

ACO Launches Optometry History

The Australian College of Optometry (ACO) has marked its 75th year with the launch of *A History of Australian Optometry* written by Professor Emeritus Barry Cole.

Professor Emeritus Cole said, "the book tells the story of more than 200 years and features optometric institutions and optometrists Australia wide... (it) explains the what, when and why of the history of optometry... in the context of a changing Australian society and a changing health system. I have tried to paint pictures of those restless and aspirational optometrists who pursued their vision for a better profession and to tell a few of the tales of the quirks of fate that helped them on their way."

Professor Nathan Efron, president of the College, and editor of the book launched *A History of Australian Optometry* at the ACO National Conference on 24 October. Having read it three times he said, "Barry Cole's book brings to life the fascinating story of Australian optometry, warts and all... It has been meticulously researched... but it is an easy read".

Professor Cole qualified in optometry at the ACO in 1954 and was appointed its first fulltime lecturer in 1958. He was made head of Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences in the University of Melbourne when it was established in 1973 and appointed foundation professor of optometry in 1978. He is Professor Emeritus in the University of Melbourne.

The book is available from the Optometry Australia bookshop. www.optometry.org.au/shoponline.aspx