
CHRISTMAS 2020 NEWSLETTER

The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ

YOUR VISION

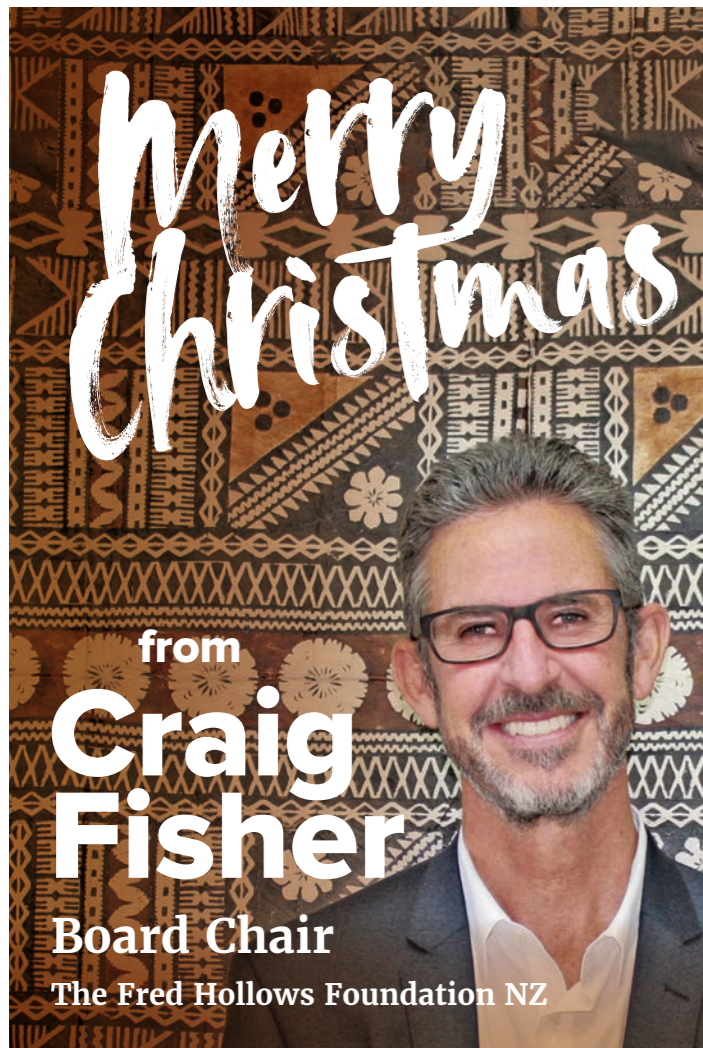


'Ritual'
Acrylic on canvas
FATU FEU'U

Fatu Feu'u has given his permission for his artworks from *The Rainforest Series* to be transferred onto this newsletter.



The Fred Hollows
Foundation NZ



In a difficult year that has seen the world collectively face a pandemic, it brings me joy to be able to share this newsletter with you, which highlights some outstanding and heart-warming stories that, despite everything, The Foundation has achieved since we sent our last newsletter in May.

Although COVID-19 saw most Pacific countries face lockdowns and travel restrictions, I want to acknowledge our incredible eye doctors and nurses who, faced with this immense upheaval, have remained dedicated to addressing the backlog of eye surgery cases that has developed as a result of the pandemic. In this newsletter

you will hear from Kirti Prasad, our Pacific Programmes Manager, who will talk more about how COVID-19 has affected our work in the Pacific and how we have been positively responding.

In a year that was helped by the humanity of everyday people, The Foundation was delighted to receive many outstanding nominations for our annual Humanity Awards. The Awards, which recognise passionate children following in the footsteps of Fred, saw Elly Roadley from Whangaparaoa School named as our Humanity Awards 2021 Junior Ambassador. You can read more about her compassionate nature and selfless acts on page 6. The likes of Elly and the other nominations give us great hope for the future.

The Foundation itself has recently announced some exciting news, with Dr Audrey Aumua set to take the reigns as our new Chief Executive Officer from January next year. Dr Aumua brings a wealth of experience with her and, as the first Pacific person to lead The Foundation, we are all looking forward to the Pacific regional experience she will bring to the table.

