

# SCOPE



MAGAZINE OF OPTOMETRY VICTORIA SOUTH AUSTRALIA FEBRUARY | 2020



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## EDITORIAL



It's been a difficult and challenging start to 2020 for many of our members, with the bushfire crisis significantly impacting both Victoria and South Australia. Our thoughts are with members, their families and their patients who've been affected by this disaster. More recently the coronavirus is also cause for concern and impacting members in a range of ways.

In relation to the bushfire, you may recall OA contacted members in early January 2020 to advise that OA Employee Assistance Program

provider LifeWorks had opened up a crisis support line for anyone in the community in need of emotional support in relation to these events.

The crisis line is still available to members and patients who may be struggling as a result of the fires, and in need of emotional support and assistance. We're aware that sometimes the impact of a catastrophe like the bushfires can come many months later, which is why this service is still open.

The crisis support line can be accessed 24/7 by calling 1300 361 008. Callers will receive professional emotional support and/or referral to community resources. I encourage you to draw on this resource if you feel it might help you, and to feel free to provide the details to patients and their families also.

In relation to the coronavirus, OA has been continually reviewing and updating evidence-based advice for members. We have included an article in this edition of Scope directing members to the latest update.

On a brighter note, we are looking forward to a busy and productive 2020. We are currently in the process

of planning our member CPD calendar for 2020-21 financial year. We're excited to be delivering the Blue Sky conference in Adelaide on 20-21 November this year, with three single-day conferences to be held in Melbourne in July and October 2020 and again in March 2021 each with its own clinical theme. These offerings will be supplemented by the rural and regional seminar series, ECO-specific CPD events and other one-off CPD and networking opportunities across the two states.

Keep an eye out for the CPD calendar, which will be distributed to members in June this year.

Once again, thank you for your support of the association through membership, attending our events and engaging with our advocacy and general public campaigns. On behalf of the OV/SA team, we look forward to working with you throughout this year.

Yours sincerely,

Pete Haydon  
Chief Executive Officer

## THE LATEST CORONAVIRUS UPDATE FOR OPTOMETRISTS

With the outbreak of the coronavirus in Australia and worldwide, OA is urging optometrists to routinely ask all patients in advance of their appointment and when they arrive at the practice, if they have recently returned from a country for which travel restrictions or bans are in place as advised by the Australian Government, and if they have any symptoms of fever, cough, sore throat or difficulty breathing.

If the patient answers yes to any of the above, optometrists are advised NOT to see a non-urgent patient until their symptoms are resolved and the patient has been cleared by their doctor.

Careful consideration needs to be given to the management of patients who answer yes, and who have a clinical need to be seen urgently. In these instances OA advises implementing strict infection control measures including a surgical mask for the patient and all staff dealing with the patient, hand hygiene and environmental disinfection of all surfaces they have come in contact with. The Lancet journal has published a recent article highlighting that transmission through the ocular surface should not be ignored, and also recommended protective eyewear for any practitioner examining a patient who may have the virus.

**Optometrists are advised to regularly visit the OA website home page which contains regularly updated, evidence-based advice on coronavirus, infection control guidelines and patient management specifically for optometrists. Visit [www.optometry.org.au](http://www.optometry.org.au) and click on the virus tile on the landing page.**

**LOCAL NEWS****INAUGURAL SACSAs COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN ADELAIDE**

The inaugural meeting of OV/SAs new State Advisory Committee South Australia (SACSA) was held in Adelaide in February.

The SACSA committee will provide advice and input to OV/SA's secretariat staff on emerging issues in optometry, clinical and technical optometric issues, policy issues and the development or updating of member resources and information.

The SACSA offers SA-based members with an opportunity to have input into the work of their association in South Australia. As OV/SA advisors, committee members are encouraged to advocate the benefit of membership of the association and to support and promote OV/SA's policy agenda more broadly.

Secretariat support is provided to the SACSA by Libby Boschen. In late 2019 OV/SA invited members to join the committee. The committee members are: Jason Booth, Loucia Calder, Jelle de Bock, Lauren Field, Karen Hawkes,



*SACSA committee members at the inaugural meeting in Adelaide in February.*

Lisa Ho, Stuart Holden, Alex Jaworski, Senthil Murugappa, Viki Nikas.

