

**The Fred Hollows  
Foundation NZ**

Newsletter | Spring 2013



“Now I  
can see  
it all”

Meet Hepi –  
you saved her  
sight!

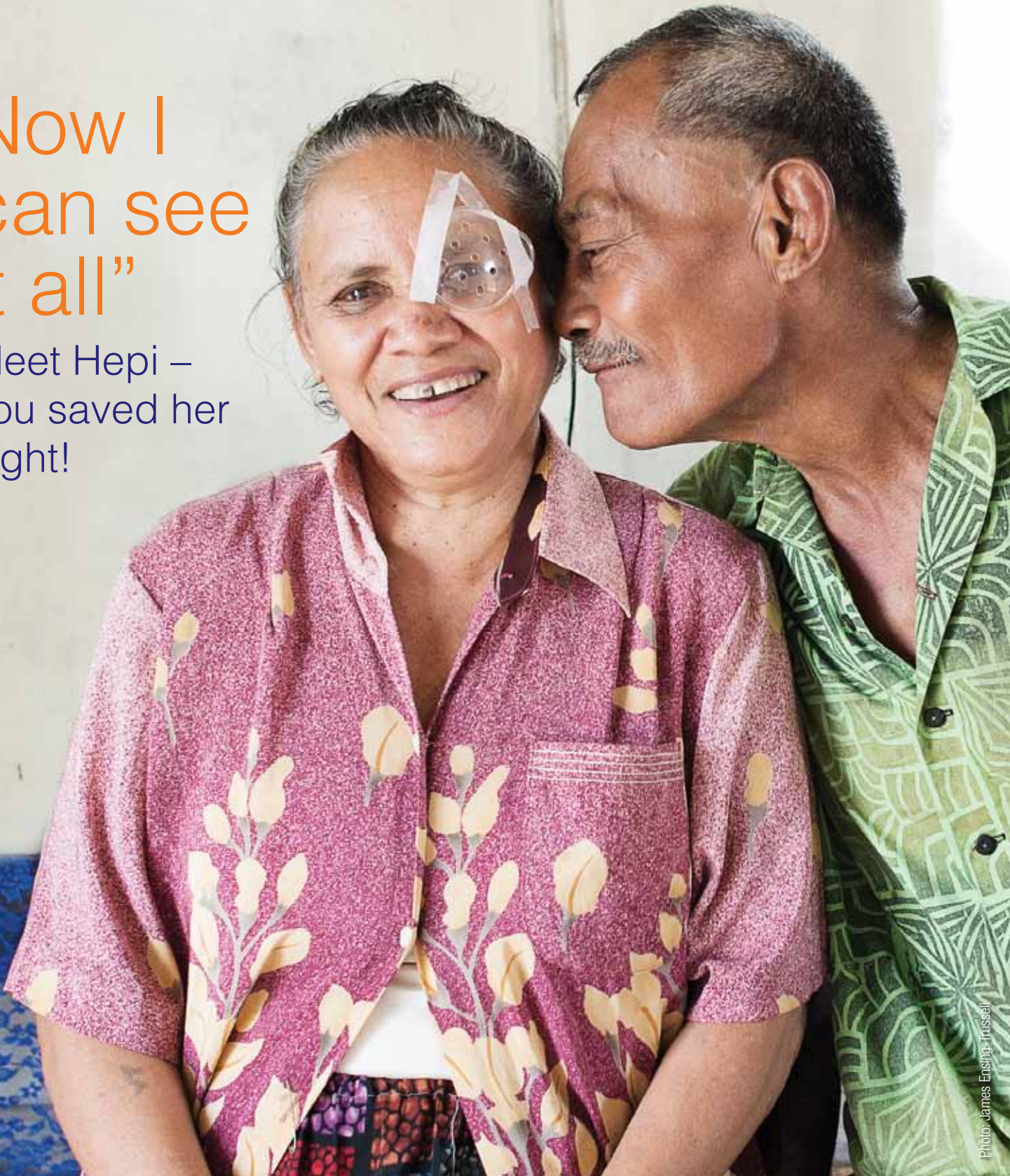


Photo: James Ensing-Russell

0800 227 229 | [www.hollows.org.nz](http://www.hollows.org.nz)

## 657 sight-saving surgeries

Your support helped us send an eye care team to Daru, the capital of Papua New Guinea's Western Province.



Photo: Hugh Rutherford

This year, your support has helped us to deliver our services across Papua New Guinea, a country of approximately seven million people. We're focused on helping the Ministry of Health to build the systems necessary to eliminate avoidable blindness.

Regional Program Manager Marleen Nelisse notes training is key. "We work closely with the

Divine Word University to train local nurses in eye care. Our nursing team are a really motivated bunch, forming the backbone of eye care in the country," says Nelisse. To date we have trained over 64 nurses and community health workers in Papua New Guinea—an incredible achievement.

