



ShelterBox

Disaster relief

eNewsletter May 2019

ShelterBox is proud to be a Project Partner of Rotary International

Magnitude 7.5 earthquake

Affected countries: Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea

45 km from Kokopo, Papua New Guinea · 14 May, 10:58 pm



[For more info on the earthquake visit usgs.gov](https://usgs.gov)

Dear Graham and Marie-Louise ,

We woke this morning to news of a powerful earthquake on the island of New Ireland, off East New Britain, Papua New Guinea. A timely reminder that disasters don't stop. Due to the remoteness of the region, reliable news will be slow to come out but our Operations team are monitoring the situation. Keep an eye on our social media channels and website for up to date news. In the meantime, our hearts go out to those affected.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, Southern Africa has recently taken a battering from a series of extreme weather events. Whilst operations in Malawi have wound up, today, **two Australian Response Team volunteers** will head out to the **Comoros Islands**, badly affected by last month's Cyclone Kenneth.

On the home front, we've seen an encouraging rise in the amount of fundraising events around the country lately, with two 'Shine for ShelterBox' dinners happening this weekend and a team of adventurers entering the 'Tough Mudder' at Woodfordia, Queensland. Check out the website for more details of how you can get involved; or see below if you're keen to challenge yourself on the Larapinta or the Kokoda Track. Events like these don't just raise vital funds, but also help spread awareness of the critical work that ShelterBox does.

This month's quote comes from Ralph Waldo Emerson, "*Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.*"

Many thanks for your support



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Comoros Islands - Cyclone Kenneth



Australian SRT volunteer, Richard Brammall in the Philippines earlier this year.

ShelterBox is sending a team to the **Comoro Islands** (or 'Comoros'), after Cyclone Kenneth caused widespread damage at the end of April. Strong winds, torrential rains and waves of 6-12 metres battered the islands of Grande Comore, Anjouan and Mohéli, washing away and destroying houses, schools, crops, power poles and health centres.

The country has been overwhelmed by its first serious cyclone in over 30 years. Entire villages in the storm's path were affected. Almost 4,000 homes have been destroyed and a further 7,000 badly damaged, according to the government. And with 80% of the islands' farms destroyed, plus schools and hospitals damaged, it will take months for communities to recover. Water infrastructure is damaged and will take time to repair (lack of power has stopped pumps working, and we've heard that water tanks have lost their lids and are filled with debris or seawater), raising concerns of an outbreak of water-borne diseases.

Gold Coast-based Response Team member **Richard Brammall** (pictured above) and Melbourne-based volunteer and logistics specialist, **Steve Roddis** have deployed to the stricken country. The ShelterBox team will meet with families and local partners to assess the damage and to understand whether our aid would be suitable to help them recover. We will know more once our teams have visited affected communities, but aid items may include ShelterKits, water filters and mosquito nets.

Malawi - Cyclone Idai



Distribution of ShelterBox aid, including ShelterKits and blankets, in Malawi

When Cyclone Idai tore through southern Africa in March, it separated parents and children, ripped up homes and destroyed livelihoods.

Thousands of families were left homeless and afraid, urgently needing help. The ShelterBox Response Teams that deployed to Malawi (including Australian, Tommy Gray) worked with our partners, Rotary and Habitat for Humanity to provide emergency shelter for the most vulnerable families .

Nearly 2,000 families have received ShelterKits, water filters, mosquito nets, solar lights, blankets and water carriers. That's around 10,000 people with a place to call home thanks to your support. You can read the story of one such family below.

Case study - Modestar

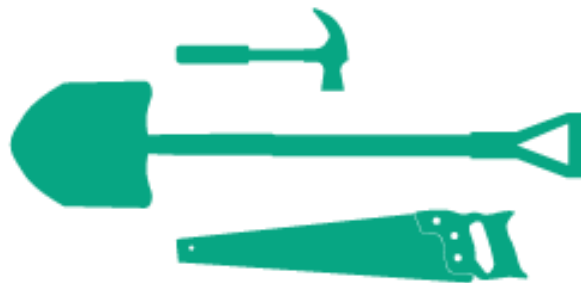


A few days after the distribution had taken place, the ShelterBox Monitoring and Evaluation team visited some of the communities who had received ShelterKits and other essential aid items. The team were undertaking Post Distribution Monitoring activities; asking recipients questions about what they had received, the way in which they received their items, and to what extent they found their items useful. This activity helps us to identify whether the intended outcomes of

the response have been met and inform and improve future ShelterBox distributions.

The team met with local community leaders, walking around different villages, meeting families who had received ShelterBox support. They were introduced to Modestar, who had attended the distribution nine days before. Modestar greeted the team by laying out two brightly coloured ground mats under some shade. These ground mats were items Modestar had received a few days earlier. Together they sat down in the shade and discussed what she thought of the items she had received. After speaking for 20 minutes or so, Modestar showed the team her shelter and invited them in to look at her new home.

Modestar explained that she was living with her two children. She said that she was “very pleased to have this shelter and thank you”. Modestar’s new items were laid out neatly in her home, she had even created some hooks to hang up items from the kitchen set and her water filter.



Support families affected by disaster and crisis. Please

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DONATE NOW

EFT: Westpac: ShelterBox Australia: BSB 032 189: Account no. 230 147 (please email sbaoffice@shelterbox.org.au to notify us of your donation and receive your tax receipt).

Cheques can be mailed to: ShelterBox Australia, PO Box 254, Parramatta, NSW, 2124

All donations above \$2 are fully tax-deductible

Trek The Kokoda Tack with ShelterBox in 2020



We're so excited to launch our newest adventure challenge and we hope you'll join us! How will you spend ANZAC Day next year? How about trekking the Kokoda Track alongside a team of ShelterBox Australia supporters?

Picture trekking across rugged mountain terrain, through lush tropical rainforest and into unspoiled villages of Papua New Guinea. Imagine retracing the footsteps of Australian soldiers and learning about the history of the battle sites from expert guides. **The ShelterBox Kokoda Trek 2020** is going to be an unforgettable adventure and we'd love for you to take part.

Find out more



22 April – 2 May 2020



11 day adventure
9 challenge days



Very challenging

Larapinta Trek - It's not too late to sign up!



There are just 4 places left on the 2019 Larapinta Trek. With 14 trekkers already registered, we have raised over \$25,000 so far!

Go the extra mile for disaster relief! Join ShelterBox Australia CEO, Mike Greenslade on the adventure of a lifetime and trek the stunning Larapinta Trail in the Northern Territory. The Larapinta Trail is regarded as one of Australia's premier walking tracks. From the old Alice Springs Telegraph Station to the peak of Mount Sonder, the trail stretches 223 kilometres along the backbone of the West MacDonnell Ranges. Over 5 days of trekking, you will cover 60 kilometres of this iconic track.

Sign up today!

https://inspiredadventures.com.au/events/sba_larapinta_2019/



Rotary



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