

SCOPE

MAGAZINE OF OPTOMETRY VICTORIA

FEBRUARY | 2019



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STRONG CALL TO ACTION ON CHILDREN'S VISION

Optometry Victoria's consumer booklet 'A guide to healthy eyes for kids and parents' was distributed in February to 70,000 children starting prep at a Victorian state school.

The booklet contains a strong call to action to parents and carers, to have their children's eyes checked by an optometrist before starting school, and every two to three years thereafter.

Parents and carers are encouraged to visit goodvisionforlife.com.au for more information and to find their local optometrist.

The call to action is supported by simple, up-to-date information on common vision issues in children, and strategies to support achieving good eye health.

The booklet also contains fun activities for kids featuring our 'Eye Girl' and 'Eye Guy' characters.

The booklet is part of the Department of Education and Training's Prep Bag program, and we thank the Department for their ongoing support of children's vision.

Common eye conditions



One in five Australian children have an undetected vision problem.

EDITORIAL

It's been a very busy start to 2019, with a number of exciting initiatives and events for members this year.

Following on from the historic vote in October which saw members overwhelmingly support amalgamation with Optometry South Australia, the Board and I have been working hard behind the scenes with our South Australian colleagues to ensure all necessary administrative and governance frameworks are in place.

From 1 July this year Optometry Victoria and Optometry South Australia will be one organisation, and we're confident that members will reap the benefits of the amalgamation. In the meantime from a member's perspective it will be business as usual, but we'll keep members updated, particularly as 1 July draws closer.

Preparations for O=MEGA19 are also progressing well. We have been able to offer an early bird full conference rate of \$399. This price represents outstanding value for members. As I understand it, this is the best price on offer for a conference with all the clinical credibility of SRC since last century!

This early bird rate is available only until 23 April, so don't miss out!

O=MEGA19 keynote speakers Danica Marrelli and Jordan Keith are confirmed, with further program details available through the O=MEGA19 website shortly. Up to 48 clinical CPD points are available.

From a policy and projects perspective we have been working behind the scenes on updating our clinical guidelines and policy positions, and we'll be relaunching a number of those throughout the year as work is finalised.

Finally I'd like to thank Optometry Victoria Board Directors Rowan Prendergast and Steve Dinh who have stepped down from their roles as Vice-President and Treasurer respectively. Their contribution to the association has been outstanding. I'd also like to congratulate incoming Vice-President Anne Weymouth and Treasurer Timothy Lo.

I'd like to thank members for their ongoing support throughout 2018, as myself and the team look forward to delivering outstanding member value again in this new year.

Warm regards,

Pete Haydon
Chief Executive Officer

'DIAGNOSTIC DILEMMAS' FOR EARLY CAREER MEMBERS



The next ECOV seminar will provide early career optometrists with a practical overview of diagnosing patients who have less obvious causes of vision loss, with guest speaker Dr Anne Weymouth.

Anne's presentation will cover issues such as neurodegenerations, retinal and optic nerve dystrophies and autoimmune, inflammatory and paraneoplastic related disease.

Non-glaucomatous visual field loss, acquired colour vision defects and electrodiagnostic and imaging tools useful in diagnosing neural aetiologies to vision loss, will also be covered. Case study discussion using a team-based learning format will also be a feature of the seminar.

Anne currently works as a consultant electrophysiologist in a private ophthalmology clinic as well as in independent optometry practice. She also consults in occupational assessments of visual function. Anne is currently Vice-President of Optometry Victoria.

Participants will receive 6 CPD points (with assessment). An evening meal and refreshments are also included.

Registration for the seminar is essential. Book online through the member portal or contact Optometry Victoria on office.vic@optometry.org.au or call (03) 9652 9100.

CARLTON	
Date:	Monday 19 March
Time:	6:00pm - 8:45pm
Venue:	Optometry Victoria, 28 Drummond Street, Carlton
Cost:	Free to Optometry Victoria members

SESSION IS FULL - WAIT LIST ONLY

FLEXIBLE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS WEBCAST AND FACE-TO-FACE SEMINAR



This seminar will explore the benefits and opportunities for optometrists in an ever-changing working environment, supporting optometrists to consider how their personal and professional lives interlink and how to find the best balance for them.

