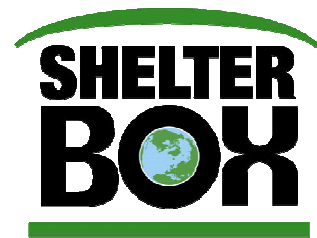


October 2006

# OUT OF THE BOX

News and updates from ShelterBox HQ for all our Rotary supporters



## The ruins of Southern Lebanon

A ShelterBox tent bearing the Australian and UK flags – plus the Rotary logo – stands next to the remains of a house in Froun, Southern Lebanon.

Photographer Mark Pearson spent several days travelling around Southern Lebanon with members of the Rotary Club of Batroun, seeing ShelterBoxes and other help sent by Rotarians distributed in areas where no other aid agencies were operating.

Working with the help of the Lebanese Red Cross and the police, RC Batroun oversaw the distribution of 616 ShelterBoxes – providing accommodation for more than 6,000 people.

The owner of the house above, Mohammed Ramadan, spent three days hiding beneath the ruins of his home with five others – sharing just a single bottle of water – while members of the Israeli army were camped out in the shell of the house above. His family now live in the tent pictured.

In another village, Qlaiaa, a children's peace camp set up by the Maronite Church was given 15 ShelterBoxes, while another 85 boxes were distributed to Muslim and Christian families in the surrounding area.

Many families have been unable to enter the remains of their old homes because of the number of unexploded bombs and missiles littering the ruins. And while the Lebanese civilians wait for the bomb disposal teams, tents supplied by ShelterBox provide their only home.

The ShelterBoxes were praised by Ali Bacharouch from the Lebanese Red Cross, who said: *"This equipment is great, the people love it and this is the only shelter we have had."*

## AUSTRALIAN ROTARIANS DELIVER AID IN EAST TIMOR

A team of Rotarians from ShelterBox Australia this month distributed 400 tents in East Timor.

See over for an extract from Darren Mayne's report on how the aid reached people in this remote and troubled country.

## Tsunami tents still standing!

Two ShelterBox tent 'villages' put up in India following the Asian Tsunami are still in use 15 months after being erected.

ShelterBox sent 420 boxes to India in January 2004 as part of a response which saw the charity provide aid for around 212,000 people in Southeast Asia.

PDG Elias Thomas of Maine came across the tents – with their Rotary logos – when he visited the state of Tamil Nadu in April this year.

He reports that the tents are still being lived in as the Indian government has yet to build replacement housing in the area.

# SHELTERBOX AUSTRALIA: REPORT FROM EAST TIMOR

Australian Rotarians Darren Mayne (Endeavour Hills) and Keith Robins (Toorak) have recently returned from helping to distribute 200 ShelterBoxes in East Timor.

East Timor only gained independence in 2002 but was plunged into chaos earlier this year when protests over army sackings turned violent.

Although a 2,500-strong international peace-keeping force has since been deployed, many families have been displaced by the violence and still do not feel safe to return to their homes.



**Life in Dili:** Children from some of the families displaced by the civil unrest in East Timor.

Darren reports that the ShelterBox Australia team flew into the capital Dili, where they teamed up with fellow Rotarian Darryl Mills, who is based in East Timor with the organisation Rotary Australia World Community Service.

The boxes sent each contained two tents – providing accommodation for around 4,000 people – and were distributed through local church organisations and other agencies working in the country, including the Red Cross.

Darren said: *“We were lucky to have Darryl on site to assist with all the preplanning and using his contacts we were able to establish a number of distribution areas.”*

The first boxes were delivered to a local convent and an orphanage in Dili. Darren said: *“We heard a similar story in both locations. Due to the current turmoil and unrest people do not feel safe in their houses so convents and orphanages tend to swell of a night time as people gather for safety.”*

The ShelterBox team also delivered 115 of the boxes to camps set up by the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation in an area about 20 minutes drive away from Dili. Darren added: *“A number of the people were from Dili and have moved away to the safety of this area.”*

*“I really felt we made a difference when we went back on the Friday and saw the all the tents set up in little clusters. The kids were playing and running around having fun and the general feeling was a ‘happier’ one than when we first arrived.”*

He added: *“Keith and I feel lucky to have been involved in this ShelterBox project and to see the joy in people’s faces when you help make a difference.”*

## More aid for Romanian flood victims

ShelterBox is sending further help to victims of flooding in Romania’s Danube region.

Another 24 ShelterBoxes have left by road for Budapest as part of a convoy of aid organised by the charity Hope & Aid Direct. The aid will then be distributed to people who have lost their homes and possessions.

Large numbers of homes have been destroyed and many villages left near uninhabitable after repeated floods that have seen the Danube bursting its banks to cover an area more than eight miles wide.

ShelterBox previously sent aid to Romania in June 2005 and May 2006, working with Hope & Aid Direct and World Vision.

## THANK YOU ROTARY!

Without the support – and money raised – by all you good people in Rotary, ShelterBox would only be able to achieve a fraction of what it does manage. Our income records for August show special mention should go to the following clubs:

**\* Bude £3,430 \***

**\* Horsham £2,000 \* Redruth £1,960 \* Thurso £1,960 \***

Others breaking the £1,000 barrier included: Halifax, Carshalton, St Austell Bay, Barnstaple, and Burton on Trent. Total income from RIBI clubs during August was £48,279

**Donations from Rotary and the general public paid for a total of 290 boxes during August.**

## SEND US YOUR NEWS!

As well as telling you all about what we’re up to at ShelterBox HQ and on deployment around the world, we’d like to give you a chance to publicise what you’re doing to support our work.

If your club or district has done something unusual or remarkable to help raise funds for ShelterBox, then email the details to [publicity@shelterbox.org](mailto:publicity@shelterbox.org)



The ShelterBox Trust is a registered charity operated by The Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard.  
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*Delivering humanitarian aid worldwide*