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**SUMMER 2018 NEWSLETTER**

The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ

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# YOUR VISION



Mike's axe  
has saved  
the sight of  
over 5,200  
people!



**The Fred Hollows**  
Foundation NZ

## Message from **Andrew Bell**



Fred was a “good Kiwi bloke”. He was bold, direct, passionate, wanted to make a positive difference and didn’t hold back in getting things done.

You may wonder if there are others around today who are like this. If so, who are they? What are they doing? What do they look like? Who are the Fred’s of today?

The answer is yes, there are many Fred’s of today, beginning with you, our supporters. I am constantly inspired by The Foundation’s supporters and what they’re doing to raise money so we can continue Fred’s legacy.

Support comes in every shape and size – individuals, organisations and community groups across the country, giving up their time and their money. This incredible commitment means doctors will become eye surgeons, nurses will become specialists, empty fields can become field hospitals, and young students can see a future where they could study eye care and give the gift of sight to people in need. You and our other supporters are empowering countless girls and boys, women and men, across the Pacific. **You are the Fred’s of today.**

Thanks to your donations, two eye doctors and ten eye nurses are graduating from our training programmes this November, and will be returning to provide eye care to their communities. Your support is also enabling the upgrade and expansion of the Port Vila National Eye Centre in Vanuatu, which is on track for completion by the end of this year.

**And this is just in 2018.**



In this newsletter you can find out how we’re changing the future of eye health in Papua New Guinea. You can also read about some of our incredible supporters and their fundraising efforts that enable us to carry out this life-changing work.

Thank you for your generosity and helping us to keep Fred’s spirit alive.

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**Andrew Bell** / Executive Director



# We're not holding back in Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea is one of the least developed countries globally, with just 18 percent of its population living in urban areas and close to 40 percent living below the international poverty line. **The rate of vision impairment and low vision here is the highest in the Pacific.**

## Our work in Papua New Guinea

We are working with local eye care and health organisations to design and implement an approach to tackling avoidable blindness.

This has included setting up eye nurse training in partnership with a university in Papua New Guinea, with 86 graduates to date. This is half the number of eye nurses needed for the population of Papua New Guinea, as recommended by the World Health Organization.

Since 2007, we've managed the Modilon Eye Clinic based in Madang. The eye clinic provides comprehensive eye care services including treatment for diabetic eye disease and surgery. We also provide eye care services to rural populations through regular outreaches.

## More to be done

However, there is still so much more that needs to be done. According to the World Health Organization, Papua New Guinea should have at least 80 eye doctors to meet its eye care needs, yet only 11 are active in eye care. This means that there is a critical shortage of eye doctors for the population.

We are committed to turning this statistic around by supporting local universities and health authorities to increase the number of eye doctors in Papua New Guinea.

Together with our partners, and you, our donors, we want to ensure the people of Papua New Guinea have access to high quality eye care, provided by a skilled local eye care workforce.

# Team Fred

# Fundraising Heroes

Up and down the country our amazing supporters are keeping Fred's vision alive. Individuals, groups and businesses have been fundraising in their community to help restore sight to the needlessly blind in the Pacific and we couldn't be more grateful.

Over the next few pages we have highlighted just a few of our Team Fred Fundraisers.



## Sight-restoring ancient weaponry

The last thing you expect to stumble across in the small rural community of Takapau, Hawkes Bay is an ancient weaponry museum, complete with a 1700's cannon and a trebuchet. This eclectic display is owned by avid adventurers Lex and Angela.

The museum was originally owned by Lex's Dad as a hunting museum from his worldwide travels. Taking after his father, Lex followed suit, and on his way added more artefacts to the collection.

The museum is private by appointment and if you contact Lex and Angela they will put on an unforgettable show. Just make sure you bring your earplugs because there's a lot of blasts! The museum is particularly great for school trips, giving students of all ages the chance to see dinosaur bones, moas and mammoths to name a few.

Lex showcases the old weaponry and then there's the chance for all visitors to get involved in cannon-blasting a fence post. They even have a huge trebuchet which can hurl a 44 gallon drum 200 yards.

Every piece has a story, like their flintlock graveyard gun used to protect against grave-robbers in the 1700s.

To keep the museum going and put their passion to good use by supporting The Foundation, Lex and Angela ask for a \$15 donation in-lieu of an entrance fee. The larger the group, the more funds they can collect towards ending avoidable blindness throughout the Pacific.

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Visiting the museum is by appointment only, by contacting Lex and Angela on email at [lexsev123@gmail.com](mailto:lexsev123@gmail.com).



# Saving sight with an axe

Every Thursday morning Mike Collins, with a few of his mates in Kerikeri, split, chop and sell firewood with the proceeds donated to The Foundation. Mike explains how it works:



“People who know what we are doing donate their timber. We split it and sell firewood. The people who buy it are basically making a donation to The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ and they get firewood, so it works really well.

We’re generally a bunch of retired people who have the time and still have the energy. It keeps us active, it’s sociable and we raise money for a good cause.

