

Charity walk to Bluff begins

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Doug Wilson hopes to walk to Rotorua today on the first leg of his walk to Bluff in an effort to raise money to help people suffering from Glaucoma.



Doug begins the long walk.

When asked why he's walking to Bluff in the middle of winter, Doug replied that July is glaucoma awareness month and he wants to participate in the campaign.

"I'm a bit late setting out, but I had a bit of a hiccup with the hospital," says the former Greypower Western Bay of Plenty branch president.

He set out for Bluff from outside No 1 The Strand at 9am.

It's Doug's second attempt at the glaucoma walk.

Earlier, he was convinced by police, who picked him up at Clevedon, that he wouldn't be able to walk through Auckland – so he returned to Tauranga.

He's travelling lighter this time around, having decided to leave behind the tent and sleeping bag he carried on the northward journey.

"I will find accommodation, and people will put me up," says Doug, "There's always backpackers."

Doug wants the government to put more funding into glaucoma and to raise awareness among people who have the eye disease diagnosed.

"They don't know how to get help that's the big thing," says Doug.

“When doctors tell you, you have glaucoma, they should also tell you where to get treatment – opticians don’t tell you where to find specialists.”

Glaucoma is the number one preventable cause of blindness in New Zealand.

Blindness from glaucoma can be prevented by early detection and appropriate treatment.

Donations can be made to the ASB bank account 12 3013 018096400