

# Taveuni Eye Project ...

The Rotary Club of Taveuni has been running the Taveuni Eye Project since 2005. The goal of the project is to give sight to children and adults from remote rural areas of Fiji. The project changes the lives of hundreds of the poorest Fijians each year by restoring their eye sight.

This Vital Rotary Eye Project is all done by volunteers. This includes doctors and nurses backed up by local and international volunteer workers and all at no cost to the patients. In 2017, 3 surgeons, 1 GP, and an anaesthetist together with 11 overseas volunteers and 22 locals participated in the project.



The Fiji Society for the Blind (FSB) conducts Fiji wide eye screenings and submitted patients names for treatment consideration and acted as “Patient Carers” for the journeys to and from Taveuni. Patients come from all over Fiji.

More than 3200 Fijians have had their sight restored during the 12 years that the project has been running. In 2017 (for example), 403 procedures were completed and sight restored to 345 eyes during the 12 days of activity. Almost 15,000 working hours were expended in making this achievement.



Training of local medical staff is a key component of the project, with some 1,354 hours of training undertaken in 2017. Local high school students also gained training through their involvement in meal preparation, serving meals and acting as caregivers to the patients.

Our Club involvement has comprised acquisition of equipment (Stryker Beds [see below]); collection of towels, sheets and sunglasses (to protect the repaired eyes); and fundraising and management of grant applications. Peter & Jan Malden have also travelled to Fiji and worked as volunteers for the past three years.

