An Ethical Ophthalmologist

One of the highlights of the recent 45th Annual Scientific Congress in Hobart was discussion around the topic of ethics in the practice of ophthalmology.

At the Graduation Ceremony, 31 young men and women who had completed the required study to be admitted as Fellows of our College stood before the assembled family, friends and colleagues to recite the College Oath. This is a powerful statement of purpose as to how one declares one’s intent to practice in the medical discipline of ophthalmology. Most of you reading this article will have memories of the same College Oath that you would also have recited at the time of graduation.

To refresh your memory here is our RANZCO College Oath.

In acknowledging the privilege of practising medicine and ophthalmology, and in accepting Fellowship of this College, I make this declaration sincerely in the presence of my family, friends, colleagues and teachers.

Patients are my first concern and in caring for them I undertake to use my knowledge and skill to the best of my ability.

I will seek actively to maintain my skills and abilities throughout my professional life, to practise within those abilities and to contribute wherever possible to the science of ophthalmology.

I will seek to enhance the quality of patients’ lives, maintain their dignity, support their carers, and treat all people equitably.

I will strive at all times to be worthy of my patients; respect and never to abuse their trust of confidence. My clinical decisions will not be influenced by personal gain.

I extend these commitments beyond individuals to the health and wellbeing of the community.

In order to make the RANZCO Code of Conduct of significance within our collegial sphere of influence, during this last year the College Board decided that it would be appropriate to have a tick box as part of the annual subscription notification, indicating that as fellows of our College you were aware of the Code of Conduct (this is easily accessed via the RANZCO website).

The ethics of our teachers become entrenched in our common behaviours, especially in the apprentice type mentorship model of learning we embrace.

Ethics in medicine is a very complex ideology!

In many instances it can be summed up by “what one ought to do”.

How do we learn what is appropriate behaviour and, more importantly, how do we learn what is appropriate medical behaviour?

We all learn basic ethical principles as we grow into maturity and are influenced by those around us especially our parents, family and friends. There is little difference in medicine when, as we train and experience clinical exposure
interesting medical and ethical dilemmas, we are shaped and influenced by our teachers and mentors, as well as the responses from patients.

Ophthalmology is no different and from our time as medical students, through non training programs to registrar training programs, we are all highly influenced by our teachers! The ethics of our teachers become entrenched in our common behaviours, especially in the apprentice type mentorship model of learning we embrace. Our trainees observe how their fellow registrars and seniors behave in all aspects of patient care and indeed interpersonal and inter-collegial negotiations on behalf of patients. Most of the time our trainees are exposed to hospital clinic based scenarios where there is less consideration given to some of the financial implications of decision making that impact private practice. Our training programs give very little insight into aspects related to the commercial world of small businesses that ophthalmologists often become involved with and some of the ethical dilemmas that arise and are clouded by commercial considerations.

Most ophthalmology training occurs within the public sector and is dependent on the vast contributions from visiting medical officers, staff specialists and university staff. There is a real tension between the elements of provision of service and teaching of trainees. RANZCO has simultaneously introduced a mentoring system to foster support for our trainees. The apprenticeship model of teaching relies not only on the goodwill of the teachers, but also an understanding by the hospital and local health authorities of the importance of maintaining a high standard of teaching to ensure provision of specialist ophthalmologists for the future. It also relies on the common philosophy of contributing back to the system that provided our training and indeed our careers. There is a professional ethical standard of continuing this contribution but under the current financial and commercial constraints many of our younger fellows are excluded from this important aspect of professionalism.

Additionally, many Fellows contribute in a voluntary fashion to the College system of examinations and qualifications which is core business. Without this contribution in an ethical manner (raison d’etre), the continuity of our professional medical and surgical craft is at risk.

The RANZCO Code of Conduct is a living document which highlights aspects of professionalism based around core competencies including:

- Medical Expert (Core Role)
- Communicator
- Collaborator
- Manager
- Health Advocate
- Scholar
- Professional

Additionally, in the current environment where all professionals are under increasing scrutiny, the RANZCO Code of Conduct has specific recommendations with respect to relationships between ophthalmologists and the medical industry with whom we engage on a regular basis for the mutual benefit of our patients. This can be an area where ophthalmologists can inadvertently find themselves exposed to criticism. Also the medical industry contributes to our ongoing education via sponsorship of scientific meetings and there are now specific guidelines within Medicines Australia and
Medical Technologies Australia (and its New Zealand counterpart) which govern such relationships.

**Conquer Cancer Cycle Ride in Auckland**

I recently had the opportunity to participate in the Conquer Cancer Cycle Ride in Auckland with 660 other cyclists who rode 100 km on each of the two days and collectively raised over $2.1 million. This was a well organised and fun event fortunately held over a weekend with fine weather. On the second day I was riding with a small group of keen cyclists working together in a rolling peloton in a collaborative fashion resulting in a fast ride. One of the riders suffered a puncture only 5 km from the finish line and I found myself in an ethical dilemma - do I race on to get the satisfaction of a fast time or do I stop to offer assistance? As it turned out, after I had stopped it became obvious that help was required and after we had changed the tyre the two of us rode on to the finish a few minutes behind the leading bunch but with the experience a collegial ride. We had been working together on the ride which also included working together on the mechanical mishap, so that the overall satisfaction of the experience was memorable.

As ophthalmologists we often find ourselves in similar ethical situations and the power of an integrated team collaborative collegial approach will usually result in an outcome that is in the best interests of the patient!

The final word on ethics is “what is best for our/my patients!!”

*Dr Stephen Best*

*President*

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**Award for best clinical teacher in ophthalmology**

In August this year, Prof Charles McGhee, The University of Auckland’s Head of the Department of Ophthalmology, was told of his success in being chosen for the International Council of Ophthalmology’s (ICO) ‘Mark Tso Golden Apple Award’.

The ICO established the Golden Apple Award to honour the most dedicated teachers in clinical ophthalmology around the globe. The presentation will be held at the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology Congress (APAO) that is being held in conjunction with the World Ophthalmology Congress 2014 in Tokyo, Japan in April.

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**Call for examiners in Ophthalmic Pathology and RACE**

RANZCO is currently recruiting Fellows to examine the Advanced Exams. If you are interested in joining the Ophthalmic Pathology or RACE Board of Examiners, please forward your expression of interest with a copy of your curriculum vitae to Chris McGuigan cmcguigan@ranzco.edu by 18 January 2014. Additional information regarding the role of RACE examiners has previously been sent by email to all Fellows from Chair Dr Justin Mora and is also available on the RANZCO website.
As the year rolls to a close, newly appointed trainees are busily sitting the online Clinical Ophthalmic Pharmacology and Emergency Medicine (COPEM) Module 1 exam and the Anatomy exam. While this is a busy time for them, I am sure it will be a relief, and of much benefit, to have completed some exams prior to starting their formal accredited training. I wish them all the best for a smooth and enjoyable start to their training.

As is always the case in College Education, there have been many meetings involving a huge number of Fellows dedicated to maintaining the training program’s high standards and ensuring that content and examination methods remain educationally sound. Many of these meetings take place on a Saturday or require absences from clinical practice. The commitment of time and effort from so many Fellows is very much appreciated.

At the recent Opening Ceremony of Congress in Hobart, I was honoured to present the 2013 Trainers of Excellence Awards. Award winners are nominated by trainees in each network for exemplifying excellence in planning, communication, assessment and evidence-based professional practice. Recipients in 2013 were:

- A/Prof Graham Lee, Qld;
- A/Prof Mei-Ling Tay-Kearney, WA
- Dr Ross Fitzsimons, SEH, NSW
- Dr Yves Kerdraon, POW, NSW
- A/Prof Anne Brooks, Vic
- Dr Stephen Guest, NZ
- Dr Deepa Taranath, SA

The Curriculum Review continues to progress on track and even a bit ahead of time. Reviews of the three remaining Clinical Performance Curriculum Standards (Refractive Surgery, Cataract and Clinical Refraction; Laser Safety; and Ultrasound) are now underway. The Curriculum Committee’s initial approval processes will be completed in time for a one-day workshop for Review Chairs to be held at the College on Saturday, 1 February 2014. Following that workshop, the draft curricula will be posted on the RANZCO website for general comment.

The annual meeting of the Ophthalmic Sciences (OS) Board of Examiners was held on Saturday 12 October. This meeting provides an opportunity for examiners to network, plan and receive teaching.

The Chair of the Board of Examiners in OS, Dr Cathy Green, provided an overview of the Exams. Ms Penny Gormly, General Manager Education and Training, also updated the examiners on the current Education team and their respective roles within the College. One of the highlights of the meeting was a presentation by Prof Paul McMenamin from Monash University on the topic of Standard Setting and Assessment. In conveying his pedagogical perspective, Paul’s presentation stimulated lively discussion and those in attendance benefited from his expert knowledge.

In the afternoon examiners were able to meet in their subject groups to plan for the 2014 exams, by writing and reviewing exam questions and also allocating examiners for 2014. RANZCO is grateful to the examiners for their time and commitment and congratulate Cathy and the RANZCO staff on a very successful meeting.

The annual meeting of the Ophthalmic Pathology (OP) Board of Examiners was held on 18 October. Chair A/Prof Mark Elder was thanked by his fellow examiners for his commitment to Advanced and Ophthalmic Pathology over the last 17 years and particularly as Chair for the past three years. I would...
like to add my personal thanks to Mark for his contribution to the vocational training program in ensuring the high standards of the Ophthalmic Pathology curriculum and assessment. I welcome Dr Max Conway as Chair and wish him well as the Board addresses imperatives associated with changing technology. I also welcome Dr Sureka Thiagalingam as a new OP examiner, and thank the OP Board for their continued commitment.