Guest speaker Vanessa Vanderhoek is the CEO of FlexAgility, a boutique consultancy supporting organisations to adapt quickly and easily to meet opportunities in the ever-changing world.

Based on her experience in executive roles for 10 years and managing geographically dispersed (flexible and agile) teams, Vanessa has witnessed firsthand the productivity benefits for business, and how it drives the attraction and retention of top talent.

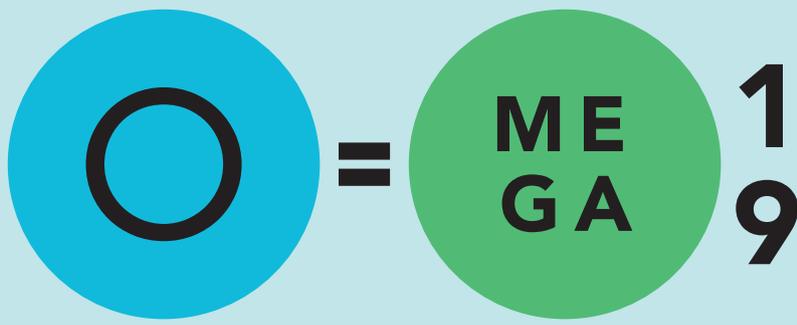
Optometry Victoria is proud to be partnering with Optometry Australia to deliver this event.

Optometry Victoria members can either register to participate in the webcast online, or attend the webcast face-to-face, with an evening meal and refreshments included.

Register to participate in the webcast online at <https://login.redbackconferencing.com.au/landers/page/fdef58>

Register to attend the webcast face-to-face by logging into the member portal, or contact Optometry Victoria at office.vic@optometry.org.au or call (03) 9652 9100.

CARLTON	
Date:	Tuesday 5 March
Time:	Webcast 8:00pm-9:00pm Face-to-face 7:30pm-9:00pm
Venue:	Optometry Victoria, 28 Drummond Street, Carlton
Cost:	Free to Optometry Victoria members



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OV'S MYOPIA SEMINAR HEADS TO WODONGA



Wodonga is the latest location for Optometry Victoria's regional seminar series, which is focused on myopia.

Myopia is a long-established bread and butter condition for optometry. But radical shifts in epidemiology

are driving individual demands and public health needs for more proactive management.

Are there ways to adjust modern life to avoid myopia? Are we part of the cause of the 'myopia epidemic'? Are there ways we can control myopia development in our patients?

Guest speaker Tim Fricke is an optometrist, researcher and international development practitioner. He has held clinical, teaching, research and management roles in private, public, community health, hospital and refugee camp settings, including Director of Specialty & Community Services at the Australian College of Optometry and Research Manager at the Brien Holden Vision Institute.

Local optometrist and member Kelly Gibbons will also speak briefly about the Visiting Optometrist Scheme (VOS).

Participants will receive 6T CPD points (with assessment). A three course meal and refreshments are included.

Registration for the seminar is essential. Book online through the member portal or contact Optometry Victoria on office.vic@optometry.org.au or call (03) 9652 9100.

Wodonga	
Date:	Thursday 28 March
Time:	6:00pm - 8:45pm
Venue:	The Cube, 118 Hovell Street, Wodonga
Cost:	Free to Optometry Victoria members

OPTOMETRY VICTORIA'S POSTGRADUATE TRAVEL GRANTS 2019

Optometry Victoria is proud to offer two postgraduate travel grants in 2019. The grants are for students and academics undertaking further research beyond an optometry and vision science degree.

The national conference grant of \$500 is to assist with the cost of travel to present at an Australian conference.

The international conference grant of \$1,000 is to assist with the cost of travel to present at an international conference or, to undertake research overseas.

