



inFOCUS

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News from the President



While this is my first newsletter article as President of the ACO, many of you know that my involvement with the ACO has a long and

active history.

Over the years I have witnessed the ACO grow from a humble optometric training organisation operating a small clinic in the 1970s, into a great organisation that has the interests of its members and the community at the forefront of its focus. For that reason it is a great honour to have been appointed as your President. I look forward to working with all members of the ACO and the management team and staff to further grow the organisation to new heights, and I am confident that we are well on the way to achieve new and wonderful things. At present we are working to develop a number of exciting new opportunities for the College, both in the areas of clinical delivery and teaching, and I hope to be able to announce the realisation of these to you over the coming weeks and months.

Many of you will know that we are currently recruiting for a new CEO to work with the Council and staff to lead the College in to the next phase of its evolution. In the meantime, the Council maintains its focus on planning for the future. In the first week of December Council members came together for two productive days of strategic planning. With input from the management team the outcomes focussed on a collaborative

approach that supports the delivery of innovative member benefits, expanded partnerships, increased clinical services, outreach to disadvantaged communities, growth of our national presence, strong professional development and expansion and promotion of our research. Without doubt, 2013 and beyond is going to be a very exciting time for the ACO and I hope that you will be part of it by way of your continued engagement with the organisation through your membership and ongoing support.

You will agree with me that the strength of organisations is determined by the commitment and motivation of its supporters and its staff and I take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the brilliant work of all who have continued to deliver excellent outcomes during a difficult time. I want to celebrate our people, including the various Council and Committee members that continue to volunteer their time in providing guidance and direction to the four divisions. I hope you join me in this celebration and congratulate them on their achievements.

A December newsletter can of course not be circulated without festive season greetings. I hereby wish everyone who reads this newsletter a safe and happy time and I hope that we can count on your contributions in 2013.

Nathan Efron

**Professor Nathan Efron
President**

Noticeboard



The Australian College of Optometry assisted Vision 2020 Australia during the Victorian Seniors Festival at Federation Square on Sunday 7 October 2012.

The annual festival attracts approximately 20,000 people to the event and was the perfect opportunity to launch a new Vision 2020 project to raise the awareness of diabetic retinopathy. Victorian Health Minister, David Davis officially launched

the project and announced a \$250,000 partnership with Diabetes Australia/ Victoria to help prevent vision loss caused by diabetes. Vision 2020 CEO, Jennifer Gersbeck used the opportunity to emphasise that “early detection and treatment can control the progression of diabetic retinopathy and prevent up to 98% of severe vision loss”, also noting that “1 in 5 people with diabetes still do not have regular eye checks”. ACO optometrists,



Dr Josephine Li and Dr Genevieve Napper, represented the College for the launch and demonstrated the portable fundus camera on the Health Minister. Throughout the day the public were also provided the opportunity to test the fundus camera and a portable tonometer with a view to raising awareness of eye health and encouraging them to see an optometrist and get a comprehensive eye examination.

Photo above: Group promoting regular eye checks, healthy living and a good diet for those affected by diabetes. (left to right) Jennifer Gersbeck (Vision 2020 Australia), Hon David Davis (Victorian Department for Health), Josephine Li (ACO), Virginia Hagger (Diabetes Australia – Vic), Ashley Ng (patient with type 2 diabetes), Ecosse Lamoureux (CERA) and Georgie Crozier MP | **Photo top right:** Examination Member of the public getting their eyes tested by Dr Josephine Li | **Photo bottom right:** Examining the Health Minister, David Davis having his eyes tested by Dr Josephine Li.

ACO AND RVEEH PARTNERSHIP

During 2011 and early 2012, the Australian College of Optometry (ACO) and the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital (RVEEH) worked together on an Optometry-Ophthalmology Workforce Collaboration project which explored an integrated model of care. The pilot clinic assessed 686 new patients referred to the RVEEH by GPs with a referral where there was no clear indication as to whether there was a need for ophthalmological medical or surgical intervention. As part of the pilot project, these unclear referrals were seen in the first instance by an ACO optometrist at the Carlton site under the supervision of an RVEEH ophthalmologist to determine those who needed to attend the hospital for further tertiary ophthalmological care. Inappropriate referrals were more appropriately reviewed at the ACO or diverted to other providers, and complex patients were referred directly into the hospital's sub-specialty clinics without the need for general eye clinic triage.