We have two splitting teams, we load a ute by-hand and then it’s delivered. Meanwhile, someone has been firing the thermette so we stop for a cuppa and share homemade scones and muffins which some of our wives have produced. We have our discussion about the orders and how much we have raised to donate to Fred Hollows. Then back into it until midday. A good morning is had by all and no gym fees!”

The Woodchoppers have been able to raise more than \$130,000 towards restoring sight, an astonishing contribution.

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If you’d like to know a little more about the Kerikeri Woodchoppers, visit [hollows.nz/woodchoppers](https://hollows.nz/woodchoppers).



## Reading to restore sight

Situated in one of the oldest buildings in the city of Dunedin, you will find a charming second-hand book store called Stafford 6 Books.

Owned by Richard and staffed by a loyal group of volunteers, the store has a book stall dedicated to The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ.

The books are sourced from a variety of places and sold to raise money for The Foundation.

Richard recalls why he started the enterprise, “I liked the idea of trying to make an income from books and stuff discarded, but with a charity angle.”

Dunedin is not only the birthplace of Fred Hollows but also bears the title of the City of Literature. Richard has over a decade of experience selling books so he’s a dab hand at recommending what’s a good read.

The store is open to the public and sells a diverse range of books and bric-a-brac. We encourage everyone to visit Stafford 6 Books when they’re in Dunedin and donate to this excellent enterprise and cause. Richard also welcomes donations of books.

Over the last six years, this amazing community supporter has raised more than \$20,000 to restore sight to the needlessly blind in the Pacific.



Bonnie and Hannah, both in their early 20’s, share a goal to help cure treatable blindness in the Pacific. They have launched an ethical make-up brand called Indigo and Iris, with 50% of the profits from their first product, Levitate Mascara, being donated to The Foundation.

“Every time we sell a mascara we’re helping someone gain their sight. We think it’s beautiful that you can look in the mirror, apply Levitate, and know you’re playing a small part in helping someone see.

We chose The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ in particular because they are truly great at what they do and have an amazing holistic approach – plus someone being able to see again makes our hearts soar every time. They are incredibly good at impact reporting, measuring and tracking their programme’s performance each year, showing exactly what impact the donations have had. They are increasing access to health care and changing not just the life of the person who gains their vision back, but their family and community too.”

Indigo and Iris have already helped restore sight to hundreds of people across the Pacific.

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If you want to learn more about Indigo and Iris or purchase a beautiful new mascara for yourself or a loved one, visit [indigoandiris.co](http://indigoandiris.co).



## A sight-saving lunch

St Oswald's Church and The Grand Hotel in Whanganui held a Sunday roast fundraiser. Food, fun and fellowship were enjoyed by 90 people. An optometrist, who recently returned from Fiji, spoke about his experience of working with The Foundation, giving guests some insight into the work we do in the Pacific.

The lunch was very successful with proceeds of \$900 donated to The Foundation.

# What could you do?



We salute our amazing fundraisers who give up their time and put in a lot of hard work to raise money for The Foundation. Thank you!

Fundraising is not only an innovative way to give, but it's a great opportunity to get out amongst your community and meet new people. You're not only promoting the work of The Foundation but you're getting that feel good factor from working together for the greater good.

If you're feeling inspired, we've got plenty of ideas on how you can fundraise in our A-Z guide, which you can find, along with a heap more information at [hollows.nz/fundraise](https://hollows.nz/fundraise) or call us on **0800 227 229**.

# Give the gift of sight.



## This Christmas don't just give any old gift. Give one that changes lives.

This year, our gifts are a little different – you can still buy the \$25 card that gives the gift of sight. You can also purchase a gift which makes a unique contribution to ending avoidable blindness, by providing sight-saving surgeries, education materials for our doctors and nurses, patient transport to clinics and spectacles.

Plus, some of these cards come with a unique free item!



### How it all works:

1. Choose a life-changing gift by filling in the paper form and sending it back to us or by visiting [hollows.nz/gift-of-sight](http://hollows.nz/gift-of-sight).
2. Choose to send an e-card or printed card. We'll send your chosen card with your message inside and the impact your generous gift is making.
3. Relax in the knowledge that whether it's for a friend, colleague, a wife or a husband, your gift has helped to give people a better life.

**Left it too late?** Don't worry, you can send an e-card and your gift will arrive instantly.

Orders, for print cards, must be received by 12th December to guarantee delivery by Christmas (within New Zealand).

Check out our online shop by visiting [hollows.nz/gift-of-sight](http://hollows.nz/gift-of-sight).

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0800 227 229  
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ISSN 2537-897X (print)  
ISSN 2537-8988 (Online)



The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ is a registered charitable entity under the Charities Act 2005. Donations made to us support our programmes across the Pacific.

The work of The Foundation is generously funded by individuals, partnerships, and in part by the New Zealand Aid Programme, The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust and the World Diabetes Foundation.

