

From our patron

Sir Edmund Hillary



"FRED HOLLOWES was a remarkable New Zealander who believed that all people, regardless of where they lived, had the right to sight.

"There are over one million people in the world, in developing countries

like Nepal, Vietnam, Africa and throughout the Pacific, who have had their sight restored as a direct result of Fred Hollows' humanitarian work.

"I encourage you to support The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ so that they can carry on the work of this great New Zealander. You too can make a difference the world can see."

The right to sight

FRED HOLLOWES believed everyone had the right to sight, no matter where in the world they lived. He led a revolution that has:

- Restored the sight of one million people in Asia, Africa and the Pacific.
- Trained more than 750 eye surgeons.
- Introduced modern cataract surgery to remote, poor communities.
- Built lens laboratories in Eritrea and Nepal to bring down the cost of cataract surgery in developing countries.

HELP KEEP Fred's vision alive in the Pacific. There is still much work to be done.

- Around 80,000 people in the Pacific are blind.
- More than 80 percent of this blindness is preventable.
- 75 eye doctors and 300 nurses are needed to eradicate blindness in the Pacific. Currently there are only 11 doctors and 40 nurses.
- Cataract blindness can be cured by a 20-minute low cost operation, often costing around \$30, which immediately restores full sight.

THIS MAGAZINE tells the stories of Pacific doctors and nurses who, in the footsteps of Kiwi hero Fred Hollows, restore sight to the needlessly blind people living in remote communities in our Pacific neighbourhood. We follow the lives of patients who experience the miracle of seeing their families and contributing to their communities again after years of blindness. Many of the images have been captured by award winning, independent Australian photographer Sandy Scheltema, whose work features regularly in *The Age* in Melbourne.

■ ABOUT OUR COVER

Front: A Samoan celebration photographed by Sandy Scheltema. See more of her images from Samoa on pages 12 and 13. Inset photos: Fred Hollows doctors and nurses captured at work in the Pacific by Sandy Scheltema. Fred Hollows' image (centre) by Frank Violi. Back: Features an image of Fred at work by Michael Amendolia.

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■ **MOST IMPORTANTLY**, The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ would like to thank the generous New Zealand public. Without the donations of thousands of individuals, families, businesses, community groups, service clubs and schools, our sight-saving work would not be possible. And thanks to our wonderful volunteer Monique Bakker, who reminds us every day of the courage needed to live a life with blindness.



Welcome to INSIGHT

WHEN WE look at the Pacific, we marvel at great contrasts: between atolls and mountainous, remote, land-locked villages; between palm-fringed tourist resorts and nearby villages with no running water; lands of plenty that surround large pockets of poverty.

ONE OF THE GREATEST CONTRASTS WE SEE IN OUR WORK IS IN A PERSON'S LIFE BEFORE AND AFTER THE SIMPLE SURGERY WHICH RESTORES THEIR SIGHT. THIS MIRACLE IS DESPERATELY NEEDED FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PACIFIC PEOPLE, AND OUR MISSION IS TO MAKE SURE THESE PEOPLE RECEIVE THAT GIFT.

IN INSIGHT WE share some success stories of our work in the Pacific and the challenges we face as we work with our Pacific neighbours to improve eye health training and services. The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ is

known for its positive spirit and determination. In this spirit, and with your support, The Foundation is now developing a regional training institute so that Pacific doctors and nurses can fight the burden of blindness themselves.

Improving people's health is one of the most important ways of overcoming poverty and contributing to fairer lives.

Providing education and employment opportunities are also vital for long term improved lives and livelihoods. The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ is doing all these important activities in the Pacific. We trust you will enjoy reading the stories of the people we work with, the patients whose lives they have changed, and our plans to fight blindness in our Pacific neighbourhood.

CARMEL WILLIAMS

Executive Director
The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