RANZCO is currently recruiting Fellows to examine the Advanced Exams. If you are interested in joining the Ophthalmic Pathology or RANZCO Advanced Clinical Examinations (RACE) Board of Examiners, please send your expression of interest with a copy of your curriculum vitae to Mrs Chris McGuigan, cmcguigan@ranzco.edu by 18 January 2014. Additional information regarding the role of RACE examiners has previously been sent by email to all Fellows from Chair Dr Justin Mora and is also available on the RANZCO website.

The Federal Qualification Education Committee (QEC) meeting was held in Hobart prior to Congress. This is always a busy business meeting with much content to be covered. A number of policies were reviewed, including the Trainee Progression Policy and the Terms of Reference for the Trainee Progression and the CPD Committees. These will be redrafted following very constructive feedback and then re-presented to QEC out of session for final approval before being sent to the RANZCO Board. Dr Antony Clarke from Western Australia ably represented the trainees at the meeting and brought to the table concerns and comments that have been raised by trainees across the networks through the Trainee Representative Group.

In line with the College Strategic Plan, QEC resolved to form a working party to inform the setting of priorities for educational program development for the ophthalmic allied health workforce and for general medical practitioners. Expressions of Interest for this committee have been called for. The working party will report in May 2014.

Training post inspections continue, with the Western Australia network having been inspected by A/Prof Mark Elder and Dr David Tamblyn. Dr Peter O’Connor also inspected a number of individual posts which either had provisional accreditation or were new applications. The QEC will consider accreditation of these posts out of session.

The content on the RANZCO online learning portal, Moodle, continues to expand, including an increase in the teaching resources provided by the networks. RANZCO initially sent out two digital recorders to training networks and periodically receives audio recordings of eye school lectures and their associated PowerPoint presentations. The audio and PowerPoint slides are combined digitally, and then edited before being reviewed by Ophthalmic Sciences and RACE examiners, and placed in the relevant subject areas of Moodle. There are plans to increase the collection of these valuable teaching sessions in future by sending out more digital recorders.

With the considerable increase in Moodle content over the past few years, it is now timely to review and restructure the site to ensure easy navigation to the information available. To this end a call for Expression of Interest will be sent out through the RANZCO e-news to Fellows and trainees to form a committee which will review the structure and resources of Moodle.

As this is the last newsletter for 2013, I thank all the Fellows and staff involved in Education and Training for their time and commitment throughout 2013. As always it has been a big year which has placed many demands on people’s time and skill. I farewell A/Prof Mark Elder, A/Prof Graham Lee and Dr Anna Galanopolous for their positions on QEC and particularly thank them for their enormous contribution over many years.

I wish you all an enjoyable and relaxing festive season.

Dr Mark Renehan
Censor-in-Chief
An enjoyable year

I was very pleased to see the RANZCO Congress work so well in Hobart. It is a credit to A/Prof Nitin Verma and his Organising Committee, Prof Helen Danesh-Myer and her Program Committee, Avril Cronk and the team at RANZCO office that it worked so well. I know that there were a few issues around flights and accommodation and some difficult to find meeting rooms, but otherwise I have heard nothing but praise. I found the Congress itself very interesting and managed to sit in on a few scientific sessions, however business meetings were the main activity for me.

After attending many different meetings I more fully appreciate the significant amount of work done by Fellows across many different aspects of eye care and education. It is a wonder some have time to actually practice medicine. Although there were many public expressions of thanks to people, we should always remember that there are large committees of dedicated Fellows that are making a real difference to health care in Australia and neighbouring countries. You should all be well pleased with your efforts.

One thing that was apparent, having dropped into many of the committees, is that we have a real need for succession planning.

I would ask that any Fellows who are interested in working on a RANZCO committee to contact us via ranzco@ranzco.edu. There are many opportunities to contribute and not always just on College committees. We are frequently asked to nominate people for different government bodies or committees for affiliated agencies such as Vision2020. In fact, we have just been through the process of nominating Fellows for Vision2020 committees and I’m pleased to say that a whole new group of people not previously closely involved with RANZCO have put up their hands to replace those retiring after many years of service (see article later on page 22). It would be good to have at hand a list of people, their qualifications and specific interests so that we can make our processes more efficient as opportunities arise.

Our new IT system is well on the way to completing roll out. The staff have all moved to Office 365 with SharePoint and are starting to develop SharePoint capabilities, which will become obvious early in 2014. We will progressively move our committee and group management to mini-websites developed in SharePoint and accessible from anywhere with an internet connection. Fellows will be invited into relevant sites where they will be able to view and edit documents, see what others are doing and saying, and easily join tele- or video conferences. This will not require anything other than the initial acceptance of an invitation and downloading a small app. The level of security is much higher than Dropbox, used by a number of committees, and editing is done online so we will no longer have issues with version control. I believe that the efficiencies this will create will quickly become apparent. The cost saving to College of moving away from outdated systems will be considerable.

As we come towards the end of the year I would like to thank everyone who has helped make RANZCO a great place to work. It has been a year of change, but feedback is that this has all been good. There is still a lot to do and many challenges ahead, but we now have a clear Strategic Plan and a high level of engagement from the Board and staff to make things happen.

Dr David Andrews
CEO

There is still a lot to do and many challenges ahead, but we now have a clear Strategic Plan and a high level of engagement from the Board and staff to make things happen.
Branch Updates
What’s new in the branches?

New South Wales Branch

On Monday 14 October 2013, the NSW State Branch AGM was held for the first time outside the refurbished College office at ‘The Loft’, King Street Wharf, Sydney as to better accommodate the Fellows attending.

Feedback indicated that this was a successful evening in a lovely location, and it may become a new tradition for future AGMs. At the AGM Dr Sam Lertsimutkul (prior Chair) advised our Fellows that the NSW State Branch, after consultation with the state Qualification Education Committee chair, donated approximately $15,000 to the Sydney Eye Hospital to purchase 12 Kitaro models for registrars to practise their wet lab skills. The NSW Branch remains in communication with the School of Orthoptics and is supportive of the ongoing training of orthoptists for the continuing delivery of eye care. Geoff Pollard, the National Executive Officer of Glaucoma Australia was our invited guest speaker. He highlighted the aims of Glaucoma Australia and how the Optometry Board of Australia’s independent glaucoma diagnosis and treatment guidelines are not in the patients’ best interests.

I would like to take this opportunity to warmly invite all Fellows to attend the NSW State Branch 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting to be held on 21 and 22 March 2014 at the Crowne Plaza, Hunter Valley, titled ‘Ophthalmology 2014: The Cutting Edge’. This will comprise a broad spectrum of ‘cutting edge’ topics to cater to everyone’s interests, be they of a general or subspecialty nature. The academic program includes an outstanding line-up of local speakers, as well as highly acclaimed guest speakers Prof Glen Gole and Dr Anthony Pane. Please come and join us in enjoying the lovely surroundings of the Hunter Valley whilst also catching up with friends and colleagues.

Dr Tasha Micheli
NSW Branch Chair
Queensland Branch

“Area of need”

Over the last 12 months, Queensland Health now consults our committee before registration is extended to overseas ophthalmologists on an ‘area of need’ basis. We have addressed these questions using various parameters such as population density and distribution of practicing fellows.

An Asian UK graduate, filling an area of need, recently shared with me that the words he treasured most from receiving his FRANZCO College fellowship were “welcome to the family”, from then RANZCO President, Dr Bill Glasson.

In the broader community, area of need opens our hearts to those who miss out on the benefits of our first world health system. To reach them, our compassion and service extends to the margins of the community. With no time wasted, we talk, laugh, share a meal and find a ‘kinship’ there, and discover the heart of “unity in diversity”.

The fruits are now appearing in Queensland ophthalmology as earlier projects mature and new ones form.

Queensland Vision Initiative (Drs Ken Hutchinson and Erwin Groeneveld) has been supported by the Queensland Branch for over 10 years and has become a valuable resource for patients and clinicians to gain an overview of eye care services in Queensland.

Homeless connect (Dr David Denman, Prof Glen Gole and others), a Brisbane City Council initiative, has been running for seven years. We are a small part of this broad community effort to better integrate and provide for homeless peoples’ needs.

RANZCO Leadership development course, initiated by Dr Cathy Green, has received financial support from RANZCO (Qld). The resulting project is a Brisbane electrophysiology service planned for the Queensland Eye Institute to help needy patients gain the best clinical diagnosis prior to genetic testing.

Regional ophthalmologists now have a strong voice on our committee as Central (Dr Anil Sharma) and North Queensland (Dr Andrew Field) representatives sit on our committee.

The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Partners Pty Ltd plans to commence an Indigenous diabetes project for regional Queensland during 2014. The mobile facility will utilise local providers, teamed with multidisciplinary partners to improve access to standard of care diabetic therapies in their familiar cultural surrounds, aiding compliance.

RANZCO (Qld) is going to provide scholarships for advanced registrar training starting from 2015.

This project will bring attention to low socioeconomic groups in regional Queensland and demonstrate the good will of Queensland regional ophthalmologists who would like to serve them. Rockhampton and Mt Isa in particular have been identified as areas of need.

RANZCO (Qld) is going to provide scholarships for advanced registrar training starting from 2015. Selection will not be based on an exam but on a questionnaire and interview that encourages registrars to think how their final year of training will benefit their community. Paediatrics has been identified as an area of need, as the new Queensland Paediatric Hospital opens in 2015.