The Optometry-Ophthalmology Workforce Collaboration project demonstrated that with effective use of standardised clinical guidelines and referral pathways, only 28% of patients required further tertiary ophthalmological care and attendance at the RVEEH. Of these patients the initial ACO diagnosis was confirmed by an RVEEH ophthalmologist in 90% of cases, and 69% of patients received treatment or consent for surgery at their first RVEEH appointment. The remainder of patients were either discharged to the ACO for ongoing care until tertiary care was required or they were discharged to their GP or community optometrist. The pilot project also demonstrated a significant reduction in patient waiting times. Arising from the pilot study the ACO and RVEEH have now committed to working collaboratively to use their complimentary skilled workforce to create a new and sustainable mechanism for improved eye health delivery in Victoria. A new clinic

substantially based on that, and tested during the pilot project, commenced on 14 November 2012 and will run every 4 weeks. It is expected that the agreed service model will meet the needs of patients and improve access to tertiary clinical care, address the current and future growing demand on referrals, create opportunities to expand community relationships and also better utilise the availability of ophthalmologists and optometrists. The proposed service model is not a substitutional option but rather an additional alternative service model that is required to meet the growing demands on hospital outpatient services. Head of Clinical Services at the ACO, Associate Professor Jonathan Jackson, who has 25 years of experience as a Hospital Optometrist in the UK/Ireland, states “The new service is built on the very successful pilot study and it represents an evolving process in which ophthalmologists and optometrists can work together for the benefit of the community that both professions serve”.

Meet the ACO Council

ACO Council

The ACO is governed by a Council, which acts as its Board of Management.

Professor Nathan Efron *BScOptom, PhD, DSc, FAAO (Dip CCLRT) FIACLE FCCLSA FBCLA FACO President*



Professor Efron joined the Council in February 2011. He is currently a Research Professor in the School of Optometry, Queensland University of Technology. Prior to this, Nathan was the foundation chair of Clinical Optometry at the University of Manchester, Head of Department and Dean of Research. He serves on the board of the National Vision Research Institute of Australia, a division of the ACO.

Mr Andrew Harris *BSc(Optom), GradCertOT FACO*



Mr Harris was elected to Council in 2010 and held the position of President until January 2012. Mr Harris was President of the Optometrists Association of Australia from 2007 to 2010 and resumed that role late in 2011. Mr Harris has served on the boards of both the National and State Divisions of the OAA over the last

fifteen years. Mr Harris has also been a board member of the National Vision Research Institute from 2006 until 2012. Mr Harris' career highlights include working as a Senior Clinician at the University of Melbourne Department of Vision Sciences, as a Consultant at the Royal Melbourne Hospital eye clinic and in Aboriginal communities in outback NSW. Mr Harris has run his own private optometry practice in North Melbourne for the past 20 years.

Mr Bryan Fuller *BScOptom, FACBO, GAICD, FACO Honorary Treasurer*



Mr Fuller was appointed to Council in 2010. He is a member of the Clinical Services committee. Bryan has previously served on the council of the OAA (Victorian Division), and is a current board member of the ProVision Eyecare Group. He has been a provider to the Victorian Eyecare Service since its inception. He is a partner in an

independent optometry practice in Echuca.

Ms Elisse Higginbotham *BOptom, MOptom, PGCertOcTher Vice President*



Ms Higginbotham was elected to Council during 2011. She graduated from the University of Melbourne in 2002, after which she completed a Masters degree from the University of NSW (and completed her therapeutics qualification). She worked for four years in central Victoria, before moving to her current

position in a suburban private practice in 2006, where she works primarily with paediatric patients. In addition to her role in private practice, she undertakes sessional work and works as a clinical educator at the College. She is currently undertaking her ACBO Fellowship.

Professor Konrad Pesudovs *BScOptom, PhD, MCOptom, PGDipAdvClinOptom, FACO*



Professor Pesudovs was elected to Council in 2010. He is the Foundation Chair of Optometry and Vision Science at Flinders University. He is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. His past governance experience includes roles as a Councillor of the SA Division of the Optometrists

Association of Australia from 1992-1996, as Vice President from 1993. Professor Pesudovs was also on the committee of the SA Chapter of the Contact Lens Society of Australia from 1993-2000, President from 1994-1996. Professor Pesudovs is a member of the editorial boards of eight professional journals including Optometry and Vision Science.

Meet the ACO Council

Professor Robert Saint *BSc (Hons), PhD*



Professor Saint was appointed to Council in 2009, as the representative from the University of Melbourne. Professor Saint gained his BSc(Hons) and PhD degrees from the University of Adelaide and then worked as a Research Fellow at Stanford University. He worked as a scientist at the Walter and Eliza Hall Inst. and CSIRO

before moving to the University of Adelaide. In 1994 he was appointed Professor and Head of Genetics at the University of Adelaide before moving to the ANU as Professor of Molecular Genetics and Evolution in the Research School of Biological Sciences. He served on the ARC Biological Sciences Panel from 1995-1997 and was an ARC Special Investigator from 1997-1999. From 2000- 2008 he was Director of the ARC Special Research Centre for the Molecular Genetics of Development (CMGD). He was awarded the Julian Wells Medal of the Lorne Genome Conference and the President's medal of the Aust. New Zealand Society for Cell and Developmental Biology. He was also the MJD White lecturer of the Genetics Society of Australasia. Professor Saint is currently the Dean of the Faculty of Science at the University of Melbourne and a standing member of the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council.