Applications are assessed based on whether the research is relevant to optometry and vision science; whether the applicant has the support of their University for the proposed activity and, whether the applicant is willing and able to effectively represent Optometry Victoria and to report on their experience.

The grants can be used for travel up to December 2019. Applicants may

request reimbursement for travel that has already been paid for, but not undertaken.

Applications must be made using Optometry Victoria's postgraduate travel grants 2019 application form, and

must be received at Optometry Victoria by Monday 4 March, 2019 at 5pm.

For more information and to download an application form visit www.optometry.org.au/vic



IMMEDIATE GRADUATE MEMBERS, COME DINE WITH US!



Immediate Graduate members are invited to a relaxed and fun dinner in the heart of Melbourne. The dinner is a great opportunity to catch up with your graduating class over a delicious three course meal plus drinks.

Optometry Victoria's senior staff, a Board Director and an Early Career Optometrists Victoria (ECOV) committee member will also be there to chat with members and talk about issues of interest.

Or just relax and enjoy a fun night out, on us!

Registration is essential. Register through the Member Portal or contact Optometry Victoria directly on office. vic@optometry.org.au or call (03) 9652 9100.

Melbourne

Date:	Monday 1 April
Time:	7:00pm - 9:00pm
Venue:	Berth Restaurant, 45 New Quay Promenade, Docklands
Cost:	Free to Optometry Victoria members

GOLFING FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Optometry Victoria is pleased to once again be supporting Golf Day 2019, which raises much needed funds for Optometry Giving Sight.

To be held on Monday 25 March at the Commonwealth Golf Club, Golf Day this year has taken a new approach under the leadership of Optometry Victoria member Adrian Vecchio.

"We're very excited about the new additions to Golf Day, that will allow even more members to enjoy the event," Adrian said.

A cocktail style dinner will now replace the traditional sit down meal, providing participants with more time to catch up with colleagues, and to sample a range of tasty canapes and treats.

Leading Victorian amateur player Ashleigh Hall will be walking the course all day, playing a few holes and offering constructive pointers to participants on getting the most out of their game. There is also a golf lesson available for beginners.

As well as a range of fantastic sponsor prizes, there are also a number of golf-specific prizes including, a round of golf for four players at the Commonwealth Golf Club and, a one hour golf lesson for three people conducted by the Head of Golf Coaching at the Victorian Institute of Sport, followed by a round of golf with Ashleigh Hall at Spring Valley Golf Club.

Event sponsors are Essilor, Eyes Right Optical, Hoya, Provision, De Rigo, Van Staveren, CR Surfacing and Maui Jim.

There are only 80 places available to attend Golf Day 2019, so register early.

For more information and to register visit www.optometry.org.au/vic



GLAUCOMA RISK SCREENING CLINIC AND PATIENT SYMPOSIUM



Members can support the event by participating in the screening clinic, and by encouraging glaucoma patients and their families to attend the patient symposium and screening clinic.

A five kilometre fun run is also being held on the morning of the patient symposium, and optometrists and other health professionals are invited to participate.

Optometry Victoria is proud to support this event and we encourage members to take advantage of the opportunities to be involved.

For more information visit optometry.org.au/vic

The eighth World Glaucoma Congress will be held in Melbourne on 27 – 30 March 2019. This will be the first time the congress has ever been held in Australia.

As part of the Congress, Glaucoma Australia will be holding a patient symposium and free glaucoma risk screening clinic on 27 March 2019.

OPTOMETRY STUDENT SOCIETY COMMITTEES 2019

Optometry Victoria welcomes the new optometry student society committee members for 2019. We look forward to working with the committees throughout the year.

