



**The Fred Hollows  
Foundation NZ**

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**Annual Report  
2013**

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# Forewords

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We finished 2013 in a strong financial position which has enabled us to commit to considerable work in 2014. Thanks to the support of our donors and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) we are thrilled to be building world-class facilities in Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Fiji.

The new Regional Eye Clinic in Honiara, Solomon Islands, will provide the infrastructure needed to strengthen the country's eye care program. New facilities in Madang, Papua New Guinea will afford an improved operating and teaching environment for training local doctors and nurses. Finally, the new Mobile Eye Clinic in Fiji will ensure that our talented medical staff can perform miracles in the regions. This clinic is being entirely funded by our public supporters and we thank them for having confidence in what we do on their behalf.

Investment in infrastructure demonstrates that eye care is a priority, not a luxury, and is deserving of our ongoing support.

It is very satisfying to be laying the groundwork for high quality, sustainable eye care systems across the region.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Fenwick'.

Rob Fenwick CNZM  
Chair



Restoring the sight of a patient who was needlessly blind is one of the most special moments I've been privileged to witness. When the bandage is removed, they look around and see their family, incredulous because the nightmare of their blindness is over. This is never anything short of miraculous.

One of my main responsibilities is to ensure this scene is repeated thousands of times each year. In 2013, we performed more sight-restoring surgeries, saw more patients and dispensed more spectacles than ever before. A total of 194 eye health graduates are now trained to work in their communities, with 51 in training in 2014. More people can now see, and more local eye care staff are equipped to deliver eye care in future.

Our achievements over the last year would not have been possible without the generous backing of thousands of donors, trusts, foundations, governments and corporate partners. These supporters voted with their donor dollars to give needlessly blind people their sight back. For their incredible commitment to our cause, we are both humbled and grateful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Bell'.

Andrew Bell  
Executive Director





Patient Vani sees the smiles of her grandchildren for the first time. Photo: Zoomfiji Photography.

# Vision

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The Fred Hollows Foundation works for a world where no one is needlessly blind.

# Goal

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To restore sight to the needlessly blind through the provision of sight-saving surgeries and treatments, and by training local eye health specialists to deliver eye care services in their own communities.

# What we do

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## 1. Restore sight

We perform thousands of sight-restoring surgeries and treatments every year at our clinics and through our surgical outreach program into underserved communities.

## 2. Train doctors and nurses

Training local eye doctors and nurses is the only way to eliminate avoidable blindness in a sustainable way. We provide specialist medical training to local doctors and nurses so they can take over the sight-restoring work carried out by visiting surgical teams.

## 3. Build local eye care systems

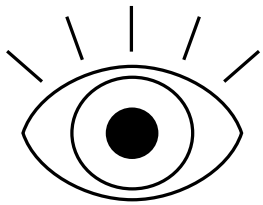
Our graduates often return home to work in challenging and professionally isolating environments. We provide ongoing logistical and technical support so they can deliver high quality eye care while continuing to improve their skills.

## 4. Ensure our approach is tested and effective

We aim to have the greatest possible impact on avoidable blindness with the resources we have. We are committed to ensuring our eye care programs are locally appropriate and meet international best practice.

# Impact report

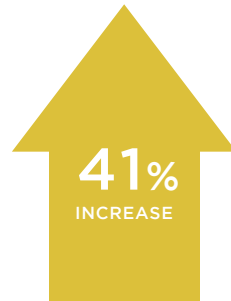
In 2013, we're proud to have achieved the following results for the people of the Pacific, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste.



## Restoring sight

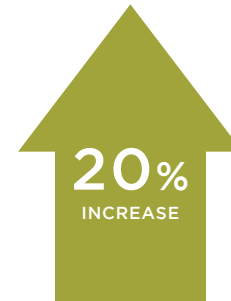
**5,981**

Sight-restoring surgeries performed.