Alex Gentle *BSc(Hons), PGCertOcTher, GCertUniTeach, PhD, MCOptom, FACO, FAAO*



Alex was appointed to the ACO Council in May 2012. He studied for his undergraduate optometry degree at City University, London and completed pre-registration training, leading to his professional optometric qualifications, at Moorfields Eye Hospital. His PhD studies reflect his interest in the

mechanisms and manifestations of ocular and refractive development and scleral biochemistry. He completed a Graduate Certificate in University Teaching at the University of Melbourne and was appointed to Deakin University in 2012, where he holds the Chair in Vision Science and is Director of Optometric Pre-Clinical Studies for Deakin Optometry in the School of Medicine.

Professor Ted Maddess *PhD*



Professor Maddess was appointed to Council September 2012. He was involved in the commercialisation of the FDT/Matrix perimeters for which he received the Clunies Ross Science and Technology Award in 2002. He was the Head of the Biotechnology Transfer Unit (1999 to 2011) of his former ANU institute, the

Research School of Biology; and Board member (2001 to 2004) of the Australian Centre for Intellectual Property in Agriculture (ACIPA). He was also on the Board of the ACT chapter of Biotech Australia and represented the ANU and the ACT government at the international BIO industry meetings (2001 to 2004). Prof Maddess has been a principle organiser of 22 national and international vision related conferences and symposia since 2000. His research interests include adaptation to image motion, eye movements, illusions of brightness and scale, and for the last decade, discrimination of complex textures. He was elected for two 2-year terms (2007-2011) as Head of the ANU Centre for Visual Sciences. Since 2010 he has been Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence in Vision Science, a consortium of researchers at the ANU, U Melb, UQ, U Sydney, and UWA. Professor Maddess joined the NVRI Board of Administration in 2011.

Ms Clare Escott *ACA MAICD BSc Hons* Company Secretary



Ms Escott was appointed as General Manager Finance & Corporate Services and Company Secretary in December 2010. Clare is a qualified Chartered Accountant who has a wide range of experience, having worked in both private practice and the public sector over the last 20 years. In her Corporate Services role,

she is responsible for leading the delivery of Finance, Human Resources, ICT and Building Management activities across the College.

Noticeboard

MY VIEW: Keratoconus – Successful Contact Lens Fitting

This column provides an opportunity for members to outline items of interest to their colleagues. Mr Richard Vojlay, author of the following article, would be pleased to hear directly from members with any follow up queries. Comments and articles can also be emailed to membership@aco.org.au for future publication (maximum 300 words).

Keratoconus – Successful Contact Lens Fitting

**Associate Professor Richard Vojlay (Melb Uni) BSc Optom
LOSc FACO PGCertOcTher
Therapeutically Endorsed ORBV
Dip Human (Music)**

When I'm seeing a new patient who has keratoconus, I often wonder - which path will we take? There are now so many options available to offer to the patient. We have a multiplicity of contact lens designs and materials, all of which could possibly be successful, all of which could fail. Thankfully we can also offer some of our patients, Corneal Cross-Linking treatment (CXL) to significantly slow progression of their keratoconus and hopefully avoid contact lens wear completely.

Prior to attending our practice, patients have often experienced a range of interactions with eyecare professionals from reassuring and nurturing to incompetent and dismissive. If the patient is wearing lenses, there is an assumption that they are unhappy with some part of how their contact lenses are performing. Successful contact lens wear for one patient might be eight hours a day during the working week only, for another patient, unsuccessful contact lens wear may be twelve hours a day, seven days a

week but with quite red eyes after wear. Is the problem caused by a poorly fitting lens or poor advice on cleaning, or is the lens a beautifully fitted textbook example that the patient just can't wear? So whose fault is it? Does the patient have unreasonable expectations or do they have a very reasonable hypersensitivity or contact lens intolerance.

At our initial consultation I discuss their history, clinical experiences and their understanding of keratoconus. As I establish their clinical status, I try and provide as much information as possible, relevant to the severity of their keratoconus. This may range from a slight change to their spectacle correction to referral for a corneal transplant. Our discussions may include information on eye rubbing and control of their allergies, reviewing their contact lens cleaning regimes or considering the possibility of backup spectacles to be worn before or after lens wear, despite a reduction on their vision quality. Often giving the patient a sense of perspective of their clinical situation can be quite reassuring, as is the discussion of a 20, 30 or 40 year plan for managing their condition.

However, ultimately the main game can still be – "getting the lens right".

