Welcome to our September edition of Vision.

We hope that you find it informative and to the point. Remember that your feedback, comments and suggestions are always welcome.

Our OWA president has provided a fantastic update of key initiatives and news for you to consider. Less for me to write without duplicating on this occasion. What I can say is that to all OWA members once again your support of the profession and membership has been outstanding. We sit somewhat humbled and challenged at the same time understanding that our work has only just begun ensuring each of you and the profession at large are supported.

WA continues to lead the way across all states when it comes to attendance at live CPD events. We are extremely conscious of this and will continue to track down the best and most informative speakers for you whilst providing an environment for catching up, relaxing and sharing of information.

It would be remiss of me not to mention WAVE 2020. We are days away from completing the program. Alongside the normal world class presentations, Sundowner, Fremantle location and availability of CPD points we have expanded the Dispensing program to ensure maximum value for all. Save the dates now if you have not done so already - March 21st and 22nd 2020.

I will be working with one of the OWA board members when we begin to strategize around the changes to the CPD that begin in December 2020. Rest assured you are well represented in this space.

Don't forget to diarise the OWA AGM scheduled for Wednesday October 23rd.

Lastly, to those members who have been flexible with appointment timing and incredibly supportive based around some trying personal circumstances I say thank you. I will be rescheduling very shortly.

Please do not hesitate to contact the office if we can assist you in any way around CPD, Professional services, navigating the new website and any other matters.

I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Spring Time!

Change is change. Many of you will have heard that the Optometry Board is changing our continuing professional development requirements.

CPD will be changing from the end of next year to a system based on hours per year. Essentially we will need to complete 20 hours of CPD per year that seek to improve the quality of our client interactions. I understand the aim is to improve and refine our professional expertise and also the way we and our practices interact with clients. Therapeutically-endorsed members will need an extra 10 hours of CPD related to therapeutics.

OA and OWA are working to help you adapt to and benefit from the new system which also includes a personal CPD plan, learning goals and an understanding of how the CPD will improve your practice.

OWA currently provides many hours of CPD at the FJ Clark Lecture Theatre. OWA will work to ensure this CPD adapts to and benefits you in the new format when it begins very late 2020. These lectures are free to members, topical, entertaining and preceded by a networking session with drinks and nibbles provided.

The lectures at FJ Clark can be one of the most enjoyable forms of continuing education. Some lectures now include questions with the total points on offer increasing from 3 to 4.5.

Optometrist Hospital Referrals

I was asked to write “Optometrist Hospital Referrals” after several optometrists reported difficulties with referrals to Public Hospitals. The final update, for now, is loaded onto the website. Several members identified initial inconsistencies and ambiguities. I am grateful for their help.

It is important to remember not to use the Central Referral Service (this is simply not Optometrist related) and to always refer directly to the correct teaching hospital based on the client's postcode (of course noting the urgent retinal detachment exception allowed by Vignesh at SCGH and the named ophthalmologist rule).

Continued page 11
Pride Fest WA Call out to OWA Members

OWA member, Jenna Nolan, would like to invite optometrists, ophthalmologists, and dispensers to march under the Queer Eyes Australia banner and the 2019 Pridefest Parade on 30 November.

Allies from all branches of the ‘optical world’ are invited to march together to show unified support for LGBTIQ+ patients colleagues in the optical industry. Interested parties should email: queereyesaustralia@gmail.com for further information.

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ESPLANADE HOTEL FREMANTLE BY RYDGES
FREMANTLE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA
SATURDAY & SUNDAY
21-22 MARCH 2020
WAVE 2020 – 21-22 March 2020

WAVE 2020 is well on its way to being open and available for registration, so watch this space for information on the presenters, topics and all important CPD points.

WAVE will again be held at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle. The dates for WAVE 2020 are Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd March and the hotel will again be offering discounted accommodation over the WAVE weekend. So save the date and join us for WAVE 2020.
Optometrist Hospital Referrals

Over the years OWA has received the occasional enquiry related to optometrist referrals using the Central Referral Service encountering difficulties.

This document is a response to those enquiries, and I thank the optometrists who brought this to our attention for contacting us.

While I understand the Central Referral Service pathway can be used for non-urgent clients, I recommend referring direct to the hospital using the urgent or semi-urgent protocols listed.

Please choose the hospital based on catchment area postcode unless the ophthalmologist is named. “Optometrist Hospital Referrals” was developed by contacting the hospital ophthalmology heads of department. I thank Steve Colley (Fremantle hospital), Jean-Louis de Sousa (Royal Perth Hospital) and Vignesh Raja (Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital) for their kind and thoughtful assistance.