The committee will meet in person twice a year with additional email

communication between meetings as required. OV/SA thanks the committee members for their time and valuable insights.

**VOTE TRUST GRANT 2019 WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

**Professor Sharon Bentley from Queensland University of Technology and Ms Jane Duffy from Deakin University have been awarded Victorian Optometrists Training and Education (VOTE) Trust grants for 2019.**

The VOTE Trust grants are provided annually and have two key aims: to advance and foster the practice of optometry and, to improve Victorian optometrists' ability to practice and Victorian optometry students' ability to undertake training. Five applications were received in 2019-2020 from organisations in three states. The VOTE funds can be used to support national initiatives providing impact in Victoria is demonstrated.

Professor Bentley's application was made on behalf of all of the Heads of Optometry Schools in Australia and New Zealand. The project aims to

scope the development of a Leaders in Indigenous Optometry Education Network which will be dedicated to better educating optometry students to provide improved and culturally safe eye care to Indigenous patients and, taking collective responsibility for increasing the number of Indigenous optometrists.

The project supports the opportunity to enrich the knowledge and skills of optometry educators and optometry graduates and will also advance vital efforts to 'Close the Gap' for eye health and end avoidable vision loss and blindness among the First Nations communities of Australia and New Zealand.

The project developed by Ms Jane Duffy and her co-investigators representing two other Universities, aims to advance the teaching of 'professionalism' to optometry students

by developing an evidence-based curriculum framework for teaching this core attribute to future members of the profession. This curriculum will be developed based on an agreed definition of professionalism in healthcare, which will assist with professional identity formation.

The VOTE Trust was established in 2010 by the then Optometrists Registration Board of Victoria, from funds accumulated and held by the Board. The Board had ceased to exist with the establishment of a national registration and accreditation scheme and the creation of the Optometry Board of Australia.

The Grants Advisory Committee are: Andrew Anderson, Mitchell Anjou, Alex Gentle, Pete Haydon and Maureen O'Keefe.

## INCREASING EYE HEALTH AWARENESS IN THE ARABIC COMMUNITY



Amir Shenouda delivers an eye health awareness presentation in Arabic to over 100 Arabic community members as part of the Vision Initiative activities

The Vision Initiative (VI) is a Victorian-specific eye health promotion project that aims to prevent avoidable blindness and address the impact of vision loss in the Victorian community. The VI is funded by the Victorian government and managed by Vision 2020.

Optometry Victoria South Australia (OV/SA) supports the VI by providing clinical advice, providing feedback on the VI resources and from time to time sourcing optometrists to participate in eye health awareness raising activities with local communities, health professionals and people working with communities at risk of eye health issues.

Recently OV/SA member Amir Shenouda delivered a presentation to over 100 people from the local Arabic community in the northern suburbs of Melbourne. Amir spoke about the importance of maintaining good eye health and the type of services and support available from optometrists. Amir delivered the hour long presentation in Arabic, and also answered questions from the audience.

The event was also live streamed on Middle East Radio 87.6FM with around 1,400 views of his presentation to date. Feedback from participants on the day,

and from those accessing the live stream has been very positive.

**To find out more about the Vision Initiative visit: [www.visioninitiative.org.au](http://www.visioninitiative.org.au)**

### Translated eye care resources available

Did you know that the Vision Initiative produce a range of translated resources that can be used to increase understanding about eye conditions with patients? The resources cover topics such as diabetic retinopathy, cataracts and, smoking and vision loss. The content is laid out so that the English text sits side-by-side with the community language, to enhance the ability to use the resources in the practice with patients.

**For more information and to view and/or order the resources visit [www.visioninitiative.org.au/health-professionals/professional-resources](http://www.visioninitiative.org.au/health-professionals/professional-resources)**

## GPS IN FOCUS FOR EYE HEALTH

New and updated eye health resources have been developed in both Victoria and South Australia that are aimed at increasing GP awareness of optometry and optometrists.

