

DECEMBER 2023

DAYS FOR GIRLS NEW ZEALAND



2023 KIT ROUNDUP

COOK ISLANDS: 100

ERK'S: 1,850

FIJI: 2,474

INDIA: 15

INDONESIA: 50

MYANMAR: 50

NEW ZEALAND: 1,889

PHILIPPINES: 50

SAMOA: 600

TONGA: 1,127

VANUATU: 330

A Year in Review

Happy holidays and a happy New Year to all! At DfGNZ we have had a great year, with lots of kits going out to those in need. Some of those distributions are outlined in this newsletter.

We also had a great time at the DfG NZ conference (pictured above); it was fantastic to put faces to names!

At the end of the newsletter, we have attached a poster you can use to promote DfG. Please let us know if you'd like us to email you a copy!

Thank you to all our volunteers; we couldn't do this without you! Happy holidays to all, and all the best for 2024!



Oceania

When DfGI introduced the Zones, it was an opening to develop DfG teams in the island nations. DfGI recognised enterprise program was not the right fit for the island nations. Establishing DfG teams in the Oceania region became a key focus for Mary Connelly-Gale, the Coordinator for Days for Girls in the Oceania Region.

In July 2020, during the middle of COVID-19, she established a pilot project in Fiji to train the first Oceania team. She identified two ladies involved with DfG for over eight years as AWH Ambassadors, an Australian Team who could be a mentor team for Fiji, the supply chain, and then determined the best way of doing the sewing training. Once all those items were in place, the Fiji West team application was approved, and Mary started the training meetings via Zoom and Facebook Messenger. They provided training on how to make each component of the DfG Kit and achieve a Gold Standard Kit, financial reporting, DfGI reporting requirements, applying for grants and report writing. In December 2020, Fiji West became the first Gold Certified team in the Oceania Region.

In addition to Fiji West, we also worked with two Enterprises in training in PNG to transition them from the Enterprise program to the Team program.



If your Team is interested in finding out more about what is happening in the Oceania region or how you can support these teams, please email oceania@daysforgirls.org.

Changes from Head Office

The Travel Pouch has a new pattern. The changes have occurred because the heat seal on the Travel Pouches were failing over time and because the overlock stitching was getting snagged. The new pattern is not compulsory but we think it looks much smarter and more professional. There is no overlocking or ironing involved and it looks really good when you use a fabric over the PUL. This also gives the Travel Pouch more structure and will make it much stronger.

Another change is the name of the Heavy Flow kit. They are now called XLarge. This is the third name change since I have been involved. It is surely true that change is a constant in life! Don't forget to check the Sewing Room in the international website for the most recent updates!



Bay of Plenty in Fiji

Our Bay of Plenty Team has had the privilege to be part of the YWAM 'KOHA' ship sailing out of Tauranga Port to FIJI in May this year.

We were asked to provide DFG Kits for the KOHA ship and were able to supply over 600 kits. We hosted a "Days for Girls" seminar for young ladies aged 12-18. Thanks to the generous partnership of the Tauranga chapter of Days for Girls, education and personal hygiene kits were presented to each participant.

They had a DFG session at a secondary school on Rabi island and gathered with over 100 young woman to deliver the education program and kits that your team so lovingly made. Savannah the RN that lead the program said it was the most amazing time she's had on outreach. The girls were so excited to collect their kits that they all danced to the front to get their own!



Emergency Response Kits (ERK's)

The goal was to empower women in Pacific Islands to take up a full roll in times of disaster, in the knowledge that their most personal needs are acknowledged and supported in a tangible way. At present there are no menstrual products in the ERK's placed by Rotary New Zealand into the Pacific and the project aims to provide aide a sustainable and environmentally menstrual kit into the ERKS boxes. DfG teams in the North Island completed 600 kits and 1,250 were completed in the South Island. The majority are now in storage in Auckland, stored at no charge by a local Rota at n

Fortunately there has only been one major cyclone event (Vanuatu) in this Rotary year. ERKs which were already stored in the area have been sufficient and further supplies have not been deployed. Rotary has not needed to pack ERKS this season to replenish supplies.