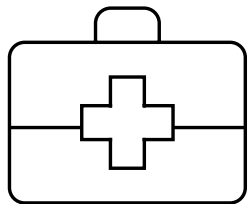
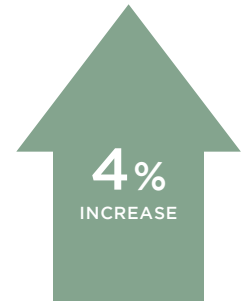
**63,647**

Patient consultations with our eye care teams.



**13,429**

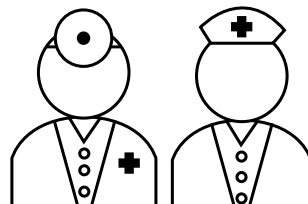
Spectacles dispensed on outreach and at our clinics.



## Outreach

**29**

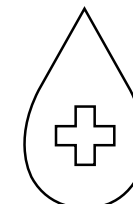
Surgical outreaches performed across 8 countries.



## Training

**29**

Eye health professionals graduated, including 4 eye doctors and 25 eye health nurses. 51 are currently in training.



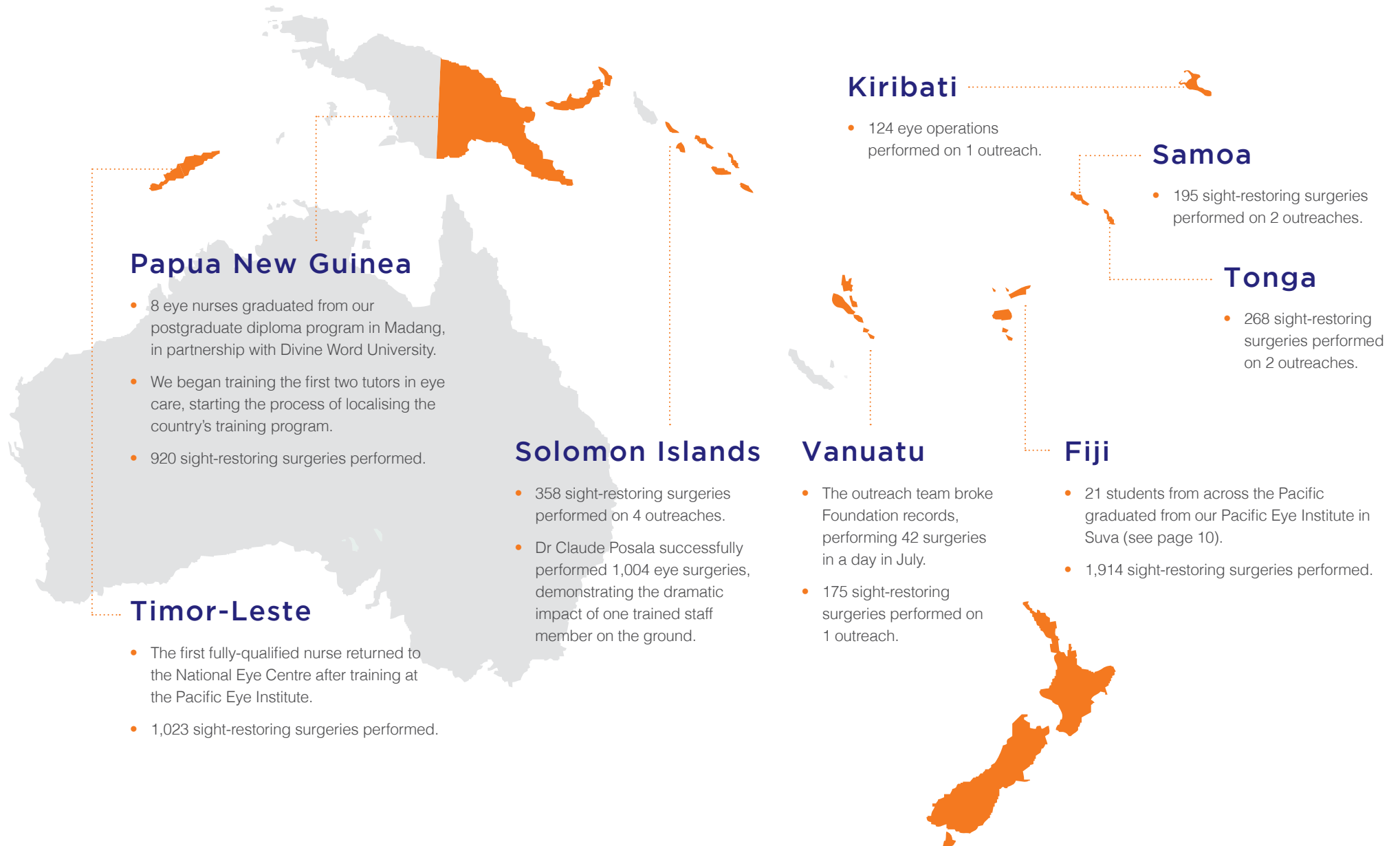
## Fighting diabetic retinopathy

**1,338**

Diabetes laser treatments performed (Fiji).

5 diabetes eye care nurses graduated, with 6 more now in training.

# Country highlights







# Luke's story

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“My eyes are shining now. The doctors are making me live again.”

Luke Teaman is in his seventies and lives in a remote part of Solomon Islands. Before meeting The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ's medical team, he'd been cataract blind in both eyes for many years.

“He can't go into the garden because he wanders off and gets lost,” said his nephew. “He can't cook because he cuts himself with the knife. He can only sit in the house.”

Luke's family heard our outreach team was coming to Gizo and

decided to take him for eye surgery. The cost of petrol for the four-hour-long trip was NZD \$80, so they borrowed money for the journey. The boat ride was a rough one, but they arrived safely and settled into the makeshift camp at the old hospital.

Gizo is the hometown of some of our key medical staff, so the outreach has special significance for them. In the space of a morning, they invited each patient in, tested their vision and prepared them for surgery. Luke was led by his family into the operating theatre, all of them hoping for a positive result.

After just 20 minutes Luke was led out with a bandage on his eye. The next day he returned to the clinic to check whether the operation had been successful. Foundation eye nurses took off his bandage and immediately, Luke's face beamed with a heart-warming smile. The surgery was a success. Now, Luke is mobile, independent, and can once again contribute to family and community life.