Funds for these scholarships have come from interest on capital accumulated from successful state conferences and secondly from a generous bequest.

Our most recent state conference at the Gold Coast in August was a great success. It built on the formula of previous committees, with a memorable dinner at the top of the tallest building, Q1. (Drs Andrew Smith, Luke Maccheron and David Hilford)

The late Dr Les Topham, a former North Queensland ophthalmologist, left a third of his estate to form a scholarship for final year Queensland Trainees to do their fellowship overseas. Queensland Trainees will long remember with gratitude this generous bequest in their hour of financial need. The RANZCO (Qld) committee intends it to benefit all Queenslanders.

The Queensland Eye Institute, a “not for profit” research and clinical centre of excellence in Brisbane, is moving to larger premises in West End at the end of this year. The Queensland Eye Institute functions in the private sector, backed by a charitable trust, the Prevent Blindness Foundation. It has no shareholders, with profits being reinvested into research to benefit all.

As for the future, the RANZCO (Qld) committee, like many before it, longs for an academic chair in ophthalmology in Queensland that will form the pinnacle of research and teaching that nurtures and inspires generations of ophthalmologists to come in the greatest traditions of our college.

Dr Rowan Porter  
Qld Branch Chair

New Zealand Branch

There was a good turnout of New Zealand ophthalmologists at the RANZCO conference in Hobart. Congratulations to the organisers for a great conference, particularly as they
had to take on the conference at late notice when Christchurch was unable to host it. We look forward to hosting the RANZCO conference in Christchurch when we have a conference centre and hotels, 2020 maybe.

It was pleasing to see three New Zealand trainees graduate – Drs Thuan Pham, Kenneth Chan and Andrea Zarkovic. New Zealanders were also well represented with the scholarship awards going to Drs Shenton Chew, Jennifer Fan, Genevieve Oliver and Jesse Gale. Dr Stephen Guest received a Trainer of Excellence Award.

Also congratulations to Dr Andrea Vincent for receiving an award for the RANZCO Leadership Program. Andrea’s presentation has been on workforce needs in ophthalmology in the northern North Island, with the aim of giving trainees an idea of where jobs might be becoming available and in what area of special interest.

Ophthalmology New Zealand has been active with visits by A/Prof Phil Polkinghorne and Dr Mike O’Rourke to Wellington and meeting with politicians including the Minister of Health, Mr Tony Ryall. They have also had meetings with Southern Cross Insurance and will soon be involved with discussions with Accident Compensation Corporation.

Macular Degeneration New Zealand are having a fundraiser at the races in February. The Clear Vision Spectacle Macular Degeneration Race Day will take place on Saturday, 15 February 2014 at the Ellerslie Racecourse with sponsorship packages available. This should be a fun day out and we hope that ophthalmologists in New Zealand will support it.

Organisation for the New Zealand Branch annual meeting in Rotorua on Friday 16 and Saturday 17 May 2014 is well underway. The theme is “Seeing the Future – Profit and Loss of Vision”. They have four speakers organised; Mr Larry Benjamin from England, Prof Mark Gillies from Sydney, Prof Ravi Thomas from Brisbane and A/Prof Brendan Vote from Tasmania. Put in your calendar now.

Dr James Borthwick
NZ Branch Chair

South Australia Branch

At the SA Branch AGM held on 9 September at Chianti Classico, Dr Garry Davis succeeded Dr Grant Raymond as Chair, Dr John Landers was elected as Secretary/Treasurer, Dr Katie Billing as Director of Training and Dr Aanchal Gupta as Qualification Education Committee Chair.

Thanks were extended to Drs Raymond, Richard Fleming (Secretary/Treasurer), Mark Chehade (Qualification Education Committee) and Anna Galanopoulos (Director of Training) for the commitment they have made to the State Branch and College trainees over many years.

Dr Arthur Karagiannis provided a comprehensive update as to the current state of RANZCO’s fight with the Optometry Board of Australia and Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency. A motion to make a donation towards the ongoing legal costs was passed unanimously.

The New Royal Adelaide Hospital, due to open in 2016, will have significant implications for ophthalmic service provision and training in the state, and will be a major focus of the branch over the next two years and beyond.

Dr Garry Davis
SA Branch Chair

Western Australian Branch

Western Australia will be hosting the 2014 Australian and New Zealand Glaucoma Interest Group annual meeting, combined with the Singapore Glaucoma Society, at The Esplanade Hotel Fremantle on 7 to 8 February 2014.

Dr Hanspeter E Killer, head of division of Neuro-ophthalmology and Strabismus, Kantonsspital Aarau in Switzerland, will be giving the Lowe Lecture and Prof Bill Morgan, who is well known for his research into glaucoma, will present the Gillies lecture. Bill is organising a full scientific program of interactive and stimulating talks with a social program based around Fremantle’s maritime history.

Registrations are now open at http://www.trybooking.com/BOQD or email Esther Gmelig at gmeliga@eftel.net.au for a hard copy of the registration form.

Prof David Mackey
WA Branch Chair
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Background graphic: Full Ultra-Widefield 200° optomap® image showing Neovascularisation with Peripheral Non-Perfusion

Foreground graphic frame: ETDRS

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Building The Retina Company
Member Updates

Continuing Professional Development

Changes have been made to enhance RANZCO’s Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program by improving access to resources and tools to assist Fellows with compliance.

New Manager, Professional Standards and CPD

You may have met our new Manager for Professional Standards and CPD during the Congress. Tanya Parsons started at RANZCO in August and has been busy investigating and implementing initiatives to assist Fellows with their CPD. If you have any feedback or ideas, or just need help and advice, please contact Tanya by phone 02 9690 1001 or email tparsons@ranzco.edu

CPD Handbook

The 2009 CPD Handbook has been reviewed by the CPD Committee with a view to simplifying the content. The new 2013 handbook is now available via the RANZCO website, along with a quick reference guide to the CPD categories and learning levels, which can be accessed from the online CPD Diary. This document is a living document so that we can ensure that the content remains up to date – if you have any feedback regarding the handbook, please let Tanya know.

RANZCO Website

The CPD pages of the website have been updated and reorganised to make it easier to access the documents and tools needed to participate in CPD activities. A new user guide is available to assist with reporting activities via the online CPD Diary. We hope that you find the new format easy to navigate to the information you are looking for.

The RANZCO calendar has been updated to make it easier to find CPD activities that have been accredited by the College. Look out for the star symbol against these activities.

College Audit Tool

The CPD Committee met during Congress and discussed the availability of audit tools and their relevance to RANZCO Fellows. Dr Sam Lerts (Head, CPD Audit Working Group and State CPD Representative, NSW and ACT) will be working with Tanya to investigate currently available audit tools with the view to developing a College
audit tool. If you feel that you have information that will assist with this review, please contact Tanya.

Practice Accreditation

The National Safety and Quality of Health Service (NSQHS) Standards, developed by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health care, were endorsed by Australian Health Ministers in September 2011. The primary aims of the NSQHS Standards are to protect the public from harm and to improve the quality of health service provision.

The NSQHS Standards will eventually apply to all health services, including ophthalmology; however, it is likely to be at least five years before the appropriate regulatory framework to mandate accreditation for all health services is determined. The Commission has indicated its support for professions seeking to implement self-regulated (voluntary) accreditation prior to any mandatory requirement to comply with the NSQHS Standards.

This provides RANZCO with an opportunity to demonstrate its commitment to safety and quality by implementing a self-regulated accreditation scheme which is responsive to the needs and expectations of the profession, provides a sound evidence-based approach to accreditation, and focuses on education and support to assist ophthalmology practices to meet the requirements of a set of robust professional Standards that incorporate the principles of the NSQHS Standards.

To this end, RANZCO are investigating providers to deliver this service and we will keep you updated with developments. It is intended that practice accreditation will also be a useful CPD activity.

2013 CPD Year – Don’t forget to record your activities

If you haven’t yet recorded your CPD activities for 2013, here is a timely reminder to do so! The online CPD Diary will be open until 31 March 2014 so you can record this year’s activities, but with the holidays fast approaching it is easy to forget.

Please remember to keep records of CPD activities, as AHPRA has indicated it may start auditing medical practitioners’ compliance with CPD Registration standards.

If you have any questions or have any problems accessing the diary, please contact Tanya and she will be happy to help you.

Big year ahead for ASO

There was a modest changing of the guard for the Executive of the Australian Society of Ophthalmologists at its recent Annual General Meeting at the RANZCO Congress.

Dr Arthur Karagiannis accepted re-election as President to continue his leadership of the scope-of-practice issue involving the Optometry Board of Australia and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

Dr Peter Sumich is the new Vice President, with Dr Brad Johnson from Perth assuming the role of Secretary/Treasurer.

Other new faces are Dr Nisha Sachdev, Dr Ashish Agar, Prof Stuart Graham and Dr Andrew White. Dr Julian Sack retired.

Remaining positions are filled by Drs Andrew Atkins, Gagan Khannah, Michael Steiner, Shish Lal and Brad Horsburgh.

There are numerous issues keeping the Executive occupied on behalf of members.

All involved are still awaiting the deliberation of Justice James Douglas of the Supreme Court of Queensland on whether or not RANZCO and ASO have ‘standing’ to initiate legal action challenging the Optometry Board. It was originally thought a finding would be presented after four weeks but it is now three months and there is no indication of a likely response date.

