
WINTER 2021 NEWSLETTER

The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ

YOUR VISION



**The Fred Hollows
Foundation NZ**

Welcome from CEO Dr Audrey Aumua

As I write this introduction to my first newsletter, I cannot help but feel incredibly proud of our people and the wider Team Fred community as we navigate these challenging times.

Despite lockdowns, funding reallocations and natural disasters, Team Fred has continued training and supporting eye doctors and nurses, as well as treating patients whenever and wherever it was safe to do so. Much of this would simply have not been possible without the support of you and our incredible family of donors.

The 2020 results we're sharing with you this month are the culmination of drive, grit, and passion.

Despite the increasing challenges faced by Pacific nations, eye health continues to have profound implications on an individual's ability to learn, work and contribute to family and community life. In this newsletter we introduce you to our incredible new Papua New Guinea country manager, Eileen Tugum who is already making a difference in PNG.

Many of you are aware that cheques are ending between May and July this year. If you are still using cheques and remain unclear how to continue supporting our work, Julie and Eve from our mighty supporter services team share their tips.

You can also read the story of Susie who decided to leave a gift to The Foundation in her Will after witnessing a man having his sight restored in South America. And, our annual Humanity Awards are about to launch again to celebrate Fred's spirit of practical kindness in primary schools across the country.

COVID-19 continues to affect Pacific countries and our Pacific government partners are managing depleted economies and ongoing COVID-19 impacts. Our team is grateful for, and motivated by, the ongoing support of you, our donors. Your vigilant commitment to our work and vision through the most challenging times is more critical now, than ever before.

We don't know when COVID-19 will leave our shores. We don't know the scale or timeframe of the economic and social effects it will certainly leave behind. But we do know we are part of a strong, resilient, and committed team of Pacific governments, ministries, development partners and donors. We know, with your support, we can continue to train and mentor eye doctors and nurses, provide surgeries and outreaches, and positively impact Pacific communities, one eye at a time.

Vinaka vaka levu/thank you.

Audrey



Michael Meredith opened the doors of Mr Morris for The Foundation

Award-winning chef Michael Meredith has been a long-term supporter of The Foundation. His exciting new venture, Mr Morris, has been a hit with critics and for three special nights guests were invited to Dine by Donation with proceeds going to The Foundation.

The 'Dine by Donation' evenings saw diners experience a beautiful three-course-meal cooked by Michael and his team. Donations

from our final evening are still coming in but we hope to raise over \$20,000 towards restoring sight in the Pacific.

We would like to thank everyone who dined or contributed in some way to these magical evenings and we thank Michael, an outstanding humanitarian and chef, for donating his time, expertise and passion to help us continue our work in the Pacific.

What we achieved in 2020

2020 was a year of upheaval and disruption to our eye care services and training because of COVID-19. Despite all this, the teams still achieved some incredible results.



71,977 patient consultations to detect eye conditions.



3,328 sight-saving surgeries performed.



17 Pacific eye care students graduated.



11,084 patients screened for diabetes eye disease.



1,937 patients received treatment for diabetes eye disease.



9,329 spectacles dispensed.



925 Surgeries at the Mobile Eye Clinic in Fiji (new annual record).



The Foundation manages latest Pacific COVID-19 outbreaks

Recent COVID-19 outbreaks in Papua New Guinea and Fiji saw staff and supported students adapting to emergency footing and lockdowns in line with local authority directives.

Staff and supported students are working to our COVID-19 standard operating procedures alongside local health authority directives. These include clinics moving to emergency footing and students studying remotely through online learning from school residences during lockdowns.

As Pacific vaccine rollouts progress, some members of our team have received their first vaccine, with Medical Director, Dr John Szetu, leading the charge.

“It is important we work together to beat COVID-19 now so, when this outbreak is over, we can quickly scale our clinics and outreaches back up to continue our work safely,” said Dr John.

Dr John says doing everything possible to ensure the safety of staff and students remains The Foundation’s priority.

“Standard Operating Procedures developed last year have been deployed and all staff and students have been supported to follow them.”