# Diabetes

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There is enormous concern globally about the increasing level of diabetes. Seven out of ten of the world's worst incidence rates of diabetes are found in the Pacific.

The escalating problem of its related eye condition, diabetic retinopathy, risks overloading the already scarce eye care services in the region. With this in mind, we have taken the lead to develop strategies and train personnel to detect and treat the disease.

Sight loss from diabetic retinopathy cannot be reversed, but regular eye examinations, timely laser treatment and closely managed blood sugar levels can prevent the situation worsening. Early detection, treatment and intervention by specially-trained staff will allow thousands of patients to retain their vision.

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**Diabetic retinopathy** affects people with diabetes whose delicate retinal blood vessels are more likely to weaken and expand, leak, or bleed, resulting in scarring in and about the retina (the “seeing” layer of the eye). This results in the gradual and painless loss of vision in one or both eyes.

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Foundation-trained Dr Shereen Aiyub with a diabetes patient.



## How we're tackling diabetic retinopathy

- Training specialist eye care staff from across the region to help people in their own communities – 25 diabetes eye care specialists have been trained to date.
- Screening and treating patients in the Diabetes Eye Clinic at our Pacific Eye Institute and in Lautoka, Fiji, at our clinic in Madang, Papua New Guinea and in Nuku'alofa, Tonga.
- Screening patients in rural Fijian communities through our diabetes outreach program.
- Launching the Fijian Mobile Eye Clinic, in 2014.
- Launching the Regional Eye Health Centre in Honiara, Solomon Islands, in 2015.
- Providing portable lasers to treat patients in communities far from hospital services and developing plans to make them available in isolated Pacific islands.
- Commissioning contextual research to better understand the challenge and inform efficient, cost-effective solutions.

