

Your Fred News

Winter Newsletter 2016



The Fred Hollows
Foundation NZ

“I want to say thank you to all the people who made the operation possible. Thank you very much!”

Floyd, 21 years old





Hello from Andrew

Losing your vision at any age is frightening. At 21, it is utterly devastating.

As a father, I can only imagine the grief and anxiety Francis felt when his only son Floyd was forced to withdraw from his studies and put his life on hold following an eye injury that caused a cataract to form.

For Floyd, surgery has meant being able to pursue his dreams, earn a living and help his family again. [Read more about the remarkable difference you made to this young man's life on Page 4.]

'Teach the teachers first' was Fred's motto and today, with your help, we are fulfilling this vision. Last year we trained 35 Pacific eye care workers, including the very first eye doctor in the Federated States of Micronesia. We also opened a new world-class regional eye centre in Honiara [see Page 7].

Fred always said that you don't have to be an eye doctor to restore sight. So why not undertake some rigorous training of your own and take part in the Auckland marathon to help us end preventable blindness in the Pacific?

I do hope you will join us!

Andrew

Executive Director



Run with us to restore sight

Join Team Fred at the Auckland Marathon, Sunday 30 October 2016.

Whatever your age, background or fitness level this is your chance to help even more needlessly blind people see again.

Get involved today by phoning 0800 227 229 or email Jane at jcarlson@hollows.nz

Check out some of the incredible things you helped us achieve in 2015:

Across the Pacific miracles are happening every day thanks to kind-hearted people like you.

Your support provides cutting edge facilities and innovative programmes that have a huge impact on so many people.



14,746

pairs of spectacles provided so grateful eyes could see, many to school children who can now read and learn, what a gift!

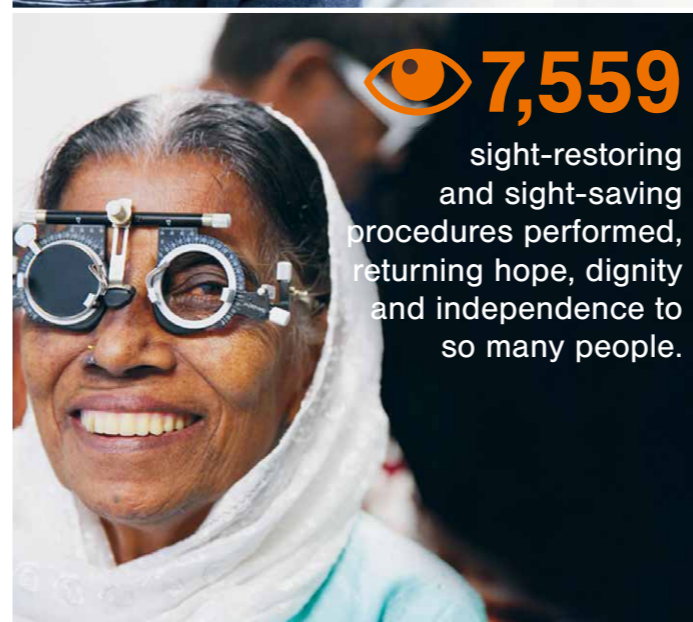


75,681

patient screenings across the Pacific by Foundation-trained eye care workers.

35

Pacific eye care workers trained, including the very first eye doctor in the Federated States of Micronesia!



7,559

sight-restoring and sight-saving procedures performed, returning hope, dignity and independence to so many people.



FIRST

in the Pacific. A new Mobile Eye Clinic, fully funded by kind people like you, bringing eye care to remote areas in Fiji.



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"It's obscene to LET PEOPLE GO BLIND WHEN they don't have to."

— Professor Fred Hollows —



The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ is a registered charitable entity under the Charities Act 2005. Donations to us support our programs across the Pacific, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste.

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Floyd's Story

“Floyd was my right-hand man. After the accident, everything changed. It was like part of my arm was taken off. I found it very difficult.”

Floyd's father Francis



Floyd's vision before surgery



Floyd's vision after surgery



At 21, Floyd was a young man with his whole life ahead of him.

As the only son of subsistence farmers in Vanuatu, Floyd worked hard growing food for his family and harvesting coconut to sell. He was also training at a local engineering college, had dreams of becoming a mechanic and was proud to be his father's "right-hand man".

Then one day an injury to his right eye threatened to steal his sight and rob him of his dreams.

A freak accident

Nearly two years ago, Floyd was helping to build a house. He was strapping material to a post when a long piece of bamboo split and flew into his right eye.

