

VISION

>> OPTOMETRY WESTERN AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER - MAY 2021 EDITION <<



EXECUTIVE
OFFICER'S
REPORT:
**EVAN
MACRAE**

Hello and welcome to the Optometry WA (OWA) Vision newsletter for May 2021. 5 months into 2021 and hardly a moment long enough to draw breath. I suspect many of you can express similar feelings.

We are of course thrilled with the outcome of WAVE 2021 and the avalanche of positive feedback we received. The fact it worked so well as a hybrid (Virtual and Face to Face) conference streamed worldwide

and filled with high quality speakers and you, our delegates made the work involved to put it together completely worthwhile. Our job has already begun on how to achieve continuous improvement to deliver the best possible result to you in 2022. Lessons learnt from WAVE will also filter down into our regular CPD offerings to ensure we can broadcast to all Western Australia, Eastern States and overseas.

Speaking of CPD offerings, we are very much aware of member requirements for interactive CPD opportunities. Keep a close eye out for the OWA email communications as we are well into the planning stages of interactive offerings that can be attended either Face to Face or Virtually.

A report would not be complete without the mention of COVID-19. Members may recall two recent lockdowns in the Perth and Peel region. The first severe lockdown



of 2021 in February caused general chaos and a complete shutdown of Optometry and other Allied Health Professions. OWA worked exceptionally hard lobbying during this period, and we believe that as a result of the lobbying that the subsequent lockdown in late April 2021 was very much modified and adjusted in favor of our members. We continue to advocate for Optometry on an ongoing basis.

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PRESIDENT'S
REPORT:
**ROXANNE
MEDHORA**

Dear Members

As I reflect on the first 4 months of this year and what we as a Profession have been through I am reminded that even though we are a small profession, together we always come out stronger and more resilient. The start of the year saw us in a 1 week COVID snap lockdown which no doubt affected our members, Optometry practices, their patients and our public health system. Optometry falls under the Allied health profession and the blanket approach to the restrictions of practice showed me the lack of awareness by the Government of how Optometry contributes to the eye health

of our community. In response to this we sent out a call to action where we asked our members for real life cases where the lock down has negatively impacted patient health and vision outcomes. We had an overwhelming response from the members and those cases were presented to the Allied health Chief Officer of WA who is in touch with Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) advocating the role of Allied Health in all settings during the lockdowns and periods of community transmission.

WAVE 2021

This year OWA, along with our sponsors, hosted the biggest WAVE Conference to date with over 400 delegates from Australia and around the world. It was held on March 20th and 21st where delegates had an option to attend in person or virtually. Having the ability to set up this conference virtually meant we had the opportunity to reach out to a higher number of Optometrists and showcase quality research by highly

qualified Australian Optometrists and Ophthalmologists on the World stage.

WAVE 2021 was a great success and a huge thank you goes Evan MacRae, Jude Martindale and Hui-Lin Chan for all their hard work to make this the first of many hybrid conferences by OWA.

Reconciliation Action Plan

As part of the RAP initiative OWA has shown support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart and a Voice to Parliament protected in the Australian constitution. We have a number of OWA members who practice in remote and regional communities who are exposed to the inequities and difficulties experienced by First Nationals people especially in health care. As health care practitioners we believe quality health care should be accessible to all Australians and we believe that the Uluru Statement from the Heart provides the roadmap for positive change to occur.

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I live and work on the traditional land of the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation and wish to acknowledge their custodianship of country and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

ECO Report by ECO President – Kitty Wong



ECO WA
PRESIDENT'S
REPORT:
**KITTY
WONG**

5 months into the year and what an eventful one it has been so far. Hope everyone has been staying safe with the recent lockdown in the Perth and Peel region.

The Early Careers Optometrists WA committee have been busy organising various talks and events for the first half of the year. We held our first social evening welcoming the new OWA members sponsored by Vision Australia. Most were newly graduated optometrists that had moved from interstate and had self quarantined here. It was a welcome change to their work schedule which allowed many to enjoy the night and build their network foundations.

OWA have also been working with the University of Western Australia in supporting the first year students on their optometry journey. An afternoon BBQ gathering was held in February introducing the association and our resources. Later on in March, ECO WA was invited to attend their equipment day with Sarah and Ella acting as our representatives. On that day, product suppliers showcased their optometric equipment whilst our two members provided accounts on their experiences to help students familiarise themselves with these tools.

The theme of our most recent event in April was effective communication and its implementation both within and outside



• OWA Member Wilfred Tang talks to UWA Optometry students at the UWA / ECO BBQ

of our workplace. This was hosted by Grant Fisher, a leading business coach of FocalPoint Coaching & Training and fellow optometrist, who delivered a concise and informative talk on the foundations of communicating with patients and staff. Grant delved into what makes great rapport and ways to interpret different communication styles in order to successfully manage various situations. Many of us came out of the talk with increased introspection. UWA students also participated in this event which was a nice ease into the learning requirements for optometry.