# What they say

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“When you lose your eyesight, that’s a whole lot of your life lost. I can’t see myself doing what I do without my sight. Being aware of that, I hope my small donation can help some people.”

MICHAEL MEREDITH Chef

“I am writing to thank you for giving my mother her eyesight back... she was just overjoyed with happiness when she took her bandage off for the first time to see properly and was able to see her grandchild and for that I thank you.”

KAVEINGA Patient’s Son

“For a lot of people you see the smile on their faces once the bandage has been removed. You know that something has gone very well and they’re incredibly happy.”

DANIEL VETTORI Cricketer and Specsavers ambassador, Herald on Sunday

“The Fred Hollows Foundation, that marvellous legacy of a truly great man.”

CHRIS LAIDLAW Broadcaster, Radio New Zealand

“Specsavers are so proud to partner with The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ. For Specsavers, the partnership is completely in-line with our vision and values, and that is to provide the best eyecare to everyone. To contribute to the wonderful work that Fred did and that the Foundation continues to do is very important to Specsavers.”

BRENDAN THOMPSON Specsavers Retail Director

“Fred Hollows is a distinguished old boy of Palmerston North Boys’ High School. Our annual ‘Fred Hollows Day’ provides us with an opportunity to celebrate his significant work in restoring the sight of less fortunate people throughout the world and we are proud to be able to support the valuable work of The Fred Hollows Foundation in continuing his legacy.”

GERARD ATKIN Deputy Rector

“The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ and the Ministry of Health have enjoyed a very fruitful partnership, working with our own clinicians, for almost a decade. The Foundation’s contribution to eye health and diabetes services in Fiji has been outstanding.”

DR NEIL SHARMA Minister for Health, Fiji

“It’s so easy to blow \$25 on a few cups of coffee... I’d rather skip that latte and change a person’s life profoundly.”

ALLAN Foundation Supporter



# Outreach

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“I focus on the patients. I can’t turn them back when all of them are there and coming from afar. We have to see them on the day, otherwise they might not come back.” DR MUNDI GALO, OUTREACH TEAM LEADER

Despite the enormous strides The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ has made over the past six years to build centrally-located eye clinics and offer sight-restoring surgery, there remains an ongoing challenge in providing eye care services to remote communities.

Limited infrastructure, vast distances over open seas, costly transport options and the daunting task of travelling when you’re blind means that people in isolated areas still suffer from avoidable blindness.

To reach these people, we coordinated 29 surgical outreaches in 2013. From Solomon Islands to Kiribati, a team of Pacific doctors and nurses travelled great distances to islands where people need their help.

All year long the Pacific Eye Institute-based team loaded and unloaded delicate microscopes, boxes of equipment, consumables and all the necessary items for surgery in makeshift eye clinics. Travelling in vans on bumpy roads, boats on rough seas and planes landing on grass runways, the outreach team embody the spirit of Fred Hollows and The Foundation. For them, there is no obstacle that cannot be overcome in the effort to restore sight to people in need.



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**In 2014, we’re planning 32 outreaches across the Pacific, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste.**

Our strategy is to increase the volume of surgery in all current outreach locations, reducing the backlog of patients requiring cataract surgery.

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Patient Wubujub had his sight restored on an outreach to Papua New Guinea. Photo: Hugh Rutherford.

# Education & training

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“If being a role model helps younger girls or my juniors in medicine to feel more enabled, then that’s something I’m proud to be.” DR NOLA PIKACHA

The shortage of local eye doctors and nurses in the Pacific region makes training, resourcing and supporting a regional workforce employed by local Ministries of Health a prerequisite for any sustainable solution to the problem of avoidable blindness.

Recognising that it will take time to increase the workforce to meet the region's eye care needs, The Foundation will continue delivering services directly to local populations. However, our strategy is to operate within public health systems to develop locally resourced eye care.

