

**WINTER 2020 NEWSLETTER**

The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ

# YOUR VISION



**The Fred Hollows  
Foundation NZ**

# Message from Craig Fisher

Board Chair

The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ



## One of the honours of a chairman's role is that of getting to thank people for doing good.

Last year was an expectational one for The Foundation as you will see from the achievements outlined in this newsletter, and that is thanks to Team Fred; the many wonderful people involved in The Foundation intent on keeping Fred's vision alive of eliminating avoidable blindness.

Our donors are a member of Team Fred, along with our many partners and collaborators, and our fantastic staff in New Zealand and the Pacific. The passion, the skills and commitment exercised everyday by this team is truly inspiring.

It is the strength of Team Fred that gives me great confidence as our organisation navigates the COVID-19 pandemic that continues throughout the globe. We are ensuring the safety of our Pacific neighbours is of utmost priority and continue to stay in constant contact with our Pacific teams and help them in any way we can. In this newsletter, you can read just what we are doing to look after our Pacific neighbours during this uncertain time.

An integral part of the success of our

organisation is the committed, skilled and passionate captains, coaches and leaders of Team Fred. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge a very special leader who served and guided Team Fred to realise the impact it now has.

Our Executive Director Andrew Bell left us in late March 2020 to concentrate on his health and family after being diagnosed with the early onset of idiopathic Parkinson's disease. Andrew joined The Foundation in 2010 as Programmes Director and was appointed to lead the organisation as Executive Director in 2012. In his decade with the organisation, Andrew led improvements to all aspects of The Foundation in his execution of the board's strategy resulting in a more effective, impactful, and sustainable organisation. And all in a humble, caring style that has grown and maintained a great culture within The Foundation. Andrew truly did Team Fred proud.

We are very lucky that due to the depth of talent within The Foundation, we now have Sharon Orr, our Finance and Operations Director, as our Acting Chief Executive Officer. Team Fred remains in extremely capable hands.

Wishing you and yours continued safety and good health in these challenging times.

**Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the work of The Foundation.**

## What we achieved in 2019

We were busy in 2019 tackling avoidable blindness throughout the Pacific, but we couldn't have achieved what we did without our incredible supporters.



**101,887 patient consultations** to detect eye conditions have been carried out.



**5,812 sight-saving surgeries** have been performed.



**18 Pacific eye doctors and nurses** graduated.



**13,116 patients** were screened for diabetes eye disease.



**1,827 patients** received laser treatment for diabetes eye disease.



**13,929 patients** were given spectacles.



**7 eye clinics** in operation across the Pacific.

**Sir Robert George Mappin Fenwick**

KNZM KSTJ

1951 - 2020



## Sir Rob Fenwick, a former trustee, Chairman and much respected supporter of our work, sadly passed away earlier this year.

We are so grateful and privileged to have been served by a person of Rob's calibre, influence, tenacity and courage.

Rob inherited his commitment to eye care from his father, Dr George Fenwick. George was a distinguished ophthalmologist who was instrumental in opening eye care services in Fiji in the 1980's.

Rob joined the board of The Foundation in 2007 and assumed the role of Chair in 2010, only standing down from the role in 2015 when the medical advice was to reduce his commitments.

In 2015, The Foundation launched the Mobile Eye Clinic in Fiji. This presented an opportunity to formally acknowledge the three decades of commitment of the Fenwick family to eye care in Fiji.

Rob was always generous in his praise of the efforts of The Fred Hollows' team, but he never allowed anything less than ambitious targets to be set. We remember one of his most challenging questions to be 'but why wouldn't we....?'. Rob's contribution was significant and always delivered with his characteristic smile and good humour.

**Kua hinga te tōtara i te wao nui a Tāne.**

A mighty tōtara has fallen in the forest of Tāne. But The Foundation's forest will forever be richer for it.

# Goodbye to Andrew Bell

During his ten years with us, Andrew has led The Foundation to achieve some significant milestones.