At first, he did not think much had happened. But then a white spot formed in the centre of Floyd's vision. It slowly grew until his vision became

cloudy, he lost his natural sense of balance and the ability to judge distances.

Floyd was forced to withdraw from his studies and, unable to help his family or play football with his friends, he became depressed and withdrawn.

Floyd desperately needed to be seen by an eye doctor. But there are very few eye care workers in Vanuatu. So Floyd was forced to wait nearly ten months to get the treatment he needed.

A long journey

Eventually, Floyd and his father, Francis, travelled from their home on the island of Maewo to the eye clinic in Santo. It took them two days on a boat carrying dried coconut and cost them almost a whole week's wages to get to The Fred Hollows Foundation outreach clinic.

When they arrived at the clinic, doctors were worried. In the months since the injury, a cataract had formed which needed to be removed before

they could assess Floyd's eye. They gave him a 50/50 chance of recovering his vision.

Joyous new beginning

As the bandages came off, it was immediately clear his surgery was successful.

“I am very happy. Thank you to all the people who made the operation possible. Thank you very much for all that you've done.”

- Floyd -

Floyd is now fulfilling his lifelong dream – he's studying to be a mechanic. He can also help his family farm and he's playing football again.



Above: Floyd is joyous after surgery

Kiwi kindness & ingenuity

restores sight and hope in the Solomon Islands

Kiwi Professor, Fred Hollows, had a vision of a world where no one is needlessly blind.

He was determined that the work of his team would not only restore sight but build self-reliance and better eye care systems for the future.

In the Solomon Islands, this vision is slowly becoming a reality thanks to the generosity and commitment of kind Kiwis like you.

Tough challenges

With a population spread over many islands, a lack of facilities, and a shortage of eye specialists, the Solomon Islands has a very high rate of avoidable blindness. It is estimated that, like in many parts of the Pacific, as many as four out of five people who are blind don't need to be – their condition is preventable or treatable.

But today, things are improving, thanks to a dedicated team of local eye care workers and a brand new, world-class treatment facility.

Building a brighter future

Since The Fred Hollows Foundation began outreach in the Solomon Islands in 2002 we have trained a large number of local eye care specialists.

Today, thanks to the support of our incredible Kiwi donors, 32 of these dedicated professionals are working to tackle a huge backlog of untreated eye illness. In the last year alone they performed over 1,000 sight-restoring surgeries!

This is why The Fred Hollows Foundation teamed up with NZ Aid Programme and the Solomon Islands Government to build a new Regional Eye Centre in Honiara, opened in July 2015.

This new cutting-edge facility is powered by solar energy, features energy-efficient design and durable building materials. It is built to



international surgical standards and is staffed and led entirely by Solomon Islanders.

Making an impact

Already this innovative building has had a profound impact on the local community. Local staff refer to a 'tsunami' of patients since the Centre opened with nearly 13,000 consultations and more than 600 sight-restoring surgeries taking place.

In 2016, staff expect to double the number of surgeries they can perform, restoring sight and hope to so many more people.