In 2013, 29 eye health professionals from six countries across the Pacific Islands graduated from our training programs at the Pacific Eye Institute (PEI) in Fiji and the Divine Word University in Papua New Guinea. These graduates return to their home countries, providing hundreds of thousands of people with access to quality primary eye care.



Dr Claude Posala

Dr Claude graduated from PEI in 2012 and was one of the first trained eye doctors to return to his home country, Solomon Islands. Already, his presence on the ground has had a profound impact on local people who are needlessly blind. In 2013 alone, he performed 1,004 sight-restoring surgeries. Based at the National Referral Hospital in Honiara, Dr Claude is now employed by his local Ministry of Health and plays a key role in shaping the burgeoning eye care system in his country.



Dr Nola Pikacha

Dr Nola is also from Solomon Islands and graduated from PEI at the end of 2013. She's the first female ophthalmologist for the country and works both at home and with The Foundation's Pacific outreach team across the region.

Dr Nola enjoys the challenge of delivering eye care services in low-resource countries. “When the patch comes off, patients smile and look around. Sometimes I don't speak to them, I just put my hand out and they shake it. You see it on their faces how grateful they are.”

# Hepi's story



“I can see the light!”

Hepi Pa'asi is Pastor Owen's wife in a remote village on the island of Tongatapu, Tonga. Her blindness made her feel incomplete and unable to fulfil her societal duties like collecting seafood and weaving mats for the church. Everyday chores were impossible for Hepi to do, “I can't iron my daughter's clothes or braid her hair.” Her husband sensed the burden of Hepi's blindness and was considering leaving his position as a leader in the church in order to look after her.

Fortunately for Hepi, her family heard about The Foundation's outreach and brought her in to get checked. Her dense yellow cataracts were diagnosed and she was booked in for surgery. Despite being nervous, Hepi was the perfect patient throughout the procedure, staying very still as Foundation-trained Dr Mundi Qalo performed the operation.

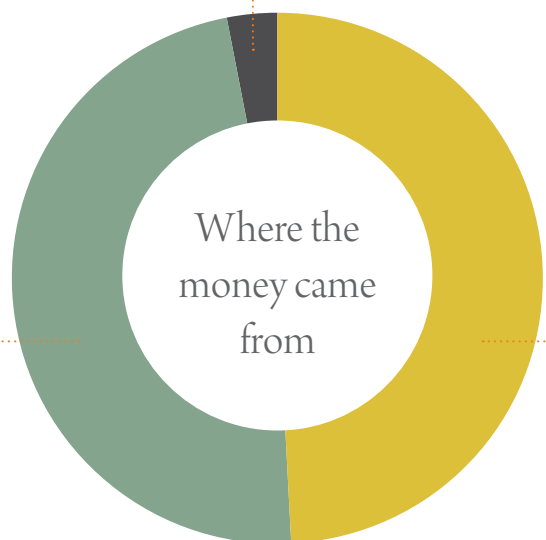
The day after Hepi's operation her bandage was peeled off and she exclaimed “I can see the light!” The change was almost instantaneous. Arriving home from the clinic, Hepi saw her nine-year-old adopted daughter Silvia for the first time and walked from house to house in her village, waving to old friends. With her sight restored, she has regained her confidence and independence.