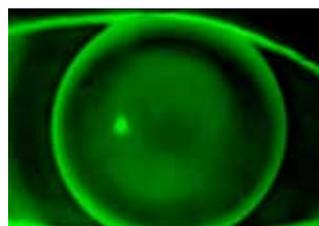
That is:

- selection of the best base curve to spread the bearing areas as evenly as possible across the cornea
- choosing an appropriate diameter to allow lid attachment if possible and provide the best centration and comfort
- controlling the edge clearance to provide adequate tear exchange and minimise instability.

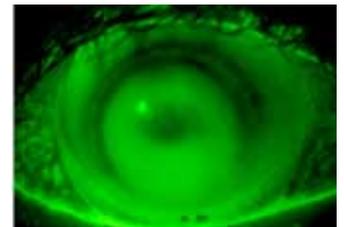
"Standard" RGP lenses can range from 8 mm to 15.8 mm in diameter with varying peripheral curves. Other options are miniscleral or hybrid (SynergEyes) lenses that can eliminate edge/lid interactions and substantially improve comfort and wearing times.

I reassure patients that in 2012 we have the best range of contact lens options ever available and with perseverance and patience we should be able to find a lens that works for them.

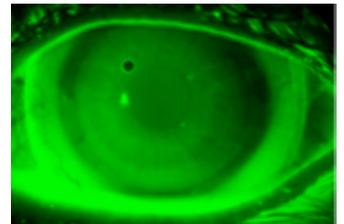
Below are some examples of lenses discussed above.



- **Classic RGP Fitting**
(9.0mm diameter)



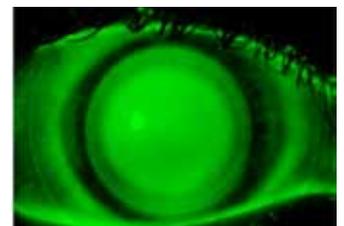
- **Limbal lift RGP**
(13.0mm diameter)



- **SSMAX RGP**
(15.8 mm diameter)



- **KATT miniscleral**
(16.50 mm diameter)



- **SynergEyes** (ClearKone – Hybrid design – soft skirt/RGP centre), using high molecular weight fluorescein (Fluoresoft)

Richard Vojlay
Vision Camberwell
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Noticeboard

New study points to the economic value of optometry – Restoring sight would save global economy **US\$202 billion** each year

Governments could add billions of dollars to their economies annually by funding the provision of an eye examination and a pair of glasses to the estimated 703 million people globally that needed them in 2010 according to a study published in the Bulletin of the World Health Organization in October.

The health economics study calculated that there would be a saving of US\$202 billion annually to the global economy through a one-off investment of US\$28 billion in human resource development and establishing and providing vision care for 5 years. The investment would establish the eye care services to provide good vision to people with uncorrected refractive error, enabling greater workplace output and increasing gross domestic product.

“SPENDING US\$28 BILLION TO TRAIN EYE CARE PERSONNEL, ESTABLISH INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROVIDE SPECTACLES, IS A DROP IN THE OCEAN COMPARED WITH THE ANNUAL COST TO THE GLOBAL ECONOMY,” SAYS CO-AUTHOR OF THE STUDY PROFESSOR BRIEN HOLDEN, CEO OF THE BRIEN HOLDEN VISION INSTITUTE. “BY RESTORING PEOPLE’S VISION, WE’RE GENERATING MASSIVE ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR SOCIETY – IT’S AS SIMPLE AS THAT.”

Conducted by researchers from the Brien Holden Vision Institute in Australia and South Africa, and Johns Hopkins University in the US, the study calculated the cost of training an adequate number of eye care providers to assess vision and optical dispensers to provide the glasses, and to build facilities for them to operate in. The investment would be enough to cover costs for 5 years, after which revenue generated by the services would sustain them.

Holden says the productivity loss only tells part of what is a tragic human story and that developing communities around the world would benefit massively from such an investment.

“CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH UNCORRECTED REFRACTIVE ERROR ARE FACED WITH A RANGE OF UNNECESSARY HEALTH, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EFFECTS, INCLUDING POOR VISION, REDUCED EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, SOCIAL ISOLATION, AS WELL AS AN INCREASED RISK OF MORBIDITY.”

“It’s truly remarkable that around the world 703 million people are unnecessarily vision impaired when it is absolutely straightforward to eliminate this problem. A trained eye care provider can assess someone’s vision correction need and prescribe and fit a pair of glasses in around 30 minutes. A pair of spectacles can be made available for as little as US\$3.”

The results of the analysis in this paper present a very powerful message to governments around the world, says co-author on

the paper, Johns Hopkins health economics Professor Kevin Frick. “Governments are required to make some difficult decisions about how to use scarce resources – the economics of correcting refractive error should make this one of the easier decisions,” he said.

Dr David Wilson, Research Manager for Asia-Pacific at the Brien Holden Vision Institute observed, “Even when conservative assumptions were used, the cost of establishing systems to correct all vision impairing refractive error in the world is only about 2.4% of the estimated 5 year productivity loss associated with distance-only vision impairing refractive error. This includes the costs of running the facilities and training institutions for a period of 5 years.”