The South Australian resources have been developed with support from the Rural Doctors Workforce Agency.

They include a short five minute video aimed at GP practice staff that highlights the importance of maintaining good eye health and the services and scope of practice of optometrists, as well as promotional posters and a power point presentation on common eye conditions that can be used by optometrists when meeting with GPs.

The Victorian 'Optometry scope of practice' fact sheet is included as part of the Vision Initiative (VI) eye health promotion project. The fact sheet is included in the VI GP kit, and outlines the scope of practice and skills of optometrists and referral pathways.

The fact sheet is accompanied by a 'GP referral to optometric services' form designed to prompt GPs to include key information in a referral to an optometrist.

From March 2018 to March 2019 the VI distributed the GP kit to 72 GP practices located in six low socioeconomic local government areas around the state. A further

250 GP practices will be targeted in Dandenong, Brimbank and Shepparton, in the current program.

Members can also access the resources through the Optometry Australia website, and use them in their local networking and awareness activities with local GPs. Alternatively members can direct GPs to the site to access the information themselves.

**Visit [www.optometry.org.au/gps-health-care-professionals/gps/](http://www.optometry.org.au/gps-health-care-professionals/gps/)**

## LOCAL NEWS

## CHILDREN'S VISION GUIDES DISTRIBUTED TO 65,000 VICTORIAN FAMILIES



In February OV/SA's 'A guide to healthy eyes for kids and parents' booklets were distributed to 65,000 children starting Prep at a Victorian state school in 2020.

The guide includes information on maintaining good eye health, including the importance of regular eye examinations for children. It also has fun activities for kids including a maze and a cut out Eye Girl paper figure.

The guide includes a strong call to action for parents to have their children's eye's examined. Parents and carers are directed to the 'find an optometrist' page on OA's Good Vision for Life website to find their local optometrist. All optometrists who are members of OV/SA can be found on this page.

The guides are part of the Victorian Department of Education's Prep Bag program. The Prep Bag includes a range of health and development information and resources targeted to children and their families.

**For more information about the Prep Bag program visit [www.education.vic.gov.au/about/news/Pages/stories/2018/stories\\_prepbags2019.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/news/Pages/stories/2018/stories_prepbags2019.aspx)**

## ECOV/SA COMMITTEE IS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

Are you in your first ten years of practice as an optometrist? Do you want to support your profession and help your peers get the very best from their career? Are you keen to take on a leadership role within the profession?

OV/SA is calling for expressions of interest from early career members in either Victoria or South Australia who are up to ten years from graduation, and are interested in joining the committee.

The ECOV/SA committee is a dynamic and highly engaged group who are delivering tangible results on behalf of early career members. The committee develop and deliver CPD seminars and networking events across the two states that are specifically targeted to the needs of early career members.

The committee also provides support for early career optometrists through peer mentoring dinners and the development of targeted resources that are based on feedback from

members about their experiences and what they need.

The committee also advocates for change, such as expanding scope of practice, with a view to ensuring a sustainable and interesting future career for members.

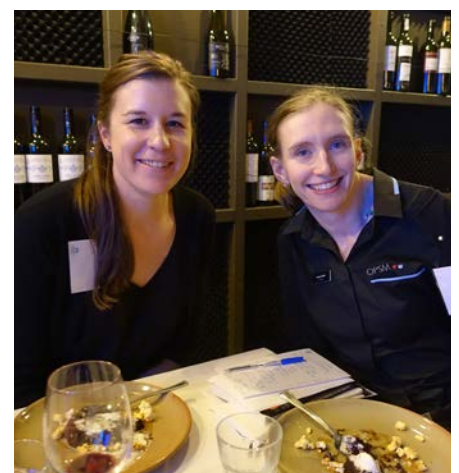
Members who are interested in joining the committee should complete the

expression of interest form and email it to [office.vicsa@optometry.org.au](mailto:office.vicsa@optometry.org.au) by no later than **5pm on Tuesday 17 March 2020**.

