

# THE GIVING SEASON



Bill Gates has pledged US\$355 million if Rotary International can raise \$200 million by 30 June 2012. \$15 million are still needed.

A remarkable bloke called Rob Pennicott has recently completed an amazing journey. He and two other adventurers circumnavigated the rather large island of Australia (including Tasmania) in a pair of 17-ft 'rubber duckies'. (See 'Follow the Yellow Boat Road' in this Issue.) Rob has been a seaman all his life. He started out as a fisher and now operates a world-class adventure and ecotourism business in Tasmania. So why would a bloke who spends his working life as a seaman decide to take on such a challenge? The answer is simple: we have a chance to eliminate the awful disease of polio from the face of the Earth and this journey was part of the plan to do just that.

Millions of people followed this circumnavigation. And it has been highly successful in raising awareness about polio. Although it is many years since we have had this disease in 'developed' nations it is still a dark presence in some the world's poorest countries.

So in this giving season join with me and the *40°South* team in buying a Xmas gift for the peoples of the world by donating to the Follow the Yellow Boat Road campaign. Ninety-two per cent of your donation will contribute to the eradication of polio. Eight per cent will go to the Pennicott Foundation for important conservation projects. Rob Pennicott is proud to have donated his time and services to the foundation and this cause. Read and enjoy the article and for details of how to contribute.

As we enter the festive season may I once again thank my brilliant *40°South* staffers for another creative and productive year, our readers and the fine businesses that support us. May I wish everyone in this extended *40°South* community the very best, and also wish you all a healthy and prosperous 2012.