Tricia Lyle, Clinical Nurse, Program Manager Ophthalmology at Fremantle Hospital was very helpful too.

Please note that Fiona Stanley Hospital has a very limited ophthalmology capacity and should not be referred to.

You will need to be logged in to the OA Member Hub to access the following PDFs

- **Tertiary Hospitals Postcode PDF**
  Please refer to this document as this is critical for the allocation of hospital based on postcodes from 6000 through to 6558 & covers the following hospitals; RPH, SCGH & FHS.

- **Urgent Notice re Referrals to Fremantle Hospital** – Aug 2019
- **PDF of Referral Procedures Perth** – Updated 16th Sept 2019
  This document covers emergencies, semi urgent referrals & routine referrals.
- **PDF Ophthalmology Public Hospital Outpatients Clinics**
  This document has all contact details and preferred methods of communication for outpatient referrals.
- **Ophthal List WA** – Updated Sept 2019
- **PDF Ophthalmology Email List** – Updated Sept 2019

Both the above lists are a work in progress – if you discover a contact is incorrect, please email the OWA office to advise the update or amend.
Last OWA CPD Dates for 2019

The last few OWA Metro CPD evenings are coming up shortly with Dr Chandra Balaratnasingam presenting on Monday 7th October.

Dr Bala will talk on the Retinal Manifestations of Systemic Diseases for 3 CPD points. The venue is FJ Clark Building, QEII Medical Centre, Nedlands and registration is now open. Click here to register or email admin@optometry-wa.org.au to check if you think you have registered already.

The final OWA Metro CPD evening of 2019 will be on Tuesday 12th November and presented by the ever popular, Dr Chris Kennedy and Dr Charlotte McKnight. Their talk will also score you 3 points for attendance. The topic and registration will be available soon.

CPD Points – 30th November Deadline for your Points

We are not far away now from the AHPRA Registrations closing date of the 30th November 2019 where you will need to have achieved your points within the last two-year period.

When you log in to your OA Member Hub, you have access to your CPD report showing all your past Accredited CPD activities that you have completed, along with a clear indicator of if you have reached the minimum of 80 points.

Please make sure you have met your CPD requirements and if in doubt, there is still time to achieve face to face points, along with the online options such as Pharma & MiVision.

If you have any queries on your CPD you can email the OWA office on admin@optometrywa.org.au or you can contact National office direct to cpd@optometry.org.au

OWA AGM 23rd October 2019

AGM information / forms etc have been emailed out to OWA Members but if you missed the forms, please let us know and we can resend. For those of you that are not aware of who is currently on the Optometry Western Australia Board for 2018-2019, here is the list of the current directors.

- Robert Howie – President
- Geoff Smith – Treasurer
- Hui-Lin Chan – Director & Education Chair
- Christine Baker – Director
- Gary Crerie – Director
- Simon Hogan – Director
- Roxanne Medhora – Director
- Andrew Nguyen – Director
- John Palassis – Director

If you wish to attend the 2019 OWA AGM, please RSVP here.

It’s that time of year again for the Optometry WA, Annual General Meeting.

This will be held on Wednesday 23rd October and will commence from 6pm at the OWA offices in West Perth. If you would like to attend, please email admin@optometrywa.org.au.
St Pats & Homeless Connect
Call for Glasses Men’s Frames

We are greatly appreciative to all the donations of old spectacles and new frames that we regularly receive for our St Pats Eye Clinic, Homeless Connect or our recycling programme with Acacia Prison.

We appear to be rather short on men’s frames, and so would like to request if anyone has any spectacles for donation, or are collecting for donation, please could you look out for any men’s frames? You can deliver your donations to any OWA CPD evening, or to the OWA office. If you have a large amount that is hard to carry, then let us know and we will make arrangements to collect.

Thank you to all the optometrists that have volunteered their time so far this year, we have two more St Pat’s Eye Clinics until the end of the year, and Homeless Connect is expected to take place in Northbridge on the 13th November 2019. See below for further information for this one-day event, any assistance from optometrists or dispensers is greatly appreciated.

HOMELESS CONNECT PERTH - Wednesday 13th November 2019

Once again, through the kind and fantastic support of our members and suppliers, Optometry Western Australia will be taking part and providing routine eye examinations for those people in need.

Homeless Connect Perth 2019 will be held on Wednesday 13th November from 9am – 2.30pm outside the Hellenic Centre in Russell Square in Northbridge. It is about the whole community working together to extend some hope, dignity and joy to homeless people and show them that their wellbeing and life matters.

