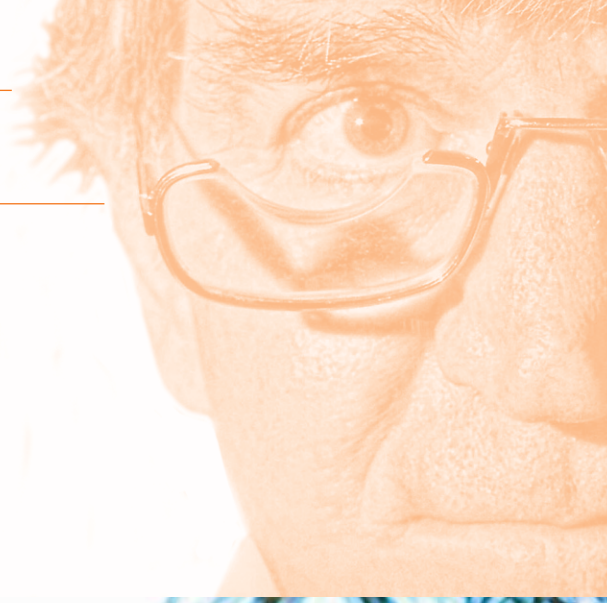


SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER

The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ

# YOUR VISION



The Fred Hollows  
Foundation NZ



# Ni Sa Bula Vinaka.

## Welcome to our Summer Newsletter

**October 2022 marks the 30th Anniversary of The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ. As we reflect on what was achieved in the past three decades, we know that there is more to do and look forward to all that we aim to accomplish in the future.**

With all major anniversaries, comes a time to acknowledge and celebrate successes. And to kick these celebrations off, in September we had our first Annual Inaugural Lecture at Otago University, Fred's alma mater. Presented by The Foundation and hosted by Va'a o Tautai – The Centre for Pacific Health, University of Otago; we were also delighted to have Dr John Szetu give the lecture with Gabi Hollows present. You can read all about our celebrations in this newsletter, along with the incredible milestones that we have achieved alongside our local Pacific partners over the last 30 years, including reaching one million eye consultations in the Pacific region.

As we continue to recover from the setbacks caused by the pandemic, our team continues to work harder than ever to tackle avoidable blindness and vision impairment in the Pacific. They have been working tirelessly to reach the backlog of patients still waiting to be seen. The stories you will read include our first regional outreaches since the pandemic, setting a new surgery record in Samoa, as well as a

very special Paediatric week – a children's eye surgery outreach at the Pacific Eye Institute in Fiji.

With Christmas fast approaching, you will be pleased to know that we have partnered with Fiji-based social enterprise Rise Beyond the Reef again this year. They support artisans and their families in Fiji by providing a means to sell their beautiful handmade goods. There will be a selection of unique gifts to give to your family and friends this Christmas, supporting the work of Rise Beyond the Reef and The Foundation, helping Pacific communities around the region. We are also excited to offer an exclusive 'Freddy Bear' to honour the late Professor Fred Hollows.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you personally for your generous and continued support. As our team, here and across the Pacific, continue to adapt and carry out innovative ways to recover from these past few challenging years, we know we could not have come this far without you.

**Please enjoy reading about the impact of your generosity.**

Vinaka vakalevu.

Thank you very much.

*Jo Dowling*

**Jo Dowling**

Fundraising, Communications  
& Marketing Director



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# Celebrating 30 Years of Restoring Sight



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30 years ago, Fred and Gabi sat around their kitchen table with a group of friends and supporters and started making plans for what would become The Fred Hollows Foundation.

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Since then, the global foundation has restored sight to over three million people, with nearly 82,000 of these eye surgeries performed across the Pacific region. Alongside our local Pacific partners, this year the NZ Foundation also achieved the incredible milestone of over one million eye care consultations since we began working in the region.

To begin the celebrations of the 30th Anniversary, The Foundation had its first Annual Inaugural Fred Hollows' Lecture, held at the University of Otago, hosted by Va'a o Tautai – Centre for Pacific Health, University of Otago. Special guests at the event included Fred's wife, Gabi Hollows; Patron of our Foundation.

*"I am honoured to be here at the Inaugural Fred Hollows' Lecture, celebrating 30 Years of The Foundation. I am immensely proud of what The Foundation has achieved in those 30 Years, including restoring sight to over three million people globally. I have no doubt that Fred would be full of pride as well, were he here to celebrate with us today,"* says Gabi Hollows.

We also had guest speaker, Dr John Szetu, The Foundation's Medical Director. Dr Szetu has worked with The Foundation for 21 years, helping to restore sight throughout the Pacific. He spoke about his journey of caring for eyes in the Pacific and the causes of blindness such as cataracts, diabetes and lack of equitable access to eye care.

*"Having been with The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ since it began delivering programmes in the Pacific, I have had the privilege of seeing first-hand the organisation grow to where it is today –*



Craig Fisher, Gabi Hollows and Dr John Szetu at the first Annual Inaugural Fred Hollows' Lecture.

*performing over one million eye care consultations and training over 320 eye care specialists throughout the Pacific, and ultimately significantly improving the quality of eye care in the region,"* he expressed.

We also look forward to our 'Celebrating 30 Years of Restoring Sight' event held at Parliament in Wellington on Thursday 17th November, 2022. Hosted by The Hon Aupito William Sio, Minister for Pacific Peoples and Minister for Courts. The reception will focus on all that has been achieved in eye care in the Pacific region over the last 30 years, as well as the work that remains to be done to make quality eye care accessible to all and to end avoidable blindness and vision impairment in the region. You make all this work possible with your generous support.



# Give the Gift of Sight this Christmas

Once again this year you can support The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ and the Fijian women artisans at Rise Beyond the Reef through our Gift of Sight Christmas campaign.

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.

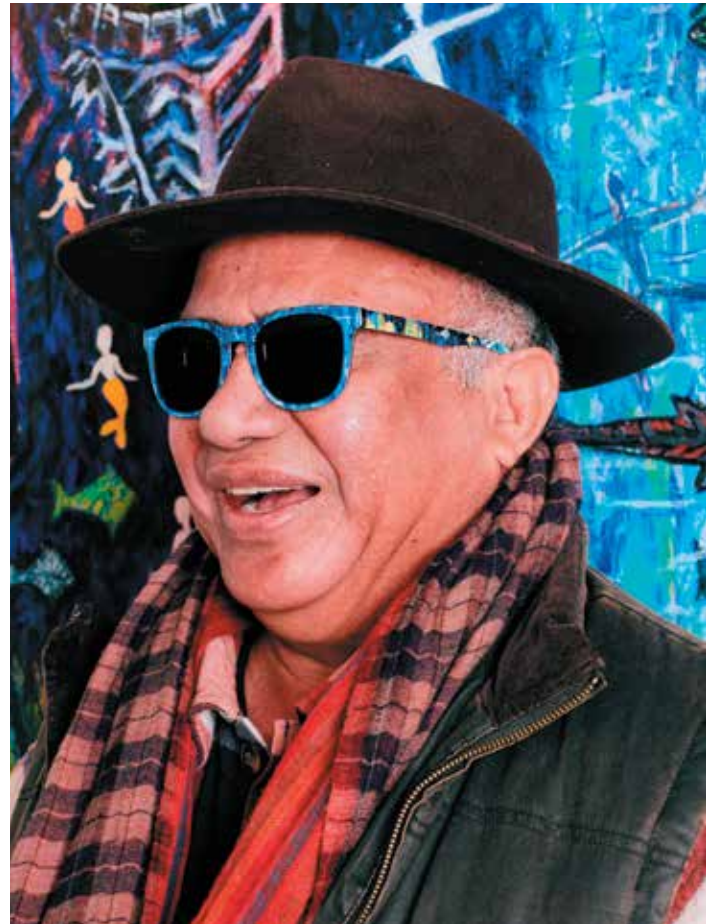
This year, we have brought back your favourite hand-sewn toy turtles. These turtles were made by local artisan women from

Yakete District in Ba Province. These are upper mountain communities that hold some of the last unlogged mountain forests on the Western side of Viti Levu.

Added to the catalogue of gifts this year is a pencil case, a travel/make-up pouch, and a beautiful canvas table runner. Each of these products has been handprinted through the studio program at Rise Beyond the Reef. This apprentice training program allows rural remote youth to learn screen-printing, basic leather work, and finishing work on woven goods.



Also available for purchase this year is Professor Fred Hollows in the form of a 'Freddy Bear'.



## Specsavers and Fatu Feu'u Give the Gift of Sight

Specsavers has been in partnership with The Foundation since 2012 and has created two pairs of limited-edition spectacles alongside internationally renowned Samoan-New Zealand artist, Fatu Feu'u. The glasses feature Fatu's artwork from his Tagaloa's Dream piece; the first painting in his 'Pacific Oceans' series, a series of works to highlight the protection of the Pacific Ocean. You can purchase the glasses in-store from 24 November 2022 and \$25 from each pair will be donated to The Foundation.



There are now four villages producing these turtles in the Yakete District due to their popularity.

