District 9640
- ROTARY ZONE 8 INSTITUTE (Darwin)
- DENIS HALLWORTH [Monthly]
- PDG DAI MASON
- LYN MULLER
- K & R WILKINSON
- BILL & LYNN CONNELLY

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Rotary
District 9640



MALARIA VACCINE PROJECT

HELP BENJI FIGHT MALARIA

BENJI HAS MADE A VERY GENEROUS GESTURE TO ALL DISTRICT 9640 CLUBS OF DONATING 50,000 BOTTLES OF WATER. YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE A QUANTITY (NO LIMIT) OF BENJI'S WATER FOR \$1.50 EACH AVAILABLE PER CARTON OF 24 BOTTLES AND ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE MALARIA VACCINE PROJECT.

AS A FUNDRAISER FOR YOUR CLUB YOU ARE THEN ABLE TO SELL THE BOTTLE OF WATER FOR YOUR PRICE AND EXCESS OF THE \$1.50 IS PROFIT FOR YOUR ROTARY CLUB. WHAT A WIN – WIN RESULT. YOU SUPPORT THE MALARIA PROJECT AND RAISE FUNDS FOR YOUR CLUB AS WELL. BENJI RECOGNISES THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS PROJECT TO HELP SAVE THOUSANDS OF LIVES IN AFFECTED AREAS OF THE WORLD.

Please find order form attached