Homeless Connect Perth brings together Council, state government, federal government, businesses and community groups to provide free services to homeless people for a day. The City of Perth in partnership with Volunteering WA held the first Homeless Connect event in Perth in 2008.

• We need, if possible, at least 12 members (for a min of 2 hrs. at a time) volunteering to assist would be our target. Anymore would of course also be welcomed.
• Any members who can afford to stay for the day would be welcomed and assist greatly in the operation and continuity of the day.
• We will have 2 consulting and one pre-testing rooms in operation.

• We would also welcome any dispensing support that is available from members, dispensing staff or acquaintances that you may have or know of.
• A suitable roster will be arranged based on your responses.

Please complete the online form by no later than Friday 1st November to register your participation.

On behalf of the organizers, if you are able to provide clothing (particularly women’s and teenagers), non-perishable food items, new underwear, blankets, towels, Manchester… we will be collecting items at our West Perth offices, please contact us if you are able to make any of these donations.

Thanks for taking time to consider this request and if you are in a position to help or need further information, please call Evan at the OWA office on (08) 9321 2300 or email eo@optometrywa.org.au
Our surgeons, Professor Graham Barrett, Dr Steve Wiffen, and Dr Andrea Ang, are highly trained and experienced refractive surgeons who will ensure the best outcomes for your patients. They all have specialist fellowship training in refractive and corneal surgery overseas including the US and the UK.

Lions Laser Vision is the premier centre for laser vision correction in Western Australia. It was the first laser vision centre to be established and it is still the first choice for the most advanced equipment and the most experienced refractive surgeons in WA with patient safety as our number one priority.

Lions Laser Vision takes pride in having the most advanced diagnostic and laser equipment – including the world’s fastest, safest and most effective excimer laser source, the Schwind AMARIS 1050RS laser. We will be able to offer your patients the latest in SMILE laser treatment from early 2020 with the arrival of the most advanced femtosecond laser in the world. Your patients can expect the best possible visual outcome after laser vision correction if they meet our strict suitability criteria.

We provide the following services:

- Laser refractive surgery, including LASIK, PRK, PTK and transPRK, latest generation SMILE (from early 2020)
- Phakic IOLs and refractive lens surgery
- Cataract surgery
- Corneal transplantation
- Pterygium surgery
- Keratoconus management including corneal cross-linking and Kerarings
- Management of corneal and ocular surface diseases

All of our surgeons operate at the Lions Eye Institute Day Surgery as well as St John of God, Subiaco and Murdoch.

For more information about Lions Laser Vision, visit lionslaservision.com.au or email lasik@lei.org.au
ECO September Update

ECO WA
CHAIR'S
REPORT:
KIRAN
SOOKROO

It has been a busy last couple of months for ECO WA. We welcomed a new member to the committee, Brianna Caldw, a Deakin University graduate working at Specsavers Whitfords.

This takes our committee to 8 members. We strongly encourage any ECO WA members to consider joining our committee if you are enthusiastic to support the professions’ development, interested in becoming a future leader in the profession, and keen to add value for existing members.

At our last committee meeting and in consultation with OWA, we agreed that ECO WA events should not be restricted to only ECO members. We have decided that we will be opening our events to all OWA members, with ECO WA members being given priority registration in the first few weeks.

We continued our CPD program in June by organizing a workshop with Vision Australia on the “Impact of Vision in Daily Life”. Vision Australia welcomed us to their new Perth facility in West Leederville and showed us how they can enhance the quality of life for our patients with visual impairments. These included specific vision support services such as occupational therapists, employment assistance, NDIS support and Seeing Eye Dogs Australia.

We had a hands-on look at some of the tools available to patients such as magnifiers, textiles, sensors as well as adaptive technologies. One such adaptive technology- the “OrCam”, a small camera that attaches to the patient’s glasses can read texts, recognizes faces, and identify products, with the simple point of a finger. Vision Australia also organized one of their patients to present to us on their life with low vision. The elderly patient was diagnosed with Liebers Retinal Neuropathy and uses a white cane to help him navigate. He also heavily relies on his hearing and uses echo locating thus prefers to stay indoors on windy days as his sense of hearing is diminished. He is constantly searching for new solutions and is now using smart speakers to control devices in his house. He reminds us how patients with low vision can lead a fulfilled life - he completed a university degree whilst being employed and took up Brazilian jiu jitsu.