**For more information and to access the expression of interest form, visit the website. [www.optometry.org.au/about-us/our-organisation/optometry-vic-sa/our-committees/](http://www.optometry.org.au/about-us/our-organisation/optometry-vic-sa/our-committees/)**



*ECOV/SA committee members Zenia Jaitley and Patrick Mac at a recent ECOV/SA seminar in Melbourne.*



*ECOV/SA committee member Jo Rohrlach (L) with SACSA committee member Lauren Field at a recent ECOV/SA event in Adelaide.*

## JELLE DE BOCK: SUPPORTING RECOVERY ON KANGAROO ISLAND



After graduating from the University of Auckland in 1996 Jelle de Bock moved to Australia, to take up a role with an independent chain of Adelaide based practices, The Vision Centre in Adelaide. He loved Adelaide and stayed on, moving to Laubman and Pank in 2001, and then OPSM. He opened his own practice Fleurieu Eye Care in 2004 in Normanville.

We asked Jelle about how his practice in Normanville developed and what he enjoys about working in a regional location.

"As I was starting the practice from scratch I initially began working three days a week there, while working as a locum on the other two to three days. Gradually I built the practice up, and I'm now there full-time," Jelle said.

"Being a country practice, we deal with everything from foreign body removals, glaucoma, diabetes, iritis to HZO, old eyes, young eyes, and everything in between. But I do love a challenge where we have to do a bit of detective work to find a solution to a particular problem or eye issue," he said.

**"I'd also been doing Kangaroo Island trips as a locum for OPSM since 2002. I started doing out-reach to the Island for my own practice from 2012. We travel to Kangaroo Island six times a year, and spend four to five days at a time there,"** Jelle said.

We asked Jelle about his experience of the bushfires on Kangaroo Island, and whether they impacted him and his family, but also the practice and patients.

"Fortunately the bush fires did not affect us personally as we reside in Yankalilla on the mainland. But we saw the devastation on TV and recognised many of our patients sifting through the ashes of their homes," Jelle said.

"The fires burnt around two thirds of the island, mostly on the western side. Most of the Island's population live on the eastern side, which remained unaffected. This is also where our outreach is located, at Kingscote, and so fortunately for us it was safe from the fires," he said.

**"However there are people on the Island who have lost everything. We've offered free glasses to them, and we're also doing half price glasses for the volunteers in the Country Fire Service, as we wanted to do our bit to help the community recover. But we've found that we're having to twist arms as some of the locals are too stoic and too proud to accept our offer. We have tough country folk on the Island!"** Jelle said.

Now that the fire risk has reduced in the area, we asked Jelle what impact he is seeing on patients and on the practice.

"We're seeing lots of patients with dry eye and allergic eye issues, but otherwise nothing else too much out of the ordinary. However we are taking

extra care to ask how each and every patient is going and how the fires have affected them personally, so that we can offer extra help where required," Jelle said.

"We're mindful that we'll see more affected patients in the next six months. Right now they're sorting out their homes and fence-lines and infrastructure, and will look to fix up their glasses at a later date. We'll continue to offer free glasses to those who have lost everything and half price to volunteers who have sacrificed a lot to help out. We won't put a time limit on this as we know it could be the end of the year before some will ask for help," he said.

**"We're thankful that our business and our family is pretty much unaffected, which means we are able to offer help to those less fortunate than ourselves,"** Jelle said.

"Although the fires have been catastrophic with devastating and substantial losses to wildlife, bush, farmland, sheds, livestock, and fence-lines, most people live on the eastern third of the Island, which was totally unaffected," he said.

"We encourage people to not cancel any trips to the Island and to come and enjoy everything the Island has to offer – it's one of the most beautiful places in Australia. All the main attractions remain open for business, you just may have to drive through a scorched landscape to reach a few of them," Jelle said.



## MEMBER PROFILE

## PHILIPA MUNDAY: SUPPORTING THE STRONG EAST GIPPSLAND COMMUNITY



Philipa Munday graduated from the University of Melbourne in 2009 and started working for Dyson and Long Optometrist in Bairnsdale. For the next three to four years Philipa worked for ten months of the year at the practice in Bairnsdale, while working as a locum at various locations across Australia for the other two months. She also worked for OPSM in Albany, WA for six months before returning to Dyson and Long where she became a business partner in 2013.

