

Vocational Training Team Dental Project Vanuatu: 1st to 15th May 2016

The Team:

Dr. Viv Valladares: Dentist and Team Leader

Dr. Sarah Caruso: Dentist

Melinda Guidolin: Hygienist

The Project was jointly funded by Rotary International District 9500 Group 4 Rotary Clubs and Rotary International District 9500. The Project was scoped in liaison with Rotarians from RI District 9910 Vanuatu and South New Zealand.

Group 4 Clubs: RC of Elizabeth, RC of Salisbury, RC of Playford, RC of Mawson Lakes and the Rotaract Club of Salisbury.

Individual Team Member Sponsorship Clubs: RC of Adelaide, RC of Prospect Sunrise.

Project Aims and Objectives:

1. Donation of dental equipment, a Lisa Autoclave and a Satelec scaler unit and other dental materials.
2. Working with the NiVan health workers in Port Vila to provide education in oral hygiene and much needed dental treatment for the local NiVan community and school children in the surrounding schools.
3. Train the Vanuatu dental assistant team in infection control and other procedures, use of the donated equipment and the training of local staff to use and maintain equipment. Bring a NiVan dental health worker to Adelaide to further her knowledge and skills.

Summary of Project:

Following on from the success of the D9500 VTT Dental Project 2015, the Project was organised in coordination with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu (PCV) Health Secretary, Rotarian Richard Tatwin. The PCV runs a dental clinic in Port Vila and organises the use of a mobile dental van (a Rotary Club of Ballarat RAWCS project), which is generally maintained by the Novo dental Group in Port Vila.

The Project was scoped by the D9500 VTT/Scholarships Committee during the first half of the Rotary year 2015/16, with Skype, telephone and email contact with Richard Tatwin (Rotary Club of Grassroots Vanuatu) and the Rotary Club of Port Vila. Richard Tatwin liaised with the PCV staff and advised the VTT Committee of the personnel requirements structure of the VTT team to visit Vanuatu (2 dentists and 1 hygienist/therapist). It was decided that a team of three operators would be adequate, especially as there would be two new dental units installed in the two treatment rooms at the PCV clinic and the mobile dental van would also be available to work in. The dentally trained Ni Van health workers who had been an integral part of the team in June 2015 would be continue to work and train as assistants with the VTT.

President Jim Buckoke (RC Elizabeth) was nominated by the Group 4 Clubs to represent their members and he attended every meeting during the scoping and organising process.

Dr. Viv Valladares (RC of Elizabeth) was appointed Team Leader (in liaison with Group 4 Club members, who required her expertise to lead their side of the Project). Dates and budget lines were set and Group 4 Assistant Governor Rick Henke worked with the VTT Committee and Group 4 Clubs to construct the appropriate Memorandum of Understanding for the scoped project to become a joint D9500 and Group 4 Club Project. This was accomplished and signed.

Members of the VTT Committee, Jacqui Atyeo and Viv Valladares met Richard Tatwin in Adelaide in January 2015, where a timeline for critical aspects of the Project were discussed agreed upon and assigned to the appropriate people. These included; visa requirements (outgoing and incoming), compilation of a list of Key Competencies for the incoming Ni-Van dental assistant (to be met during her 2 week training at Gilles Plains TAFE), licensing and registration requirements for D9500 dental team to undertake dental work in Vanuatu, training requirements for the existing staff at the PCV Clinic, dental education of parents and staff in the

proposed outreach program at schools and communities and required resources and dental restorative treatment during the Project.

Expressions of Interest and subsequent interviews for Team members and Sarah Caruso and Melinda Guidolin were appointed. Group 4 representative Jim Buckoke was involved at every stage of the recruitment process. Viv Valladares continued to work with the Team members to guide them through the preparation process. On the 7th March the Team members were presented to the Group 4 clubs at their Intercity meeting organised by the RC of Elizabeth.

A Lisa autoclave (used to sterilise dental instruments) was donated by Dental Concepts, weighing 55 kgs, was kindly taken to Geelong Donations In Kind warehouse by Rtn Shirley Halls, from where Rtn Anton Van Doornik organised it onto a container headed for Vanuatu.

Viv liaised with Sonia De Matteo (Coordinator - Hygienist course) to construct a rigorous two week learning program for Morinda Toara (Ni-Van dental assistant). She would participate in hands on training as a hygienist, with the opportunity to work on mannequins. Group 4 Clubs organised her Adelaide billeting and cultural experiences.

A SatelecScaler unit was also purchased with the support of a D9500 District Grant application process (Rotary Club of Elizabeth) and taken by the VTT to Vanuatu.

As part of the preparation process a Briefing Day was held on Sunday April 10th. Skype contact was made with Rotarian Richard Tatwin and discussion focused on fine-tuning the Project, ensuring as much success as possible. The out-going Team also had an insight from a previous VTT team member Dr. Agnetha Valladares.

AG Rick Henke was nominated by Group 4 Clubs as the PR contact for the Project and he liaised with the Messenger Press and an article about the Project was published on the 25th March.

The VTT team worked over the two week period in Port Vila and surrounds (May 1st – 15th 2016). They worked with Ni Van and other dental clinic administrators (office personnel) and assistants. This included working with Richard Tatwin and Barry Ismael (PCV front office), Morinda Toara and Bob Natuman (Ni Van dental assistants), Gloria Jones (a highly qualified dental assistant and PCANZ mission worker from NZ), Ravina Dalzmal a trained optometrist and Debra Allen (Global Scope coordinator with a background in dental nursing.)

Objective 1: Donation of dental equipment, a Lisa Autoclave, a Satelecscaler unit and other dental materials.