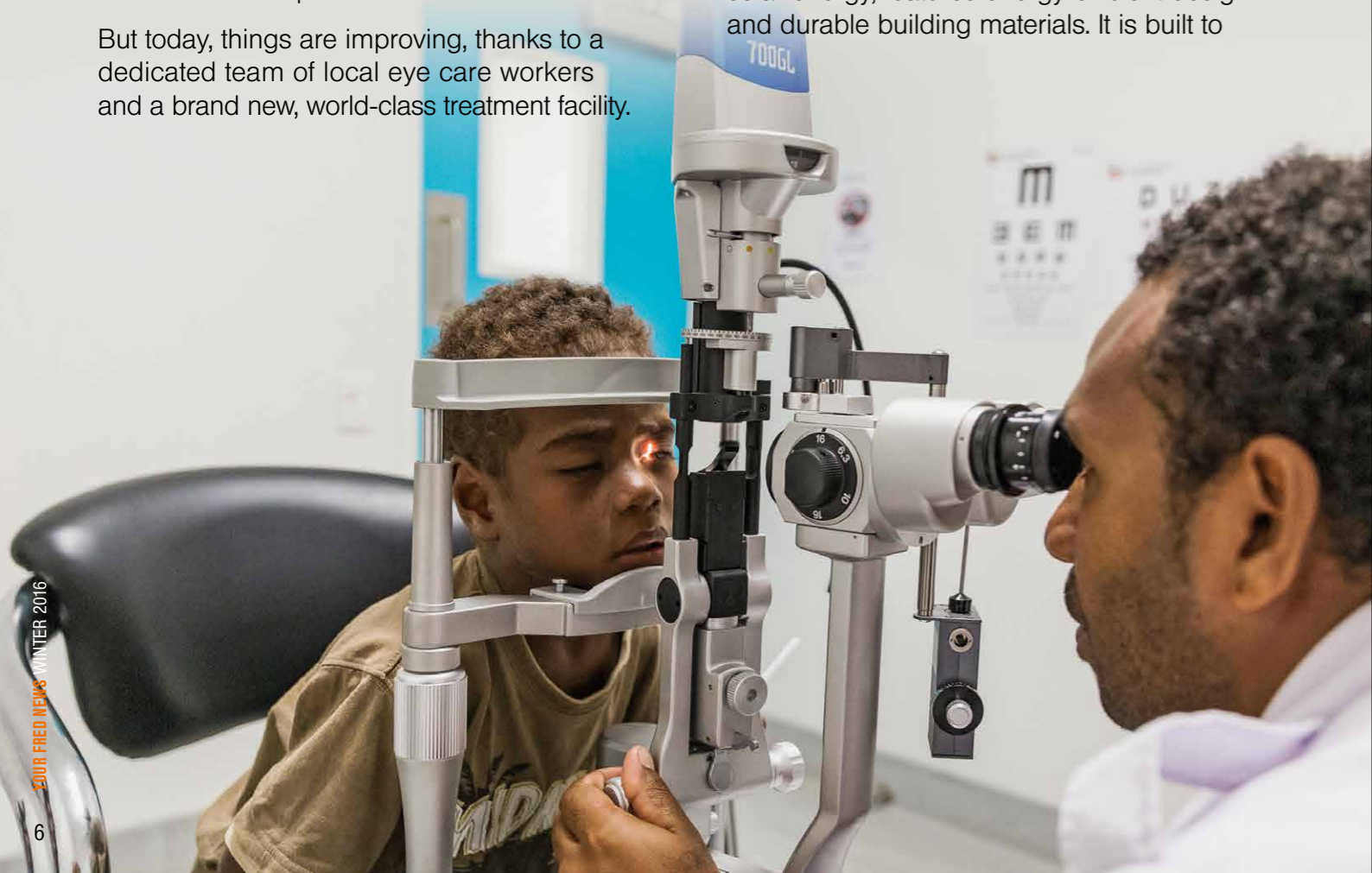
Local staff hold outreach clinics in the Solomon Islands to treat patients living in remote islands.

As well as serving Solomon Islanders, the Centre functions as a regional hub where eye care professionals can come to gain further specialist expertise.

By choosing to support The Fred Hollows Foundation you are helping us invest in long-term, sustainable solutions to end preventable blindness in the Pacific. **Thank you for your support.**



above: The opening of the new Regional Eye Centre in Honiara means all people in the Solomon Islands now have access to world-class eye care.



“I’m not a bleeding heart, but I am a great believer that you give back.”

As a long-time Board Chair of The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ, Brent Impey made a huge impact on the sight-saving work we do today.

Not only did he spearhead our Pacific programme but it was his leadership and vision that saw the creation of the Pacific Eye Institute in Fiji.

Now Brent wants to leave one more lasting gift and ensure the sight-saving work he started in the Pacific continues long after he is gone.

Leaving a life-changing legacy

“I’ve decided that I’ll leave an amount in my Will for The Foundation. I don’t need much money and here is something where I can really make a difference. I like the fact that you know where your money goes. \$25 provides sight-saving cataract surgery. There’s a direct link between the giving and the result.

I can also see the economic benefit. When someone’s sight is restored, it means they can go

back to work, or their family can go back to work instead of looking after a relative.”

What will you leave behind?

Writing a Will is about providing for your family, but it is also about ensuring your values and aspirations continue when you are gone.

By including The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ in your Will, you will ensure sight-saving eye care is available for future generations.

Our booklet, ‘Their sight will be your legacy’, explains everything you need to know about making a bequest. **To receive your free copy use the coupon below or contact us today.**



I would like to make a donation of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$

My donation frequency:

Monthly by credit card One-off

My payment method:

Cheque/Money order enclosed made payable to The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ **– or –** Debit my credit card (details below)

Card type: Visa MasterCard AMEX Diners Club

Card No: / Expiry: _____ / _____

Name on card: Signature:

My details:

Title: First Name: Family Name:

Address:

Suburb: City: Postcode:

Donor ID: Phone: Mobile:

Email: Date of Birth:

Please send me information about:

Monthly giving by direct debit Please send your free Bequest booklet, “Their sight will be your legacy”

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