**2010**

Since joining Andrew has seen nearly 300 students graduate



**2015**

Opening of the Mobile Eye Clinic, Fiji



**2016**

The unveiling of Fred Hollows Way



**2017**

Andrew joined fundraisers at the Auckland Marathon



**2019**

Andrew meets Clarence at opening of the Vanuatu National Eye Centre



*“Thank you so much for all your generous support. We have donors who have been with The Foundation since it started way back in 1992 and we have new donors signing up every week. The story of making blind people see, and how we do it, continues to appeal to New Zealanders. Amazingly, your generosity has also had the multiplier effect applied. Restoring sight is proven to be the medical intervention with the ‘biggest bang for buck’, estimated to be as much as eight times the original investment. So not only are we careful not to waste a cent, restoring the sight of one family member has a positive economic impact on their whole family. Now that’s what Fred called ‘getting the job done’.”*

You can read Andrew’s full farewell letter to you on our website.  
[www.hollows.org.nz/andrew-bell](http://www.hollows.org.nz/andrew-bell)



**2014**

Andrew visits Modilon Eye Clinic, Papua New Guinea, during upgrade works



**2015**

Opening of the Regional Eye Centre, Solomon Islands

**2018**

Andrew meets the Governor-General of New Zealand and Patron of The Foundation, The Rt Hon Dame Patsy Reddy



## The Challenges of 2020

We are so pleased to welcome our new Programmes Director, Peter Raynes, to The Foundation.



Peter joined us at the beginning of the year and has a wealth of experience leading programmes throughout the Pacific and has lived in both Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste.

*“As a newcomer to New Zealand, I want to take this moment to express how impressed I am with how Kiwis are responding to these incredibly troubling times.”*

One of his first major challenges has been leading our teams as they respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and the devastation of Cyclone Harold.

The reason we exist as an organisation is because the health systems in the countries we work are still developing. Someone who is left blind by cataracts, might not be able

to access eye care services due to limited medical professionals, facilities, supplies and equipment.

It is the same when we look at testing and treatment for COVID-19 by our Pacific neighbours. Their healthcare systems will reach full capacity a lot sooner than ours in New Zealand. The threat of COVID-19 remains very real and a very frightening possibility.

*“We have worked hard to ensure the safety of our teams and clinics by sourcing and delivering Personal Protective Equipment. We remain open for the most urgent, sight-threatening conditions only. Whilst this is incredibly necessary, it means our teams face the tough challenge of a patient backlog that grows every day our clinics are closed.”*

Many of our senior clinicians are working with their local Ministry of Health Departments to support the planning and preparation for COVID-19.

A large part of the work we do involves training eye specialists and with the closure of universities, we have worked hard to return our students home. To ensure their education has minimal disruption they are learning online, however our next challenge is how we continue their practical education if restrictions continue into the future.

*“I want to take this moment to thank you for your ongoing support. Without it, we would simply not be able to respond to this crisis in the way we are.”*



Clive and his building team in 1962, Solomon Islands



Clive and Eileen now and at their son's baptism in 1965

## Eileen and Clive have made Fred's legacy their legacy

**Eileen and Clive have been supporters of The Foundation for the last ten years and have recently decided to leave a gift in their will so that our work continues into the future.**

Eileen has always felt an affinity with Fred. Like Fred, she grew up in Dunedin and they both attended the same primary school, with her brothers there at the same time as him.

As a young teacher, Eileen worked in Fiji and then went to Solomon Islands where she met, and fell in love with, Clive whilst they were both volunteering. They returned to New Zealand to get married and then went on to live in Samoa whilst they grew their family, eventually having six children.

*"I have always admired Fred Hollows because he was only interested in doing his best for the poor people and he did so much good in Australia and the rest of the world. It is just wonderful that he had people of the Pacific and elsewhere trained to fix eye problems. He did such marvellous work."*

Eileen also reads every day and can't imagine losing her sight.

Several years ago Clive and Eileen got the chance to hear Fred's wife, Gabi Hollows, speak and decided that they wanted to continue supporting the Pacific and its needlessly blind for many years to come. They took the extremely generous decision to leave a gift for The Foundation in their will.

Having lived throughout the Pacific, they've both seen for themselves the importance of having local medical professionals helping their own people, which is one of the reasons they originally chose to support The Foundation. They also love that their money goes directly to the Pacific and the education of local people. Fred, and his sustainable and effective approach, inspires them both.

If you would like to know more information about leaving a gift in your will then please contact Karen Blake:  
[kblake@hollows.nz](mailto:kblake@hollows.nz) / 0800 227 229

# Our 2020 Junior Ambassador six months on



**Last year we launched New Zealand's inaugural Humanity Awards to help recognise a new generation of Fred's who are making a positive difference in their community.**

Sari Moore, from Nelson, became our first ever Junior Ambassador and with the help of her classmates, nominated the Mobile Eye Clinic in Fiji to receive \$5,000 from our charity partner Specsavers.