“The procedures include protocols on best practice to manage transmission risk including hand hygiene, use of face masks and social distancing. If any symptoms are experienced our staff and students have been advised to immediately get tested and isolate at their current place of residence to minimise the risk of spreading the virus further.”

Meet Eileen Tugum



We are so pleased to welcome Eileen Tugum to our team. Eileen has joined as the Papua New Guinea Country Manager and is based in Port Moresby.

We helped our parents to fish and make sago.

What would you like to know about The Foundation, what were you doing before you joined us? I first heard about Fred Hollows when I joined PNG Eye Care in 2014. I then worked for the UN, campaigning for the Millennium Development Goals, then moved to WaterAid as Country Director working to promote and deliver safe water, sanitation and hygiene services.

Most recently I worked with Oil Search Foundation, which involved strengthening frontline health service delivery systems and delivering integrated health services to remote, hard-to-reach places. It was here I reconnected with The Foundation when we supported an outreach to Kikori in the Gulf Province.

What motivated you to work for The Foundation? Three things: the joy and satisfaction of giving people the gift of sight, the inspiration of The Foundation to reach all regardless of who and where they were, and the ongoing lack of priority to eye care services.

What do you like to do for fun/in your spare time? Taking my grandkids to the beach or park, enjoying a good coffee with friends, and my latest passion is creating fun moments for kids and families with cerebral palsy and looking for ways to give them a fair go at life.

What makes you proud to be from Papua New Guinea? There is no country like ours –

steeped in culture and mystery with breath-taking landscapes and scenery. Who else has over 800 languages which represent a quarter of the world’s languages, and hosts over 5% of the world’s biodiversity in less than 1% of the world’s total land area. And most of our people still live sustainable lives off the land and are generally generous, loving, kind and sincere.

Why are you passionate about the work of Fred Hollows and The Foundation? I see so many people lose their jobs and become dependent because they cannot see. Yet they could so easily be helped through a pair of glasses, or simple surgery, all at very low cost. At The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ we are working to restore sight, people’s dignity and restore lives through simple low-cost solutions such as a pair of glasses, or surgery. We are helping to build the country’s eye care workforce and strengthen PNG’s health systems for sustainable quality eye care services.

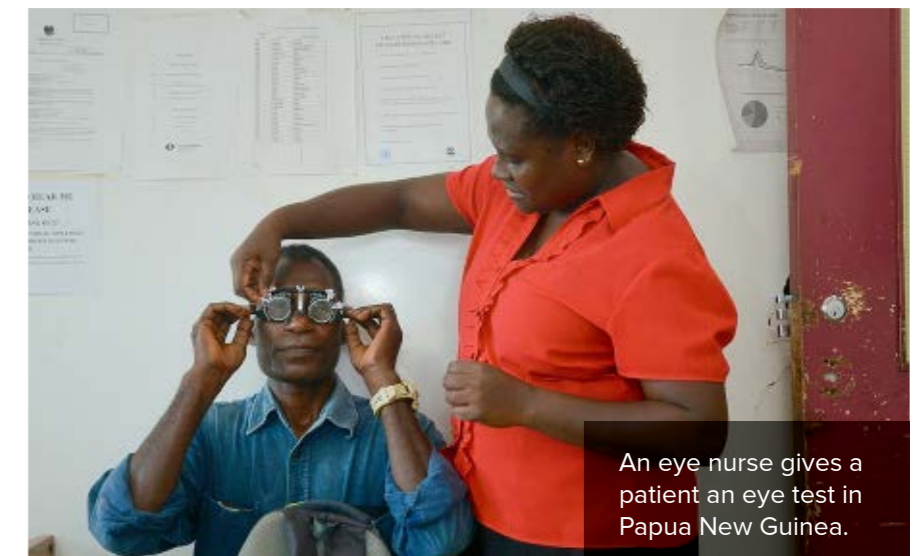
What would you like to achieve during your time at The Foundation? Help more people see, train more eye doctors and eye care workers, and strengthen the government’s health system and ownership for eye care in the country including provision and

maintenance of essential eye care equipment.