Additionally, the estimate is relatively conservative and therefore the economic gain could be far greater, he adds. “For example we’ve not assumed any increase in productivity for people over 50 years of age,” he said.

“THE STUDY ALSO DOES NOT FACTOR IN THE ECONOMIC BURDEN OF PRESBYOPIA,” SAID TIM FRICKE, FORMER DIRECTOR OF SPECIALTY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES AT THE AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY AND AUTHOR OF THE PAPER. “THE COST ONLY APPLIES TO DISTANCE VISION IMPAIRMENT AND THERE ARE ABOUT FIVE TIMES AS MANY PEOPLE WHO HAVE UNCORRECTED NEAR VISION IMPAIRMENT FROM PRESBYOPIA. THUS THE REAL BURDEN OF UNCORRECTED REFRACTIVE ERROR IS IN FACT, MUCH HIGHER.”

The research estimated that 47,000 extra personnel who would provide clinical refractive care, plus 18,000 to provide optical dispensing services, are needed to relieve this problem. The personnel estimates were tailored to the expectations and regulatory system in each country, e.g. clinical refractive care would be provided, amongst a range of other clinical tasks, by optometrists in countries like Australia. The total cost of training the necessary additional personnel, together with the establishment and maintenance of the clinical facilities, and supply of consumables, required to be able to provide enough refractive care was estimated to be approximately US\$20 billion with an upper estimate of US\$28 billion.

Read the full BHVI press release

<http://www.brienholdenvision.org/media-centre/latest-news/766-restoring-sight-would-save-global-economy-us-202-billion-each-year.html>

Access a copy of the article

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/87/08-055673.pdf>

Noticeboard

ACO TRAVEL GRANTS 2013

Applications for 2013 travel grants are now open. Grants ranging from \$200-\$1000 are available for the following:

- Presenting a paper or poster at a national or international conference/scientific meeting
- Overseas study tours

- Members who are providing voluntary optometry services to a disadvantaged community (either in remote Australia or overseas) under the auspices of a recognized Aid Agency



For more information and an application form, refer to <http://www.aco.org.au/membership/aco-travel-grants>

The following article has been provided by ACO member Mrs Carol Bartlett, a recent recipient of an ACO travel grant.

Optometry in PNG with Youth with a Mission (YWAM)



In May this year I was privileged to serve as optometrist on the Youth With A Mission (YWAM) medical ship "Pacific Link" in the Gulf Of Papua. This is a 37 metre long ex fishing-training vessel based in Townsville and Port Moresby which conducts seven 18-day outreaches a year in the Gulf and Western provinces of PNG, the most service-deprived areas of PNG.

We had on board 49 people including 3 doctors, 3 dentists, a physiotherapist, a midwife, about 6 nurses, myself as optometrist and many young assistants as well as the crew. After a day of orientation

and getting to know one another, we set sail from Port Moresby for the 24 hour crossing of the Gulf and moored in the network of rivers.

The dentistry team worked in the clinic on board but the primary health and optometry teams worked in the villages. Generally, we set up our optometry clinic under a house, making a consultation area with curtains. In nine working days, the optometry team saw 275 patients but this was a team effort. We had someone registering patients and screening their distance acuity. If they passed 6/9 they were helped to choose reading spectacles or sunglasses if indicated. Otherwise they waited to see me. If I found spectacles would help, we chose the closest prescription from a database of donated second-hand spectacles collected and calibrated by Australian Lions clubs.

This village elder came for replacement specs, his old ones being frosted over and held on with string after the sides fell off. Debbie the team leader coordinated the effort and talked to patients who needed referral for cataract or pterygium surgery during a later outreach. Can you imagine going for cataract surgery in a distant

village, when no one in your village has ever had it done before?

I was particularly pleased to be able to test the eyes of a young boy with Down's syndrome, knowing the incidence of high refractive error in this cohort. He took some persuading to come into my consulting room but I managed to get an effective test done and to prescribe him some spectacles especially for near work.

Although this wasn't easy work especially in the heat, it was very fulfilling and I am grateful for ACO providing funds towards my costs.

YWAM needs 8 optometrists a year between May and September and I would be happy to talk with anyone interested in volunteering with them.

Carol Bartlett cbartlett@pcug.org.au



OPTOMETRIST WANTED: Wellness on Wellington in Rowville Victoria opened their new purpose built premises late in 2010. We currently already have multiple allied health services including audiology, physiotherapy, chiropractic, osteopathy, dietician, podiatry, massage & psychology but no optometry..... yet. Our well established practice has main road exposure with 31 medical & allied health rooms, dental, pathology and radiology. Optometry would be a welcome addition to the services we can offer. If you are interested in creating your own practice within the framework of a large multi -disciplinary, quality-care facility then please contact the centre manager on 9780 8900.