Was achieved by:

- Donation of Lisa Autoclave to PCV Clinic (donated in South Australia by Dental Concepts). Melinda trained the PCV staff in the use and maintenance of the machine.
- Donation of a Satelecscaler unit (purchased with support of D9500 District Grant). Melinda trained **Morinda Toara** in the use and maintenance of the machine
- Dental materials such as; local anaesthetic, restorative materials, gloves, masks and other protective clothing and fluoride were purchased and some extraction forceps donated by Viv Valladares were
- packed into a bag custom made by Jim's Trim. Viv liaised with Air Vanuatu who agreed to waive the 21kgs excess baggage cost, saving over \$500.00 .



Objective 2: Working with the Ni Van health workers in Port Vila, Morinda Toara and Bob Natumanto provide education in oral hygiene and much needed dental treatment for the local Ni Van community and school communities in the surrounding schools.

Was achieved by:

- screening the school children of the Centreville French School, providing preventative fluoride applications and giving oral hygiene instruction to the 104 children, parents and teachers- focus on 4 to 7 year old children
 - providing dental treatment for the local community in the PCV clinics and the mobile Dental Van.
- Summary of the restorative and preventive work done by the VTTeam:

Examinations and screenings:	300
Extractions:	273
Restorations / fillings:	229
Fluoride applications:	142
Fissure sealants:	146
Scaling and prophylaxis:	23
Xrays (machinery breakdown):	5
Pulpotomy (needs ongoing care)	1



Team with dental van and Bob Natuman

Objective 3: Train the Vanuatu dental assistant team in infection control and other procedures, use of the donated equipment and the training of local staff to use and maintain equipment. Bring a Ni Van dental health worker to Adelaide to further her knowledge and skills.

Was achieved by:

- building on previous training (VTT 2015) by up-skilling Ni Van dental health workers, **Morinda Toara and Bob Natuman**, in infection control procedures
- instructing and training the Ni Van dental health workers, **Morinda Toara and Bob Natuman**, in the use of the autoclave and the scaler unit.

Hygienist Melinda using the scaler



Hygienist Melinda demonstrating scaler - Ni Van assistant Rafina (in chair)



- demonstrate to the Ni Van dental health workers ,**Morinda Toara and Bob Natuman**,the correct and appropriate use of dental materials (during treatment) and infection control procedures, especially in the use of the Lisa autoclave



Bob working in PCV Clinic and dental van



Morinda working in PCV Clinic

- show the Ni Van dental health workers, **Morinda Toara and Bob Natuman**, effective record keeping models and assist in the establishment of these structures



Morinda documenting during screening

- enrich Morinda's and Bob's ability to provide preventative oral hygiene to the schools and community on an ongoing basis, by modelling effective delivery of information during sessions, i.e., what resources to take, what information to give in the presentations.



Bob working with Melinda and Viv to organise the oral health training resources



Bob Natuman participating in oral health training

- The Ni Van dental health worker (**Morinda Toara**)was recruited by the PCV clinic staff and selected to participate in a two week course at Gilles plains TAFE. This was organised by Viv Valladres in liaison with the Hygiene course coordinators, Sonja diMatteo and Alison Taylor. Morindais currently awaiting her visa formalities prior to flying to Adelaide.

MorindaToara with Gloria Jones
– PCANZ mission worker from NZ
- who also worked with the
D9500 VTTeam



Cultural and Fellowship Experiences:

The team had opportunities to integrate with the Ni Van health staff and their families, on a day at the beach, as well as had the privilege to partake of the traditional Laplap meal with Richard Tatwin and his family and at a farewell dinner.

They met the President and members of the Rotary Club of Port Vila at their lunch meeting and fellowship on a barge cruise with partners. Also the Team met the President of the Rotary Club of Vanuatu Grassroots at a dinner meeting.



Meeting with RC of Port Vila

Meeting with RC of Vanuatu Grassroots



Constraints:

1. Upon arrival the Team was advised that the Dental Van needed some mechanical work (clutch) and therefore was not available for any work out of Port Vila area. This impacted on the planned Outreach Program. The dentist at Novo dental Clinic in Port Vila, Dr Felipe Lemos, who oversees the ongoing maintenance of the van) was unaware of the problem with the van.
Resolution: The VTT team used the van in situ.
2. There were two public holidays during the Project, which did impact on the work of the Team.
Resolution: The Team took every opportunity to keep working – organising the Clinic and mobile van in readiness for patients, instructing the dental team in the use of the Lisa autoclave, and the Satelec scaler unit, preparing a daily procedure manual for the various tasks and scheduling appointments. While visiting a beach resort on the weekend, the team organised dental appointments for the staff who, as the tourism trade is so important to their income, can find it difficult to find and keep work if they have poor (often disfiguring) oral health.
3. On arrival the bookings were allowing too much time per patient, meaning only a minority of patients would avail of dental treatment. **Resolution:** The Team intervened to introduce more efficient appointment scheduling processes which ensured more patients could be treated.
4. There were three x-ray machines in the Clinic, but only one worked briefly. After five x-rays, the machine broke down and therefore the Team had no access to x-rays, which restricted diagnosis.
Resolution: The Team still performed extractions and worked to the best of their ability despite the lack of technology.
5. At the PCV Clinic, the two newly installed dental units/ chairs had malfunctions with the water lines which meant equipment requiring water could not be used and suction not possible. This again restricted the restorative work that could be provided.

Resolution:

The Team worked to their best ability using the equipment that did not require water to function.

Conclusion:

A comprehensive summary of all aspects of the project can be accessed on Facebook “*Rotary Dental Vocational Training Team 2016*”.

Acknowledgements:

The team is very grateful to the District 9500 VTT Committee for its immeasurable support and guidance.

Viv Valladares June 2016