We asked Philipa how she came to work at Dyson and Long, and what she enjoys about it.

"I'm from Orbost and had formed a good relationship with Cam Dyson and Ken Long while I was studying optometry. They had taken me under their wing allowing me to participate in regular voluntary placements during the university holidays," Philipa said.

"This made transitioning to rural practice a lot easier as I had an understanding of the diverse nature of ocular pathology and presentations that you often see in country practice. I was also very lucky to have two therapeutically endorsed, skilled optometrists with years of experience as my mentors," she said.

"Working in a rural area means that a lot of patients find it difficult or don't want to travel to Melbourne for specialist intervention. This often results in patients using us as their first port of call for the mundane to very serious sight threatening conditions," Philipa said.

"We have good relationships with our local GP's and also receive referrals from them on a daily basis. I suppose this has increased my exposure to ocular pathology and that has in turn

directed me to have a particular interest in therapeutic management of ocular disease. I also quite enjoy children's vision and my day is often very diverse and interesting," Philipa said.

"Two years ago as a group, we purchased a long standing practice in Lakes Entrance and now I spend my time between the two practices in addition to our outreach clinic in Mallacoota," she said.

We asked Philipa what it was like working and living in East Gippsland during the recent bushfires, where the region was hit particularly hard.

"East Gippsland is a beautiful place to both live and work. There is a strong sense of community and I feel I get to know my patients really well. During the fires there was understandably a lot of anxiety amongst my patients, some of whom had lost homes or were anticipating losing their homes. Even those who were not directly impacted by the fires were in a heightened state of anxiety," Philipa said.

**"Personally we were asked to evacuate our home three times which created some logistical difficulty. I have two very young boys and we tried our best to shelter them from the reality of what was happening, going on 'holidays' rather than evacuating. I also have horses and had to move them at short notice to a safer area," she said.**

"We also had a number of staff members whose properties were very close to the fire fronts. One staff member's home was saved, but she lost some of her fencing. She was fortunate however, as her neighbours homes were all lost," Philipa said.

"All of this meant that I had to cancel most of my patients for the entire week, some at short notice. In addition, a lot of people moved away from the area to avoid the smoke resulting in a reduced demand for appointments over the period. The flow on effect for the business of course was reduced income for the couple of weeks over the main fire period," she said.

**"As a business owner this was concerning, as you still have to pay your staff and bills, but with a substantial decrease in turn-over. I'm thankful that optometry is the type of business where you can pick up on the lost consultations and sales at a later date, unlike other local businesses who rely mostly on the tourist dollar over the busy school holiday period," Philipa said.**

"The other issue of course, was that the fires in Mallacoota came very close to the health centre where our outreach practice is located, stopping just on the other side of the street. For a short time there was some concern that we may have lost this practice including our fully fitted out consulting room and gear," she said.

"The Mallacoota community lost a significant number of houses and properties, and it was very fortunate that the health centre was untouched, as this is a great asset to their community. Overall we have been very lucky, and I am feeling very fortunate, where some have lost so much," Philipa said.

Now that the bushfire threat has largely passed, we asked Philipa whether there has been any ongoing impact on patients and the practices.

"During the fires many patients, especially those who are chronically ill were affected by the high level of smoke in the area. We were seeing a lot of patients with increased breathing difficulty and exacerbation of chronic lung conditions," Philipa said.

"With respect to ocular conditions, we saw a lot more patients suffering from dry eye, allergy and exacerbation to chronic anterior eye conditions. People were reporting increased frequency of foreign body sensation in the eyes," she said.

**"Many people who lost homes did not have adequate time to take belongings and have understandably lost their glasses. As a company we have elected to fully replace any of our patients lost glasses at no cost and we have been very fortunate that some of our larger suppliers have also offered assistance," Philipa said.**

"As we travelled to Mallacoota last week where there have been approximately 124 homes lost, I expect that we may be replacing dozens of frames and lenses for patients. It's the least we can do to assist those in need, and hopefully it will reduce a little bit of the burden for them," she said.