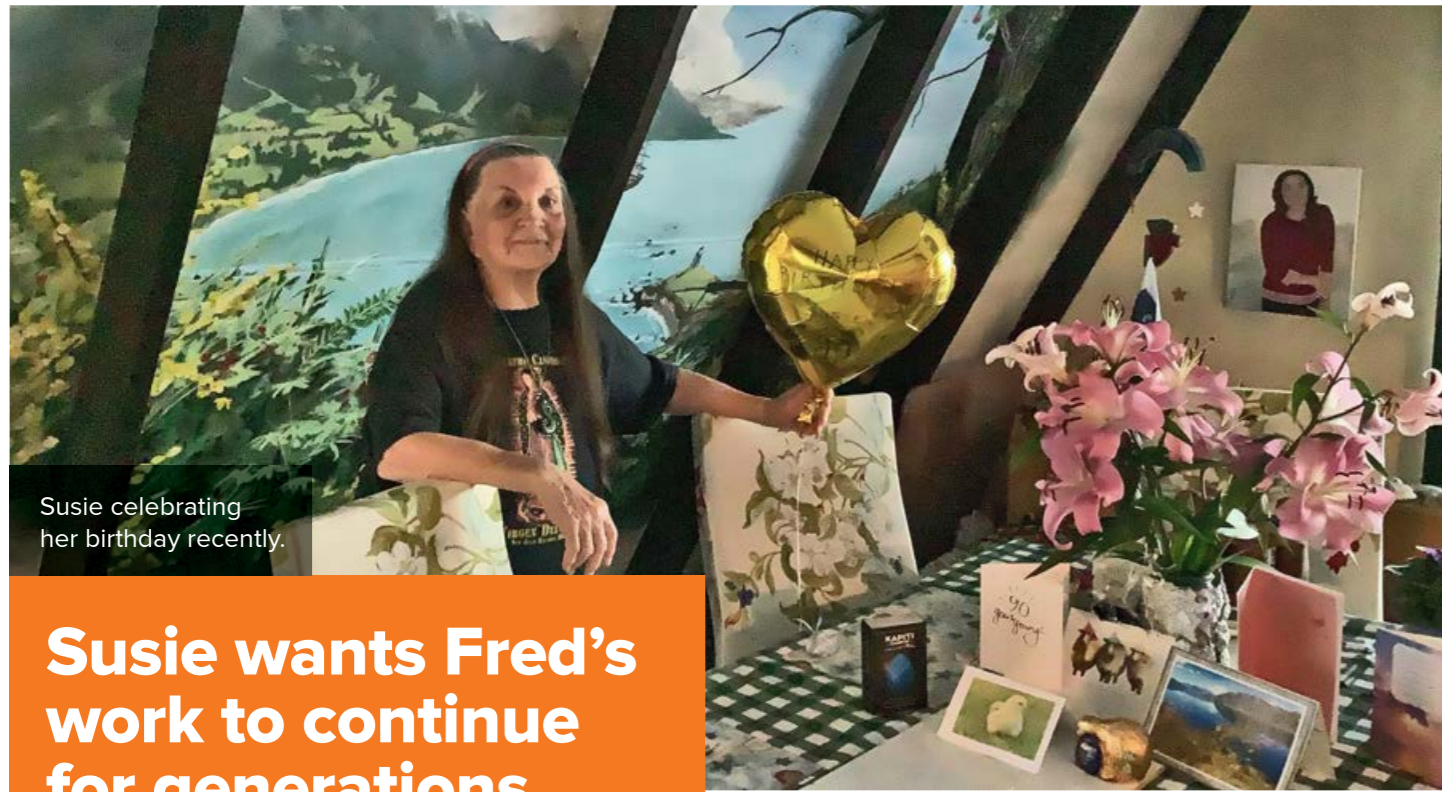
How will improved eye care impact individuals and communities in PNG?

It will give individuals the ability to work and do things for themselves and their families. This can mean being able to drive, sew, bake, make gardens or build a house. And where insecurity is high, it can mean one’s very safety, especially for girls and women. When individuals are engaged in productive activity they will contribute towards the national economy and everyone is happier.

What would you like to say to our donors in New Zealand? Thank you for your generosity which is helping The Foundation help so many people restore their sight and their life.



