

NZ-long walk to raise awareness of glaucoma

ROB MACINTOSH Last updated 13:00 26/07/2011

ROB MACINTOSH/Marlborough Express

POWER WALKERS: Giving their support to 75-year-old Doug Wilson on his journey from Cape Reinga to Bluff are Marlborough Grey Power committee member Russell Hopkins and Marlborough Grey Power president Tony Preston.

A 75-year-old Grey Power member passed through Marlborough at the weekend on his journey from Cape Reinga to Bluff to raise awareness of glaucoma.

Tauranga resident Doug Wilson started on June 20, intending to walk the entire length of the country. However, the police told him when he reached Whangarei that he was not allowed to walk on the highways, so he started to hitch-hike between towns and walk through them.

Diagnosed with glaucoma in September, the former Western Bay of Plenty Grey Power president stepped down from his position to dedicate himself to this journey.

It was after attending a Glaucoma New Zealand seminar and learning that it received no government funding that he decided to take action.

Mr Wilson said he wanted to raise awareness so that people would get eye problems checked out as soon as they appeared.

Glaucoma is the name given to a group of related diseases where the optic nerve is damaged. The nerve fibres progressively die, taking away the peripheral or side vision first. This means visual loss goes undetected until it is quite advanced.

Mr Wilson has been put up by Grey Power members around the country. In Blenheim, he stayed at Grey Power member Russell Hopkins' bed and breakfast.

The hardest part of the journey was just after Cape Reinga, but the support he received from everyone he met made the entire journey a lot easier, he said.

You can donate directly to Glaucoma New Zealand's bank account: 12-3013-0180964-00.

- The Marlborough Express

0 comments

[Post a comment](#)

[Expand All](#)

[Oldest First](#)

Post comment

Name:
Required

Email:
Required. Will not be published.

Registration is not required to post a comment but if you [sign in](#), you will not have to enter your details each time you comment. Registered members also have access to extra features. [Create an account now.](#)

Maximum of 1750 characters (about 300 words)

I have read and accepted the [terms and conditions](#)
These comments are moderated. Your comment, if approved, may not appear immediately. Please direct any queries about comment moderation to the Opinion Editor at blogs@stuff.co.nz

Post Comment