# 2013 Financial report

## Interest & miscellaneous 3%

Other income: \$303,236



**Government grants 48%**

Grants: \$4,887,806

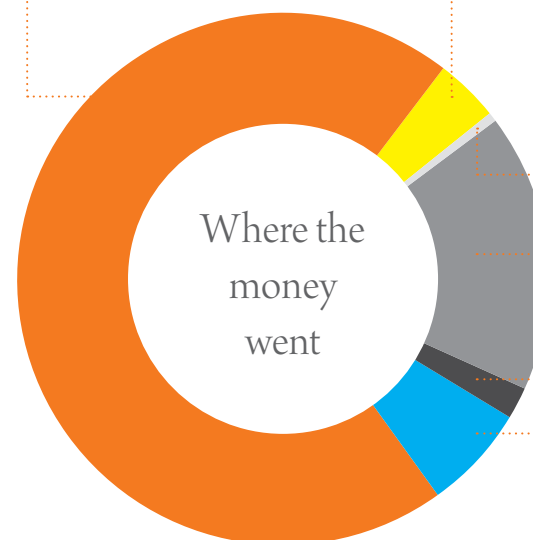
**Donations 49%**

Public donations: \$5,053,708

## Program activities 74%

Program activities: \$5,805,533

Public education: \$307,347



**Fundraising & administration 26%**

Donor care: \$57,135

Grants, community and corporate support: \$1,389,196

Communications: \$163,262

Administration: \$521,928

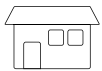
Independent audit report: The information in this report has been summarised from the annual accounts of The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ for the year ending 31 December 2013. The full audit statement is available at [hollows.org.nz](http://hollows.org.nz) or by emailing [info@hollows.org.nz](mailto:info@hollows.org.nz).

# Looking forward

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## Creating permanent eye care infrastructure in the region.

Restoring sight and training doctors is important work. As a result of our sustained efforts, the most severe cases of cataract blindness are now diminishing. We'll continue to help people see, but we're also creating the infrastructure needed to support patients on an ongoing basis into the future.



### New clinics

Training world class eye doctors and nurses is only half the challenge. Medical staff are too often limited by a lack of resources and inadequate facilities. The Foundation will address this need with new world-class facilities in Madang, Papua New Guinea and Honiara, Solomon Islands in 2014/2015.



### New methods

We're launching an innovative new Mobile Eye Clinic, designed to deliver critical eye care services in rural parts of Fiji. Driven by our research and experience providing surgery in remote parts of the country, the clinic will be built in NZ and transported to Fiji in 2014, where it's expected to double the annual number of surgeries.



### New countries

In early 2014, we conducted a pilot outreach in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) where there are large numbers of patients who desperately need our help. Dr Padwick Gallen from FSM is training at our Pacific Eye Institute and for the first time, the future of eye care in that country looks promising.

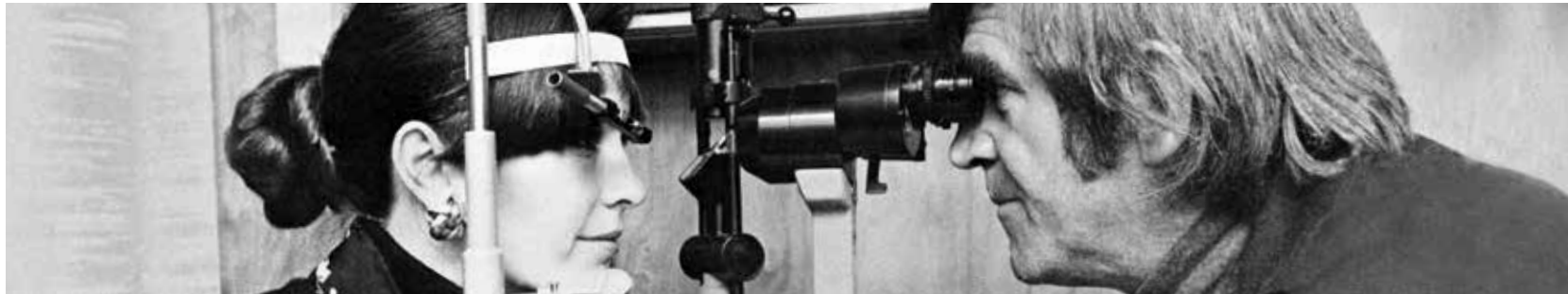
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We recognise that we cannot solve the problem of avoidable blindness on our own: collaboration is key. Therefore, we will continue working with other organisations and governments, with the intention that all training and services are ultimately passed on to local universities and Ministries of Health. In short, we aim to work ourselves out of a job.