Noticeboard



Outstanding Graduate of the Year Profile – Jack Phu

What does it mean to you to be awarded ACO outstanding graduate of the year?

I am very humbled by the award. There are so many other people deserving of recognition in my grade as well and I am honoured to have been chosen as the recipient. The award will hopefully allow me to pursue further education and explore other opportunities within the profession beyond clinical practice. In this way I hope that my future accomplishments will do this award justice. My family is also proud of me.

What did you think of the ACO awards night?

The awards night was lots of fun. I was able to meet many other distinguished members of our profession in Victoria. The event was welcoming and the atmosphere of the dinner was cosy. The recipients of other prestigious awards and the speeches made by those who have contributed so much to our profession over the years continue to inspire me to aim for higher goals beyond clinical practice, including postgraduate study.

What are your plans for 2013?

In 2013 I hope to further develop my clinical skills under my mentor Dr William Trinh, especially in the treatment of eye disease and myopia. As education coordinator for the Young Optometrists group, I wish to continue to run projects to help undergraduate optometry students with the transition from university to professional life. I am also planning to, time permitting, pursue further postgraduate education in public health and epidemiology.

How do you feel about graduating and entering the workforce?

After 5 years of optometry school I am glad to finally be able to apply my practical and theoretical knowledge in real life. I am happy to be able to help members of the community with their eye problems and to be able to contribute to society as a health professional. At the same time, I miss the regimented lifestyle of university and studying, especially having a goal to work towards, such as completing assignments or exams!

Membership Subscription Reminder

Thank you to all members who have renewed their subscription for 2013 – it's set to be an even bigger year than 2012 with an expanded CPD calendar and exciting new membership benefits.

For those who are yet to renew, don't forget to pay your subscription fee as soon as possible to retain membership rights and access to ACO services and discounts. Please login to <https://members.aco.org.au> to pay your membership online or contact the Professional Development Division via phone on (03) 9349 7477 or fax (03) 9349 7559.

Noticeboard

ACO DINNER AND AWARDS NIGHT

On Saturday 20 October the ACO hosted a night of professional celebration. As a central feature to the ACO National Conference, members of the ACO Council acknowledged the outstanding achievements of a number of their colleagues. Many of the conference delegates opted to attend this special dinner in support of the recipients and to celebrate their profession. The opportunity to mingle, enjoy great company and good food created a wonderful atmosphere. Comments from attendees, such as, "Great night, great food, great company" and "This night celebrated the profession, it was well organised and not too long" attest that many of them will return next year. For the recipients of the ACO awards, the night provided a significant acknowledgement of their contributions and commitment.

The following awards were bestowed ACO Life Membership, Member Award for Outstanding Service 2012, Outstanding Graduate Award and ACO Fellowship.

ACO Life Membership

ACO Council bestowed Life Membership on Mr Ross Harris for his distinguished and meritorious service. He is held in high esteem for his work and contributions in and outside the College. Ross has been a member of the ACO since 1964 and received a Fellowship in 1985. He was National Vice President of the OAA from 1976 – 1987 and National President OAA 1981 – 1984. He was a Board member of the NVRI from 1989 – 1996 as well as a NVRI Foundation and Life member. He was Chair of the NVRI Animal Ethics Committee 1992 – 2003.



Between 1992 –2011, Ross chaired the Human Ethics Committee NVRI/ Department of Optometry/ACO. Through his position as a clinical teacher at the University of Melbourne Ross has positively impacted many future optometrists. His close to 50 years of involvement in a number of roles within the optometry profession have made Ross a true role model for others in the profession.

Member Award for Outstanding Service 2012

This award acknowledges the exceptional contribution of members when their involvement exceeds expectations. The award recognises contributions in the following areas:

- Contributed actively to the governance of the ACO, either on a Committee and/or Council;
- Consistently and generously provided support, time and advice beyond the expectations of a Committee/Council;
- Always upheld and promoted the principles and practices of the College in a positive and beneficial light;
- Highly regarded by peers;
- Contributed for a lengthy period (10 years or more), generally continuous (except where the member's service has been interrupted by working overseas for a set period).

After recommendation from the Professional Development and Membership Committee the ACO Council endorsed that the following members be presented with this prestigious award.

Ian Douglas has been a member since 1986. He was elected to Council

in May 2002 and was Chair of the Board of Continuing Education 2003–2007. Ian was College President from May 2007 - 2010. He has been a partner at Gutteridge, Douglas and Wells optometrists for 26 years. Ian's contribution and ongoing involvement in the College has had a significant impact on the various aspects of the success of the ACOs business.

