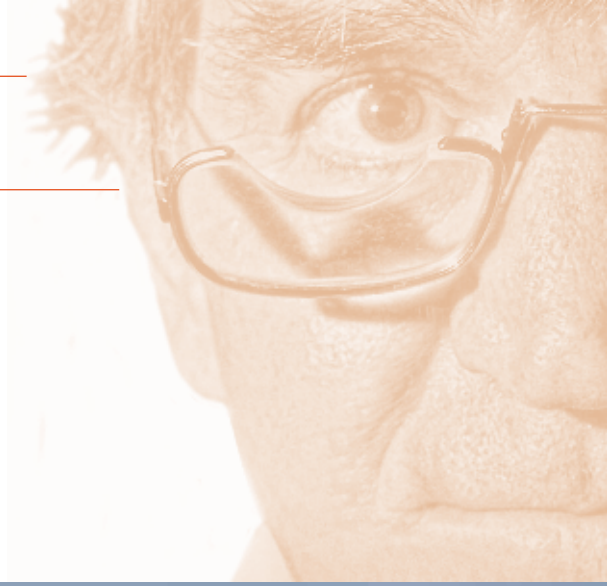


SUMMER 2017 NEWSLETTER

The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ

YOUR VISION



The Foundation's outreach team restores sight to people across the Pacific.

James Ensing-Trussell

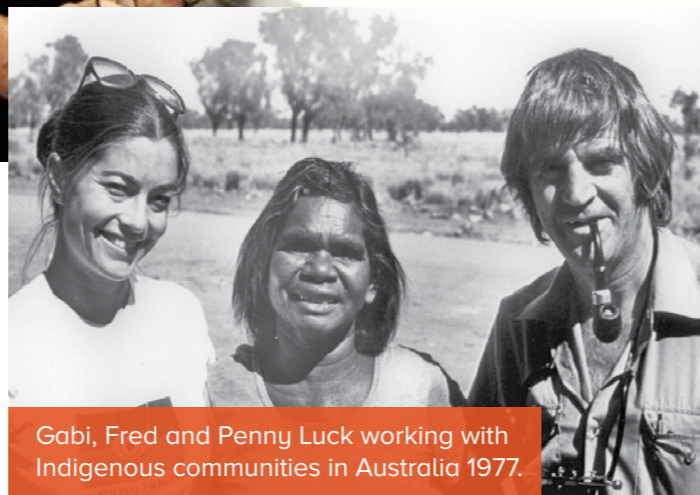
25 YEARS
RESTORING
SIGHT



The Fred Hollows
Foundation NZ

Message from Gabi Hollows

“It’s bittersweet that Fred is not around as he would be absolutely blown away by the amazing achievements over the past 25 years and how his legacy has changed the lives of millions.



Gabi, Fred and Penny Luck working with Indigenous communities in Australia 1977.

David Broadbent

Initially we set out to help Fred’s fellow eye doctors Dr Sanduk Ruit from Nepal and Dr Desbele Ghebreghergis from Eritrea to bring the basic tools for cataract surgery to their own countries, where they had no lenses, no operating instruments, no drugs, not even sutures in those days.

When people in Eritrea and Nepal could not afford \$150 or more for an intraocular lens to treat cataract, Fred decided to make high quality, affordable lenses in those countries.

That’s how The Foundation started, in true Fred style, simply getting the job done.

We have proved you can do the highest standard of eye surgery in some of the poorest countries in the world and in some places for as little as \$25, which is a remarkable achievement and something Fred would be very proud of.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you, to all the people who have supported us on

this unbelievable journey – from the friends who helped form the idea around our dining room table, to the amazing staff who work tirelessly in pursuit of Fred’s dream and the thousands of donors who continue to power our work.

“We would not be celebrating 25 years of The Fred Hollows Foundation and restoring sight without your incredible and enduring support.”

Gabi Hollows
Founding Director, The Fred Hollows Foundation

Solomon Islander Dr John Szetu joined The Foundation 16 years ago.

He gives his account of the last 25 years of The Foundation’s work.

What affect does being blind in the Pacific have?

People lose their independence, often losing their jobs so they’re unable to provide for their family and put food on the table. Sadly, some children can’t go to school because they have to look after a parent or grandparent.

When their sight is restored, their quality of life improves dramatically and they live more enriched lives.

What affect has The Foundation had since it began working in the Pacific?

A lot has changed, including the 257 eye doctors and nurses that have been trained. In the Solomon Islands, we have a new facility – the Regional Eye Centre – a state of the art clinic we are very proud of.

How do you feel when you remove a patient’s bandage and they can see?