The merging of the Independent Ophthalmic Network (ION) was
formalised at the AGM. Its mission of providing business education and commercial assistance to enhance practice management will be maintained under the banner of ASO Commercial.

To ensure the great work of ION continues, a Business Committee comprising Dr Peter Sumich, Drs Nigel Morlet, Andrew Atkins and Nisha Sachdev will guide ASO’s reinvigorated efforts in this space.

Other issues are also being actively managed by the Executive include:

- Ongoing management and promotion of the Indigenous and Remote Eye Health Service.
- Contesting the issue of individual practitioner relationships within a practice through the ACCC.
- Supporting ophthalmologists in NSW who have had their cataract rebate fees slashed.
- Maintaining a lead role in helping overcome deficiencies in the AHPRA legislation allied to the scope-of-practice controversy.

Dr Arthur Karagiannis
President

The Ophthalmic Research Institute of Australia (ORIA)

The ORIA is thrilled to announce a record amount of funding to be distributed towards medical eye research during 2013 and 2014 in the amount of $2 million, with over $700,000 during the upcoming year. During these two years, 33 research projects will be funded and monitored throughout all states and territories.

Our applications for funding have increased over the last few years to that of over 46 for 2013 in Australia. We also assist the Save Sight Society of New Zealand and include their research projects for assessment into our process. This has increased the workload on the staff of the ORIA, the Research Advisory Committee and its reviewers. Many thanks to all those involved. We are proud to be actively supporting research into medical eye disease.

The work of the ORIA becomes ever more essential as government funding through the NH&MRC is decreasing annually.

Our reviewers are essential to the process and we are most grateful to their expertise. Prof David Mackey has kindly donated a bottle of Grange for the last few years to the reviewer the ORIA considers to have provided the most “useful” review. For the 2014 round this went to A/Prof Nick Di Girolamo from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of New South Wales, Sydney.

The ORIA is most grateful to the support from its fundraiser, The RANZCO Eye Foundation who will co-fund seven projects with the ORIA in 2014.

Presenting Nick with his bottle of Grange is Dr Stephanie Watson, an ORIA Board member as well as being on the ORIA’s Research Advisory Committee.

Ms Anne Dunn Snape
Executive Officer, ORIA

A/Prof Nick Di Girolame and Dr Stephanie Watson, November 2013

Dr Arthur Karagiannis
A word from the Committee

The RANZCO Practice Managers Committee would like to thank all of the 88 attendees at our recent Practice Managers conference in Hobart. It was great to see so many folk make the journey to be part of this educational event. We would also like to especially thank the Fellows and doctors who committed their time to our conference:

- Dr Stephen Best, A/Prof Alex P Hunyor, Brett McPherson,
- Dr Brad Horsburgh, Dr Cathy Green, Dr Peter Sumich,
- A/Prof Geoffrey Painter, Prof Paul McCartney and Dr David Workman.

We had some informative and engaging speakers at this year’s conference, which included the following highlights:

- Ms Colleen Sullivan’s great work to give an update on the latest Australian Association of Practice Managers salary survey.
- A fun and educational marketing round table discussion chaired by Ms Lisa Hartley.
- Mr Simon Thiessen’s session on leadership
- Updates and talks by Fellows involved in Femto, personally controlled eHealth record and Medicare.
- Latest IR developments

Not forgetting that challenging exercise from Inspire Tribe to get you out of your own space and to grow beyond that space.

Speakers such as Inspire Tribe and Simon Thiessen would not have been possible without the generous sponsorship of the following organisations: RANZCO, RANZCO Hobart Congress, The Hobart Eye Surgeons, Device Technology and MIGA. The latter gave us a great opportunity to network over drinks by the water.

We also appreciate the feedback given to us in our surveys by the attendees; this will guide us in our selection of the next conference topics. We are already planning our next conference with the aim to assist our Fellows by offering Practice Managers the opportunity for further education and networking.

We look forward to seeing you in Brisbane in 2014, bring your Fellows if you can!

Have you visited...

Have you visited the RANZCO website recently? Did you log in? If you answered ‘no’ to either of these questions, you’re missing out on one of the great benefits of your membership.

The Practice Manager section of the website contains some great resources, like recent Conference presentations and information on e-health. This information is only available to members so you’ll need to log in to access it and then follow the links from Associate Members through to the Practice Manager pages.

We are continually looking for content which is useful to our members and we welcome your suggestions and feedback. Feel free to get in touch with RANZCO by emailing ranzco@ranzco.edu with your suggestions. If you can’t remember your password, contact RANZCO and they’ll reset it for you. Keep an eye on your emails in January for a website-inspired email, including helpful links.
Senior and Retired Fellows

The Fellows had a successful and happy meeting in Hobart.

The Seniors Lounge area was well situated with wonderful views over Constitution Dock. It was a haven of peace and quiet where we could sit and read, have a cuppa and catch-up with old friends.

The lunch time lectures were well attended and enjoyed by all. The first lecture was by Jan Larke, a local artist, and her subject was that it is ‘Never too late to start’. The second was by one of our registrars from Melbourne, Dr Michael Jamieson, who enlightened us on the mysteries of the iPad, apps and its clinical applications. The third was by Dr David Kaufman, Curator of the Museum, who gave a talk on ophthalmic curiosities. These talks were all well received. The Seniors Lounge and Museum shared a common area and it worked well. The Seniors Lounge area and the lunch time talks will again be a feature of the RANZCO, Congress in Brisbane 2014.

Drs Frank Bors, Bill Barnett and I participated in a Symposium chaired by Drs Stephen Best and Brad Horsburgh on ‘The Practice Life Cycle and Generational Change’. The presentations included: Brad – The Natural Life Cycle of Private Practice; Dr Christine Younan – Expectations and Aspirations for Private Practice; Dr Ben Fleming – Starting a New Practice; Dr Andrea Vincent – Joining an Established Practice; and Frank, Bill and myself – Successful succession Planning and Transition to Retirement. This Symposium was well received and we have had very good feedback. I would suggest that this topic be part of other meetings.

The seating for Seniors at the Opening Ceremony of the Congress was well appreciated.

The Seniors dinner, held in the Tasman Room at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, was an outstanding success with 76 attending, up from 58 last year. There were also 20 apologies.

We all enjoyed a good meal catching up with old friends and, most importantly we could hear ourselves speak. Quiet music was provided by myself on my harmonica, commencing with a musical tribute to Ernest Shackleton, buried in South Georgia. Learning a new song, which may well become the Seniors Anthem, was well received. The song was ‘I Am Australian’ written by Bruce Woodley of The Seekers.

The chorus is simple and universal:

We share a dream and sing with one voice, I am, you are, we are Australian.

We will be doing this again in Brisbane, and I am also preparing a song for our New Zealand Fellows. It was a very happy night and enjoyed by all.

The Seniors Lounge and the Dinner are now established functions for future RANZCO meetings. This will encourage more Senior Fellows to attend and remain involved with the College. It is a good thing for the three generations of ophthalmologists to be together, albeit for once a year. We are grateful to the College for introducing and encouraging these initiatives.

I have been reappointed to the Council, representing the Senior and Retired Fellows for another two years, and am ably supported by the Committee of Dr Bill Barnett, Dr Rob Henderson, A/Prof Alex Hunyor, Dr Tom Walker and Dr Frank Bors.

Finally a very special and sincere thank you to Kathy Kiernan, who was with us all the way, always smiling and ever helpful. The functions were a success largely due to Kathy. Thank you also Avril Cronk for your quiet, helpful and efficient organisation and to all the staff at RANZCO who have helped to make our functions a success.

Dr Frank Cheok
Chair, Senior Fellows’ Group
Recent activities undertaken by the Indigenous and Rural Health Committee

The Indigenous and Rural Health Committee organised a speaker to talk to RANZCO trainees at the Registrars’ Club on Saturday 2 November prior to the Hobart Congress. The topic was ‘An Introduction to Cultural Awareness’. This was well received by those present and it is hoped that this will be the first step towards providing essential clinically relevant information from an Indigenous perspective to both Fellows and Trainees. Business and interest group meetings were run at Congress and well attended by all of the various stakeholders with an emphasis on providing the latest information about the status of Indigenous eye health from around Australia.

Human Research Ethics Committee

The RANZCO Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) met in October to discuss a number of scientific research proposals that have been submitted to the College. Over the past year there has been a steady increase in the number of low and negligible risk (LNR) applications and this has necessitated the development of a PDF form that Fellows and trainees can easily complete and email to the College.

Part of the discussions at the most recent meeting centred on ways to make this form even easier to use, with committee members suggesting that specific examples and explanations could accompany the varying questions. The RANZCO HREC have been carefully putting together a number of links and resources on the College HREC web page that will hopefully guide future researchers in the initial stages of designing their projects. These resources include: links to biostatistical, randomisation and power calculation web pages; a document on some basic points to consider when conducting research; guidelines for drafting participant information and consent forms; and a submission checklist. In addition to this there are various other templates and forms available to support researchers.

The most recent development for a full RANZCO ethics application has been the move to the National Ethics Application Form (NEAF). The use of this form will align RANZCO with many other research ethics committees in other institutions, universities and hospitals. The NEAF is a web-based form that has some plasticity built into its design, with sections collapsing and expanding depending on which options are chosen. There are help icons at all levels of the form which give detailed examples and explanations of how to complete those sections.

On Saturday 26 October committee members participated in a workshop that covered various aspects of the ‘National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research’. Participants were taken through a number of case studies and ethical dilemmas with discussion around some of the current issues surrounding the way research proposals are reviewed by different ethics committees around Australia and New Zealand. The course was run by Queensland Clinical Trials Network in association with Life Sciences Queensland.