"For myself, my work and home life is now back to normal. My family are back at home, with my two little boys running riot as usual. Happy days!" Philipa said.

## MEMBER EVENTS

### LIMITED PLACES STILL AVAILABLE FOR OV/SA'S ANNUAL GOLF DAY

OV/SA members and guests are invited to join us for a game of social golf on the prestigious Peninsula Kingswood Country Golf Club on Monday 16 March

OV/SA's Annual Golf Day aims to raise funds for charity to improve eye health outcomes for disadvantaged communities.

This event is in its 97th year and is open to all skill levels from beginners through to the experienced golfer.

The program includes individual stableford and Ambrose events with plenty of prizes on offer and the opportunity to get your name on the prestigious perpetual Golf Day trophy.

**For more information and to register for Golf Day visit the website. [www.optometry.org.au/general\\_news/tee-off-at-ov-sas-annual-golf-day-on-16-march/](http://www.optometry.org.au/general_news/tee-off-at-ov-sas-annual-golf-day-on-16-march/)**



### IMMEDIATE GRADUATE MEMBERS: DINNER'S ON US!



*The Kentish Hotel in Adelaide*

Free dinners are being held in Adelaide and Melbourne in April for Immediate Graduate members.

The dinners are a great opportunity to catch up with your graduating class over a delicious three course meal plus drinks.

OV/SA's senior staff, a Board Director and Early Career Optometrists Victoria South Australia (ECOV/SA) committee members will also be there to chat with members and talk about issues of interest.



*Berth restaurant in Melbourne.*

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

**Registration is essential. Register through the website [optometry.org.au/cpd-publications-events/](http://optometry.org.au/cpd-publications-events/)**

Alternatively contact Optometry Victoria South Australia on office. [vic@optometry.org.au](mailto:vic@optometry.org.au) or call (03) 9652 9100.

#### Adelaide

<b>Date:</b>	Monday 6 April
<b>Time:</b>	7:00pm – 9:00pm
<b>Venue:</b>	The Kentish Arms Hotel, 23 Stanley Street, North Adelaide
<b>Cost:</b>	Free to Optometry Victoria South Australia members

#### Melbourne

<b>Date:</b>	Monday 20 April
<b>Time:</b>	7:00pm – 9:00pm
<b>Venue:</b>	Berth Restaurant, 45 New Quay Promenade, Docklands
<b>Cost:</b>	Free to Optometry Victoria South Australia members



## MEMBER EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE FOR  
BLUE SKY 2020

Blue Sky returns to the Adelaide Convention Centre on 20-21 November 2020, with a stellar line-up of speakers from overseas and around Australia.

Confirmed key note presenters are the engaging and highly informative conference favourites Nate Lighthizer (USA) and Blair Lonsberry (USA).

Nate and Blair will share the stage for a number of lectures, supporting and challenging each other and the audience on key areas of clinical interest. These key note lectures promise to be lively and interactive, harking back to the legendary presentations of Ron Melton and Randall Thomas at the Blue Sky conferences of yesteryear.

Additional speakers and program and registration details will be released over the coming months.

For now, mark the date in your calendars, and we look forward to seeing members in Adelaide in November.



Nate Lighthizer



Blair Lonsberry

ECOV/SA'S MANAGING FINANCES SEMINAR  
A TERRIFIC SUCCESS

The 'Managing your Finances Effectively' seminars were the first ECOV/SA CPD events for 2020. Members in both Adelaide and Melbourne were treated to a practical and engaging presentation from rural optometrist and OV/SA member Kelly Gibbons.

Kelly's down to earth presentation style resonated with members, as she

outlined the issues to consider and the strategies that can enable early career members to set themselves on a path of wealth creation. Kelly used her own experiences and the knowledge she has developed since turning around her own financial situation to inform her presentation, which is aimed at ensuring that members don't repeat her own financial decisions.