Deakin Optometry Student Society (DOSS)

- Vivian Dang, President
- Yenny Thai, Vice President
- Nikhita Penmetsa, Events
- Aaryan Bhardwaj, Treasurer
- Theresa Bui, Secretary

University of Melbourne Optometry Student Society (UMOSS)

- Kieren Do, President
- Julia Nguyen, Vice President
- Jack Nguyen, Treasurer and Secretary
- Bryant Wong, Education Officer
- Samuel (Sam) Stephenson, Social Officer
- Baturay (Bate) Ozcelik, Social Officer
- Tiffany Lee, Social Officer

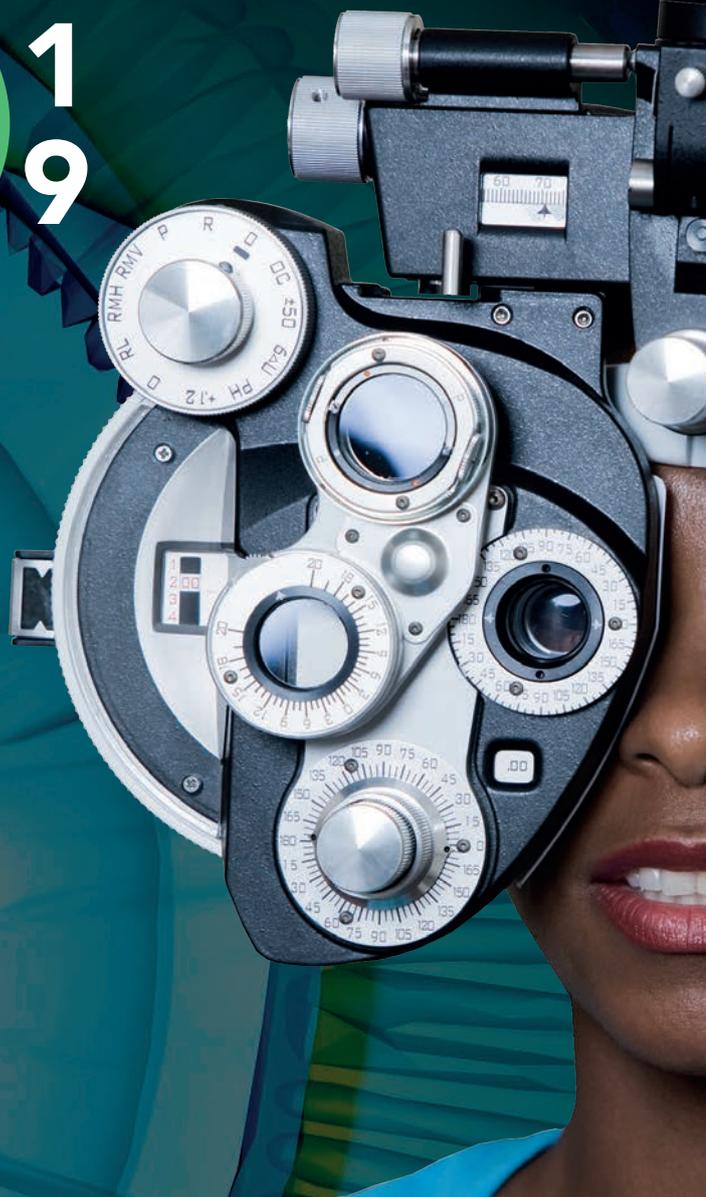


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- Childcare available

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FEATURE ARTICLE

O=MEGA19 REGISTRATIONS
ARE NOW OPEN!

Early bird registrations for O=MEGA19 are now open, with an unbeatable early bird member rate of \$399 to attend the entire three days of the conference.



**THE THREE-DAY,
EARLY BIRD MEMBER
RATE IS \$399.**

**THIS IS A SAVING OF OVER
\$300 ON THE FULL PRICE OF
REGISTRATION FOR SRC 2018.**

REGISTER BEFORE 23 APRIL

www.omega19.com.au

Presented by ODMA and Optometry Victoria, O=MEGA19 will take place from 19-21 July 2019 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

O=MEGA19 replaces ODMA Fair and SRC to combine the largest annual optometry conference in the southern hemisphere with the largest eye care and eye wear show in Australia.

The O=MEGA19 program runs across three days bringing together the international and Australia-Pacific optical industry.

Optometrists can attend the clinical conference and trade show (registration fees apply) or choose to attend the trade show only (free of charge).