Helen Robbins was elected to Council in November 1996 and was Chair of Membership Committee 1997 to 2000 and Honorary Treasurer from 2005 – 2010. Since 1992 Helen has run her own private optometry practice and has over 37 years experience in both retail and optometry. She was the first female president of the Optometrists Association Australia. Helen specialises in low vision and consults at the Kooyong Low Vision Clinic, Vision Australia. Helen has dedicated much of her personal time to the profession and continues to be involved in the provision of services to the community.

Outstanding Graduate Award

This ACO award recognises the outstanding graduating students of optometry courses around Australia. The selection criteria for the Award are the combined evaluation of academic excellence and professional commitment. Australian universities were invited to nominate their most outstanding optometry graduate (2011) and the following nominees received a plaque, a two year ACO membership and \$250.

University of New South Wales, Jack Phu, Bachelor of Optometry, Bachelor of Science.

Queensland University of Technology, Vanessa Forbes, Bachelor of Applied Science (Optometry) (Honours).

University of Melbourne, Shermaine Wong, Bachelor of Optometry.

Noticeboard

Congratulations to our newest ACO Fellows

Dimitrios Athanasakis
Lauren Ayton

Ian Bluntish
Graham Lakkis

Sam Lauriola
Roman Serebrianik

Welcome to Our New Members

Listed below are some of the members who have joined up this year.

Full Members:

Ben Bailey
Vandana Bhupendra
Josie Brock
Rosanna Bruno
Eileen Burke
Joe Chen
Grace Chiang
Alvin Chong
Michael Christian
Gary Clothier
Katherine Collett
Robert Drewitt-Smith
Emmeline Eastwell
Carl Emerton
Belinda Falleti
Amy Fang
Mark Fisher
Russell Glassor
Kelcey Hala
Aaron Henry
Christina Herrick
Derick Johnston
John Kam
Stephen Kelly
Lauren Kharsas
John Lacey
Ryan Lang
Emma Laverty
Claire Law
David Limbert
Aphrodite Livanes
Gabriel Ma
Asha Mahasuria
Stephen McKay
Andrew McMillan
Mary McMillan

Melville Mellick
Kate Melville
Anthony Milat
Robyn Milat
Paula Mildenhall
Yonghyun Na
Stephen Nash
Michael O'Dowd
Rebecca O'Loughlin
Patricia Paprocki
Michael Peter
Novka Petric
Gurjeet Rai
Jennifer Raynor
Paul Schoneveld
Ashley Seeto
Darren Smith
Jenny Stephens
Leanne Stokes
Simone Summerfield
Michael Tanzer
Min Van Tram
Susannah Uchitel
Nicholas Vasiliou
Angel Voon
Colin Waldron
Kathleen Watt
Craig Woods

Affiliate Members:

Dong Gyun Hong
Hyeong Joo Kim

Non Practising Optometrist Members:

Joseph Pino
Tim Thurn

New Graduate Members:

Teresa Chia-Chi Hsu
Laura Deinema
Meghan Devereux
Renee Gunn
Basma Ibrahim
Rebecca Li
Sung Su Lim
Ajmal Toodayan
Mitchell Turner
Zhan Wang

Student Members:

Jean Anderson
Tess Andrews
Shahmani Avadiar
Hayley Birch
Natalie Buckman
Virginia Carlton
Laura Carson
Amy Chan
Ashley Chan
Sebastian Cheung
Alex Craig
Kha Diep
Stuart Dinnison
Fatima Dirani
Jacqueline Duong
Bahar Erikoz
Jeffrey Fang
Victoria Grimsey
Saleen Ha
Mahsa Hassanpour
Evelyn Jolayemi
Sean Jones
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Jacqueline Kirkman
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Somi Lee
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Lu Liu
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Liz Murray
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Na Pham
Michael Phan
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Ayesha Senadeera
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Lai Tran
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Andrew Van Bergen
Luke Wa
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Jing Min Wang
Michelle Winberg
Jun Yao
John Yeom

Library and Archives



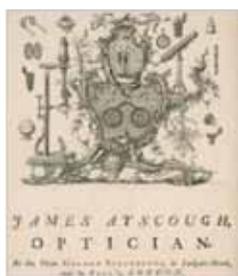
CW Kett Optometry Museum and Archive

The Australian College of Optometry is custodian of the Cyril W Kett Optometry Museum and Archives. It preserves books, instruments, spectacles, photographs, paintings, archival papers and objects relating to the history of optometry. Items in the collection date from the 17th century and provide a record of the remarkable changes and developments in optometry and ophthalmology over 300 years.

Browse the Kett Museum website at <http://museum.aco.org.au/index.php> and search its catalogue online. See “**Contacts**” on the web site if you have material to donate an item or wish to visit the Museum.