The Hon. Warren Snowden has released the 2012 Australian Trachoma Surveillance Report (from the previous Government) that shows the rate of trachoma has fallen from 14% in 2009 down to 4%. The report also noted, “Across all four jurisdictions in 2012, the prevalence of trachoma in 5 -9-year-old children was 4%”. This is a fantastic achievement for all those involved.

Dr Ashish Agar
Chair of Indigenous and Rural Health Committee

Dr Mark Loane, Ross Littlewood, Tim Henderson and A/Prof Angus Turner

Of particular interest was a talk from Dr Hessom Razavi who gave a detailed overview about Indigenous eye health from an urban perspective, a topic that has often been overlooked at meetings of this kind.

On Tuesday morning of the College Congress in Hobart, IEHU launched the ‘2013 Annual Update on the Implementation of The Roadmap to Close the Gap for Vision’ which was well received by those present. There was also a successful Symposium on ‘Indigenous Eye Health – a National Perspective’ on the afternoon of the second last day of Congress.

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Dr Bill Glasson confirms Griffith pre-selection bid ahead of by-election

Immediate Past President Dr Bill Glasson put his hand up for Liberal National Party (LNP) pre-selection ahead of the upcoming by-election for the federal seat of Griffith.

Dr Glasson, who is expected to be the LNP’s candidate, caused a 5.5 percent swing against former Prime Minister Mr Kevin Rudd at September’s federal election. Dr Glasson has vowed to serve the full three-year term if elected.

Prime Minister Tony Abbott has endorsed Dr Glasson to be the LNP’s candidate. “I welcome Dr Bill Glasson’s decision to stand for pre-selection for the forthcoming Griffith by-election,” Mr Abbott said in a statement. “Bill Glasson has dedicated himself to representing the people of Griffith with the same enthusiasm, zeal and commitment that he has brought to his distinguished medical career.”

We wish Bill all the best!

Neuro-Ophthalmology Society Meeting and NeuroVision Training Weekend

The Neuro-Ophthalmology Society of Australia’s 29th Annual Clinical and Scientific Meeting, incorporating the NeuroVision Training Weekend, was a resounding success, attracting more than 100 delegates from a range of disciplines.

The conference, held in September in Noosa, Queensland, and convened by Dr Ioanne Anderson, was attended by ophthalmologists, neuro-ophthalmologists, neurologists, registrars, trainees and orthoptists.

Invited speakers included Prof Larry Frohman, Professor of Ophthalmology and Neurosciences at New Jersey Medical School, Prof Agnes Wong, Professor of Ophthalmology and Vision Sciences at University of Toronto, and Mike Burdon, Consultant Ophthalmologist at University Hospital Birmingham.

Prof Catriona McLean and Dr Nicholas Trost once again contributed their valued expertise in pathology and radiology.

The NeuroVision Training Weekend was attended by more than 100 neuro-ophthalmology trainees, and focussed predominantly on afferent neuro-ophthalmology. Sessions were conducted by members of the 2013 NeuroVision Faculty, including Larry Frohman, Agnes Wong and Mike Burdon.

Next year will mark the 30th NOSA Annual Clinical and Scientific Meeting, which will be convened by Prof Christian Lueck and held in Canberra from 11 to 14 September 2014. For further information contact stacee.radcliffe@act.gov.au

In November 2013 Health Ministers Approved Non-Medical Prescribing

The AMA is calling on the Health Ministers to reverse a model of prescribing where a non-medical health practitioner would prescribe without the oversight of a medical practitioner. AMA President,
Dr Steve Hambleton, said “Australia’s Health Ministers have signed off on dangerous new prescribing pathways that could harm patients by allowing non-medical health professionals to autonomously prescribe medications.”

“These new rights are going to cause chaos” said RANZCO CEO Dr David Andrews, “with neither patients nor prescribers, nor pharmacists for that matter, fully understanding who can do what. In the interest of patient safety collaborative health care, particularly with optometry is key.”

RANZCO strengthens its presence within Australian peak body

RANZCO is a member of Vision2020 Australia, working in partnership to eliminate the causes and remove the barriers of blindness and vision impairment in Australia and our region—focusing on core principles of collaboration, co-ordination, accessibility and equity.

RANZCO Fellow Dr Iain Dunlop has been re-elected to the Vision2020 Australia Board at its recent AGM. In a further effort to strengthen RANZCO’s external relationships and influence eye health policy in collaboration with members of the peak body, five Fellows are now representing RANZCO on the Policy Committees of Vision2020 Australia. These are:

- Dr Rowan Porter – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people Committee.
- Dr Nathan Sachdev – Prevention and Early Intervention Committee.
- Dr Elaine Wong – Low Vision and Rehabilitation Committee.
- Drs Anthony Bennet Hall and Laurence Sullivan – Global Committee.

ANZOSU
Please remember to return surveillance emails every month

The Australian and New Zealand Ophthalmic Surveillance Unit (ANZOSU) facilitates national active identification and reporting of cases of rare conditions chosen for public health, clinical or scientific importance.

Conditions that are studied are too rare to be studied at a local level or with small-scale collaborations. Conditions are usually studied to ascertain the incidence, pathogenesis and classification of a disease, to respond to issues of public health importance and to establish cohorts for both natural history and interventional studies.

Current conditions under surveillance include:

- Paediatric Eye Anomalies;
- Severe Adverse Events Caused by Local Anaesthetic; and
- Total Limbal Stem Cell Deficiency.

The success of ANZOSU depends on the contribution of all RANZCO Fellows. It is important that when monthly emails are received a response is returned every time. Most of the time Fellows will have not seen a case under surveillance, as conditions are rare, however it is still essential to send a reply and check the “Nothing to report” box. If a case of a condition under study has been seen then the reply should indicate this. You should keep a note of the patient’s details as a questionnaire will subsequently be forwarded from the research team for completion. The co-operation of all Fellows in supporting ANZOSU in this way will ensure the validity of studies. For more information go to www.anzosu.com or email info@anzosu.com. Thank you for your support.

Practitioner Helpline
Launch—February 2014

Practitioners and their staff regularly have questions about important matters that affect management of their practice and practice business.

However, there was no single source of expert information on such issues – until now!

Health Practice Creations Group (HPCG) is launching a ‘single contact point’ Helpline providing advice on legal, industrial relations, human resources, business management and practice management matters relating to practices and individual practitioners.

Examples of such queries are:

- Legal–privacy, medical records, workplace health and safety, legal contracts;
- Industrial Relations – awards, human resources, contracts;
- Practice Management – policy and procedures, appraisal, efficiency;
- Business Management – budgets, marketing/business/strategic plans, KPIs.

Available information sources relating to these matters include Industry Associations, Legal and Accounting Firms. Each separate information source does not usually provide expert advice on all topics and is often expensive to obtain.

An abundance of legislation and general information affects Practitioners and Practices–Privacy, Workplace Health and Safety, Medical Records, Health Professionals and
Support Award, Clerical Award, National Employment Standards, business plans, marketing plans, budgets, key performance indicators, policies and procedures and countless other sources – to name a few.

The HPCG nationwide Helpline will be available from February 2014 for a nominal cost of $55+GST per month for practices or $45+GST per month for individual practitioners.

Helpline services include a number of calls or emails all year round and one free face-to-face consult per annum. Helpline subscribers are also entitled to attractive benefits from sponsors including Medfin (health industry financier), EBOS (medical equipment/furniture/supplies), Office National (office supplies), Rend Tech (IT solutions), Equip Office Furniture (office furniture), IAS (insurance) and the Private Practice (an educational body). HPCG plans to attract more over time.

The Helpline will be resourced by a team of Advisors overseen by Legal expert, Karen Crouch, Industrial/HR expert, Emma Patton, Business Management expert, John Crouch and Practice Management expert, Heather Engel, collectively boasting over 30 years’ experience in the health industry.

To register your interest in the HPCG Helpline, or to find out more, email Karen Crouch at kcrouch@hpcnsw.com.au

Endoscopic DCR and Orbital Workshop

St Vincent’s are holding an Endoscopic Orbital Workshop on Saturday 1 February 2014. This workshop may be of interest to both RANZCO Trainees and Fellows.

For more information please view event calendar on the RANZCO website: http://www.ranzco.edu/

Closure of the first University of Sydney orthoptic training program – update

Early in 2013 Orthoptics Australia was notified that the current education program for orthoptists would cease at the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS), University of Sydney. This program is one of only two in the country, the other offered by La Trobe University, Melbourne (where a four-year, full-time, combined Bachelor of Health Sciences and Master of Orthoptics is offered). Despite announcing the closure, senior FHS administrators supported early negotiation with other institutions.

In response to the news of the closure Orthoptics Australia, the peak body representing Australian orthoptists, convened a working party—the OA Tertiary Education Working Party (OATEW). The working party has actively sought a new academic home to replace the NSW course so as to meet the future supply of and workforce needs Australia wide.

The OATEWP has been working tirelessly towards finding a solution to the closure of the FHS, University of Sydney program. As this is a significant workforce issue for the orthoptic profession and in order to progress the matter as effectively as possible, an expert consultant has been engaged to assist with university negotiations. To date an approach has been made to all NSW universities with some promising negotiations started.

A meeting has also been held with the NSW Ministry for Health (MOH) in regard to the closure of the NSW Orthoptics program, and the implication for the NSW public health sector workforce. The MOH representatives expressed deep concern at the potential shortage of orthoptists in the public sector and are very supportive of the continuation of an education program in NSW. Since the meeting they have provided a letter of support which has been included in submissions to universities and have also offered to attend any meetings with universities if necessary.