The seminar was free for OV/SA members, and attracted two non-clinical CPD points for attendance. Members also enjoyed a delicious two-course meal and drinks.

**To view more photos from the two events visit [www.optometry.org.au/cpd-publications-events/cpd-event-calendar](http://www.optometry.org.au/cpd-publications-events/cpd-event-calendar) and click on the events in the calendar**



Members enjoying the seminar in Melbourne



The seminar was popular with members in Adelaide

## RURAL AND REGIONAL SEMINAR SERIES HEADS TO BALLARAT, MCLAREN VALE AND MILDURA IN APRIL

OV/SA's regional seminar series for 2019/20 is once more hitting the road, with seminars to be held in Victoria and South Australia.

Ballarat in Victoria is the first stop on the seminar roadshow on 23 April, followed by a second seminar in McLaren Vale, South Australia on 27 April, before heading back across the border to Mildura in Victoria on 28 April.

Guest speaker Richard Lenne's presentation 'Can I treat this patient?' has a strong case-based focus, ensuring a practical update on the use of therapeutics in optometric practice.

Richard is an experienced and engaging speaker. He will draw on his knowledge working in regional practice settings for over 20 years, and including the latest evidence in his presentation.

The McLaren Vale seminar will be preceded by an OV/SA Board meeting during the day, and members attending

the seminar will have the opportunity to meet and network with the Board Directors.

The seminars are free for OV/SA members.

Participants will receive a three-course meal with refreshments, as well as 6T CPD points (with assessment). Members will also have the opportunity to network and catch up with local colleagues and friends, as part of the seminar.

### Registration is essential.

**To register through the website visit [optometry.org.au](http://optometry.org.au) click on Institute of Excellence (CPD) on the home page, navigate through the calendar to find the correct date, click on the event and register through the blue register button.**

Alternatively contact the OV/SA office on [office.vicsa@optometry.org.au](mailto:office.vicsa@optometry.org.au) or call (03) 9652 9100.

### Ballarat

**Date:** Thursday 23 April

**Time:** 6:00pm – 8:30pm

**Venue:** The Annexe, Ballarat Art Gallery, 40 Lydiard Street, North Ballarat

### McLaren Vale

**Date:** Monday 27 April

**Time:** 6:00pm – 8:30pm

**Venue:** d'Arenberg Cube, 58 Osborn Road, McLaren Vale

### Mildura

**Date:** Tuesday 28 April

**Time:** 6:00pm – 8:30pm

**Venue:** Mildura Grand Hotel, Seventh Street, Mildura



*The d'Arenberg Cube in McLaren Vale is one of the venues for the next OV/SA rural and regional CPD seminars. This seminar will also offer members the chance to meet the OV/SA Board Directors.*

## NATIONAL NEWS

## INVESTING IN COMPREHENSIVE EYE CARE FOR ALL AUSTRALIANS: OPTOMETRY AUSTRALIA'S FEDERAL PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION 2020-21

Optometry Australia has developed a pre-budget submission to the Federal Government, calling for sustainable and cost-effective measures to support comprehensive and timely access to primary eye care for all Australians.

In the submission OA notes that a prudent and relatively conservative investment of \$13.7 million in 2020-21 would mean the Australian Government could generate a positive - and almost immediate - impact on the eye health of millions of Australians, while reducing the social and economic burden of vision impairment. Without action, they note that these burdens will continue to place pressure on the health system and will impact substantially on productivity.

The OA submission highlights that optometrists are critical to reducing the heavy social and economic costs

of avoidable blindness and vision loss, and ocular and systemic conditions that can require costly specialist care. They emphasise that access to quality optometric care is a key component of an effective, efficient and sustainable eye care system and an essential element in reducing the significant social and economic costs associated with preventable blindness and vision loss.