For our next few events, we are organising talks focussing on contact lenses and another one on the retina to be held in June and July respectively. Please keep your eyes peeled for them in the emails and social media. Our Facebook page regularly posts information on upcoming ECO WA events and important optometry updates amongst other things. Hope you all stay safe!



Early Career Optometrists

Optometry Western Australia

We thank you Sunny Lee, one of our ECO committee members, for her amazing work as part of our team and hope for all the best in her future endeavours. A big thanks to Jude, Evan and Hui-Lin for organising such an amazing hybrid WAVE conference at the Esplanade Hotel. We look forward to attending another one next year!

Kitty Wong

OWA & ECO CPD Dates



Forthcoming Dates for OWA & ECO CPD Evenings

- 8th June - Dr Jo Richards & Dr Jane Khan
- 15h June - Eden Kwok - ECO & UWA Presentation

- 23rd June - Nicola Peaper - Interactive for all at venue & via Zoom.
- 6th July – ECO & UWA CPD Evening
- 7th July – NAIDOC Week CPD Evening presented by Stephanie Bahler

- 26th July
- 23rd August
- 6th September
- 4th October
- 23rd November

Member Renewals due by 30th June 2021

It's that time of year again and the OWA membership renewals are due by the 30th June 2021 and are open for renewal from now onwards.

We have on offer the 12 monthly instalment payment plan, with no administration fee so you can budget your membership renewal in 12 equal instalments. You can of course choose

to pay as a lump sum if you prefer. The option to defer until October is no longer available so you will need to make your selection to pay in full or opt to pay by 12 instalments by the renewal date of the 30th June 2021.

You can renew online when you access your Optometry Australia Member Hub and generate your invoice with EFT details or credit card link for payment in full. If paying by 12 instalment is preferred, then please select this option and have your

credit card handy to enter your details in to the system.

The first payment will be taken at the time of renewing and the next will be automatically debited from your nominated credit card on the 1st of each month, commencing the 1st August through to the 1st June 2022. If you need to update your credit card details during the 12 months, please call the OWA office to action 08 9321 2300.

Membership Renewal Categories & Fees

Fees shown include GST

• **Full Time: \$2,195**

Registered & practicing 16 hours or more per week

• **Part Time: \$1,760**

Registered & practicing more than 4 hours and up to 16 hours per week.

• **Academic: \$1,760**

Eligible for registration to practice. Engaged in full time research, teaching, or both. Practicing optometry for more than 4 hours and up to 16 hours per week.

• **Recent Graduate: \$1,755**

Registered & practicing either full or part time.

• **Minimal Practice: \$1195**

Practicing up to 4 hours per week or registered but not practicing in Australia for: maternity leave, study leave, overseas travel & sick leave.



NAIDOC Week 4-11 July 2021

NAIDOC Week will be held 4-11 July 2021. OWA will hold a CPD Evening presented by Stephanie Bahler on Wednesday 7th July at the FJ Clark Building.

The topic will be on Aboriginal Eye Health Amongst Optometrists & How to Get Involved. Save the date and look out for the registration opening soon.

It will be available for attendance in person and via Zoom. The NAIDOC 2021 theme – Heal Country! – calls for all of us to continue to seek greater protections for our lands, our waters, our sacred sites and our cultural heritage from exploitation, desecration, and destruction.



Interactive CPD Evening 23rd June 2021 presented by Nicola Peaper, Rodenstock

We are pleased to announce that Nicola Peaper from Rodenstock will be our first presenter offering the interactive CPD to our OWA members at our metro CPD Evening on Wednesday 23rd June.



Nicola Peaper

Nicola Peaper graduated from the University of Wales and qualified as an optometrist in the UK in 1985. She practiced in both private and corporate practice in the UK for 20 years including 8 years in her own practice. In 2001/2 she was employed as Ophthalmic Advisor to Kensington, Chelsea & Westminster Health Authority.

Since moving to Australia in 2005 she has worked in optical laboratories advising on procedures and quality. In roles as State and National training manager she has gained extensive experience in presenting the technology behind, and the prescribing and fitting of ophthalmic lenses.

Nicola Peaper is currently Professional Services Manager for Rodenstock Australia.



Registration will open soon and CPD on offer will be 2 hours Interactive (1.5hrs presentation total time & 10 optional MCQS to increase your time by an additional 0.5hrs interactive.)