The OATEWP remains positive about establishing a new educational program for NSW Orthoptics and is also maintaining continuous dialogue with RANZCO with regards to the issues.

Dr Meri Vukicevic
President, Orthoptics Australia

Orthoptics Australia has a new President

At the last Orthoptics Australia Annual General Meeting on Monday 4 November 2013, Hobart, Tasmania, Dr Meri Vukicevic was appointed President of the peak body representing orthoptists in Australia.

Meri graduated as an orthoptist in 1994 and was awarded a PhD in the Department of Clinical Vision Sciences in 2007, where she also holds an academic appointment. Her research profile relates to the pathology and the impact of vision impairment as a result of age-related macular degeneration.

Meri is on the Editorial Board of the Australian Orthoptic Journal and is currently acting as the Managing Editor of Clinical and Experimental Ophthalmology until Vicky Cartwright’s return to the position in early December.

Supporting the new President is Dr Connie Koklanis (previous Orthoptics Australia President) who now becomes the Vice President.

Contact details:
President@orthoptics.org.au
Cataract outcomes the focus of postgrad surgical degree at University of Sydney

The University of Sydney’s postgraduate Refractive Surgery program will be renamed ‘Cataract and Refractive Surgery’ in 2014, with its diploma and masters study options incorporating more focus on cataract surgery as a refractive procedure.

Launched in 2009 under the leadership of A/Prof John Grigg and Prof Gerard Sutton, the program was the first of its kind in the world to use an innovative remote learning model consisting of online tutorials and regional workshops.

The course has evolved since its launch to meet the changing needs of ophthalmologists and, in response to patient demand and emerging techniques, an increasing course component is now focused on improving refractive outcomes following cataract surgery.

“Cataract surgery is one of the most successful operations in the world today and provides excellent visual outcomes”, says course director Gerard. “It is also becoming more and more a refractive surgical procedure.”

The ‘Cataract and Refractive Surgery’ course now offers ophthalmologists the opportunity to up-skill in areas such as:
- intraocular lens power calculation under difficult circumstances;
- the relative merits of various presbyopic solutions such as multifocal intraocular lenses and blended vision;
- astigmatic surgical treatment options; and
- objective assessment of new technologies such as the femtosecond laser, intraoperative astigmatic alignment and aberrometry systems.

Individual units of study (Cataract & Refractive Surgery 1, Cataract & Refractive Surgery 2 and Practical Cataract and Refractive Surgery) can also be taken as certified short courses.

Interested ophthalmic practitioners are invited to enroll in either the Graduate Diploma in Cataract and Refractive Surgery or the Master of Medicine (Cataract and Refractive Surgery) via the University of Sydney website: http://sydney.edu.au/courses/programs/ophthalmology-ophthalmic-science-and-refractive-surgery.

Enquiries can be made by contacting Ms Rebecca Stoop on (02) 9382 7284 or Rebecca.stoop@sydney.edu.au.

Tired of your patients feeling the pressure?

Now Available In Australia
Premium Hypodermic Needles Reduce Needle Pressure

- 32G x 9mm developed specifically for treatment of Old Age Macular Degeneration In association with Dr David M. Brown MD, Houston Eye Institute.
- Available in 27, 30, 32 and 33 Gauge.

Phone: 1800 689 400 or Email: admin@precisemedical.com.au

FREE Samples Available

Over the past three years the Apple iPad has become a popular tool amongst ophthalmologists, and nearly every other profession. Its usefulness stems from the many Apps available; some free and some paid. Some of my favourite Apps are:

**Google Chrome:** One of the most popular web browsers, offering fast search capabilities and synchronised bookmarks with your mobile phone and home computer.

**Dropbox:** A leading “cloud storage” App, which automatically updates your files on all devices at once. Great for storing interesting journal articles and scanned documents.

**Google Maps:** Shows satellite imagery, driving directions with current traffic and even topographical maps of any location on earth.

**Youtube:** A vast repository of short video clips, including surgical videos and educational lectures.

**Eyetube:** Similar to Youtube, but devoted entirely to eyes. The best place to find the latest surgical techniques.

**Pages:** Apple’s word processor. Handy for taking notes and writing documents, but only becomes really effective if you have a separate Bluetooth keyboard to type with.

**Retina Atlas HD:** A brilliant App with high quality retinal photos and fluorescein angiogram images, accompanied by captions highlighting the salient features of each medical retinal disease.

**CEO Journal:** The App for our own Australian journal, offering “pdf” downloads to save any particularly interesting or relevant papers for later reference.

**Newstand:** The place to find most journals including *Ophthalmology, Millennial Eye* and many more.

**EyeHandbook:** This one is gold. The App with the most clinically useful examination aids in one package, including visual acuity, contrast sensitivity, Ishihara, Amsler grid, optokinetic drum and even a blue-screen light feature tuned to the absorption wavelength of fluorescein.

With new Apps and updates being released at a rapid rate, and new iPad editions that are lighter, compact and more powerful, it is exciting to think about where this technology will take us next.

*Dr Michael Jamieson*

At RANZCO’s 45th Annual Scientific Congress Dr Michael Jamieson gave a talk in the Senior Retired Fellows’ Lounge on Apps and the iPad.
Annual Scientific Congress
Art, Science and Hobart – the perfect combination for an excellent Congress!

Scoring a whopping 4.29 out of 5 for overall satisfaction in the congress survey, the 2013 Hobart Congress with the theme “The Art and Science of Ophthalmology” will be hard to beat.

Congress Convenor, A/Prof Nitin Verma believes the success of the Congress was due to “Many months of hard work in the lead up to the event. This, combined with the relaxing idyllic atmosphere of Hobart, beautiful views, friendly staff, good food, high calibre sessions and an interesting combination of social events resulted (I think) in everyone having a good time.”

On Friday evening a number of guests attended drinks and canapés at Hobart’s stunning Government House. Completed in 1857, the house is set on beautiful grounds overlooking the Derwent River. Regarded as one of the best Vice-Regal residences in the Commonwealth, it is a fine example of an early Victorian country house in neo-Gothic style and is one of the largest of its type in Australia.

On Saturday, Fellows were able to experience much of the Hobart waterfront, with meetings held in four venues. The Hotel Grand Chancellor, the world famous Henry Jones Art Hotel, the Hobart Function and Conference Centre and The Old Woolstore.

Late Saturday afternoon guests travelled to the Museum of Old and New Art (MONA) by ferry. Here they had ample time to explore the museum’s delights – from the bizarre to the magnificent. Followed by a delicious Churassco BBQ, with spectacular views of the Derwent River.

Sunday morning started early with the traditional annual general meetings of the ORIA, the ASO and RANZCO. If you missed the RANZCO AGM and would like a copy of the Annual Report please visit: www.ranzco.edu/communications/publications/annual-reports
Later that morning Prof Kuldev Singh gave the first update lecture of the Congress, on the myths and areas of glaucoma care that have been influenced by recent data; a critical review of the literature reveals that not all conclusions from the landmark glaucoma clinical trials have withstood the test of time.

This was followed by the Council Lecture, given by RANZCO Fellow, A/Prof Julian Rait, of Melbourne. Amongst other things, Julian provided practical advice on how to proactively manage your online reputation, cultivate positive patient feedback and manage negative messages.

Graduation and Awards Ceremony

Wrest Point in Battery Point was the venue for Sunday evening’s Graduation and Awards ceremony. Here we welcomed new Fellows into the College, and awarded prestigious College awards and scholarships.

College Awards

College Medal
Dr Ralph Higgins OAM

Distinguished Service Award
Dr Saad Al-Ali

Honorary Fellowship
Mr Laurie Pincott MBE

Trainers of Excellence
A/Prof Anne Brooks, Dr Ross Fitzsimons, Dr Stephen Guest, Dr Yves Kerdraon, Dr Mei Ling Tay Kearney, A/Prof Graham Lee and Dr Deepa Taranath
On Monday morning, we heard from the Best Paper Presenters. During this session those whose papers scored the highest ranking during the Scientific Program Committee’s abstract review were given an opportunity to present. Among the audience were five judges, who rated the papers on Presentation, Content/Scientific Merit, Discussion and Originality, with one Vision Scientist or Trainee qualifying for the John Parr Trophy and one Fellow for the Gerard Crock trophy.

This year, the John Parr trophy was awarded to Trainee Dr Joel Yap and the Gerard Crock trophy was awarded to Prof Mark Gillies.

Later on Monday Prof BCK Patel presented on the challenges of Oculoplastics, giving the Peter Rogers lecture. In the lecture he presented two techniques which were developed in response to two diseases: one, which can condemn a child to death, and another, which frequently leads to loss of vision, partial or total.

This was followed by Dr David Chang, who gave the Gregg Lecture, an ‘Update on the Prevention and Management of Intraoperative Floppy Iris Syndrome (IFIS).’ His lecture reviewed the most important clinical knowledge about the prevention and management of IFIS.

The Sunset Poster Viewing was held on Monday night on the mezzanine of the Grand Chancellor. Thank you to Alcon for their generous sponsorship of the evening’s activities. The Best Poster Prize (presented on Wednesday morning), kindly sponsored by Carl Zeiss, was awarded to A/Prof Alex P Hunyor with his entry on safety of office-based intravitreal injections.
On Tuesday morning we heard from Joan Miller MD, whose presentation ‘Treating Macular Degeneration: Looking to the future’ delved into the tremendous advancements in the treatment of age-related macular degeneration (AMD) in the last decade.

