



The Fred Hollows  
Foundation NZ

# YOUR **VISION**

**SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2026**



**“My eyes  
are magic  
now!”**

Philomena, 4,  
from Fiji

# Here's how you're making a difference!

In 2024, you helped make this happen:



Thank you for helping **restore Philomena's sight**

You're helping Pacific eye doctors reach **the remotest communities**

**Your incredible support helps train local people passionate about better eye care.**

Growing up, Dr Nola Pikacha's parents instilled in her that she could do whatever she wanted. As Solomon Islands' first female eye doctor, her mother was an ideal role model.

Supported by The Foundation and with your help, Dr Nola

completed her Masters in Ophthalmology at the Pacific Eye Institute in Suva, Fiji. Now, she works across the Pacific to restore sight, including in the most remote communities.

Dr Nola was proudly part of last year's outreach to Tokelau, one of the world's remotest places. Screening 702 people – a remarkable 94% of the Tokelau



**2024**  
training highlights:



Your commitment is helping to train the **next generation of eye care specialists**

## **Wonderful donor support is enabling children like Philomena to access vital eye surgery.**

When Philomena was born with cataracts in both eyes, her mother, Ana, became worried for her future.

As Philomena grew, she learned to move confidently around her home and village, and Ana knew

her courageous little girl would find a path in life even if she stayed blind.

Luckily, in 2024, your generosity allowed Fiji's Pacific Eye Institute to run its second Children's Outreach programme, where Philomena's eyesight was restored. This brave four-year-old wasn't scared as nurses prepared her for surgery,

knowing it would bring her greatest wish – to see her mother's face.

When Philomena's bandages were removed, she saw her mother for the very first time, whispering, "My eyes are magic now."

**Thank you for your role in transforming Philomena's future.**

population – the team identified around 40 people in need of eye surgery.

**"Tokelau is a good example of what is possible when we work together." – Dr Nola**

Thank you for working with us to ensure more local eye doctors and nurses can help their Pacific communities.



**“** All my training was supported by The Foundation. As an eye doctor, I'm the result of our dedicated supporters, like you, and their kind donations.”

**– Dr Nola**

## **With your support, we're reducing barriers to eye care training in the Pacific.**

Solomon Islands' isolating geography makes it extremely difficult for many people to receive essential eye care. So we're excited to share that thanks to your dedication, we will begin satellite training for eye care students at hospitals across the

Pacific - forming the cornerstone of next year's training strategy.

This initiative will enable us to grow student numbers, increase surgical experience, and perform more surgeries for the people of Solomon Islands and the Pacific. The new training sites will be at the Regional Eye Centre in Solomon Islands, Tupua Tamasese Meaole Hospital in Samoa, and

Aspen Medical facilities in Fiji.

Importantly, this will improve access to training in remote communities, and allow more students and graduates to remain in their home countries where they can go on to restore sight in their own communities.

**Thank you for helping make this exciting new approach possible.**



## Meet our new Fred Hollows **Humanity Awards Junior Ambassador!**

We are proud to announce that the 2025 winner of our Humanity Awards is 10-year-old Ollie Clarke.

Ollie was nominated by his Scout leader, Christine Halliday, for his commitment, kindness and leadership.

“Ollie is the heart of what Scout Law stands for: doing what’s right, being positive, and having respect. He’s thoughtful, caring, and always looking out for others,” says Christine.

Ollie is a mentor to younger Cubs and is always ready to help at fundraisers and working bees.

Ollie was presented with a certificate and a goodie bag at a surprise presentation in November. Thanks to our partners at Specsavers, he received \$5,000 to donate to a Fred Hollows Foundation NZ Pacific Programme of his choice. He was also gifted \$1,000 – thanks to Corporate Traveller and Donaldson Brown NZ – to implement a school or community initiative.

## World Sight Day celebrated across the Pacific

In October, eye care specialists came together to celebrate World Sight Day.

Activities included visits to workplaces, schools and community groups, and public engagement through radio, events and eye health promotions. Teams across the Pacific distributed educational materials and resources, shared practical eye safety tips, and reinforced the message of this year’s World Sight Day theme: Love Your Eyes.

The National Eye Department of Solomon Islands joined forces with the Regional Eye Centre in Honiara to celebrate. They conducted free eye screenings for children from Lord Howe Settlement, with senior staff member Kaitu Aisake saying:

“Across the globe today, it’s estimated that about 450 million children live with some form of vision impairment. That number is set to rise if we do not aggressively address the issue now.”

These celebrations highlight the importance of eye health and offer a chance to reflect on the incredible work being done across the Pacific, thanks to your incredible support.

