

Doug's seeing his way south

ALEXIA JOHNSTON Last updated 05:00 29/07/2011

Doug Wilson is making every step count as he treks down the country to raise glaucoma awareness.

The former South Canterbury man arrived in Timaru on Wednesday, 38 days after setting off for his journey from Cape Reinga.

Glaucoma is a condition that affects the eye. The nerve fibres progressively die taking away the peripheral or side vision first, which means loss of eyesight can go undetected until it is quite advanced.

Mr Wilson, 75, of Tauranga, was diagnosed with glaucoma in September last year and wanted to do his bit for the condition that can affect people at any age.

"My right eye was partially blind but now with drops I put in my eye I've been given quality of life again."

He said early detection and specialist treatment could prevent the condition from deteriorating.

Mr Wilson was at a glaucoma seminar when the concept of making his way down the country to raise awareness was suggested.

He happily accepted the challenge, which he believed was working.

- The Timaru Herald