Presentation title:

- **Why Can't My Patient Wear Their New Spectacles.**

The presentation consists of four typical and frequent cases of non-tolerance to new spectacles and looks at possible cause. The importance of accurate measuring will be discussed particularly in relation to the effect corneal vertex distance, face form angle and pantoscopic tilt have on corridor width and perceived length. An example of compensating a high powered script for corneal vertex distance will be detailed. The final case is on differential prism caused by anisometropia in single vision and progressive lenses.

- **Learning objective** – how accurate measurement and positioning of the spectacle lens impacts not only upon clarity of vision but also both ocular and postural comfort.

2 Interactive CPD hours will be available to both onsite attendees and those attending virtually via Zoom. We do encourage attendance at the actual venue to give Nicola an audience to engage with and present to. We do understand that our regional members, and those with family/work commitments will opt to attend via Zoom and we are glad to have the technology to offer virtual attendance. The OWA kit bag of technology is expanding rapidly with mircophones, PA system and lighting gadgets.

Optometry
>> Virtually
Connected
& Product Showcase

18-20 June 2021

Optometry Australia invites you to attend our annual virtual conference, with up to 30 hours of quality-assured CPD

Register now!

ARE YOU A HEALTH PROFESSIONAL WHO WORKS WITH CHILDREN?

Children's Use of Digital Technology – Survey



Curtin University

We want to hear your thoughts on children's digital technology use! Access our short 15-minute survey to share your perspective.

Final year Occupational Therapy honours students from Curtin University are researching healthcare practitioners' perceptions on young children's digital technology use

WHY TAKE PART IN THIS STUDY:

- Aims to inform national guidelines for digital technology use with and by young children
- Guide health professionals with best practice
- Aims to fill gaps in current research regarding digital technology use by children

WE REQUIRE PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE:

- Medical Practitioners or Allied Health Professionals
- Working with children aged 0-8, with 2 years experience
- AHPRA registered or members of their professional association
- Working in Perth Metro area



For more information, please contact our team:

Associate Professor Courtenay Harris at c.harris@curtin.edu.au, OR

Student researchers at childrensdigitalresearch@gmail.com

Curtin University Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) has approved this study (HRE2021-0104). Should you wish to discuss the study with someone not directly involved, in particular, any matters concerning the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, or you wish to make a confidential complaint, you may contact the Ethics Officer on (08) 9266 9223 or the Manager, Research Integrity on (08) 9266 7093 or email hrec@curtin.edu.au.

ACCESS CURTIN UNI SURVEY FLYER:



#Rollup4WA

Find out when and where to go to receive a COVID-19 vaccination by visiting the online eligibility checker. You can also sign up to be notified when it's your turn to be vaccinated.

To stay updated on the vaccine rollout, find trusted resources and frequently asked questions you may have, visit the WA Government's Roll Up for WA website. You can keep up-to-date with each phase of the program at the HealthyWA website. For more information about the vaccination program visit Roll Up for WA website or call 13 COVID (13 268 43).



Executive Officer's Report

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OWA continues to work diligently towards achievement of a Reconciliation Action Plan and broader education of those interested members to enable culturally appropriate provision of care and services. Whilst it has been delayed many times due to COVID-19 considerations we continue to help shape and mold an up-to-date Subsidized Spectacle Scheme and pilot program. We will update members on next stages in the next month or so.

Membership take up for 2020 / 2021 has been exceptional. Our member numbers (and therefore) reach to the broadest

possible cross section of the community have never been better. For 2021 / 2022 members can look out for the renewal portal to open shortly with OWA absorbing increased costs on our members behalf to offer renewals at the same rate as 2019/2020. This will ensure outstanding value whilst delivering more CPD, ensuring Health Department decision makers consider Optometry and all the professional advice and advocacy our members expect.

I look forward to seeing you face to face or online very shortly.

Evan MacRae



The Optometry WA Golf Day 2021



A great day out for all involved so please watch this space for the 2022 date (April) and join in as either a team or individual.

Thank you to our sponsor, Vision Australia for their involvement and ongoing support of Optometry WA. Congrats to our winners, Team UnBelievable; Peter McClurg, Paul Grunder, Mark Stapleton & Bradley Miller.



President's Report

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UWA

The School of Optometry at UWA took in its first cohort at the beginning of this year. OWA was given the opportunity to host a welcome BBQ for the students in February and network with the course coordinators and lecturers. As the peak body of Optometrists in WA we received an over whelming response from the students to join as Student members and we are excited to support them throughout their Optometry journey. Over the years OWA along with our ECO Committee will be inviting the students to ECO and CPD events and providing professional career support to help students make the best informed decisions for their careers.

WA Spectacle Subsidy Scheme

OWA is currently advocating to WA health to enhance eye care access for Western Australians through increased accessibility to the WA Spectacle Subsidy Scheme.



