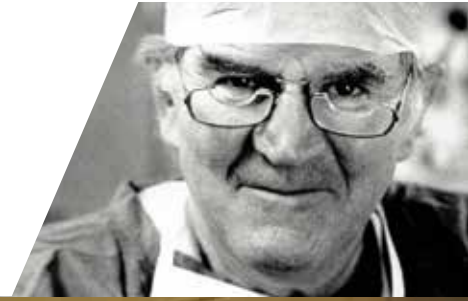


**The Fred Hollows  
Foundation NZ**



Patient Hepi, two years on:  
You gave me a new life!  
**Thank you.**

Photo: Topic / James Erising - Trussell.

# Even greater need after Cyclone Pam

Being blind in the aftermath of a storm is a terrifying experience. Previously familiar pathways and landmarks are destroyed and blocked by obstacles, and it's challenging to navigate this new environment. Miraculously, the eye clinic in the country's capital Port Vila was spared from major damage. Our team travels there in May to hold an extended surgical outreach, bringing relief to the needlessly blind in Vanuatu.

You have a huge impact in helping blind people. See for yourself - follow us on Facebook and Twitter for live updates and photos from the Pacific.



Photo: Topic / James Ensing-Trussell.



Photo: Michael Bradley.

In February, Auckland supporters and the public got a firsthand look at the clinic before it was shipped to Fiji.

## Mobile eye clinic brings vital services to thousands in Fiji

Fijians now have even greater access to free eye care services

The Pacific's first mobile eye clinic is now at work delivering eye care to needlessly blind people in Fiji. The New Zealand-built clinic took to the road in May with free eye checks, spectacles, cataract surgeries and diabetes laser treatments. The clinic will first bring eye care to patients in areas close to Suva, later travelling to the remote northern and western areas of Viti Levu. It will be based at local hospitals, serving patients who would not otherwise have access to eye care.

Funded by Foundation supporters, the clinic will ensure thousands more people get the critical eye care services they need. In addition, Specsavers are generously contributing towards the clinic's operating costs, providing \$50,000 per year over the next three years.

As we go to print, the first 300 patients have been screened aboard the clinic at Wainibokasi - watch this space!





Janice Tan, Tiffany and Celine Goh served candy floss to hundreds of people on Auckland's Franklin Road.

## Teens inspired to show their sweet support

Motivated to help people in the Pacific see again, Kiwis across the country have been holding fundraisers in their communities.

A group of inspired teenagers served up candy floss at the Christmas lights on Auckland's Franklin Road. With no set price for the bag of candyfloss, hundreds of people gave what they could and generously raised \$6,500 for The Foundation.

Further south, the Mangaweka community led by Irene Loder, banded together for a gala day and evening of fine dining, raising nearly \$2,500.

If you're keen to fundraise for The Foundation in your community, check out our fundraising kit at [hollows.org.nz/get-involved/community-fundraising](http://hollows.org.nz/get-involved/community-fundraising) or contact Jane Carlson on 0800 227 229.



The work of The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ is generously funded in part by the New Zealand Aid Programme and Australian Aid (AusAID).

The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ is a registered charitable entity under the Charities Act 2005. Donations made to us are used to support our programs across the Pacific, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste. We welcome all queries and feedback — please email us at [info@hollows.org.nz](mailto:info@hollows.org.nz) or phone 0800 227 229. ISSN 2253-3796 (Print) ISSN 2253-380X (Online)



## Outreach program + mobile services = greater access to eye care

For most New Zealanders, accessing health services is as simple as getting in the car, or catching public transport. We accept the wait in a traffic jam, or cost of prescriptions in return for access to world-class health care.

But for so many blind people living in remote Pacific villages, getting access to a hospital or clinic is incredibly challenging. There isn't always a bus to catch, or money for transport. And that's assuming there is an eye doctor or nurse to see them: so often, this isn't the case. The challenge of travelling great distances to reach a primary health care service can prove almost impossible for some, especially for people who are blind and reliant on family for every basic need.

That's why it's so important that we continue our outreach program, going to countries like Tonga where there is no Foundation-trained eye doctor to perform operations. We must continue 'reaching out' to patients like Hepi (featured on the front cover), who our nurses identify as desperately needing sight restoring surgery.

The advances in medical technology mean that mobile services such as our mobile eye clinic in Fiji are an obvious means of providing greater access to eye care. They complement our outreach work, dramatically increasing the numbers of patients who can be treated.

Making this a reality only happens because of your generous support. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to getting eye care services out to places and patients in need.