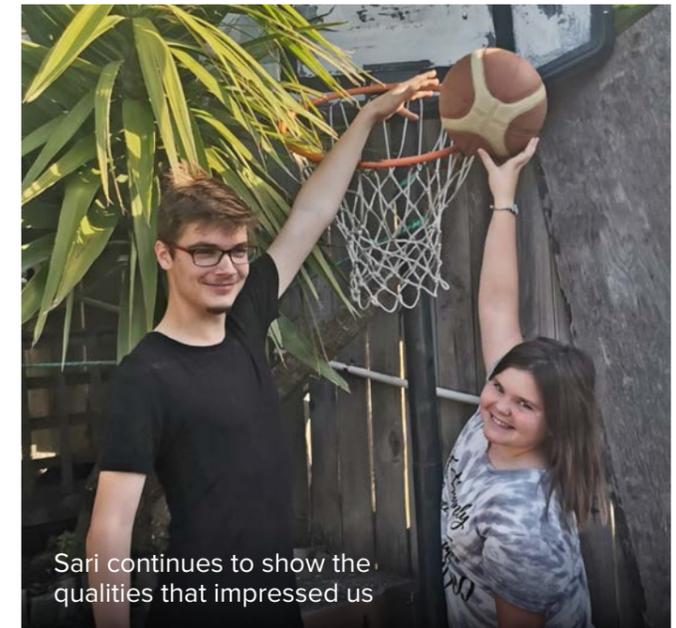
*"I feel really special that my class and I chose to help so many people to see again through the Mobile Eye Clinic."*

We got in touch with Sari whilst New Zealand was in Level 4 Lockdown to find out what she had been doing, six months on from receiving her award.

Sari and her family had recently encountered some backpackers from Germany who were caught in the lockdown restrictions. They were living in their car as they were unable to find accommodation, so Sari and her family invited them to come and stay. On the day of their arrival, Sari made sure she was up extra early to prepare where they were sleeping, so they would feel comfortable during their stay.

One has since returned home to Germany, but every day Sari spends time with their remaining guest and they have begun playing basketball together.

Sari told us how now, more than ever, she believes it is important for people to show kindness to one another. She believes that by being kind to someone, that person will then be kind to someone else they encounter.



Sari continues to show the qualities that impressed us

Sari says that thanks to being named our Junior Ambassador, she has a sense of pride that she didn't have before and a higher expectation of her actions. Her mum told us that every time Sari tells people she is a Fred Hollows' Junior Ambassador, her eyes light up.

**We are once again looking for children aged 10 and 11 who strive to make the world around them a better place. We know that there have been incredible acts of kindness across New Zealand in this time of COVID-19 and we believe Fred would like to acknowledge these young humanitarians who follow his simple premise that: "The basic attribute of mankind is to look after each other."**

To nominate a child who shows compassion, please head to our website:  
[www.hollows.org.nz/humanity-awards](http://www.hollows.org.nz/humanity-awards)

# We met Her Majesty The Queen

Five staff members from across Vanuatu, Tonga, Samoa and Auckland attended a special reception hosted by Her Majesty The Queen at Buckingham Palace late last year. The event marked the completion of The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust who has been supporting the diabetes eye disease programme of The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ since 2015. The programme has had a significant impact on diabetes eye disease services throughout the Pacific.



**Since the start of Level 4 Lockdown there has been a sharp decline in the number of donations we normally receive.**

This is threatening our ability to reach out to the Pacific Islands and meet the growing number of patients that will require immediate eye care treatment once restrictions are eased.

**Please help us do that.**



**What your support today and in the future will do:**

1. Help get our clinics back up and running. Our patients need us to be ready as soon as restrictions are lifted.
2. Provide support to staff in countries where Cyclone Harold has wreaked havoc.
3. Take away the fear and give hope to patients, many who are elderly, who still await their long-delayed consultations and operations.
4. Recommence in-country Outreaches to far-flung islands, where many patients are waiting for an operation.
5. Allow us to deploy additional resources to clinics including Personal Protective Equipment to keep them safe.
6. Get our students back studying - when this is over our graduates will be needed more than ever.

**In this crisis, we need your support more than ever. Please help us help those who need us now.**

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