Research has shown that the cost of glasses is a deterrent for high-risk patients to present themselves for comprehensive eye exams. The current subsidy of \$54.34 every 2 years is well below the average cost of glasses and further more the current scheme requires patients to have access to sufficient funds to buy glasses before they

are given the subsidy at a later date. OWA is advocating for an increase in subsidy and changes to the administration of the subsidy where the Optometrist can apply the subsidy at the point of sale directly. A review of the current scheme and its policy is underway and we shall continue our efforts in this field until we have a favourable outcome for all.

Finally, in light of the recent snap lockdown and new COVID cases in Perth, I hope you all stay safe, look after yourselves, your staff and your patients.

Yours sincerely,

Roxanne Medhora
OWA President

I live and work on the traditional land of the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation and wish to acknowledge their custodianship of country and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging

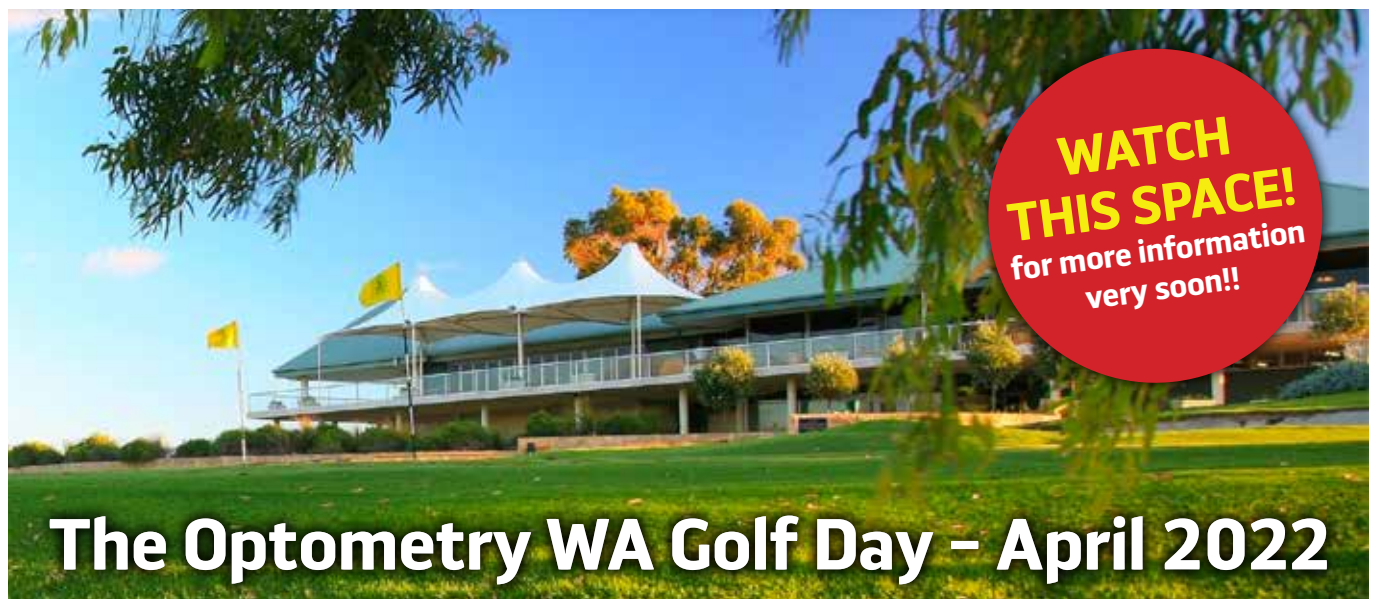


Sunday 23rd May 2021

HLTAID009 Provide CPR
 9am – 12:30pm
 Stirling Regional Business Centre
 45 Delawney Street
 Balcatta WA 6021
 \$65 per person
 To register please click on this link [Book Here](#) or ring 08 9207 2900 to contact Time Critical directly.

Sunday 23rd May 2021

HLTAID011 Provide First Aid
 9am – 4pm
 Stirling Regional Business Centre
 45 Delawney Street
 Balcatta WA 6021
 \$140 per person
 To register please click on this link [Book Here](#) or ring 08 9207 2900 to contact Time Critical directly.



WATCH THIS SPACE!
 for more information very soon!!

The Optometry WA Golf Day – April 2022

Classified

Options Optometrists

Options Optometrists is a large independent group based mainly North of the river in Perth. We are looking for locum optometrists who wish to be added onto our locum list for Ad Hoc days and possibly permanent days. We offer a fantastic and fun place to work with 30 minute appointments. Please forward your information to lances@optionsoptics.com.au including your name, contact details and mobile number.

Your CPD Learning Plan

If you need assistance with your CPD Learning Plan, please click on the link here to access the Optometry Australia guide and short video.

[OA Guide to Your CPD Learning Plan](#)