A few weeks later in July we held an informative evening with Paul McKinley and Hems Thakrar from Optometry Finance Australia. As optometrists we come out of university with a broad range of skills, however many of us have limited financial literacy. How do we manage this newfound financial freedom we experience, transitioning from full time students to full time employment and how do we set ourselves up for financial success in the future? Optometry Finance Australia were happy to advise us on who they are and what it is that they do. They expanded our understanding of credit files and credit limits, home, car and commercial loans, and general investment advice. One of the topics of discussion was “rentvesting”, where instead of buying a property, you rent a home and invest the remaining money elsewhere. Their case study showed how this technique can help boost your borrowing capacity. Members left the evening with 1.5 non-clinical CPD points, a full stomach and a greater understanding of finance.

The end of July saw us host another CPD evening, with three ophthalmologists from Western Eye. This event was organized by Bayer for ECO WA, and was set at the wine cellar at Steve’s Hotel in Nedlands.
The sophisticated temperature-controlled environment houses some of the world’s best wines and on this evening provided the platform for Dr Steve Colley, Dr Jane Khan and Dr Jo Richards to present to our members. Dr Colley presented on the pathophysiology of anisocoria and discussed the anatomy, physiology and pharmacology of the pupil. Dr Khan educated us on common agents that can cause toxic effects on the eye as well as covering some of the more unusual toxic agents, and when to consider these as possible causes of vision loss. Dr Richards talked was themed around the colour red. We questioned whether a patient requires steroids and if so, what potency and frequency, as well as when to avoid steroid drops. She also presented on “red disease”, avoiding OCT pitfalls and how to work out if red disease is real. Overall a great evening of three for our members, 3 ophthalmologists, 3 therapeutic CPD points and a 3-course meal.

In August we conducted a survey for our ECO WA members. We wanted to understand how members felt about particular issues in the optometry profession. Of the respondents, 81% were currently satisfied with being an optometrist, 68% said that there were pressing issues that lead to concerns about the future of the profession, and 45% had a negative outlook. Some of the issues raised were the oversupply of new graduates, maldistribution of optometrists, and burnout of young optometrists. These conditions are also seen in many other health professions. The survey also found that 68% of early career optometrists in WA would like to see optometrists have a wider scope of practice, with oral therapeutic prescribing rights and yag laser being the most desired, followed by diabetic education, injectables and then minor surgeries. The results of this survey were presented and discussed with CEO Lyn Brodie, President Darrell Baker, and ECO representatives from each state at the annual ECO National Thinktank held in Hobart prior to the TLC conference.

Following discussions, each state’s ECO group will investigate appointing wellbeing officers to assist with emotional health and wellbeing of ECOs. If you are an ECO WA member and feel you would suit this position, please feel free to get in touch with our committee. The report from this Thinktank will be due for release shortly.

We recently had a CPD evening at the QT Hotel, Perth, presented by Dr Graham Furness. Dr Furness presented on the topic, Cataract Complications What to Look Out For. The evening was well supported by ECO members and sponsored by Inservio. We have two more upcoming events this year, the next will be a joint CPD session between OWA’s Early Career Optometrists and PSA’s Early Career Pharmacists on Wednesday 16th October 2019 in Subiaco. This event will provide a unique opportunity for optometrists and pharmacists to share collaborative education and discussion about how to improve eye health and its management. By understanding the complementary roles of the two professions better health outcomes can be achieved. There has been strong interest from members, and we have already reached capacity.

Our final event has just been announced for Tuesday 29th October, Dr Balaratnasingam will be presenting on The Diagnosis & Management of Common Lesions seen on OCT & Optos Imaging. Registration has already reached capacity, but a waitlist is now open. We look forward to seeing our members at these future events.

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**ECO WA at Glowing Rooms**

ECO WA hosted their final social event of 2019 at Glowing Rooms located in Fremantle. Fellow members and their partners joined in for a night of glow in the dark 3D mini golf. A labour intensive 1300 hours were taken to create the artistic illusions of all four rooms.

As we all put our game faces and our 3D glasses on, all of us entered the dimly lit fluorescent painted world. Out of this world actually. The first room was space themed with the walls filled with astronauts, spaceships and meteors. There were depictions of constellations assembling to create a large phoenix and unicorn. Even the floors were painted to augment the experience. Everyone stared around the room in amazement with looks akin to a child who is first exposed to the stereopsis chart. We instantly forgot the game and dispersed towards the art.

And being optometrists, our curiosity directed themselves toward the mechanics involved behind the glasses and the art. The glasses were definitely not using the traditional 3D anaglyph lenses of red and blue/green. Were they polarised lenses? That wasn’t it either. Theories were thrown into the ring, but in the end, the how still remained a mystery.