Following this, the Ida Mann lecture was presented by RANZCO Fellow Prof Jan Provis, from Canberra. Jan gave a thought-provoking and in-depth lecture on 'The Macula, the fovea and blood supply: What do we know and how does it help?'

After lunch, attendees were treated to an innovative interactive discussion lead by David Chang MD. David showed video case studies of cataract complications, which he stopped at certain intervals to ask the audience what they would do if they were in the same situation. Their responses were tallied via an online polling system.

"This was a great session as everyone could get involved and the answers were shown in real time on the lecture screen. This level of polling was a new frontier for the Congress, and David worked diligently with both the PCO and the AV team to ensure its success—which in the end actually involved the purchase of extra bandwidth for the venue. He is a seasoned speaker who knew just when to stop the video for a ‘what would you do’ question to the audience or the nine panellists. Whatever answer came up he dealt with it with aplomb”, said Dr Noel Alpins, Scientific Program Committee member.

The Congress dinner on Tuesday evening was a wonderful way to officially end the event. The food was superb and the night was enjoyed by all! A special thank you to those who bid in the RANZCO Eye Foundation’s silent auction.
After some interesting symposia held on Wednesday morning, David Chang MD wooed the audience one last time with his final presentation on microinvasive glaucoma surgery.

Lastly, A/Prof Nitin Verma took some time out from convening the meeting to present the Hollows lecture. During his lecture ‘Saving Sight, Healing a Nation,’ Nitin reflected on his participation in the journey of rebuilding a country – East Timor.

“The true success of any mentoring program is, surely, when the student becomes self-reliant. To this end, the success of the East Timor Eye Program is underpinned by a robust exit strategy so that what is achieved is true (ophthalmic) independence!” concluded Nitin.
Congress Art Exhibition

For the first time an art exhibition was held during Congress. Due to space restrictions this was shown digitally via screens and the App. Anyone attending Congress could enter as could their family members.

The winner was chosen by a panel of three judges, which comprised of Fellow and exhibition organiser Dr Michael Treplin, local Hobart artist Mrs Jan Larke and Mr Don Row, a local art researcher, collector and writer.

The overall winner was Fellow Dr Wayne Birchall of Whangarei, New Zealand and the people’s choice winner, chosen by Congress attendees, was awarded to Dr Anu Verma of Hobart. RANZCO News spoke to both Wayne and Anu about their works:

Dr Wayne Birchall, overall winner

How long have you been creating your own art?

On and off since I was at school but more seriously over the past five years.

Are you working on anything now?

Yes, a blue Tibetan Medicine Buddha in fairly traditional style but against a backdrop of my own home landscape to give it a personal touch. There is a lot of fine detail and shading and it will probably take me another three months to complete. The colour blue and blue light are thought to have healing properties so traditionally blue lapis lazuli pigment would be used to paint this Buddha and is used in many other forms of religious art and iconography. I plan to obtain lapis lazuli pigment to make my own paint for the first time as it is more vibrant than commercially available blue paint.

Fragments, Dr Wayne Birchall

Dr Simon Dean and A/Prof Angus Turner

Dr Simon Dean and Weng Onn Chan

Dr Simon Dean from the Scientific Program Committee co-ordinates the film awards; this involves quite a bit work in preparing the films for display. This year we had a record number of entries which kept him busy!

Congratulations goes to:

Best community ophthalmology film – Tele-health, connecting rural Australia with ophthalmology, A/Prof Angus Turner

Best film and best surgical film – Live W. Bancrofti in the anterior chamber, Dr Sudarshan Khokhar

People’s choice award - DIY digital retino-cam, Dr Weng Onn Chan

Film Festival
What is your favourite medium?

I am enjoying using acrylic paints these days but I also like watercolour especially for landscape painting, though it is less forgiving and usually not possible to ‘paint over’ as you can with acrylics if a mistake is made.

Can you tell us more about your winning work – Fragments? I understand it was inspired by your visits to Bougainville?

It is the last of a series of paintings inspired by previous visits to Bougainville. I started playing around with molten wax running it around the canvas and it produced a series of ‘cells’ and painted within each cell is small ‘fragment’ or ‘painting within a painting’. The white and red circles depict blind eyes of which we saw many and the crosses are a reminder of the large number of people killed in the civil conflict on the island which fortunately ended around 1998. In 2007 there were still many ruined derelict buildings to be seen and the title refers both to the broken and very poor image of the world experienced by those with failing vision as well as the fragmentation and break-down of society and health care caused by war, which condemns many people with treatable illness to death and many to prolonged blindness.

Is there anything else you’d like to say?

While exhibiting photographs of art work was I guess easy and convenient I don’t think there is any substitute for exhibiting the actual works where the audience has more time to view and contemplate the work. I would certainly support this being an annual event.

Thank you to all who contributed to the Congress Art Exhibition!
International Development
A leadership role in eye-care education

“With international development activities under the RANZCO banner growing, we need more Fellows engaged”, says Dr Neil Murray, Chair of the International Development Committee.

At the RANZCO Council meeting during the Hobart Congress, Neil stressed that the vision of taking a leadership role in eye care education and professional development in the Asia-Pacific region has now been corporatised and is embedded in the RANZCO Strategic Plan 2013-2016. The International Development Committee was mandated to operationalise this corporate vision in a sustainable manner. Four key milestones have been achieved:

- RANZCO is a credible development organisation, having achieved full membership status of the Australian Council for International Development, the peak body for Australian based international development organisations whose Code of Conduct constitutes the sector’s benchmark standard for good development practice. Through membership of the Vision2020 Global Consortium, RANZCO participates in the delivery of the East Asia Vision Program with funding from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). RANZCO is active in the wider global avoidable blindness arena through its membership of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness and through other project activities funded by The RANZCO Eye Foundation in South East Asia and the Pacific Islands region.

- RANZCO has a unique development niche in offering eye care education and professional standards, thereby seeking to complement, and not compete, with the activities of other non-government organisations.

- RANZCO has developed in house capacity, the RANZCO Asia-Pacific International Development Workshop.
Development (RAPID) unit to develop international relationships and collaborations, manage grants and deliver activities.

- Over two years of programs there are significant runs on the Board, with over $1 million secured and delivered including capacity building training programs in the Pacific islands, Cambodia, Vietnam and Indonesia; leadership programs for ophthalmologists working in low resource settings; and developing and maintaining an online platform to match Fellows with volunteer opportunities abroad.

“What has been achieved to date is the establishment of a solid foundation for RANZCO’s development vision – it can be leveraged and up-scaled. The demand in the Asia-Pacific region is such that the sky is the limit.” Neil concludes: “There remain significant challenges in particular addressing the lack of awareness amongst Fellows of RANZCO’s corporate development strategy. If these can be overcome, there is huge potential value add possible with more Fellows engaged in RANZCO’s international development activities seeking to eliminate avoidable blindness and, as a consequence, alleviate poverty.”

Neil Murray addressed Council, the Overseas Development Special Interest Group and the International Symposium at Congress in Hobart, November 2013, and convened the pre-Congress workshop ‘Retina in low resource settings’.

International Development Committee meeting

The International Development Committee (IDC) held its final meeting for 2013 in Hobart, 2 November. Dr Neil Murray, IDC Chair thanked Drs Garry Brian and Richard Stawell who have stepped down from the IDC. To allow for the IDC to assess RANZCO Eye Foundation (REF) projects objectively, and given the good working relationship between the CEO’s of RANZCO and REF, it was decided that there is no longer a need for a REF representative on the IDC. Neil therefore thanked Jacinta Spurrett for her contribution as representative of REF.

The IDC has continued to provide strategic guidance and technical expertise to RANZCO on international development issues and projects. The IDC reflected on the considerable growth and strengthening of programs in the Asia Pacific region including implementation of the three year RANZCO component of the East Asia Vision Program in Cambodia and Vietnam, the Regional Leadership Development Program building the leadership capacity of ophthalmologists and nurses in the Pacific Islands region, the continued commitment to facilitating visiting lecturers and examiners to Pacific Eye Institute building PEI’s capacity to train quality ophthalmologists, and the Congress International Scholarship Program strengthening strategic relationships between RANZCO and recipients from Cambodia and Myanmar.

International Development Workshop a success

The International Development workshop was held on 1 November in Hobart. The theme of the International Development workshop was ‘Retina in low resource settings’, with presenters and Chairs from the Pacific Islands region, Cambodia and RANZCO Fellows with an expertise in retina.

Informed by feedback from previous RANZCO Congress international Scholarship recipients and other international participants, the workshop aimed to promote collaboration and networking, and contribute to an improved understanding of current challenges and the management of retinal issues in the Asia Pacific region. Sessions included an examination of retinal disease in the developing world, retina service needs, clinical pearls and pitfalls, and a curriculum round table.
Participants commented that “it was great to hear speakers with vast experience working in developing countries”, and it was “interesting to see how other developing countries are coping with the same problems we face”.

IDC members Drs Anthony Bennett Hall and Peter Cooper with International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness Western Pacific Chair Dr Richard Le Mesurier.