Andrew Bell  
Executive Director

# A life free from blindness

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Hepi tells us how two years on from surgery, life is transformed

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*You might recognise Hepi whose sight was restored two years ago. When we first met her in Tonga, she wept as she told us about the toll cataract blindness had taken on her family. Blindness made her feel incomplete and a burden on her loved ones. The cataracts in both her eyes meant she had never seen her then nine-year-old adopted daughter, Silvia. But worst of all, her husband Ovini was faced with the difficult decision of leaving his role as pastor to a local church, to be her full-time carer.*

*Thanks to the generous support of Kiwis, Hepi had the cataract surgery she needed. Staff from The Foundation's team recently visited her in Nuku'alofa to catch up and learn about her new life.*

Hepi beams with overwhelming joy as she watches us approach her front door. It's clear as day: her life is again complete.

Hepi tells us that if it were not for the cataract surgery, she would still be inside all day, sitting and doing nothing. "Before, when people came and talked to me, I was just talking to shadows. Now, I can read even without glasses", she explains.

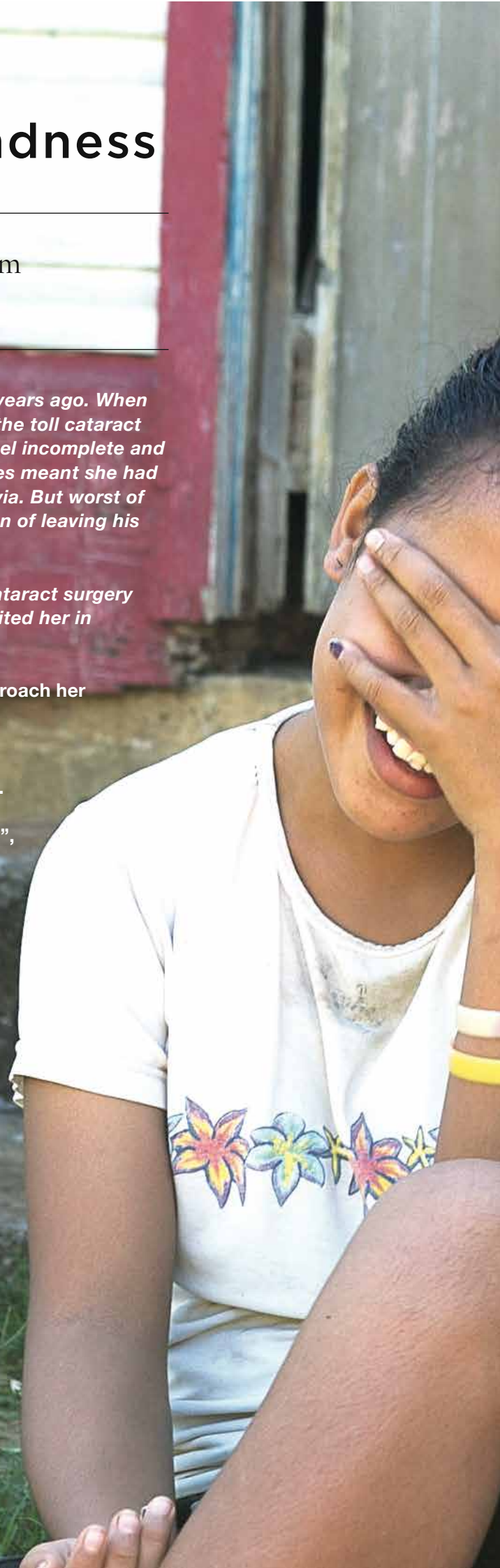
"I feel I was given a new life" Hepi says, her eyes brightening. She goes on to describe how now, she's more connected to her family and friends, catching the bus to visit one of her daughters in a nearby village, and joining other women at community events.

Hepi's daughter Silvia has also reaped the benefits. She's free to be a child again, visiting friends and playing sports, instead of caring for her mum. The day her mum had her eye bandage taken off, Silvia arrived home from school to find her washing the dishes. She said cheekily, "Oh good, your sight is restored now. You can do the housework!" Hepi replied, "Yes, and I can now see how untidy your room is!"

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"I just want to say thank you for the people who make donations. If it wasn't for you, my eyesight would not have been restored. I'm sending my love and appreciation to you."

- HEPI





## Your impact in Tonga

The April outreach to Nuku'alofa resulted in 118 sight-restoring surgeries, with many other eye checks and treatments. There is still a lot of cataract blindness to address in this island nation, so the team hope to visit again before the year's end.

There are three dedicated eye nurses working on the ground to screen and treat patients in Nuku'alofa. They're eagerly awaiting the arrival of Dr Duke – the first Tongan eye doctor to be trained at The Foundation's Pacific Eye Institute. He is due to graduate from training in 2017.

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## Sight you've saved – Nuku'alofa



As a result of an eye infection, 12-year-old Mosese developed a painful condition called orbital cellulitis. As soon as Outreach Team Leader Dr Mundi touched down in Tonga, he went straight to the hospital to assess Mosese's worsening condition. Knowing that time was critical he prescribed a strong course of antibiotics to stop the infection spreading close to his brain.



