
SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER

The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ

YOUR VISION



The Fred Hollows
Foundation NZ

Nau mai, haere mai. Welcome to our Summer Newsletter



There's no doubt, 2021 has been a year of challenges for every one of us.

Our team has worked harder than ever to continue to help those with preventable blindness and vision impairment when it is possible to do so. The stories you will read in this month's newsletter reflect just a tiny snapshot of the work the team has done, and the impact they have made, with your support.

As always, with challenges, come new solutions. You'll read about an incredible Outreach in Port Vila, Vanuatu. To help over 700 people who were unable to receive eye care due to COVID-19 restrictions, Dr Kasso mobilised a specialist team to provide the much-needed care.

You'll also enjoy the heart-warming story of how long-term Foundation supporters, Atesh and Bernadette came up with a generous and innovative way of celebrating a big milestone by restoring sight to hundreds of people in Fiji.

And with Christmas approaching, you can give beautiful hand-made gifts to your friends and family while supporting our work with our annual Gift of Sight Christmas collection. This year we've partnered with Fiji-based social enterprise Rise Beyond the Reef which supports artisans and their families in Fiji by providing a means to sell their beautiful hand-made goods.

I absolutely love the range and I'm certain you'll find unique and beautiful gifts for family and friends while supporting the

work of Rise Beyond the Reef and The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ, which will help Pacific communities recover from the effects of COVID-19.

As we reach the end of the year, I would like to express my overwhelming gratitude for your ongoing support. There's no doubt, it's been a tough year. But please be assured, whether it's our New Zealand-based team working remotely from home, or our managers, teachers, doctors and nurses in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Samoa, Kiribati and Vanuatu, the knowledge we have an army of dedicated and passionate Kiwis standing behind us spurs us on. Quite simply we couldn't do our work without you and for that, on behalf of our team, vinaka vakalevu - thank you.

While our teams continue to find innovative ways to provide eye care through the COVID-19 pandemic, as we come to the end of our second year of restrictions, the backlog continues to grow. That is why we need your support more than ever because, like our founder Professor Fred Hollows, we will not stop until we can provide quality eye care for every person who requires it in the Pacific.

Please enjoy reading about the impact of your generosity and kia kaha - things will get better.

Kind regards

Audrey

CEO Dr Audrey Aumua



Over 700 patients were waiting for treatment in Vanuatu.

Graduates mobilised for Port Vila Outreach

While Vanuatu is lucky to have not had any active COVID-19 cases since April, the pandemic is still affecting our work there. Currently, Vanuatu has only one fully-trained eye doctor, Dr Johnson Kasso, which means outreaches support from other countries is essential. However, COVID-19 restrictions have paused travel, so Dr Kasso is unable to receive this much-needed support from outside of Vanuatu.

Acting Pacific Programmes Manager Kirti Prasad explained that this motivated our Pacific teams to rethink the way they normally work and find alternative solutions to help the over 700 patients waiting for treatment in Vanuatu.

"We knew we had to tackle this backlog, so we

decided to invite graduates from all across the country to the capital, Port Vila, to conduct an Outreach."

"The response was so great we even had a retired eye nurse re-register to help provide treatment," said Kirti.

What was originally planned to be a two-week Outreach was soon extended as the patients started flowing in. Dr Kasso and his team were successfully able to treat a large number of patients before they returned to their home islands. While there is still more work to be done, this collective effort had a huge impact on the lives of many throughout Vanuatu who had their vision restored after such a long wait.



Give a gift with double the impact this Christmas

We are excited to have joined forces with Specsavers to bring the gift of sight and support Fijian artisans this Christmas.



Our Christmas gifts this year have been produced by women artisans in Fiji through the non-profit organisation Rise Beyond the Reef and our Christmas appeal features the story of Zaydan from Fiji.

Rise Beyond the Reef is a Fijian social enterprise addressing rural remote Fijian communities' unique development needs. It focuses on improving women and children's lives through ecologically sustainable income-generating projects using traditional skills and materials, while addressing gender inequities, building women leaders, and empowering women and girls facing domestic violence.

The beautiful bold print of our 2021 tote bag was printed in communities in the Ra

province which is in the northern area of the main island; Viti Levu. Rise Beyond the Reef works with more than 150 women from seven communities in this region. Communities in the Ra area are primarily dependent on the mangroves, reefs and other marine ecosystems for their livelihoods. Because it is removed from Viti Levu's main centres, Ra artisans struggle to access markets to sell their products through. The Rise Beyond the Reef programme makes the connection between individual artisans and customers which makes a huge difference to families in these more remote provinces.

Added to the catalogue of gifts this year are hand-sewn turtles, using left-over material

scraps making each one unique. The turtles as well as the YAWA earrings have been made by artisans in the Ba province, also on the main island of Viti Levu.