The clinical conference will include a number of breakout sessions and a series of optional Masterclasses relevant to optical dispensers and

trade show visitors (fees apply). Optometrists are also welcome to register for the Masterclasses.

O=MEGA19 offers a high quality experience that represents stunning value.

O=MEGA19 also offers:

- up to 48 clinical CPD points;
- cutting-edge clinical speakers from Australia and around the world in a dual-stream format including twin keynote lectures and breakout sessions;
- excellent networking opportunities in a modern state of the art facility;
- a showcase of over 100 exhibitors in a dedicated exhibition space;
- optional masterclass education seminars for dispensers, trade show visitors and optometrists, and
- a fully staffed childcare centre at the venue (fees apply).

Keynote speakers

Keynote speakers are Dr Danica Marrelli (USA) and Dr Jordan Keith (USA).

Dr Marrelli will be presenting on pregnancy and the eye, detecting visual field progression in glaucoma, cases that helped shape her career, and glaucoma and maximising OCT use in glaucoma.

Dr Keith will be presenting on epiphora, myopia control, cases that helped shape his career, examining the diabetic patient and, an evidence based approach to clinical decision making.

Check the website for program updates and news.

OPTOMETRY CALLS FOR STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE PRIMARY EYE CARE

Optometry Australia has outlined three prudent measures to support improved access to quality eye care for all Australians in its submission to the Federal Budget 2019-20.

The association has called on the government to reinstate biennial Medicare rebates for comprehensive initial examinations for middle-aged Australians.

An annual investment of an estimated \$9 million would help ensure timely access to optometric assessment for this age group. It would also align with best practice recommendations to support detection and early intervention of eye disease, and to minimise vision loss and blindness.

Optometry Australia has also called on the government to increase its investment in the Visiting Optometrists Scheme (VOS). This would help ensure the eye health and vision needs of

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, and those in rural and remote areas, are met.

VOS utilises a well-proven model that has been supporting outreach optometry for over 40 years. Further investment in the scheme is a logical step to help ensure that the number of services needed can be provided.

Optometry Australia is also calling for strategic investment in applied research for primary eye care. Investment is needed to ensure the models of eye care we provide are the most effective and efficient in meeting the evolving needs of the population.

Optometry Australia's future focused Optometry 2040 project undertaken in 2018, highlighted the great opportunities in ongoing clinical and technological developments, and the need to develop new models of care to ensure maximum benefit is offered to our communities.

To read the full submission visit www.optometry.org.au/advocacy/submissions/



Sustainability for optometry and primary eye health care

Federal Budget Submission 2019-2020

MBS REVIEW COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS RELEASED



Report from the Optometry Services Clinical Committee

December 2018

Review Taskforce, were released in early February.

The MBS review has been underway since 2015. The Optometry Clinical Committee was convened in October 2018 and is Chaired by Adj Ass Professor Phil Anderton. Committee members include current Optometry Victoria Director Professor Allison McKendrick and former Optometry Victoria President Andrew Harris.

Encouragingly there is strong alignment between the MBS Committee's recommendations and those advocated by Optometry Australia. Optometry Australia's recommendations were developed with the guidance of a specifically convened advisory group of members.

Importantly the MBS Committee has recommended changing the frequency with which a patient rebate for an initial comprehensive examination for 50-64 year olds can be claimed, from every three years to every two years.

The Committee's recommendations are currently out for consultation with key stakeholders, and Optometry Australia is preparing a detailed response.

The MBS Taskforce will consider the consultation feedback before finalising recommendations to the Minister for Health and to the Government, who make the final determination on whether changes will be implemented.

It is unlikely that the recommendations will be considered by the Government before May. With the Federal Election looming and the opportunity for positive changes to the optometry schedule, Optometry Australia's pre-election campaign will include a focus on ensuring that bipartisan support for the MBS review continues.