Although it is hard to believe, Christmas is just around the corner, and I am delighted to share with you a unique collaboration we are part of with Specsavers and internationally renowned Samoan-New Zealand artist Fatu Feu'u. The collaboration has seen Specsavers launch two limited edition frames featuring artwork from Fatu's Rainforest Series, with \$25 from each pair sold donated back to The Foundation. Our 2020 Gift of Sight collection will also feature a new tote bag with Fatu's artwork on it. Check out page 7 and the order form enclosed to see our range of Christmas presents that can give back the gift of sight.

And finally, most importantly, I would like to thank you, our wonderful donors. This year has been a tumultuous and uncertain time for everyone, yet you have continued to support our Foundation throughout your own upheaval, choosing to keep the wellbeing of our Pacific neighbours at the forefront of your mind. For this, I can't thank you enough.

Nga mihi mahana | Warmest regards

Dr Audrey Aumua to lead The Foundation from 2021



We are delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Audrey Aumua as our new Chief Executive Officer.

She brings a wealth of experience and leadership in research, policy development and management in the health and education sectors across New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific region.

Dr Aumua will be joining The Foundation from The Pacific Community's (SPC) Suva office, where she has been Deputy Director-General. It is an international development organisation owned and governed by 26 country and territory members. Prior to this role, she served as the World Health Organization (WHO) Country Representative, Solomon Islands, United Nations Office.

She takes over from Andrew Bell who helped lead The Foundation with distinction for

10 years, before standing down earlier this year for health reasons.

Dr Aumua will be the first Pacific person to lead The Foundation and is excited to be joining an organisation that has such a positive impact across the Pacific:

"I am delighted to be coming back to New Zealand to lead such a well-respected organisation, and dedicated and effective team. The reputation of The Foundation, both throughout the Pacific and in New Zealand, is very strong and I am looking forward to bringing my Pacific regional experience to the table and leading The Foundation towards its vision of ending avoidable blindness in the Pacific."

We look forward to welcoming Dr Audrey Aumua into our New Zealand office in January.

You can listen to Dr Aumua being interviewed by Radio New Zealand by visiting www.hollows.org.nz/dr-aumua

Fatu Feu'u wears the spectacle frames from his limited edition collection in partnership with Specsavers and The Foundation.

Specsavers and Fatu Feu'u give the Gift of Sight

We are excited to have joined forces with Specsavers and internationally renowned Samoan-New Zealand artist Fatu Feu'u, to bring the gift of sight to even more people in the Pacific.

Fatu Feu'u is known as the 'Father of contemporary Pacific art' and his work explores motifs of the Pacific and, in particular, his Samoan culture. He grew up in the village of Poutasi in the district of Falealili in Samoa and emigrated to New Zealand in the 1960s.

He is the bearer of two Samoan matai titles: the ali'i title of Lesa, given by his mother's family, of Sa'anapu, and the tulafale title of Si'a, conferred by his father's family, of Poutasi.

"I was born in Samoa, in the village, and I know what it's like to have a lack of medical facilities."

Specsavers have launched two limited edition frames, a pair of spectacle frames and a pair of sunglasses. They both feature artwork from Fatu's *Rainforest Series*, which is about the conservation of the rainforest on the Samoan island of Savai'i for future generations. The island of Savai'i is also the home of Poufia who features in our Christmas appeal this year. Specsavers will be donating \$25 from each of these limited edition frames back to The Foundation, meaning anyone who buys a pair will have given the Gift of Sight to someone in the Pacific.