Neomai is aged 76 and had cataract surgery on one eye. She's looking forward to doing everyday things around her home again. "Thank you very much."



Hepi, her husband Pastor Ovini, and daughter Silvia before the cataract surgery that transformed their family's life.



Ernie and Rae Johnston's bequest: helping others look forward to a future of hope and opportunity. Photo: Vlad Sokhin.

# Papua New Guinea Clinic

## New operating theatre for Madang – a living gift

There's wonderful news for needlessly blind people in Madang, Papua New Guinea – a new operating theatre is now open for business.

This new theatre – built to international standards – effectively doubles the opportunity for people to have their sight restored in the region. In the fight against avoidable blindness, great facilities in which to deliver quality eye care are critical for effective outcomes.

Papua New Guinea has just nine eye doctors for a population of 7.2 million. The chronic lack of eye doctors means that thousands of people needlessly suffer from treatable forms of blindness.

In the first year alone it's anticipated that close to 1,000 people will have their sight restored in the new operating theatre. Having a first-rate theatre will bring more people in for treatment, and will inspire local doctors and nurses to come and be involved in eye care.

The costs of building and materials for this new clinic were largely covered by a selfless bequest from

Montague Ernest (Ernie) Johnston. Ernie, who passed away in 2013 and his wife Rae, who passed away several years earlier, felt strongly about making a difference to people's lives.

Speaking about her parents' generosity, daughter Vonney remembers how much it meant for her parents to bring kindness into people's lives. She recalls that the greatest pleasure for her dad was to look out at his beautiful garden, watching plants grow and birds visit. Even though he was confined to a wheelchair in his old age, he always said, "at least I've got my sight." This one sense became his world.

Vonney says, "Imagining other people not being able to have their sight would have saddened him terribly. I think this is his way of giving back to people who haven't had the privilege of their sight all their life."

Ernie and Rae's gift lives on in the thousands of people who are benefiting from having their sight restored. Thanks to their kindness, the story of blindness in the region is changing for the better.

**If you would like more information about leaving a gift in your Will to The Foundation, please contact Kate Dixon on 09 304 1074 or email [kdixon@hollows.org.nz](mailto:kdixon@hollows.org.nz).**

# 2014 was a stellar sight-restoring year

Last year, your donations meant that thousands of needlessly blind people were able to see again. Thank you for giving these people back their sight and their lives.



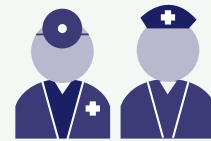
**6,307**

sight restoring surgeries were performed



**59,936**

patients had access to an eye care worker who checked their eyes



**27**

trained local eye care workers graduated, returning to their communities to help more needlessly blind people see



**39**

outreaches across the Pacific, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste



**1,498**

diabetes laser treatment sessions



**12,279**

patients received a pair of eye glasses



**1**

operating theatre built in Papua New Guinea will help thousands more get their sight back



Photos: Michael Bradley.

When an eye bandage is removed after cataract surgery, patients' reactions can vary but their joy and relief is always palpable. Suddenly, often for the first time in years, they can see their loved ones and the world in technicolour. It's an emotional, revealing moment unlike any other. These photos were taken at last year's outreach to Savai'i, the largest island in Samoa.

**The smiles speak for themselves – thank you for making them possible.**



Photo: Krissy Dwyer.

# Watch the video making people across NZ cry and smile


It's love at second sight when blind couple Timwia and Nawere see each other again

You might remember husband and wife patients Timwia and Nawere. They had both been blind and waiting for cataract surgery for more than two years on the outer islands of Kiribati. After 50 years of marriage they had no hope of ever seeing each other again until a Foundation-trained eye nurse visited their island and told them about the outreach team who were coming. Their incredible transformation was captured on film and if you haven't yet had a chance to see it you can watch it at [hollows.org.nz/watch](http://hollows.org.nz/watch).

If you don't have a computer and would like a DVD, let us know and we can post one to you.



## 3 easy ways to donate

 Mail the coupon below to  
PO Box 99909, Newmarket  
Auckland 1149

 Call free on  
0800 227 229

 Donate online  
[hollows.org.nz](http://hollows.org.nz)

To become a Miracle Maker, use the form below or visit [hollows.org.nz/donate](http://hollows.org.nz/donate) or phone 0800 227 229

### STEP 1: My gift

\$25  \$50  \$100  \$200  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### STEP 2: Donation frequency

One-off  Monthly by credit card

### STEP 3: My payment

Cheque/Money order enclosed made out to  
The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ

Debit my credit card (please circle)  
VISA | MasterCard | AMEX | Diners Club

Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

### STEP 4: My details

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_

Family name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb \_\_\_\_\_ Donor ID \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me information about:

Monthly giving by direct debit  Leaving a gift in my Will