Eventually, the golf balls and clubs brought us back down to earth and we began playing mini golf with the next few rooms taking us under the sea, around Australia and into the world of superheroes.

Each hole was more difficult than the next. It became more competitive as we all attempted to hit the ball into a tunnel or onto a ramp. If you add optical illusion into the mix, we have an interesting combination. Some of the areas appeared to be elevated or spiralling downwards. Gaps in the field were masked so they appear solid. Even the golf club was a part of the art. There was an instance where it fell onto the raised edge of the playing area and appeared to be sunk into it. When we finished the game, we tallied up the scores and crowned a winner. Congratulations, Veeran with a total of 46 over 18 holes!

This social event was a blast. It was great fun to see those who had come along and we’re looking forward to seeing many more next year!
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Optometry WA members are eligible to receive a 20% discount on our unlimited IT Support package for an entire year! Contact Rule Technology to find out more.
Classified

Register your notification here...

Optometry Western Australia – Vision Newsletter Classifieds – If you want to put your advert in Vision as well or instead of the OA Classifieds web page, then you, as OWA members, are welcome to submit your advert via the OWA Noticeboard link below.

All adverts subject to approval by OWA office, if you have any queries, email admin@optometrywa.org.au

Register

Equipment and Books for Sale

Extensive range of consulting room equipment ranging from large stands and chairs to small items like Volk fundoscopy lenses. A full list with prices happily sent.

Enquiries to gavin.a.smyth@gmail.com. Photos of individual items of interest can be emailed.

There is plenty on this list so if you are in the market for purchasing anything second hand for your practice, then please contact Gavin to take a look at the list, updated with current availability.

A Unique Opportunity is available

Cooper and Lourie Family Optometrists are seeking an experienced, dedicated and caring Optometrist for our busy practices located in Nedlands and Innaloo with the potential for partnership for the right applicant.

Having existed for over 40 years, we pride ourselves on providing the highest level of care and customer service to all of our patients. As such we have invested heavily in the latest technologies such as the OCT, Optos wide field Imaging, Topographe, Motorised Phoropter, IPL dry eye therapy and Medmont threshold fields.

All of our ancillary staff including our highly experienced optical dispensers are available to provide you with the support you need to provide exceptional care to our patients.

As an Optometrist in our practice, you will gain exposure to a variety of interesting cases and work including therapeutics, dry eye therapy and myopia control through Ortho K.

An attractive salary package and conditions will be offered to the right person.

If you are interested in taking your scope as an Optometrist to the next level Contact Geoff Cooper or Julie Lourie by e-mail recruitment@cooperandlourie.com.au or mobile 0412 911 729

President’s Report

Continued from page 1

Emergency referrals should always be preceded by a phone call to the hospital as per the notes. I recently spent several hours in the treatment section of SCGH Emergency (as a visitor) and was very impressed with the care, dedication and passion of the Emergency teams.

Here I readily identified with Jean-Louis’ comments in “Optometrist Hospital Referrals“ and the need for that phone call to Emergency; otherwise non-life threatening eye-related emergencies may be initially triaged as a low priority.

Emergency will value your phone call.

Fremantle Hospital

Ophthalmology at Fremantle Hospital has a waiting list for non-urgent clients extending up to two years. Fremantle is working hard to reduce this waiting time. In the meantime Fremantle Ophthalmology has asked if we can assist.

In glaucoma cases I suggest optometrists consider initiating treatment followed by co-management. In cataract cases referral to a private ophthalmologist, who is willing to use their public list, can mean the client’s out-of-pocket expense is limited to the initial ophthalmology examination fee gap and the client is comforted by knowing an experienced surgeon will be operating.

Optometry WA

Ophthalmology Connect

This endeavour is in response to a member request and is now on our website. It lists private ophthalmologists’ addresses, email addresses, interests and specialties, second languages and alternative practice locations. Some ophthalmologists also note they perform cataract operations publicly.

This type of document can be quite dynamic. If you know of any errors please let us know. Your suggestions for extra features are welcomed!

Optometry WA

UWA

There is a high chance that UWA will proceed with an Optometry course. Supporting the business case is an Optometry workforce study suggesting a future undersupply of optometrists in Australia. This study’s outcomes are not consistent with the OA related workforce study since it uses longer examination times.

OWA believes the data does not support establishment of another Optometry course at this stage. However, UWA will make a decision based on their business case. OWA is committed to working together with our members, UWA, other stakeholders and any future UWA optometry students to identify and help ensure achievement of the preferred and best future outcomes.

Kind regards,

Rob