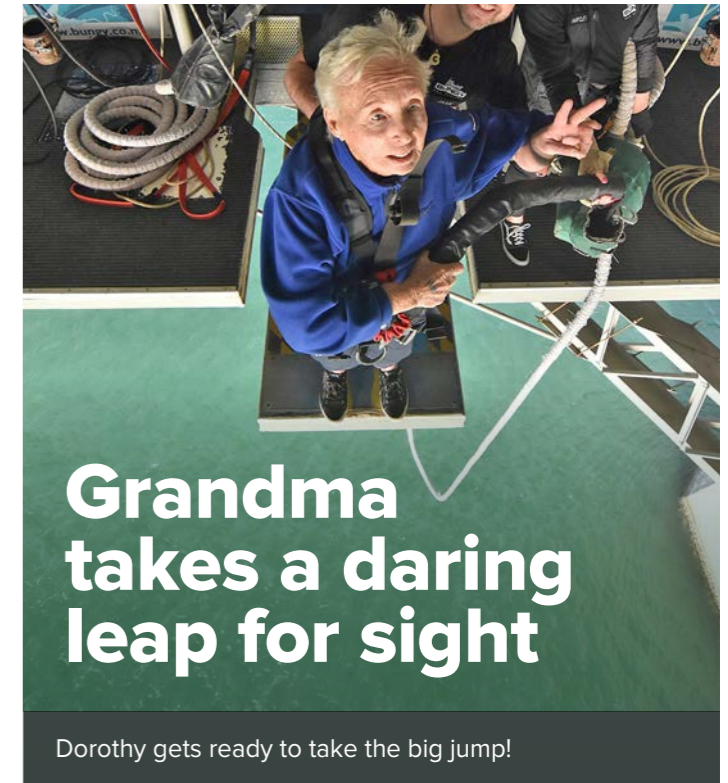
"As an artist, if I don't have vision, I would be lost. To give life, to give sight, it's an awesome thing to be gifted, to see with their own eyes the beauty of the world."

Fatu Feu'u with The Foundation's Engagement Director, Mارجي Mellisop.

"The only weapon I believe I have to try and help is to create art that makes people think about things."

'Ritual', another piece of work from Fatu's *Rainforest Series*, features on our limited edition tote bag, created in partnership with Viva magazine again this year.

You can get your own pair of limited edition frames at:
www.specsavers.co.nz



Grandma takes a daring leap for sight

Dorothy gets ready to take the big jump!

Dorothy Pattison, a long-term supporter of The Foundation, became the oldest person to bungee jump off the Auckland Harbour Bridge in July, to raise money for the needlessly blind in the Pacific.

At 91, dare-devil Dorothy set the record alongside her son Michael (60) and granddaughter Jeanie (24) and said that doing it with her family made it a particularly special experience.

With a long-term connection to Takapuna on Auckland's North Shore, Dorothy says she has seen the area from land, from the sea and even from the sky, but this was the first time she has seen it hanging by a rope from the bridge.

Dorothy has raised an incredible \$1000 for The Foundation, meaning she has restored sight to the equivalent of 40 needlessly blind people in the Pacific. We think that's pretty special. **Thank you, Dorothy.**

If you feel inspired by Dorothy, then you too can take on a challenge to raise money for The Foundation. The fundraising section on our website has lots of information and fun ideas to get you started.

Find out more by visiting
www.hollows.org.nz/fundraise



Our team in Fiji together in front of the Mobile Eye Clinic.

Update from the Pacific

It's been a challenging year for our eye care teams across the Pacific region. Kirti Prasad has been working closely with them to ensure they are safe and able to continue their essential work, in and around, the various Pacific States of Emergencies.

Kirti has been the General Manager of the Pacific Eye Institute (PEI) in Suva, Fiji and is currently acting as our Pacific Programmes Manager. In her 13 years with The Foundation she has also supported the beginning of the Mobile Eye Clinic (MEC), helping with local and regional Outreaches.

We spoke to Kirti about the situation for our teams in the Pacific at the moment:

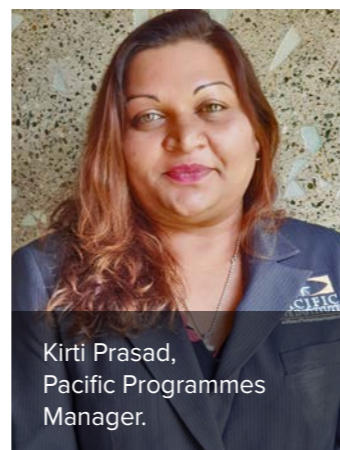
“Some of the hospitals where we perform eye operations are still operating on an emergency footing, so our eye care surgical backlog is increasing. The lockdown period has further contributed to the current backlog of surgical

eye patients and we are now seeing more people turning up with severe diabetes eye disease due to uncontrolled sugar levels.

