

WINTER 2022 NEWSLETTER

The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ

YOUR VISION



30 YEARS OF RESTORING
SIGHT



The Fred Hollows
Foundation NZ

Welcome

from Chief Executive Officer,
Dr Audrey Aumua

This year is an exciting year for The Foundation, as it marks our 30 Year Anniversary of restoring sight.

As I look forward to celebrating this milestone, I also look back on my first year of serving Team Fred and cannot help but feel an immense sense of pride in the determination and resilience of the team and our community of supporters, partners, government representatives, departments and ministries of health, and the health workforce.

While managing lockdowns, weather events and the omnipresent threat of COVID-19, with your support our Pacific teams continued to deliver outreaches to remote communities and found innovative ways of helping those with urgent eye care needs, despite necessary restrictions and surgical space being redeployed to help with the COVID-19 response. Our teams also focused on a growing area of work – eye care education – with eye care staff joining telemedicine programmes and community education events to help slow the growth in preventable eye conditions.

Our Pacific neighbours though are reeling from the financial and economic impacts of over two years without tourism and labour movement, alongside the growing burden of the COVID-19 response and mitigating climate change impacts that continue to increase in magnitude.

Along with daily responsibilities, eye care teams across the Pacific region are working harder and smarter to get eye care to those who need it. It won't be easy. That is why, with your help, we will be working harder too to help our Pacific neighbours rebuild and, in particular, increase our support to government health systems. We will be doubling down on outreaches and surgeries, training more eye doctors and nurses, and supporting the

hardworking eye care workforce across the Pacific region with mentoring and equipment to help them meet the ever-increasing need. We will also work alongside Pacific governments to ensure that delivering eye care remains a key consideration within the post COVID-19 rebuild.

It's not until you're under pressure that you understand the strength and resilience of a team. **A team of which you are a valued member.** The challenges have not ceased; however, I move forward with absolute assurance that we have the right team and capability to continue Fred's legacy through the most difficult of times. If we can do that, we are well poised for supporting our partners during this difficult time.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the passing of a passionate member of Team Fred – Eileen Tugum, our much-loved Papua New Guinea (PNG) Country Manager. Eileen was instrumental in cementing The Foundation's relationship with the PNG government. But it was Eileen's personal warmth and good nature, combined with her positive spirit that impacted everyone she encountered the most. Despite our great sorrow at losing Eileen, we are all so much the better for knowing her.

Audrey



\$2 million worth of eye care equipment given to the Regional Eye Centre



Dr John Szetu attended an official ceremony to hand over the equipment.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ has donated over \$2 million worth of eye care equipment to the Regional Eye Centre at the National Referral Hospital in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

The equipment was handed over today in an official ceremony attended by Dr John Szetu, Medical Director for The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ, and representatives from the National Referral Hospital.

Dr John Szetu, who is based at the Regional Eye Centre in Honiara, says, "This equipment will enable the Centre to strengthen the eye care programme in Solomon Islands."

"It is a timely donation that will do much to support the local team based at the Regional Eye Centre, who are working tirelessly to tackle the enormous burden of avoidable blindness, which has

particularly accumulated during the pandemic.

This donation includes equipment that will support the eye care team to re-start outreaches to remote locations, following the lockdowns that we have faced due to COVID-19. It will ensure we can restore sight to people all throughout Solomon Islands who have been living in blindness throughout the pandemic."

The donated equipment includes two portable operating microscopes that can be used on outreaches throughout the country, as well as slit lamps and a Zeiss microscope that has teaching capabilities as well.

The Regional Eye Centre was built by The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ in 2015, with ownership then handed over to the Solomon Islands' Government. The Centre is managed by a local team within the Solomon Islands' Ministry of Health and Medical Services and is helping in the fight to end avoidable blindness.

Major milestone reached

2021 was another year of upheaval in the Pacific but with your support we were able to reach a **major milestone of over 1 million patient consultations since we began working in the region.**

What we achieved in 2021:



65,679 patient consultations to detect eye conditions.



12,154 patients screened for diabetes eye disease.



3,428 sight-saving surgeries have been performed.



1,669 patients received treatment for diabetes eye disease.



15 Pacific eye doctors and nurses have graduated.



5,907 spectacles dispensed.

Team Fred fundraisers

Restoring sight throughout the Pacific would not be possible without you, our dedicated supporters. Just like Fred, you believe that everyone, rich or poor, has the right to affordable quality eye care.

Take a look at some of the incredible efforts of Team Fred.



14 years with Specsavers

Our amazing partner Specsavers have donated almost \$1 million towards our work ending avoidable blindness and vision impairment in the Pacific. We are so grateful for their ongoing support over the last 14 years.

This year they have also increased their support of The Foundation through their community programme, with all stores across New Zealand now supporting The Foundation.

To learn more about leaving a gift in your will, please contact Karen Blake at kblake@hollows.nz



Jane loves to make a difference

Jane first heard of Fred Hollows from her father who was at medical school with him.

"I have always been interested in Fred Hollows, having heard about his amazing work years ago. Especially the fact that for so little - a few dollars - someone can have their sight restored."