Another critical aspect is our outreach work, taking teams of

doctors and nurses to remote parts of the country. Earlier this year we went on outreach to Daru, in the country's Western Province. We were especially touched by the story of a crocodile hunter, Durkita (pictured above) whose sight we restored thanks to your generous donations.

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[hollows.org.nz/](http://hollows.org.nz/)  
watch  
for more photos  
& videos



Photo: Sandy Scheiterna

## WHO target met: 1 eye nurse per 50,000 people

The World Health Organisation and Vision 2020 have set this target for how many eye nurses are needed to provide quality eye care per population. Together, we've now reached this target across all 11 of the Pacific Island countries where we work!

We set up the Pacific Eye Institute in Fiji, working alongside local Ministries of Health, to train **1 eye nurse per 25,000 people** so that geographically dispersed Pacific populations can receive quality eye care. We're well on the way, with Kiribati, Samoa and Tonga already meeting this goal. We estimate we'll have reached this target before 2018.

# REACHING EVERY LAST PERSON



## Record surgery numbers

On every outreach our doctors aim to treat as many patients as possible. Last July in Port Vila, Vanuatu, they performed 42 eye surgeries in a single day! This was a new record for The Foundation and you made it possible.



The miracle of sight is something most of us take for granted. However, I'm delighted to report that we're making significant progress in our efforts to eliminate avoidable blindness, helping people for whom regaining eyesight is nothing short of a miracle.

In small population countries such as Niue, sight has now been restored to almost everyone. This is hugely exciting, but also encourages us to ask the question, **what do we need to do to reach every last person across the whole of the Pacific?**

We believe part of the solution is to ensure that everyone has access to a local eye nurse who can treat and refer patients on an ongoing basis. In areas with larger populations such as Samoa, eye nurses can ensure people in even the most remote areas get treated, either by a local ophthalmologist or by one of our outreach teams.

We're continuing to deal with the backlog of patients who are needlessly blind and are breaking records in the process. You're playing a vital role in making this happen, thank you!

**Andrew Bell**  
Executive Director



## Expanding Kenyan eye care

The Foundation is part of a global organisation that works in developing countries across Asia, Africa and the Pacific. In July, our Founding Director and Patron Gabi Hollows opened the new Migori Eye Centre in southwest Kenya. Local doctors estimate it will serve up to a million people, so it's a huge leap forward in the fight to eliminate avoidable blindness.

### HEALTHPOST

HealthPost is one of New Zealand's favourite suppliers of discount supplements, natural skincare, and natural health and household products. They have been supporting The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ since 2010.



The work of The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ is generously funded in part by the New Zealand Aid Programme and Australian Aid (AusAID).

# Seeing again in the Kingdom of Tonga

The island Kingdom of Tonga is blessed with scenic beauty and friendly people, but the availability of eye care services has not been able to keep up with demand.

Your generosity is helping to change this by providing outreach programs to those most in need and by helping train Tongan nurses and diabetes screeners to provide a long term solution.

Recently our team were in the capital Nuku'alofa where over 130 patients had their sight restored. Patients turned up at the Vaiola Hospital Eye Clinic from all across Tongatapu and its neighbouring islands. They waited from 6am each morning for a chance to see one of The Foundation's doctors and to have their sight restored.

The operating theatre in Tonga was extremely busy. Doctors and nurses worked long days, treating two, and sometimes three patients at a time to make sure everyone was seen. Smiles, sobs and joyful laughter filled the halls of the clinic when the patients returned to have their bandages removed. When a patient turns to see their daughter for the first time in years, or when they look and see their friend who's also had their sight restored, it's a magical moment that reminds us of the significance of this work.

While the trip to Tonga had 130 moments of transformation, an equally important part of the story is the nurses who helped make this happen. Your support has helped six nurses from Tonga to train at The Foundation's teaching facility in Fiji, to treat a comprehensive range of eye conditions. These nurses are now working in their home country, giving their people a chance to see again.

Because of you, the Tongan patients who were needlessly blind can now see the beauty all around them. Most of all, you've enabled them to see the people they love.



Tongan patient Hepi is guided to church by her daughter Silivia, the day before she receives sight-saving cataract surgery.

## Meet Hepi

Hepi is the pastor's wife in a Tongan village on the remote eastern side of Tongatapu. She told us that her blindness made her feel incomplete. For years she felt unable to fulfil the duties she holds as pastor's wife. Her husband was even considering leaving his position in order to look after her. Worst of all for Hepi, **she had never seen her nine-year-old adopted daughter**. Hepi told us, "I can't iron my daughter's clothes or braid her hair."

Your donation helped Hepi see again and gave her back her life. With her bandage removed, Hepi went from house to house in her village, waving to old friends and rejoicing at her blessings. When her daughter came home from school and Hepi saw her for the first time, she remarked, "what a beautiful girl". Everything was now complete.