The key recommendations outlined by OA are:

- Reinstatement of biennial Medicare rebates for a comprehensive initial examination for Australians aged between 45 and 64 years (\$9m in 2020-21);
- Ensuring access to sustainable and timely outreach eye care through expanding the Visiting Optometrists

Scheme (VOS) to deliver an additional 31,500 outreach optometry services (\$7.84m over three years from 2020-21);

- Matching the one-off funding already committed by Optometry Australia to support 2020: the year of good vision for life (\$460,000 in 2020-21);
- Investment in applied research to develop models that enhance integration of optometric care into primary care and facilitate collaboration with tertiary eye care services (\$1.5m in 2020-21), and
- Initiation of a comprehensive, independent review of the Medicare fee schedule, to ensure alignment with the true cost of providing care.

To read the full submission visit [www.optometry.org.au/advocacy/issues-at-a-glance/federal-budget/](http://www.optometry.org.au/advocacy/issues-at-a-glance/federal-budget/)

2020 – the perfect year to celebrate optics!

**O SHOW 2020**

**Look.Feel.Learn**

Hordern Pavilion Moore Park Sydney  
Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 May ONLY

Pre-register at  
[www.o-show.com.au](http://www.o-show.com.au)

**WIN**  
A GOLD COAST  
GETAWAY\*

ASK YOUR REPS FOR A GOLDEN TICKET TO ENTER\*

\*NSW Permit No. LTPS/20/42520 - Terms & Conditions [www.o-show.com.au](http://www.o-show.com.au)

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Back row (L-R):** From L-R: Rowan Prendergast, Murray Smith (National Director), Allison McKendrick, Anne Weymouth (Vice-President), Timothy Lo (Treasurer), Elise Pocknee-Clem (President), Cassandra Haines, Kurt Larsen, Jason Tan (Associate Director).

The Optometry Victoria South Australia 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 Elise Pocknee-Clem directly at [e.pockneeclem@optometry.org.au](mailto:e.pockneeclem@optometry.org.au)

Alternatively you can reach individual Board members via the Optometry Victoria South Australia office on (03) 9652 9100 or email [office.vicsa@optometry.org.au](mailto:office.vicsa@optometry.org.au)



DIARY  
DATES

## OV/SA'S ANNUAL GOLF DAY

The Golf Day raises funds for charity to improve eye health outcomes for disadvantaged communities, and is a great opportunity for networking over a game of golf and dinner afterwards. There are plenty of prizes on offer including the prestigious perpetual Golf Day trophy.

**Venue:** Peninsula Kingswood Golf Club  
**Date:** Monday 16 March, 2020  
**Time:** 12pm - ??  
**Cost:** \$150

## IMMEDIATE GRADUATES DINNER

The Immediate Graduate dinners are a great opportunity for Immediate Graduate members to catch up with their graduating class, over a delicious meal and drinks.

The dinner is free for OV/SA members

**Venue: Adelaide:** The Kentish Hotel, 23 Stanley Street, North Adelaide  
**Date:** Monday 6 April, 2020  
**Time:** 7.00pm - 9.00pm  
**Venue: Melbourne:** Berth Restaurant, 45 New Quay Promenade, Docklands  
**Date:** Monday 20 April, 2020  
**Time:** 7.00pm - 9.00pm

## OV/SA'S REGIONAL SEMINARS: 'CAN I TREAT THIS PATIENT?'

These seminars have a strong case-based focus, ensuring members receive a practical update on the use of therapeutics in optometric practice. Guest speaker Richard Lenne is an optometrist with over 20 years' experience working in regional locations. Members will receive 6T CPD points (with assessment).

The seminars are free to OV/SA members and include a three-course meal and drinks.

**Venue: Ballarat:** The Annexe, Ballarat Art Gallery, 40 Lydiard Street, Ballarat  
**Date:** Thursday 23 April, 2020  
**Time:** 6.00pm - 8.30pm  
**Venue: McLaren Vale:** d'Arenberg Cube, 58 Osborn Road, McLaren Vale  
**Date:** Monday 27 April, 2020  
**Time:** 6.00pm - 8.30pm  
**Venue: Mildura:** Mildura Grand Hotel  
**Date:** Tuesday 28 April, 2020  
**Time:** 6.00pm - 8.30pm

For more information on any of the above events or to register online visit:  
[www.optometry.org.au/cpd-publications-events/](http://www.optometry.org.au/cpd-publications-events/)