Jane is a physiotherapist and also studies Toyohari, an acupuncture therapy that was started by blind acupuncturists in Japan. She also has a cousin who is blind and her grandfather was an eye surgeon in Napier.

All this led Jane to become a monthly supporter of The Foundation, 11 years ago. When her father passed away, she was able to give a more significant donation. When reading the annual Future Fund brochure, she was able to identify a specific project she wanted to support. Receiving her tax rebate the following year, allowed her to continue to make a difference by funding another project.

"I would like to be able to continue to support The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ after I pass away, so I have let The Foundation know that they will be receiving a donation from my estate when that happens."

In the meantime, I really value and appreciate my sight, and being able to make a difference for those that need help, means the world to me."

If you want to learn more about the Future Fund projects, please contact Stephne Vaughan at svaughan@hollows.nz



Kerikeri Woodchoppers raise \$300,000

Every Thursday the Kerikeri Woodchoppers meet to split wood donated by Kerikeri locals. Mostly retired, the group are working for a cause as the split wood is dried and sold back to the community as firewood. The proceeds are then donated to The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ.

Mike Collins from the Kerikeri Woodchoppers says, "It's a real team effort. We get great satisfaction from our morning's exercise and the knowledge that our efforts are making a real contribution to the lives of others."

Long-term supporters of The Foundation, this year we celebrate receiving over \$300,000 in total from the Kerikeri woodchoppers.



Generous jams

Stephen Ryder has been making jams, marmalades and chutney using his Grandmother's old copper jam pan for about 20 years. It's a hobby he's kept up since moving into the Warkworth Oaks Retirement Village two years ago, where he now sells his creations at the reception in exchange for donations.

As a long-time admirer of the work of Professor Fred Hollows, he generously decided to give these donations to The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ, helping to support our sight-saving work.

If you would like to get involved in community fundraising then head to our website for ideas: www.hollows.org.nz/fundraise

A cutting-edge first for the Pacific Eye Institute

The Pacific Eye Institute in Suva, Fiji, has reached a major milestone by performing its first month of surgeries using new phacoemulsification equipment.

Eye doctors in the Pacific are highly skilled and typically perform manual incision cataract surgery on patients. The benefits of this type of cataract surgery are that it can be performed in many settings, requires minimal equipment and is a quick surgery. This is important when you have a high number of cataract surgeries to perform on an outreach in a remote location.

If you have had a cataract removed here in New Zealand, there is a strong likelihood that this was performed with phacoemulsification equipment and there has been a growing demand for this equipment in the Pacific.

Cataract surgery using phacoemulsification equipment uses ultrasonic waves to dissolve a patient's cataract before an intraocular lens (IOL) is inserted. Phacoemulsification cataract surgeries have a shorter recovery time; one day compared to two or three weeks with traditional cataract surgery. It is also used for treating patients who have immature cataracts that are less opaque.

As well as this, it can also be used to provide important surgeries, such as vitreo-retinal surgeries (a treatment sometimes needed for patients with diabetes eye disease and other conditions) making it an incredible piece of equipment in eye care.

The commencement of operations using the phacoemulsification equipment at the Pacific Eye Institute is a major cause of celebration as this is a state-of-the-art service and the first in the Pacific region. Historically patients have had to travel to New Zealand, Australia or India to access treatment such as vitreo-retinal surgeries, which is unaffordable for a large proportion of people needing these services.