Go to  
[hollows.org.nz/](http://hollows.org.nz/)  
 watch  
 for more



Photo: The Fred Hollows Foundation

During his early years in Palmerston North, Fred showed signs of leadership and a healthy dose of rebellion.

## Memories of Fred

As Palmerston North Boys' High celebrates its annual Fred Hollows Day, we look back at Fred's early years in Palmerston North.

The Hollows family moved from Dunedin, Fred's birthplace, to a small farm in Palmerston North when Fred was seven years old. It's where Fred spent most of his childhood.

"That was a wonderful place to grow up in," recalled Fred in his autobiography. "We had a lot of friends and did the things country kids do, which is to say, work pretty bloody hard on the farm, milking cows and keeping things clean, and also have a lot of freedom and pick up useful knowledge."

The Hollows household combined Christian pacifism with a strong sense of social justice. For the young Fred, rugby and the outdoors were his main priorities. When he was not busy with school or camping, he was on the rugby pitch where he excelled enough to join the First XV in his senior years.

When Fred was not channelling his 'enthusiasm' on the pitch, his restless mind caused him to spar with English teachers at Palmerston North Boys' High. Dismissed as a troublemaker, Fred was sent to a more alternative teacher named Guthrie Wilson, who introduced Fred to the literary tradition of nonconformity and instilled in him an enduring love of literature and verse. Fred's questioning of authority spilled over into philosophy and faith, leading him to his tertiary education in Arts and Divinity at The University of Otago. A couple of years later, Fred would swap theology for the study of medicine and the rest, as they say, is history.

Fred's formative years in Palmerston North laid the foundation for his intellectual curiosity and his refusal to accept the status quo. We celebrate this stage of his life and express our gratitude for the continued support from Palmerston North Boys' High, who are educating the next generation of leaders to follow in Fred's footsteps.



### Share your memories of Fred

Did you know Fred, or do you have a Fred story to share? If so, we want to hear from you! Please send any stories or photos to us at [info@hollows.org.nz](mailto:info@hollows.org.nz), mail us at The Fred Hollows Foundation, Private Bag 99909, Newmarket, Auckland 1149 or call us on 0800 227 229.

Note: quote taken from *Fred Hollows: an autobiography*, published by Kerr Publishing Pty Ltd, 1993.



Photo: James Ernsing Trussell

Dr Nola Pikacha operating on a Tongan patient.

**41 doctors  
and nurses  
in training**

## Creating an eye care workforce

Solomon Islander Dr Nola Pikacha is currently training at The Foundation's Pacific Eye Institute in Fiji, the first dedicated eye health training facility in the Pacific. Training local eye doctors and nurses like Dr Pikacha is the only way to eliminate avoidable blindness in a sustainable way. At the end of 2013, Dr Pikacha will return to work at the National Referral Hospital in Honiara, sharing her knowledge and skills with locals in need.



## Vettori visits Ba outreach

Specsavers Ambassador and Kiwi cricket legend Daniel Vettori joined our team on an outreach in Ba on the west coast of Fiji. He got a first-hand glimpse of our work and spent time listening to the stories of patients whose lives you helped change. Vettori was deeply moved and shared his experience with Kiwis on TVNZ's Good Morning on his return.

**To hear more from  
Dr Pikacha and  
Daniel Vettori, visit  
[hollows.org.nz/](http://hollows.org.nz/)  
watch**



Photo: Hugh Rutherford

# Legacy to restore sight



The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ is honoured to be the recipient of some very generous bequests. They are a powerful way to restore sight and create change in the world. One person who made such a change, is the late Alan McKibbin who passed away in early 2012. His dear friend Patricia told us:

*“Alan had seen much in his life and the hardships that others had faced. He became a great admirer of The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ and wished to assist them in their wonderful work, in the one way he was able to. And he was delighted to be able to leave them a bequest in his will.”*

We are so grateful to Alan and all those who leave us such a gift, for the immeasurable opportunities they will provide to the lives of the needlessly blind. If you would like information on how to leave a legacy to restore sight, please contact Anastasia Papadakis on **0800 227 229** or **apapadakis@hollows.org.nz**.

## 3 EASY WAYS TO DONATE



Mail the coupon below to PO Box 99909, Newmarket, Auckland 1149



Call free on 0800 227 229



Donate online [www.hollows.org.nz](http://www.hollows.org.nz)

**YES,** I will make a gift to restore sight and prevent blindness.

### Step 1: My gift

\$25    \$50    \$100    \$200    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Step 2: My payment

Cheque/Money order enclosed made out to The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ

Debit my credit card (please circle)

VISA | MasterCard | AMEX | Diners Club

Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

### Step 3: My details

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_

Family name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb \_\_\_\_\_ Donor ID \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me information about:

Monthly giving    Payroll giving    Leaving a gift in my will