I feel a fantastic sense of accomplishment. My pulse races like the patients does as their vision returns with brilliant colours. The joy of transforming people’s lives and seeing their excitement is reward enough for me.

What is The Foundation’s role over the next 25 years?

We have achieved a lot in the Pacific, including 50,000 sight-saving operations, but there is more to do. We have another challenge emerging – blinding eye



Dr John Szetu

disease from diabetes. A priority for The Foundation is to develop innovative programmes to combat this disease.

What is the best part of your job?

I feel great working for an organisation that is a game-changer in preventing blindness. I love being a leader and overseeing a regional workforce. But the best part of the job is on the frontline – treating the patients.

What do you do in your spare time?

I love nothing more than spending quality time with family.

Is there anything you want to say to supporters of The Foundation?

Thank you so much for your generosity. Without your help, we wouldn’t have come this far in battling avoidable blindness, making such a difference to the lives of people in the Pacific who I have been touched by one way or another. Tagio tumas!

25 YEARS RESTORING SIGHT

Thanks to your support we haven't held back.



1993

Fred loses his fight with cancer. His legacy lives on through The Foundation.

2001

National Eye Care Programme starts in Vanuatu.

2007

Thousands of people in Papua New Guinea receive glasses. Upgrade begins at the eye clinic in Madang.

2010

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

2015

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

2016

Eye doctors and nurses are now being trained by local medical professionals, and overseas tutors.

1992

Fred and Gabi established The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ.

1994

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

2006

The Foundation establishes The Pacific Eye Institute, our first eye care training facility for Pacific doctors and nurses.

2009

Launch of The Foundation's programme to tackle diabetic retinopathy in Fiji.

2012

First eye doctor's graduates from The Foundation funded programme.

2015

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

2019

The Port Vila National Eye Centre upgrade and extension in Vanuatu opens.



2 Million patients seen worldwide



50,000 eye surgeries in the Pacific



7 eyecare centres funded in the Pacific



257 eye doctors & nurses trained in the Pacific

Looking forward

As we celebrate 25 fantastic years following Fred Hollows' ethos of not holding back, it's with his determination and sense of social justice, that as a Foundation we know our job isn't done.

So what are our plans for the future? And why do we still need your support?



The current Port Vila National Eye Centre is not nearly large enough to cope with the high volume of patients needing treatment.

Continuing our work:

The Foundation will continue to restore sight to the needlessly blind across the Pacific. The empowered group of eye care graduates returning to their Pacific communities providing much needed eye care to their people, is still not enough to cure a backlog of cataract blindness. It's so important that we continue to strengthen local communities' eye care systems with training, equipment and facilities.

New eye centre for Vanuatu:

In 2017 our visiting team performed 194 cataract surgeries in Vanuatu.

However to tackle the worsening problem of avoidable blindness in Vanuatu, a huge 810 cataract surgeries are needed annually. Without a permanent eye doctor, and with the current eye clinic, this is not achievable.

The Port Vila National Eye Centre is currently in a rundown condition, with the majority of equipment either defunct or broken. This is compounded because the clinic is not nearly large enough to cope with the high volume of patients needing treatment.

Our solution to this is to upgrade and extend Port Vila National Eye Centre in 2018. It's an ambitious plan, but it's the only way to address a worsening problem.

We're not holding back because there is a desperate need to train more eye doctors and eye nurses to help those people who are currently blind, see again.



Tackling new causes of avoidable blindness:

In the Pacific region diabetic retinopathy is at one of the highest rates in the world, with devastating repercussions for those suffering from the disease.

Our teams in the Pacific are increasingly seeing scores of people turning up to our clinics with diabetic retinopathy – an eye disease that can ultimately steal a person's vision.

Expanding our eye clinic in Port Vila Vanuatu will help cater for the snowballing number of diabetic eye disease patients, but there is more that needs to be done.

As Fred said: *"It's obscene to let people go blind when they don't need to."*

We're challenging ourselves to provide a solution and we're not holding back.





Image being held by Giap: Michael Amendolia

Why we don't hold back

Tran Van Giap (pictured here with Gabi Hollows) is holding a picture of himself as a little boy having his eye's examined by Fred.

Fred saved Giap's sight when he was just eight years old. 25 years later, he is a father of two, a high school maths teacher and is inspired by Fred to do good in the world.

Thanks to your support many others have the chance of a better future. Fred's spirit lives on thanks to you.

Give the gift of sight.



This Christmas you can give one of our gift cards to a loved one and help restore sight.

For as little as \$25, you can give a gift that is life-changing. Simply choose from our online range. Different cards are available – each makes a unique contribution to ending avoidable blindness.

For details visit our new website:
hollows.org.nz/gift-of-sight

info@hollows.nz
0800 227 299
hollows.org.nz
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