

New doctor is keen to make a difference Rotary's international projects

The new GP at Ochre Medical Centre Smithton, Dr Apampa Olusegun, is on a mission to bring a broad range of medical skills to the community.

"Part of my experience includes working in rural Australia," he says, "and I realised it's a different practice entirely to working in the city. Patients needing anything complex there will need to travel by air to the city to get care, which is hard, so if you can take it to them, that makes their lives a lot easier."

"For that reason, I've chosen to work in rural Tasmania, and make a difference by helping local people access the care they need."

Stories from Dr Olusegun's rural days include a dramatic late-night surgery. He recalls there was a case of trauma which resulted in badly lacerated ear.

"The patient would normally have been flown to the city, but this would risk losing his ear," Dr Olusegun said.

"I felt timely action was more important and I had the surgical skills (in ear, nose and throat procedures) required. I was able to repair his ear in the emergency department and all was well in the end."

"It's a fantastic feeling when you can actually help to resolve a patient's issues without them having to wait, so over the years I've worked hard to widen and improve my skills."

"I spent time studying in Canada, completing a number of courses



Ochre Medical Centre Smithton new Doctor, Dr Apampa Olusegun.

including ultrasound in diagnosis and procedures."

As well as emergency medicine and surgery, Dr Olusegun's areas of interest include chronic disease management. After graduating and working in his native Nigeria, he travelled to Cyprus in 2014 to complete a master's program in environmental health.

Moving to Australia in 2018, Dr Olusegun felt immediately at home.

"Nigeria has a comparable health care system because both are based on the British system. I've loved it here from day one and only once had a short trip back to Nigeria to see family!"

It wasn't until his final years of university that he developed an

interest in primary care.

"I enjoyed being immersed in the community and understanding about people's lives and the impact on their health. I loved the opportunity to share my knowledge and saw how I could encourage people to do the right things to prevent the outbreak of disease."

Dr Olusegun is enjoying settling into the Smithton practice as well as doing on-call shifts at Smithton District Hospital.

"It's a good team, we have doctors with a range of different skills and experience. The patients are great too! They appreciate seeing a new face and the help I can offer them, and I would love to stay long term."

In recent years the Rotary Club of Smithton have assisted financially with several international projects, including contributing funds towards Water Bores in Tanzania to assist villages with obtaining fresh water so the women do not have to walk distances to carry water to their villages.

The projects' objective is to install up to 20 water bores in villages that currently do not have easy access to safe drinking water in the Tarime District of Northern Tanzania.

The cost of undertaking hydrological surveys, drilling a bore, testing the quality and the yield of the water, casing the hole, capping the bore and installing the pump is around \$16,000 per bore.

Another project is "The Gift of Sight" Cataract and Surgical project in Hetauda, Nepal, where villagers come from remote villages into towns and attend clinics where cataract surgery is performed. Rotarians Meredith Gracie and Lorraine Charles have seen firsthand the joy that is expressed after eye patches are removed, enhancing the quality of life.

The Rotary Club of Smithton is also in its third year of supporting a music teacher at the Hetauda Blind school in Nepal.

Funding for this project is raised from the Rotary Clubs International nights. \$200



Onsite at a bore drilling site in Tanzania.

supports a teacher for a month. Furthermore, the local organisation has contributed financially to a Rotary Global Grant, prepared by the Rotary Club of Burnie, to refurbish the Plumtree District Hospital in Zimbabwe to improve the capacity of local health care professionals and promote disease prevention that limits the spread of communicable diseases.

For further information on any of these international projects, or find out ways that you can assist, Rotary Club of Smithton gather each Tuesday night from 6.30pm at Tall Timbers.

<p>Jacob's Creek Market Hall</p>  <p>\$14.99 ea 750ml</p>	<p>Jameson Irish Whiskey</p>  <p>\$52.99 ea 700ml</p>	<p>Heineken</p>  <p>\$51.99 24 Pack \$46.99 10/4-16/4</p>
<p>Mercury Cider</p>  <p>\$50.99 ea 24 Pack</p>	<p>Pepperjack</p>  <p>\$21.99 ea 750ml \$16.99 03/04-16/4</p>	<p>Cruiser Mixed</p>  <p>\$34.99 ea 10 Pack</p>
<p>Jack Daniel's 4.8%</p>  <p>\$48.99 15 Pack \$43.99 03/4-16/4</p>	<p>Cascade Draught</p>  <p>2 FOR \$108 24 Pack</p>	<p>Johnnie Walker Red</p>  <p>\$59.99 1 LITRE \$54.99 03/4-16/4</p>



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