The Yakete District is located within the Ba province. This is one of the largest remaining areas containing pristine Fijian forests, populated by indigenous communities that lead subsistence lifestyles and live off of the land.

The final gift created in Fiji is a sunglass or glasses case, made using handwoven mini mats that are produced in both the Ba and Ra provinces.

Each of the limited-edition gifts in our catalogue this year has been exclusively hand made for our supporters meaning this Christmas your unique gift will support the work of Rise Beyond the Reef in Fiji and give the gift of sight to someone in the Pacific.

Specsavers is also supporting The Foundation this Christmas by generously matching any donation received for a gift this Christmas meaning your donation will also have double the impact.*

**A \$25 donation becomes \$50.
One sight-restoring surgery becomes two.**

*up to the value of \$80,000.



The earrings in this years collection were made by artisans in Ba, Fiji.



Each of the gifts in this year's collection have been hand-made.



Find out more about our Christmas gifts on the back page of this newsletter.



50th Fundraiser for Fred

Atesh and Bernadette have raised an incredible \$110,000 for The Foundation

Long-term supporters of the Foundation, Atesh and Bernadette decided to make Atesh's 50th birthday extra special this year. By making a personal donation and inviting friends and family to donate to The Foundation in lieu of gifts, this generous couple raised an incredible \$110,000 and have impacted the lives of hundreds of people in Fiji.

How did you come to know about The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ?

We have known The Foundation for a long time and have supported in various ways.

We loved The Foundation's great work in terms of the difference it makes to the lives of so many. The work it does helping one person,

which benefits several immediate family members.

Tell us a bit about you?

We are originally from Ba, Fiji Islands and migrated to NZ in December 1994.

Bernadette has been a Faculty Leader of Science at Selwyn College for 22 years and

We are pleased to announce that popular broadcaster and TVNZ Breakfast newsreader, Indira Stewart, has partnered with The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ to end avoidable blindness and vision impairment in the Pacific.

The award-winning journalist emigrated with her family to New Zealand from Tonga aged two. On her many visits to Pacific countries, Indira has seen first-hand the impact The Foundation has on restoring eyesight to others.

"As a journalist for many years, I covered stories of people who had their sight restored by The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ and the

Atesh is currently a Managing Director of a company that has supported businesses in accountancy and finance advice for 20 years.

In our spare time, we like to read, love travelling, doing charitable work, socialising, having fun and making a difference. Our two young adult children do add a lot of fun and excitement to the family.

Why was the Mobile Eye Clinic in Fiji the project you wanted to support?

We believe eyesight is the most critical of our senses and its loss inhibits us from much of life. The Mobile Eye Clinic has our support as it allows a reach into isolated and unreachable geographical areas and can exemplify many needs.



The Mobile Eye Clinic on an Outreach to Ba, Fiji in 2020

eye doctors and nurses The Foundation has enabled to be trained across the Pacific."

"I remember one story of this 92-year-old grandmother was able to see her granddaughter for the first time following her eye surgery. The pure joy she felt blew me away."

Indira began her partnership with The Foundation as we launched The Fred Hollows Humanity Awards, a global movement created to recognise children aged 9-10 who have done something to make the world around them a better place.

"Sight is something so many of us take for granted. I know that The Foundation's work is life-changing and I am proud to support it," says Indira.

We have been firm believers in helping those, who are the "forgotten ones" or ones that get looked over and realised that the "mobile clinic" reaches these folks that could do with a little bit of "hand up".

We will continue to support The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ in their cause in the future as the sense of vision is superbly important to us. We spent the first 20 years of life in Toge, Ba, Fiji (which was a remote part of Fiji 30 years ago) we realise and appreciate the difficulties folks have accessing medical care.

50 is an important milestone. Tell us a bit about your birthday celebrations and what made them so special?

Our friends and family were appreciative of the opportunity to help us give back to our home country and we are very grateful for all the support.

Bernadette always does everything wholeheartedly and it was an occasion to mark 50 years of existence with the "second half" of life making a bigger difference to those that need our time and resources.

Do you have any advice for any of our supporters who want to do a birthday fundraiser or gather friends and family together to raise funds for The Foundation?

It's a great transparent way of raising funds and for a fantastic cause. An amazing way to give back to humanity, a small amount of money, as little as \$25 helps someone with their sight!

The team at The Foundation was absolutely awesome to work with every step of the way, from advice, setting up a "Givealittle" page to turning up to our birthday celebrations and spreading the good word of The Foundation's work.

If you feel inspired to undertake your own fundraiser for The Foundation our website has lots of ideas.

Visit www.hollows.org.nz/fundraise



Broadcaster Indira Stewart joins Team Fred

Give the Gift of Sight

and then give it again this Christmas



Each gift amount will be matched by Specsavers meaning your donation has double the impact.

Order your 2021 gifts and cards from the gift catalogue enclosed, or visit www.hollows.nz/gift-of-sight

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