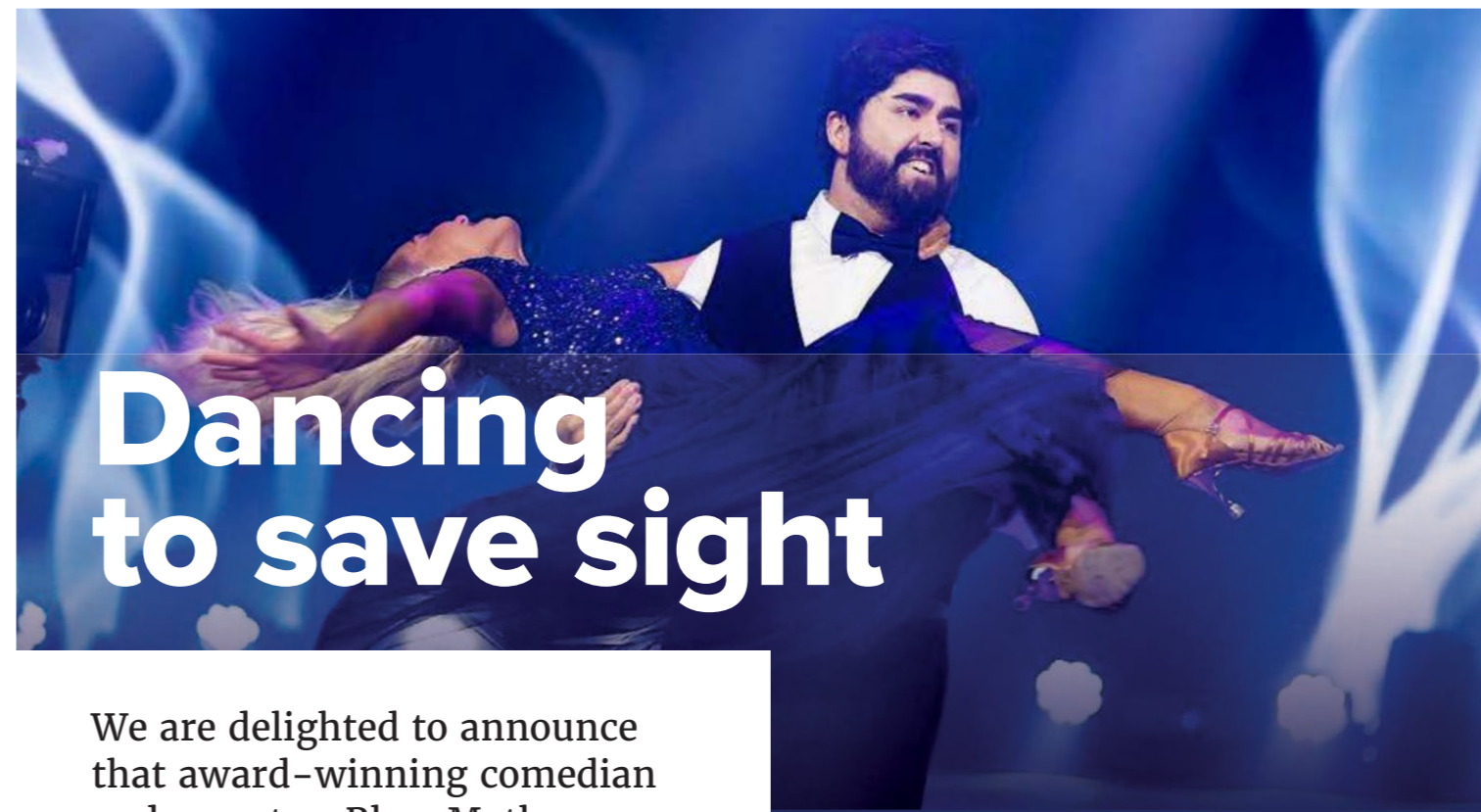
In March 2022, the team at the Pacific Eye Institute was able to perform six operations using the phacoemulsification equipment and this number will grow.

We would like to thank the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) and the Australian High Commission for funding this equipment and supporting our work to reduce avoidable blindness across the Pacific.

This key milestone expands the range of eye services offered across the Pacific and is a cost-effective long-term solution to eye care in the Pacific.



The team at the Pacific Eye Institute using the new phacoemulsification equipment.



We are delighted to announce that award-winning comedian and reporter, Rhys Mathewson, is a dance contestant in the latest season of Dancing with the Stars NZ and has chosen The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ as his charity of choice.

Having performed comedy acts all around the world, he is now strutting his stuff around the dance floor to help raise funds to restore sight and end avoidable blindness and vision impairment in the Pacific.

Rhys is not only known for his comical ways on the stage but also as a regular on television programmes 7 Days, Seven Sharp, and Have You Been Paying Attention? He was also a tap dancer from ages four to 16.

Dancing with the Stars premiered on Sunday 24th March and Rhys and his dance partner Phoebe Robb were the first couple to perform, kicking off the competition with a fun and energetic jive.

A huge thanks to Rhys for choosing us! We couldn't be more grateful.

To support Rhys alongside the sight-restoring work we do in the Pacific, you can text **RHYS** to **3333**. Texts cost 99c.



The Google Homepage changes daily to commemorate notable people, holidays, events and achievements, in particular countries. This is called the 'Google Doodle' and we think it's Fred's turn. You can help us get Fred's image on the Google homepage by visiting our website and adding your name to our online petition.

Visit www.hollows.org.nz/fred-google-doodle



Run to restore sight

Big events are back, and we are so excited to have places in 'Run the City' Barfoot & Thompson Auckland Marathon on Sunday 30th October 2022.

You'll get to run 42km of Auckland including on-foot across a closed harbour bridge – a one-off experience.

We need a team of runners to take up the challenge and help restore sight and independence to our Pacific neighbours.

If you or anyone you know would like to be a part of our Team Fred 2022 Marathon Team then apply at <https://aucklandmarathon2022.grassrootz.com/fredhollows> For more info you can email info@hollows.nz or call 0800 227 229.

Introducing Jo Dowling



In February we welcomed Jo Dowling to The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ as our new Fundraising, Communications & Marketing Director.

Following a successful career in marketing and fundraising in both the United Kingdom and New Zealand, Jo brings to The Foundation a wealth of talent. Her achievements have been recognised with several Heist Marketing Awards and she was awarded '2010 Fundraiser of the Year' by the UK Institute of Fundraising.

Joining The Foundation in its 30th Anniversary Year, Jo is passionate about working with the Team Fred community of staff, donors, partners and volunteers to continue Fred's work. She is inspired by many of Fred's actions and views, particularly this one: "I believe that the basic attribute of mankind is to look after one another." Professor Fred Hollows.

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Australian Government
 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade