
SUMMER 2024 NEWSLETTER

The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ

YOUR VISION



“I feel so grateful.
Thank you so much
to the donors — it
shows how good
their heart is,
helping someone
they don’t even
know.”

Jone, cataract patient, Fiji.



As we continue to enjoy the warmer summer months, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to you for your generous continued support. Your unwavering commitment helps us tremendously in our purpose to end avoidable blindness and vision impairment in the Pacific. Vinaka vakalevu – thank you so much.

It is our pleasure to bring you the news and highlights in this edition, from World Sight Day celebrations across the Pacific, to the announcement of our 2023 Humanity Awards Junior Ambassador, and the heart-warming stories of those, like you, who are choosing to transform the lives of many.

Your generosity and commitment has fueled our efforts for the last 30 years – an incredible milestone which we are so proud of. Alongside our Pacific partners, you have supported over one million eye consultations, 88,000 sight-saving eye surgeries, the training of more than 350 eye health specialists from 15 countries in the Pacific and Timor-Leste, partnerships with Pacific health authorities to strengthen local health systems and, like Professor Fred Hollows, kept innovation central to our work.

As we acknowledge these incredible milestones, our work is not done. 9 out of 10 people who are blind don't need to be, and with cataracts being one of the main causes of blindness and the rising rates of diabetes

eye disease, eye care demand in the Pacific is rapidly increasing. It is therefore more important than ever to plan for the future.

This year we are thrilled to embark on our new organisational Strategy, which responds to the eye health needs of the Pacific and ensures we are doing everything we can to make our work and impact sustainable. A strong focus will be to support our Pacific partners endeavours to build a resilient eye health system

We also remain focused on the training and development of eye health specialists which sits at the very heart of Team Fred, and is central to Professor Fred Hollow's ethos.

“Teach the teachers first, then the teachers can teach others.” – Professor Fred Hollows

Your continued support will ensure that Fred's work lives on. And that everyone in the Pacific, no matter where they live, will have access to quality eye care.

Thank you for being part of the journey to restore sight and transform lives together. Please enjoy reading about the impact of your kind support across the Pacific.

Ngā mihi



Dr Audrey Aumua
Chief Executive Officer



The annual Humanity Awards recognise young New Zealanders who, just like our founder and legendary New Zealander Professor Fred Hollows, strive to make the world around them better and embody the values of compassion, integrity, and kindness.

We are delighted to announce that Harry Newman from Motu School in the Gisborne region is the 2023 Fred Hollows NZ Junior Ambassador.

Harry was nominated by his Principal, Hannah Moorhouse, for his passion towards his surroundings and taking care of the people and environment around him.

Receiving the award was as special for the family as it was for Harry, who couldn't quite believe he'd won.

“We are very proud and humbled really, Harry is a lovely little boy and it's amazing that he has been recognised in this way,” says Harry's mum, Paula Newman.

Harry lives in a very rural and isolated spot near the Whinray Reserve – an ecological reserve for Kiwi that reach 1kg to be released in. Harry recently helped release Kiwi hatchlings with the Department of Conservation. During Conservation Week, Harry initiated a restoration of pathways in another bush reserve next to his school.

Harry will also extend his good work by directing \$5,000 to a Pacific Programme run by The Foundation, thanks to our partners, Specsavers.

There is never any shortage of inspirational nominations for our Humanity Awards! It's wonderful to see these young humanitarians following in Fred's footsteps making a difference.

The 2024 Humanity Awards will start once again in July.

Calling all teachers and educators



We've launched our new Education Pack for schools, guided by the refreshed progression-focussed NZ Curriculum. The pack is tailored for students of different ages and can be taught over an entire term. **Scan the QR code or visit our website to download the free pack.**



www.hollows.org.nz/fundraise/school-fundraising



Celebrating World Sight Day across the Pacific

World Sight Day is a day to help draw attention to the importance of eye health and encourage people to have their eyes tested. This year's theme was "Loving your eyes at work", so our Pacific teams visited workplaces and promoted healthy habits for taking care of your eyes at work. This can be as simple as adjusting computer screen settings and taking frequent screen breaks to prevent digital eye strain, or making sure your workplace offers the required eye safety gear.

Almost 300 people screened in Vanuatu

Free eye screenings were offered at the sea front for the public, where almost 300 people were screened. The team in Vanuatu also distributed free sunglasses and protective glasses donated through the OneSight programme. Patients with eyesight issues were referred to the Vanuatu National Eye Centre for further assessment and treatment.

Public education and sight-restoring surgeries in Fiji

The team at the Pacific Eye Institute (PEI) held eye screenings and went on two radio talk shows to educate the public on the importance of looking after your eyes. They performed 14 sight-restoring eye surgeries on children, an amazing achievement made possible thanks to the recently introduced general anaesthesia platform and the PHACO machine which was installed last year through your generous support.

They also ran TV ads and billboards focusing on diabetes and how it can lead to blindness without early intervention. In total, the PEI team screened over 400 people.



The Solomon Islands' team provided free diabetes checks and eye screenings

The team at the Regional Eye Centre (REC) aimed to find people who have a high risk of developing sight-threatening diabetes eye disease. Anyone identified during this screening was then referred to the REC for treatment.

In Kiribati celebrations included free community eye screenings

The team in Kiribati had a great turn out, with people coming in from all over the island to have their vision tested.

Eye health safety tips in Papua New Guinea

The team in PNG aired two public awareness videos on TV and radio. These videos highlighted eye health safety tips for office and construction workers, encouraging everyone to take care of their eyes so they can continue to see and do the things they love.



You've been part of an incredible year of transforming lives and saving sight.

Tonga's new eye care van

An eye screening van was generously funded by one of our major donors, Pat Pettit. We are so grateful for her kindness, which has enabled the eye care team in Tonga to provide more comprehensive eye care services.

With this new van, Dr Duke Mataka and his team can take their sight-saving services directly to the communities that need them most. It will ensure their work has a much wider reach, helping to improve access and build greater awareness of good eye care. The eye specialists in Tonga strongly believe that taking this mobile community approach is an effective way to curb the backlog of patients that has been growing since the pandemic.

Greater community coverage will also mean patients can be screened for eye conditions earlier on. When we asked what motivated her to give, Pat said:

"My sight is the sense which I most value - to see the smiles on the faces of my children and friends, to interact with my precious nine grandchildren and watch them growing, developing and achieving goals. It distresses me greatly that there are people in this world who are needlessly blind or with restricted vision."



I have long admired the work achieved by The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ, providing much-needed facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of eye conditions. I feel honoured to be able to facilitate the provision of eye care to outlying areas of Tonga by funding a van for this purpose."

We are so grateful to have a remarkable community of donors who wish to make a significant contribution and care about our vision and work in the Pacific as much as we do.



The eye care van has already helped tremendously. Between January and October 2023:

5,413 eye consultations were performed

498 patients were screened for diabetes eye disease

252 spectacles were dispensed

25 schools were visited with **4,738** children screened



Elizabeth has left a gift in her Will to The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ, knowing full well the impact it will have in the Pacific.

"My father served in Solomon Islands in the early 1940's. He was at the landing on Mono Island, 27 October, 1943. I had the opportunity to go there on the 50th anniversary of the landing with a group from his battalion. We were received with great joy and gratitude and met some of the "scouts" who had been essential to the landing being made."

One man I had great pleasure in meeting was known as "Doc John", who, to his great dismay, was no longer able to read his Bible as his sight had deteriorated. We also went to a village in Vella Lavella to help the locals rebuild their water tank which was donated to them.

I learned a lot on this trip about Solomon Islands and other Pacific Islands in the region. It made me very aware of how remote they are from our New Zealand life and how we may be able to help, not just by money but by being there and understanding their life.

When I found out that The Foundation helped in those places I really wanted to join in and encourage others with what I can do. To know that people like "Doc John" and the local villages can get the care they need, from their own trained people, is a dream to them."

For more information or to join Elizabeth and leave a gift in your Will, contact:
Karen Blake
Relationship Manager
Phone: **(+64) 21 854 523**



The results are in

Our recent Supporter Survey highlighted many heartwarming results from amazing donors like you and we are so proud to share them with you. It's encouraging to see that more people are eager to follow Fred's legacy and include The Foundation in their Will.

28% of supporters said they support The Foundation because they "want to change people's lives".

24% of supporters expressed they want to make a difference by helping people to see again.

223 amazing people have pledged to include a gift in their Will to The Foundation.

"Thank you for the life-changing work you are doing. I am proud to be investing in this foundation. Being a Samoan person and of the Pacific, it is heartwarming to see all the support our Pacific people with eye impairment get from this amazing foundation. Blessings upon blessings."

"The affordability and accessibility of a basic sight-giving procedure, for so many people who would otherwise go without, is truly a great humanitarian gesture, which is future proofed as well - fantastic!"



Sharing the vision with Specsavers



Specsavers has been in partnership with The Foundation since 2012 and has donated over \$1 million dollars towards our projects in the Pacific.

They have teamed up with Moko Smith, a New Zealand artist and cultural practitioner working with the Uhi, the traditional hand-tapping tattoo tools of Aotearoa, to develop limited edition frames that give the gift of sight.

The frames feature distinctive taratara notching that represents a genealogy pattern.

Moko expresses that this is “to honour our shared descent from those ancient Oceanic navigators”.

For each pair sold, \$25 is donated towards our sight restoring work. They are available to purchase at any Specsavers store.

If you are interested in making a significant gift or becoming a corporate partner, contact:

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Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