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# People

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## Patrons

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Photo: Ian Waldie/CI Studio.

### **Gabi Hollows**

Founding Director  
and Patron



### **Lt Gen The Rt Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae**

The Governor-General  
of New Zealand

## Executive team

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### **Andrew Bell**

Executive Director

### **Dr John Szetu**

Director, Pacific Eye Institute

### **Dr Neil Murray**

Medical Director

### **John McElhinney**

General Manager  
Fundraising & Shared Services

### **Meg Rogers**

Finance Director

## Board of trustees

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### **Rob Fenwick CNZM (Chair)**

Founding Director, Living Earth Ltd

### **Franceska Banga**

Chief Executive, NZ Venture Investment Ltd

### **Craig Fisher**

Chairman/Audit Director, Hayes Knight NZ

### **Dr Nick Mantell**

Ophthalmologist, Eye Institute

### **John McElhinney**

Director, Macuity Ltd (resigned August 2013)

### **Debbie Sorenson**

Programme Director Health Specialists Ltd, Chief Executive, PMA

### **Kath Watson**

CEO, OMD New Zealand

### **Sir Maarten Wevers**

Former Chief Executive, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



# Thank you

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The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ trustees and staff sincerely thank our supporters for their assistance and encouragement in 2013.

## Development partners

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The New Zealand Aid Programme, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and The Fred Hollows Foundation in Australia contribute significantly to our programs.

In the **Pacific Islands**: Local Ministries of Health; CWM Hospital; Fiji National University College of Medicine; World Diabetes Foundation; RANZCO and Counties Manukau District Health Board. In **Papua New Guinea**: Papua New Guinea Ministry of Health; Divine Word University; Modilon General Hospital and Callan Services. In **Timor-Leste**: Ministry of Health/Eye Health Unit; Fo Naramon Timor-Leste; Guido Valadares National Hospital; Royal College of Surgeons/East Timor Eye Program.

## Corporate supporters

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The Foundation is delighted to have an on-going partnership with **Specsavers**, which through the Specsavers Community Program, raises funds via 45 retail stores nationally. Grateful thanks to **HealthPost** and their wonderful customers who generously support our sight-restoring work through the HealthPost 'Give Well' donation program. We are fortunate to receive support from **Agility Logistics**, who at no charge, ship essential equipment to our programs around the region. A special thanks to **DLA Phillips Fox**, for the invaluable pro-bono legal services. **Alcon, GRL Holdings Ltd, Bossley Architects, Boyd Visuals, M O A I** and the many businesses that have supported The Foundation in 2013, thank you.

## Individual donors, trusts, foundations and community groups

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The Foundation is extremely fortunate to enjoy the support of many wonderful individuals who donate to our fundraising appeals, make one-off donations or contribute to our regular giving program, the Miracle Club. We sincerely thank each and every one of you, for sharing Fred's vision of a world where no one is needlessly blind.

Our deepest gratitude to all of the philanthropic trusts and foundations that support our vision and ensure that we are able to make a difference to the lives of thousands of people throughout the Pacific region each year.

Many amazing people made a lasting impact by remembering The Foundation in their will. While we are rarely able to thank them personally, this unique gift leaves a lasting legacy.

Throughout the year a broad range of community supporters host a variety of fundraising activities. Thank you to all those inspirational individuals, generous groups, super schools and virtuous volunteers who ran, walked, knitted, read, sold sausages, baked cakes, chopped wood, waved flags, sang to strangers, danced across stages and opened their hearts to help needlessly blind people see once again.

**Thank you, Vinaka, Fa'afetai, Malo, Obrigado!**



Photo: Michael Bradley.

[hollows.org.nz](https://hollows.org.nz)

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Cover page: Professor Fred Hollows holding the intraocular lens used in cataract surgery to restore eyesight. Photo: Anthony Weate/Newspix.