

The Need for Funding

The clinical team will comprise 4 dentists who will be accompanied by Facilitator in Dental Prevention. The project includes the treatment of teeth and the promotion of dental health to the children, their teachers, school heads, and their parents. We work in a different community each day at their local school.

Well before we leave NZ, all 4 dentists have to attain certificates of good standing from our own dental council and to apply for temporary registration from the medical council of Fiji. This process will cost between \$100 and \$200 for each applicant. A further certificate of good standing has to be applied for from the Fijian medical council on our return and before we apply for our yearly reregistration from the NZ dental council, because we have worked overseas.

Insurances are required for travel and working in Fiji.

We need to take all equipment and materials for the 4 dentists. For the first trip of the reinitiated project this will need to include such items as an autoclave which may then remain securely on the island for future use.

The education programme will also need funding. The facilitator will need sufficient resources to provide the schools with the necessary free toothbrushes and toothpaste along with information packages. The schools may be supported with supplies to be distributed to families who cannot afford these items.

Funding is required for return travel from NZ to Nadi and then onto Matei on Taveuni Island. We need to buy extra baggage allowances for the entire trip as Nadi/Matei allowance is only about 15kgs. Those costs are steep.

Generators, compressors and vehicles on the island had in the past been provided gratis by Geoffrey Amos. That is now unavailable to our team so we will need to hire two 4 wheel drive vehicles and a trailer to move our equipment and personnel around from school to school each day. Generators and compressors are required to energise our portable dental units with backups required for the inevitable breakdowns. All the equipment requires fuel to run it. Again, these costs will be steep.

The irony of tooth brush storage was not lost on us at the schools



Please register your Club's interest by emailing:

Simon@funeral-link.co.nz

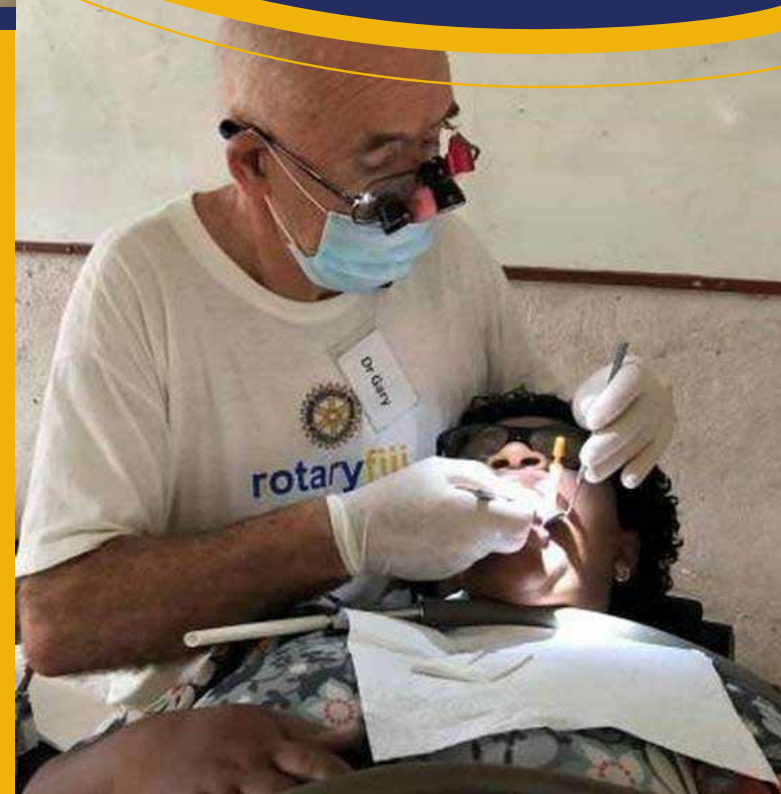
We are looking for Club's to commit some of their Rotary Foundation Funds for the 2023/2024 Rotary Year to this Global Grant. By committing funds from your club we can receive funding from Rotary International to allow this wonderful project to make a difference in the lives of the children on Taveuni Island Fiji.

Ideally we would love your club to consider a pledge of \$3,000.00 in your 2023/2024 Rotary year budget.

We are more than happy to visit your club to share the story if this will be helpful.

2023/2024 Rotary Volunteer

Dental Aid Project to:
Taveuni Island, Fiji



Rotary 



The Goals of the Rotary Volunteer Dental Aid Project to Taveuni Island, Fiji 2023/2024

Has your Rotary Club ever wanted to participate in a Rotary International Global Grant but not known how to?

We at Kāpiti Rotary are seeking expressions of Interest from Rotary Clubs in our District, 9940 to assist us by donating funds to go towards our Global Grant Application for the 2023/2024 Rotary year.



What is the Project?

Rotary Volunteer Dental Aid Project to Taveuni Island, Fiji 2023/24

Background: Taveuni Island is the third largest island in Fiji lying in the northeast and approximately ninety minutes flying time from Nadi. It is also known as “The Garden Isle”.

There is one government salaried resident dentist based at the local hospital to serve between 16-18,000 local people. He travels to the outlying villages on an irregular basis. There is a large unmet need for dental treatment in the general population.

The project targets teeth in children in the last two years of primary school (years 7 & 8). We aim to make these children dentally fit as they head to High School the following year. At the same time, we take the opportunity to educate the community on long-term preventative dental health habits. The key to sustainable dental health is the education of the parents, children, and the teaching staff. Prevention is really the cure to this problem and it can be achieved simply; by the regular use of a toothbrush with toothpaste, oral hygiene instruction and diet counselling.

1 First and foremost we wish to **provide first-world dentistry** to primary school children on Taveuni who are suffering from dental disease who are in pain or very soon will be. Specifically we will actually provide urgent and much needed dental treatment to the children.

2 Secondly, we wish to reinstate a **sustainable preventative programme** within the schools and the communities to prevent dental disease from continuing to grow at the rate we had witnessed prior to our last three visits.** In 2016 we had commenced a programme of educating the children, the teachers and parents. This included after lunch times toothbrushing drills and some of the communities had taken our advice and set up rosters amongst the parents to provide daily lunchtime meals. The result was great for the students and the teachers alike. Well-fed children learn better and a controlled diet prevents tooth decay. Over 6 years we saw some schools able to reduce the decay rate by nearly 300%. (See 2018 report.)

**The programme was prevented from continuing from 2019 by the pandemic

3 Thirdly, we aim to **bring back the smile** to the people of Taveuni. To rekindle the desire to have a population that is free of dental disease and can, once again, beam that big Fijian smile that they once were renowned for.