Give the Gift of Sight today at  
[www.giftofsight.hollows.org.nz](http://www.giftofsight.hollows.org.nz)



Brothers Aariv, 9 and Kiaan, 12, underwent cataract surgery together at a children's outreach in Fiji.

## Regional outreaches resume for the first time since the pandemic and set a sight-saving record in Samoa.

**Because of your support, the Pacific Eye Institute (PEI) in Fiji sent an Outreach Team of doctors and nurses to Vanuatu on the first regional outreach since the pandemic began.**

The pandemic prevented a lot of travel, resulting in a huge increase of people needing eye care in the region. With the support of the Vanuatu Ministry of Health, they saw over 150 patients, with over 85 people receiving operations in just one week.

Along with a number of other outreaches, at the end of August, the team also went to Samoa. Here they set a record-breaking outreach performing a total of 306 eye surgeries, 144 in Savai'i and 162 in Apia, making this the most successful surgical outreach in Samoa by PEI to date. Kirti Prasad, Country Manager at the Pacific Eye Institute, says, *"While the number of eye surgeries completed is an incredible achievement, it also shows the backlog of patients needing eye care that has been created by the pandemic."*

In September we ran a children's outreach known as Paediatric Week where 35 children were screened and 16 received eye surgery, some needing surgery on both eyes. The initiative by Dr Elenoa Matoto was put in place because most of these cases were postponed due to the pandemic. If children are not treated early, they risk developing further complications and losing any chance of seeing properly again.

Two of the children who received eye surgery that week were brothers Aariv, 9 and Kiaan, 12. The brothers underwent cataract surgery together after struggling with eyesight problems for years. One of the brothers spoke with us, expressing that he always thought places he visited were dirty, while at home, he was always making his mum sweep his room. He now understands that **his eye condition made the world seem dirty and cloudy, but since his successful surgery, everything seems clean again.**

# Thank you for 30 Years of Restoring Sight

30 YEARS



## 1992

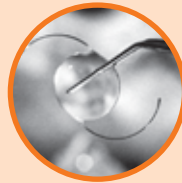
Fred and Gabi establish The Fred Hollows Foundation.



## 1993

Fred passes away from cancer. His legacy lives on through The Foundation.

Low-cost intraocular lenses make cataract surgery affordable in some of the world's poorest communities, changing the future of accessible eye care.



## 1994

## 2001

The National Eye Care Programme starts in Vanuatu. Over 28,000 people are treated.



## 2006

The Foundation establishes the Pacific Eye Institute in Solomon Islands which was relocated to Suva, Fiji in 2007 as an eye care training facility for Pacific doctors and nurses.

## 2007

The Foundation begins managing the Madang Eye Clinic in Papua New Guinea. Thousands of people in Papua New Guinea receive glasses.



## 2010

The new, purpose built, Pacific Eye Institute opens its doors in Suva, Fiji.



## 2012

The first eye doctors graduate from The Foundation's funded training programme at the Pacific Eye Institute in Fiji.

## 2015

The Mobile Eye Clinic is set-up in Fiji, taking eye care services around the island to different communities.



We build the Regional Eye Centre in the Solomon Islands, an advanced eye centre with solar energy delivering 94% of the building's power.

## 2016

The Foundation has successfully set up a sustainable eye care system in Timor-Leste and officially handed it over to the management of the country's Ministry of Health.

## 2019

All seven key countries in the Pacific have a national eye doctor and eye care team.



## 2020

Eye doctors are trained by local Pacific-based lecturers employed by Fiji National University.



## 2021

The Foundation celebrates supporting over one million eye care consultations and over 81,000 eye surgeries across the Pacific.

# Give the Gift of Sight

and change lives in the Pacific today!

Thanks to Specsavers, your donation will be matched, so your \$25 = \$50, meaning your donation will have double the impact.

Specsavers



## 3 steps to support people like Asilika from Fiji

- 1 Head to our Gift of Sight shop at [www.giftofsight.hollows.org.nz](http://www.giftofsight.hollows.org.nz)
- 2 Purchase gifts for you and your loved ones.
- 3 Add a donation\* to your Gift of Sight purchase – it will mean twice as much this Christmas.

\*Please note that cards and e-cards are also included as donations.

If you need assistance in ordering gifts online, please call 0800 227 229.

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0800 227 229  
www.hollows.org.nz  
ISSN 2537-897X (print)  
ISSN 2537-8988 (Online)



The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ is a registered charitable entity under the Charities Act 2005. Donations made to us support our programmes across the Pacific.

The work of The Foundation is generously funded by individuals and development partners, including the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Specsavers and many other supporters.



Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade