

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Carl Zeiss Vision helps to assist 2,340 Nepali citizens with the support of the 2008 Rotary Australia Nepal eye camps

An 11 person Australian team arrived back from a successful 2008 Rotary Australia Nepal eye camp in mid November. Carl Zeiss Vision supported the 11 person team who assisted 2,340 Nepali people.

The team departed Australia on October 30, 2008 for Nepal where they were met by the Nepali support team from ADRA and BASE, including a Nepali Optometrist and Optical Assistants. The team also developed close relationships with Phatte Bal Eye Hospital and Geta Eye Hospital

Rotary eye camps were situated in far Western Nepal in the Terai with the team visiting the flood affected districts of Banke, Bardia and Kailali where bonded labour (Kamaiyas) and child labour has been prevalent and still affects much of the community today. These districts have little or no health facilities, poor education and poor economic development.

Over all the team assisted 2,340 Nepali people by distributing 1,788 spectacles and referring 86 people for cataract surgery.

Carly Nicholls, Optical Dispenser and volunteer for Rotary Australia Nepal Eye Camps said "we were able to assist so many Nepali people thanks, in part, to Carl Zeiss Vision's generous support in Rotary. All who we assisted were so appreciative of their new spectacles".

Tony Gray, Managing Director Carl Zeiss Vision Australia & New Zealand said "we are very please to have supported such a great cause. To be able to help assist 2,340 Nepali people, who under normal circumstances would not be able to afford spectacles or cataract surgery, is cause that Carl Zeiss Vision is very proud to have been a part of".

The Australian Rotary eye camps will once again be held in Nepal in 2009.

Images:

Image 1, 3 & 4: Australian Rotary team members conduct eye tests

Image 2: Australian Rotary team members and the children from the Far Western Terai Districts of Banke, Bardia and Kailali

Further Information:

Pamela Andrews

Marketing Communications Manager

Carl Zeiss Vision

pamela.andrews@vision.zeiss.com

08 8392 8144

Carl Zeiss Vision
Sherriffs Road
Lonsdale SA 5160

Telephone: 08 8392 8144
Facsimile: 08 8392 8160
pamela.andrews@vision.zeiss.com



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