Cult eyewear

Museums are often thought of as dusty places full of old things. Maybe, but everything becomes history if you just wait a while and a lot of things that are not so old are well worth preserving for their aesthetic appeal or their place in recent history. That applies to spectacle frames that were high fashion not so many years ago. The Kett Museum has just purchased Neil Handley's book "Cult eyewear: the world's enduring classics" (London; Merrell: 2011 Hardcover, 129 pp). You will find it in the Hewett collection in the Nathan Library and it is available for loan. Its author, Neil Handley, is the curator of the British Optical Association Museum in the UK College of Optometrists. It is a fine book, in the coffee table tradition, but well thought out and well researched. It starts with the briefest of overviews of the history of spectacles and has 31 chapters each focussing on an eyewear style or brand with cult status. Interspersed are accounts of famous wearers of glasses (Yes, John Lennon, Elton John and Barry Humphries, among others). There are amusing anecdotes about designers of spectacles scattered through the pages. Why not buy it for yourself or your practice waiting room. Your patients will find it interesting. A good second hand copy brought through Abe Books will cost you about \$30 including postage and not much more for a new copy. And by the way, if you happen to have some of these cult spectacle frames tucked away in old stock, the Kett Museum would love to have them.



A 260 year old book

The Kett Museum has old things too. It has a sizeable collection of old books (and

some not so old) that are of historical significance. They are held in the Aitken Collection in the Nathan Library. The museum's archivists are aiming to build a collection of early books by opticians (as we optometrists were once called). The collection already has several such books, the earliest being one by George Adams' "Essay on vision", published in 1792. Adams was optician to George III.

The archivists have had their eye on a book published in 1752, 40 years earlier than the book by Adams. It was written by James Ayscough (d 1759), a well known London optician and instrument maker, whose business was by the sign of the great golden spectacles in Ludgate Street, near St Pauls. Ayscough is famous for his invention of double-hinged sides and for his blue and green tinted lenses, thought to be the precursor of sunglasses. His book is "A Short Account of the Eye, and Nature of Vision. Chiefly designed to illustrate the use and advantages of spectacles" This is the short title, the long title runs to 59 words!

It is a rare book held in few libraries around the world. There was one copy on the market but a bit pricey for the Kett Museum's tiny budget and it has only 26 pages.

The archivists were doubtful about buying it sight unseen on the internet. Archivist Michael Aitken was in London last month, inspected the book and fell for it.

It will be on display in Nathan Library at the next ACO seminar.

A European tour of optical museums

Most of us have the good fortune to visit Europe from time to time to visit great monuments, sample wine and food or go skiing. Have you thought of visiting the optical museums of Europe when you are there? You can see the oldest extant lens in London or visit the remarkable BOA museum at the UK College of Optometrists, a short walk from Trafalgar Square. If you are in Venice there is an optometrist who would be delighted to show you his private collection, and not far from Venice is the earliest painting of spectacles in Treviso. Not much further north, in two little villages in the Dolomites are two remarkable optical museums ... and there is more.

The Kett Museum archivists have prepared an itinerary of the optical museums based largely on the experiences of archivist Michael Aitken, who travels to Europe each year to nose around museums and book shops, among other things.

E-mail us at acomuseum@aco.org.au and we will email you a copy of the itinerary.

Library and Archives

ACO Member Access to Optometry and Vision Science and Australian Medicines Handbook online in 2013



We are excited to announce that in 2013 ACO members will have unlimited online access to Optometry and Vision Science, The Journal of the American Academy of Optometry. Optometry and Vision Science (OVS) is the most authoritative source for current developments in optometry, physiological optics, and vision science. This monthly scientific journal has served primary eye care practitioners for more than 75 years, promoting vital interdisciplinary exchange among optometrists and vision scientists worldwide. Also accessible free of charge will be the Australian Medicines Handbook (AMH). Australian Medicines Handbook provides practical, reliable, comparative medicines information resources for health professionals as an evidence-based independent medicines reference.



Details of how to access these via a username and password will be emailed to members early in 2013.

NATHAN LIBRARY AND MEMBERS LOUNGE SERVICES



Did you know you know that your ACO library provides e-document delivery free of charge?

The library is part of an Australian network of health and hospital libraries that enables us to request articles from health and medical journals that we do not hold.

As a complimentary service, you can request electronic PDF copies of journal articles held in the Nathan Library and Members Lounge Collection, articles from the Association of Vision Science Libraries and the Australian Network of Health and Hospital Libraries.

How to request a Journal Article:

- Send an email with your request to library@aco.org.au
- Or complete the inter-library loan request form available from <http://aco.org.au/library-a-museum/about-the-library/services-available-in-the-library>

Are you looking for articles or information on a particular topic?

Send an email to library@aco.org.au with your search topic. You will be emailed URLs for corresponding free articles and search results will also be marked with availability e.g. available from the library or on inter-library loan.

How to search for information yourself

To search for articles you can use the National Library of Medicine Database – Pubmed.

A link is available via the ACO library website under useful information, or go to: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed>

- Type in your search query
- A list of articles that correspond to your search will appear
- You can then request articles from the library via email