An eye nurse gives a patient an eye test in Papua New Guinea.



Susie celebrating her birthday recently.

Susie wants Fred's work to continue for generations to come

Susie has seven children, 20 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. The gift she has organised for The Foundation in her Will means we can continue restoring sight well into their lifetimes.

Originally from California, Susie moved to New Zealand over thirty years ago searching for her next adventure. Her adventurous spirit has seen her complete three bucket lists already.

Susie has seen first-hand the true miracle that restoring sight can have. On a trip to the Amazon Rainforest she visited a small village called San Martin where she encountered a young man who had to be helped by the village because he was blind. Viper snakes were a constant threat and without his community's protection, the young man was vulnerable to attack.

The villagers knew there was a chance of him getting his sight back, but it was too expensive.

It would cost \$7 for accommodation and travel to the larger town where treatment could be found, and \$10 for the operation.

Susie wanted to help. She and her travel companions pooled their money together and raised enough for both the young man's operation and a fund for any future need.

That operation meant he could earn a living and regain his independence. Members of his village no longer had to watch over him either. Helping him had a huge effect on the whole village, much like when we restore sight in the Pacific.

That experience meant that when Susie read about the work of Fred Hollows and The Foundation, she knew it was the organisation she wanted to support.

“If you give money you want to know it is well used, used to really help people.”

— Susie

To find out more about leaving a gift in your will, or to talk about a gift you have made, then please contact Karen Blake on 0800 227 229 or kblake@hollows.nz

The Humanity Awards are back!



As we prepare for the third year of the Humanity Awards, we caught up with one of last year's humanitarians to see how life is six months on.



Ngaio working on her Christmas card design at home.

Ngaio Kidd from Mapua, was nominated by her teacher for her passion and commitment to her school's 'Creatives' project. The project was a collaboration with the artist Gordon Toi and funded by the Government. Ngaio showed such enthusiasm and commitment for the project that she wrote a letter of thanks to the Prime Minister and organised a celebration with her school.

Ngaio's passion can clearly be seen in her artwork – she is a very gifted artist. We love her artwork so much we asked her to design our 2021 Christmas card. Ngaio immediately embraced this idea and has spent a lot of time researching the Pacific and the work of The Foundation.

“When I'm designing this card I am really trying to express parts of Pasifika culture.”

I'm thinking about what they (The Foundation) do to make people happy, by making people see again, and I try and put that on paper.”

Keep your eye out for Ngaio's masterpiece which will be available in our Gift of Sight Collection at the end of the year.

We are once again looking for young New Zealanders who strive to make the world around them a better place, just like Fred did. This year we have changed the awards. They are now open to Year 5 instead of Year 6, as in previous years. This will enable students to be ambassadors within the same school for the following year.

Any year five New Zealand student can be nominated. Nominations open in July.

Cheques are ending. What's next?

Eve and Julie are here to help.



Eve and Julie from our Supporter Services team have been supporting you, our donors, for 11 years combined. They love nothing more than chatting with our supporters. They know how much your donation means to you and the people whose sight you have helped restore.

Over the last few months, Eve and Julie have helped people who want to keep supporting the Foundation but are unsure how to keep doing this without cheques. They share their tips here:

Set up online banking on your computer, tablet, or mobile phone

Online banking is safe and secure and you use this to make your donations as well as pay your bills. The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ account number (**38-9008-0866758-06**) should already be loaded in the payee list.

or make a donation on our website www.hollows.org.nz

Our website is safe and secure and you can make donations using either your credit or debit card (you can also read heart-warming stories of patients whose sight we have restored and our wonderful team of doctors and nurses!).

or call us to make a donation over the phone

Phone Eve and Julie on 0800 227 229 and they can process your donation directly using either your credit or debit card. **They can also help you set up regular donations** that can be debited whenever you chose – monthly, quarterly or just once a year!

or visit or ring your local bank branch

Banks want to help their customers to continue supporting charities and will work with you to find the best way to do this.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with Eve and Julie to talk through any of these options. Phone on 0800 227 229 or send them an email at eve&julie@hollows.nz

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