To read the full report visit [www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/mbs-review-2018-taskforce-reports-cp/\\$File/](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/mbs-review-2018-taskforce-reports-cp/$File/)

The recommendations of the Optometry Clinical Committee of the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS)

MEMBER PROFILES

MALCOLM GIN AND ALEX KAYE:
SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF PRACTICE

MALCOLM GIN HAS BEEN RUNNING HIS PRACTICE IN WONTHAGGI SINCE 1990. THE PRACTICE HAS EVOLVED IN THAT TIME, WITH THE BUILDING COMPLETELY REBUILT IN 2004 AND AN EXTENSION ADDED IN 2018. ALEX KAYE JOINED THE TEAM AS A GRADUATE OPTOMETRIST LAST YEAR. TOGETHER THEY PROVIDE FULL SCOPE OF PRACTICE EYECARE TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.



Malcolm reflects on how important connection to the local community is to him, and for the practice.

“My first job was in a rural setting working for Leunig and Farmer. Working there, the one thing which really stood out was the sense of community that Leunig and Farmer had developed and continued to foster,” Malcolm said.

“Living in a rural community means that you develop relationships with everybody, from the town mayor to the local school children and their families, and that sense of looking after each other was paramount in making the decision to establish the business within a rural setting,” he said.

“I’M PLEASED THAT THE BUSINESS HAS BEEN SUSTAINABLE OVER 29 YEARS. I WAS LUCKY TO HAVE HAD SOME GREAT MENTORS ALONG THE WAY, AND THIS HAS BEEN A CATALYST FOR MAKING SURE YOUNGER OPTOMETRISTS HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES THAT I HAVE HAD,” MALCOLM SAID.

This is Alex’s first position as an optometrist since graduating.

“I was drawn to this role as it offered the opportunity to be exposed to full scope optometry while working alongside an accomplished and driven mentor in Malcolm,” Alex said.

“I saw this as a fantastic chance to progress in my clinical skills post-university training, while also gaining exposure to some of the fundamentals of business ownership within the optometry industry. It has offered all of that and more. The fact the practice is located in a small coastal community

also comes with the spoils of an outdoor beachside lifestyle,” he said.

As an optometrist with more than 30 years’ experience in the industry, Malcolm is interested in supporting early career optometrists, particularly around moving into practice ownership.

“When I graduated practice ownership was something everyone aspired to. Seventy-nine per cent of my graduating class have had their own businesses at one stage,” Malcolm said.

“WHILE THE GOALPOSTS HAVE CERTAINLY CHANGED OVER TIME, THE DESIRE TO PRACTICE IN AN AUTONOMOUS ENVIRONMENT STILL REMAINS FOR MANY. I BELIEVE THAT IT’S IMPORTANT TO IDENTIFY THOSE WHO WANT TO PRACTICE INDEPENDENTLY AND FIND OUT HOW TO HELP THESE MOTIVATED YOUNG OPTOMETRISTS TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS,” MALCOLM SAID.

“This could be establishing a green fields practice, going into partnership, or purchasing a franchise or corporate practice,” Malcolm said.

“We need to identify those who have the drive and then how they can overcome the barriers to getting started. One thing that’s a sure bet is that as the population ages and people are living longer, optometric, optical and ophthalmological services are going to be in demand,” he said.

Having Alex in the practice provides Malcolm with first-hand insight into some of the barriers that early career practitioners are concerned about. For example, Alex acknowledges that eye care delivery is a costly business.

“There are inventory costs, technology costs, IT costs, HR costs, as well as finding a location and identifying a competitive advantage. For an early career optometrist this can be daunting.”

“DESPITE THE BARRIERS, I FEEL DIRECT EXPOSURE TO SOMEONE LIKE MALCOLM WHO HAS BEEN THROUGH THIS PROCESS, HELPS BREAK THE GOAL DOWN INTO ACHIEVABLE STEPS. SO I THINK IF WE CAN PROVIDE EARLY CAREER OPTOMETRISTS GUIDANCE ON CAREER PLANNING AND GOAL SETTING WE CAN INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION OF PRACTICE OWNERS,” ALEX SAID.

