

## **FJI**

District 9830 Rotarians have travelled north to Fiji to help make the lives of many impoverished Fijians more bearable by means of rebuilding their lives, starting with a shelter or in this case a home more commonly known as the “Rotahome”.

Rotahomes are built by Rotary volunteers from all over the world, and a large number are from Australia, and New Zealand. The homes provide safe shelter, with clean water, for many of the poor and destitute people of Fiji. These homes are built ‘cyclone proof’ with a detached toilet, shower and kitchen. The complex, known as Koroipita, "Village of Peter", is situated 3km north of Lautoka on the western side of the main island of Fiji. This Rotahome project is bringing hope and joy to so many families.

And with so many Tasmanians having volunteered over the life of the project (about 2 decades now, it’s no wonder that there is a street named **Tasmania Street**



Above Peter Drysdale— Village Co-ordinator and FOUNDER *Koroipita*

All Rotarians who’ve been there, husbands and wives included return with stories of heat, hard work, but always the enjoyment of going.

Many of the Rotarians who volunteer to build Rotahomes for a few weeks often incorporate a holiday before heading home frequently remark how the time spent at Koroipita was far more memorable, rewarding and fun .

The camaraderie experienced is not only between members of your own Club or District as Rotarians from various parts of the world are there to accomplish the very same tasks, often working side by side, sharing the labour, food, laughter, friendship and ‘unitedness’ with other nationalities.



Teams speak of the friendliness of the Fijian people and especially that of the children. Rotary through it’s work there, has changed the circumstances and is creating new opportunities especially for the children where none previously existed. All this is down to Rotary and Past President Peter Drysdale, of the Rotary Club of Lautoka, Fiji, who has dedicated 20 years of Rotary service to this project, the result being 727 Rotahomes for more than 3,500 people around Lautoka. One of the most enjoyable forms of Rotary participation in the Pacific region is providing hands-on assistance at projects in this beautiful part of the world. Rotahomes is a well-known project attracting many Fourth Avenue in Motion (FAIM) teams and grants from The Rotary Foundation.

