

Archerfield club is serving with Fred in Pakistan relief

Following the 2005 earthquakes in Pakistan, India and Afghanistan, Rotarian Abdul Rahman (Ray) Deen and the Rotary Club of Archerfield, Qld., answered the call for help. Support was given through The Fred Hollows Foundation's South Asia Earthquake Appeal. Ray Deen and the Rotary club sought sponsorship from local business people and the Southern African Islamic Communities in Brisbane, Qld. They raised more than \$A100,000 in just a few weeks.

Richard Bradley, secretary of the Rotary Club of Archerfield, said: "With Ray Deen's quick response and leadership, it was possible to deliver tents, blankets and medical supplies to the devastated regions of Hazara and Kashmir. "This fund raising effort ensured that shelter was provided to disaster victims before the chill of winter set in."

The Fred Hollows Foundation's Country Manager in Pakistan, Doctor Rubina Gillani, and team were able to deliver essential supplies to Tahkot, a village of 40,000, four days after the earthquake.

Until the rescue team arrived, the area had been considered inaccessible.

A cheque valued at \$100,000 was presented to Sue Larsen, who is the Queensland co-ordinator for The Fred Hollows Foundation, by Richard Bradley on behalf of the club and President Terry Barker.

The presentation was made at a meeting at the Algester Mosque in Brisbane. Since that time Ray Deen has raised an additional \$20,000.

With the assistance of the Archerfield Rotary Club and The Fred Hollows Foundation, plans are under way to support rebuilding of the medical infrastructure in Muzzafarbad, Kashmir.

It is anticipated a Matching Grant from Rotary International through

The Rotary Foundation will raise this to \$40,000 which will help outfit the Hospital.

Dr. Gillani is currently engaged in a feasibility study to support the rebuilding with a focus on eye care.

This will be presented to the Rotary Club of Archerfield, along with the cost and details of the location.

Richard Bradley said: "Further funding donations will be required to support the rebuilding.

"The long-term goal of the Pakistan Australia District Eye Care Program is

to assist the Pakistani Government to make a substantial contribution toward reducing the prevalence of avoidable blindness in Pakistan.

"The program focuses heavily on sustainability of the major areas of program activity, including human resource and infrastructure development, provision of equipment and surgical instruments and also community education campaigns.

"Training of primary health care workers in eye care is also an important component of the program."



Archerfield Rotarian Ray Deen was this year a proud recipient of the Queensland Government Australia Day Community Award presented by the Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Judy Spence, who is MP for Mount Gravatt, in recognition of outstanding contributions to the community.



A cheque valued at \$100,000 was presented to Sue Larsen, who is the Queensland co-ordinator for The Fred Hollows Foundation, by Richard Bradley of the Rotary Club of Archerfield, Qld. Also pictured is Rotarian Ray Deen who was to the fore in the fund raising.