Despite the challenges, both Malcolm and Alex continue to enjoy their careers.

“Becoming an optometrist appealed to me because of the diversity. It’s an interesting blend of science, healthcare and business. This is also what motivates me today,” Alex said.

“I still look forward to going to work every day,” Malcolm said. “The patients are generally healthy and happy to come and see me and I always love reconnecting with them and hearing their stories,” he said.

Optometry Victoria is exploring opportunities to better understand the sorts of barriers and challenges facing members wishing to move into practice ownership. As part of this process we encourage members interested in, or impacted by these issues, to contact us directly. We will provide an update on any further work in this area, over the coming months.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Directors: Murray Smith (President), Anne Weymouth (Vice-President), Timothy Lo (Treasurer), Steve Dinh, Allison McKendrick, Genevieve Napper, Rowan Prendergast Jason Tan (Associate Director), Jayson Ward.

National Director: Kylie Harris

The Optometry Victoria Board welcomes discussion and input from our members.

If you have an issue or point of discussion you would like to raise with the Board, please feel free to contact President Murray Smith directly at m.smith@optometry.org.au

Alternatively you can reach individual Board members via the Optometry Victoria office on (03) 9652 9100 or email office.vic@optometry.org.au

DIARY
DATES

OPTOMETRY VICTORIA'S POSTGRADUATE TRAVEL GRANT

Optometry Victoria is proud to offer one national conference grant of up to \$500 and one international conference grant of up to \$1,000. To be eligible applicants must be a current member of Optometry Victoria..

Grant opens: Thursday 7 February, 2019

Grant closes: Monday 4 March, 2019

OV AND OA'S FLEXIBLE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS WEBCAST AND FACE-TO-FACE SEMINAR

This webcast will support optometrists to consider how their personal and professional lives interlink and how to find the best balance for them.

Victorian members are also invited to attend the webcast in person.

Venue: **Face-to-face:** Optometry Victoria, Level 1, 28 Drummond Street, Carlton
Webcast: online

Date: Tuesday 5 March, 2019

Time: **Face-to-face:** 7:30pm-9:00pm
(dinner provided)
Webcast: 8:00pm-9:00pm

Cost: Free to Optometry Victoria members.
Registration is essential.

ECOV'S DIAGNOSTIC DILEMMAS FOR EARLY CAREER MEMBERS SEMINAR

This seminar will provide early career optometrists with a practical overview of diagnosing patients who have less obvious causes of vision loss, with guest speaker Dr Anne Weymouth.

Venue: Optometry Victoria, Level 1, 28 Drummond Street, Carlton

Date: Monday 19 March, 2019

Time: 6:00pm-8.45pm
(dinner provided)

Cost: Free to Optometry Victoria members.
Registration is essential.

SESSION IS FULL - WAIT LIST ONLY

OV'S MYOPIA SEMINAR: WODONGA

Through this seminar guest presenter Tim Fricke will review the evidence and open discussion regarding trends in myopia epidemiology and pathological consequences, and the range of myopia management options.

Venue: The Cube, 118 Hovell Street, Wodonga

Date: Thursday 28 March, 2019

Time: 6:00pm-8.45pm
(dinner provided)

Cost: Free to Optometry Victoria members.
Registration is essential.

IMMEDIATE GRADUATES DINNER

Immediate Graduate members are invited to join us for a relaxed and fun three-course dinner and drinks in the heart of Melbourne.

Venue: Berth Restaurant, 45 New Quay Promenade, Docklands

Date: Monday 1 April, 2019

Time: 7:00pm-9:00pm

Cost: Free to Optometry Victoria members.
Registration is essential.

O=MEGA19 EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION

O=MEGA19 replaces ODMA Fair and SRC to combine the largest annual optometry conference in the southern hemisphere with the largest eye care and eye wear show in Australia.

Venue: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

Date: 19-21 July, 2019

Early bird registration closes: 23 April, 2019

For more information on any of the above events or to register online visit www.optometry.org.au/vic



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