The opportunity has arisen for a portion of the DfG kits to be deployed via the Donations in Kind containers which will be shipped from Christchurch to Tonga and Samoa in September, where there already are ERKs awaiting use. In this way there is an opportunity to support the women and girls with emergency needs and to provide the complementary education programme of DfG, ensuring that the health talks are carried out with the distribution.



Philippines

On Thursday 29 June a team of six from New Zealand travelled to Manilla, Philippines representing OMS NZ, linking up with our partnering ministry in Malolos City north of Manilla. We were there to reconnect with OMS NZ projects in the island of Mindoro, south of Luzon Island. This would be the first of our teams to return to the Philippines post covid so it was important to visit and re-engage with projects we'd involved in the past 15 years.

Part of our time in Bulalacao we had taken in Days For Girls packs. Through the use of Filipino translators, our were able to instruct and educate a group of women on the use of the DFG packs and were able to hand out over 25 packs. Initially the ladies found the concept of the feminine hygiene packs as silly and unnecessary but then realised that they would want their teenage daughters to use them. It was then understood the dignity the DFG packs would provide for the younger women going to public schools and seeking employment. (We had another 25 packs which were left with another tribe who were already receiving and using the DFG packs to be handed out at a later date.)

It was great result, we then were treated to a lunch prepared by the tribe and we left that day and headed on to other projects. We look forward to returning again in 12 months, while the Filipino based team will continue to work on the water project we started. Our team returned to NZ on 14 July.



Sea Mercy Fiji

Sea Mercy (Fiji) has been supporting Fiji's Ministry of Health and Medical Services in the remote Lau Islands group since cyclone damage in 2016. With the impressive coordination of NZ DfG teams 1000 kits were sent to Opuia and volunteer yachties took them to Fiji on their annual rally. This year kits were collected by me from 4 marinas.

The Lau Islands cover a large area, around 114,000 square km with 57 islands in the group. Just over a quarter are inhabited by over 40 remote village communities, most of which have primary schools. The total population is around 10,000 and there are 3 secondary schools. There are also 2 hospitals, one in Lomaloma on the island of Vanua Balavu and the other Lakeba. They have medical responsibility for North and South Lau respectively.

Their medical outreach teams make annual or bi-annual visits to all primary schools and conduct regular outreaches to the secondary schools. It is impractical for our volunteer yachts to visit some of these islands so I deliver your kits to these teams for distribution during their visits. The Lomaloma Team have a hospital boat, the Lakeba Team has a smaller vessel which can only carry half their team. Sea Mercy is currently fundraising to replace this and 4 other hospital boats.

All these islands have very limited supplies and there are limited transport options available to them. The availability of disposable menstrual items is therefore severely limited and garbage is either burned, buried or thrown into the sea.

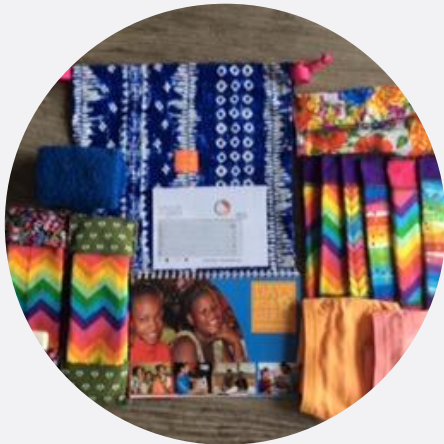
A huge thanks for all your hard work. I can assure you that these kits really make a difference here and the medical outreach teams were absolutely delighted to receive them. My heartfelt appreciation to all of your NZ teams.

Kind Regards,
Jonathan, Sea Mercy

Days for Girls New Zealand

Days for Girls make washable, environmentally friendly menstrual kits for women and girls who would otherwise have no way to manage their period. Something as simple as one of our menstrual kits can help girls stay in school and help end the cycle of poverty.

Help us reach more women and girls by donating to our Givealittle page
www.givealittle.co.nz/org/daysforgirlsnz



DAYS FOR
 GIRLS
NEW ZEALAND



Every girl. Everywhere. Period.