Thank goodness that in Fiji we have the MEC, as it is the only way we can conduct surgeries outside of PEI at the moment. But the MEC can't cater for all of it. In Lautoka, even after spending two months there providing services in conjunction with the eye department, we were unable to clear the backlog of surgical eye patients before moving to Nadi. Everywhere the MEC travels we have more people turning up for surgery than we are able to accommodate.

This is happening all throughout the Pacific countries we work in. If the teams are able to perform surgeries, then they can maintain numbers, but everytime they have to stop because of a State of Emergency, our backlogs continue to increase.

I'm extremely proud of everything our teams throughout the Pacific are doing to address this backlog in what has been a year of immense upheaval. Their passion for their work and patients always shines through and their resilience is commendable”.



Kirti Prasad,
Pacific Programmes
Manager.

We announce the 2020 Humanity Awards Junior Ambassador



Last year we launched New Zealand's Fred Hollows Humanity Awards, a global movement to recognise compassionate children following in Fred's footsteps. Fred Hollows was a humanitarian, a person who, when seeing things that were not right, set about to change them.



Elly Roadley, our Junior Ambassador, with her teacher Hamish Ross and The Foundation's Engagement Director, Margi Mellsop.

This year we are delighted to announce that our Junior Ambassador is Elly Roadley from Whangaparaoa School.

With the outstanding nominations received, it was an incredibly difficult decision to decide on the 2021 Humanity Awards Junior Ambassador. However, Elly's nomination from her teacher, Hamish Ross, stood out above the others for her compassionate nature and selfless acts.

“Elly is a caring, thoughtful and responsible child who always puts others above herself,” says Hamish. “She is always helpful towards the younger children in our school and puts her hand up to help as a playground, community and sports leader. Elly is a valued member of her classroom and always shows respect to her

teachers and peers and is able to collaborate with any child, doing so without any bias or passing any judgement.”

“This year Elly decided to go on a Year 6 Grit camp. For this camp, she had to do something in order to raise some of the funds. Elly decided not only that she would do this, but that she would also go above and beyond and do more than required by raising enough money for not only herself, but others as well. She did this very secretly and under anonymity.”

We would also like to acknowledge our charity partner Specsavers, who has very kindly donated \$5,000, allowing Elly to extend her humanity by allocating these funds to a Fred Hollows Foundation NZ Pacific programme of her choice, to help us end avoidable blindness!

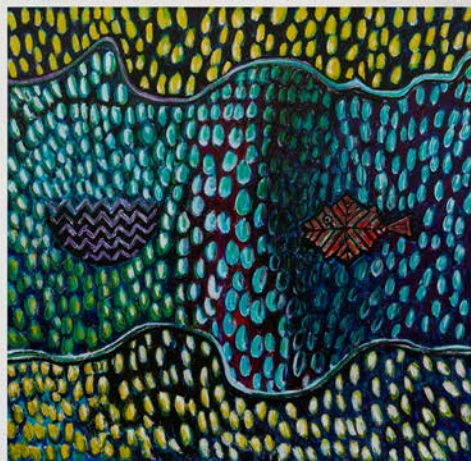
Good gifts Good deeds

**This Christmas don't just give a gift,
give the gift of sight.**

Our 2020 Gift of Sight collection features a new limited edition tote bag featuring the artwork 'Ritual' by internationally renowned Samoan-New Zealand artist Fatu Feu'u.



My bag saved someone's sight. **VIVA.CO.NZ**



The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ **Ritual by Fatu Feu'u**

This year the collection also features Christmas cards, handcrafted Masi earrings and mini-fan decorations perfect for hanging on your Christmas tree.

**Check out the 2020 cards and free gift catalogue enclosed, or visit
www.hollows.org.nz/gift-of-sight**

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