The workshop was facilitated by the International Development Committee (IDC) and RANZCO Asia-Pacific International Development (RAPID) unit. Dr Neil Murray (middle) with session Chairs Drs Rosie Dawkins, Ana Cama, Cathy Green and Mundi Qalo Qoqonokana.
RANZCO hosts eye care leaders from the Pacific region

RANZCO hosted six leaders in eye care from the Pacific Islands region as part of the Regional Leadership Development Program from 22 October to 8 November 2013. The DFAT supported program was conducted in partnership with the Pacific Eye Institute and Pacific Eye Care Society (PacEYES). Program participants included ophthalmologists Drs Luisa Cikamatana, Mundi Qalo Qoqonokana and Nola Pikacha, and ophthalmic nurses Annie Bong, Ashreeta Devi Lingam and Edna Totogi.

The RANZCO Regional Leadership Development Program aims to empower participants to make a difference in their working environments, not only as medical practitioners and clinical decision makers, but as leaders affecting positive change to make eye care accessible to all and contribute to blindness prevention.

Participants observed systems and processes at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital in Melbourne. Dr Suki Sandhu with Dr Luisa Cikamatana, Ashreeta Devi Lingam and Dr Nola Pikacha in the Medical Retina Clinic.

Participants with Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital executive at the Leadership Forum. Deborah Cutts, Fundraising and Philanthropy Manager; Dr Luisa Cikamatana; Peter Gould, Chief Financial Officer; Caroline Clarke, acting CEO; Linda Miln, Risk & Quality Manager; Dr Nola Pikacha; and Ashreeta Devi Lingam.

The Regional Leadership Development Program included training at The Nossal Institute for Global Health aimed to strengthen leadership and management skills of participants through the examination of public health issues within the context of Pacific Islands region.

Dr Nola Pikacha receiving a completion certificate from Dr Timothy Moore.

Pacific Island ophthalmologists had the opportunity to present and Chair at the International Development Workshop – Retina in Low Resource Settings.

Session Chair and Program participant Dr Mundi Qalo Qoqonokana with Dr Neil Murray, Dr Cathy Green (Board, Qualification Education Committee, International Development Committee member and visiting lecturer to Pacific Eye Institute) and Dr Ana Cama (Chair, Pacific Eye Care Society).
Program participants had the opportunity to network with Fellows while attending the Annual Scientific Meeting in Hobart.

Dr Nola Pikacha with International Development Committee members Drs Anthony Bennett Hall and Neil Murray at Government House.

Annie Bong, Ashreeta Devi Lingam, Edna Totogi and Drs Mundi Qalo Qoqonokana with Harris Ansari, (back) at Government House.

The Governor of Tasmania, the Honourable Peter Underwood AC, and Mrs Frances Underwood held a reception in the Ball Room at Government House. Fellows, Regional Leadership Development Program participants and scholarship recipients were entertained by soprano, Tamika Crosbie, accompanied by Andrew Morrisby on the piano.

The two-day RANZCO workshop gave participants the opportunity to reflect and consolidate learnings to present their return to work plans to a RANZCO panel comprising Drs Neil Murray, Cathy Green and Prof Peter McCluskey.

Dr Neil Murray presenting Edna Totogi with her RANZCO Regional Leadership Development Program participation certificate on behalf of the RANZCO President, Dr Stephen Best.

Feedback on the Program was extremely positive, with all participants strongly agreeing that this should continue in the future.
Cambodia capacity building

RANZCO is continuing work on the East Asia Vision Program with a recent visit by Tanya Parsons, Manager of Professional Standards and Continuing Professional Development (CPD), to Phnom Penh. Following up on Dr Mark Renehan’s visit in June, Tanya met with representatives from the Cambodian Ophthalmological Society to discuss the unique needs and challenges of Cambodian ophthalmologists in relation to CPD. Further progress was made during RANZCO’s 45th Annual Scientific Meeting, where Drs Amarin and Chukmol (attending on RANZCO scholarships) met with RANZCO Fellows who have formed a CPD Reference Group. The Reference Group will serve to support the Cambodian CPD Committee to set up and implement a CPD program. The membership of the RANZCO CPD Reference Group are Drs Richard Hart (Chair), Mark Renehan, Heather Mack, Peter Cooper, Neil Murray and Russell Phillips.

In a related program activity, in October Dr Brian Sloan accompanied by Ms Penny Gormly, General Manager of Education and Training, visited training hospitals in Cambodia to gain an understanding of the current processes for determining required standards for institutions to provide quality training. They also made recommendations for establishing an accreditation system for measuring performance against agreed standards, including capacity building requirements. This visit was opportunistically followed up with a meeting during Congress with DRS Meng and Do Seiha from the Cambodian National Program for Eye Health, where they were able to discuss Brian’s findings and the next steps. The RANZCO project team also discussed ophthalmology resident training curriculum review and assessment with Cambodian ophthalmologists who attended Congress, agreeing upon and finalising next year’s program activities. The Program is funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and implemented through the Vision2020 Global Consortium.

Strengthening relations with Indonesian College of Ophthalmologists

Upon request from the Indonesian College of Ophthalmologists, a RANZCO team comprising Drs David Kaufman, Humayun Baig and Michelle Gajus participated in the supervision of clinical exams in Jakarta, Indonesia in September. Their participation included centralised Surgical Video, Objectively Structured Clinical Examination and short case exams. Recommendations made by David following the exams will inform future visits to Indonesia and observer visits by Indonesians to RANZCO exams. In November, further discussions were held between RANZCO and the Indonesian College of Ophthalmologists to discuss the recommendations and further strengthen the collaboration between the two colleges.

RANZCO CEO Dr David Andrews with Dr Gondhowiardjo Tjahjono (TD) Chair, Indonesian College of Ophthalmology

Pictured below right: Drs Gondhowiardjo Tjahjono, Humayun Baig and David Kaufman
International Congress scholarship recipients

RANZCO awarded six International Congress Scholarships to ophthalmologists from the Asia Pacific region this year. In line with RANZCO’s strategic programming, ophthalmologists from Cambodia and Myanmar were selected to attend the Congress in Hobart.

Scholarship recipients participated in the RANZCO International Development Workshop: Retina in Low Resource Settings and took the opportunity to share knowledge and experiences during the Scientific Program. Congress also provided scholarship recipients with a platform to network with Fellows.
The Clinical and Experimental Ophthalmology Editorial Board meeting was held on 2 November 2013 at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart.

The Board was presented with information by the Managing Editor in the Editorial Office, Dr Meri Vukicevic, and also the Senior Journal Publishing Manager at Wiley Blackwell, Tom Griffin. Overall the journal’s Impact Factor remains high and the journal’s ranking has improved, with it now in the top 20 ophthalmology journals. Manuscript submissions are also increasing, with an average of 94 manuscripts received per month and this is expected to reach almost 100 soon. Manuscript acceptance rates sit at approximately 16%. Clinical and Experimental Ophthalmology also continues to attract submission from authors world-wide with the majority of manuscripts received from Australia, China, India, USA and Turkey.

A Genomics Special Issue is scheduled for January/February 2014 and plans are underway for another Special Issue in 2014.
RANZCO Museum
Display in Hobart

The 2013 Congress in Hobart provided the perfect opportunity to showcase the best of the Museum in the best room in the house. The Museum displays were combined in the Seniors Lounge with sweeping waterfront views.

On display were fine books dating from the mid-19th century, including Liebrich’s atlas of exquisite retinal paintings together with a Liebrich ophthalmoscope, and rare late 19th century Weiss catalogues matched with their described instruments from the Museum collection. Displays of instruments in the evolution of corneal transplantation and pharmacy were supported by posters on the treatment of trachoma in 1920 and the history of corneal transplantation in Australia.

Delegates enjoying the RANZCO Museum display
Prof Ian McAllister from Perth kindly loaned an entire cabinet of ocular homeopathy and homeopathic devices for strengthening eyesight from his collection for display.

The exhibition was made possible by the tireless work of Kirsten Campbell, Assistant Curator and her sister Megan, an archival restorer. Caroline Ondracek sourced and collated the book exhibit.

The Seniors Lounge also provided an excellent venue for the lunch time talks on art, iPads and how to access the digital Museum, together with a talk on ophthalmic curiosities.

It is the first time we have been able to display extensively from a private collection and hope we can do this again, as it enriches our access to wonderful material. The exhibition provided a lot of interest and offers of help and artefacts were freely forthcoming.

The website (http://www.ranzco.edu/museum) is being constantly updated and will shortly have a “how to use it” tab.

Dr David Kaufman
Curator
Dr Peter van Wijngaarden read the College Oath on behalf of his peers at the graduation ceremony at the recent Congress in Hobart. We spoke to him about his plans for the future and reflections on his training journey to where he is today: a new Fellow of RANZCO.

Where did you complete your medical degree?

Monash University in 1999

Where are you working at the moment?

I recently returned from a two year post-doctoral research fellowship at Cambridge University. I had the privilege of working with Prof Robin Franklin on regeneration of the central nervous system – specifically enhancing remyelination in multiple sclerosis. I now spend most of my time as a researcher at the Centre for Eye Research Australia (CERA), where I am in the early stages of building my own research team. I hope to continue working in the remyelination field while helping to develop a strong program of basic and applied research in diabetic retinopathy. I have a longstanding interest in ocular neovascularisation and diabetic retinopathy, having worked in the retinal vascular biology field during my PhD at Flinders University. I am delighted to be part of the dynamic research environment at CERA and to have the opportunity to contribute to ophthalmic research.

Australians continue to make extremely valuable contributions to ophthalmic research and it is wonderful to have an opportunity to play a role in this. On the clinical front, I thoroughly enjoy working as part of the Medical Retina team at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital.

How do you feel to finally be a Fellow?

The journey to becoming a Fellow has been a long and challenging one. I have thoroughly enjoyed every stage of the process and I am extremely grateful for the wonderful colleagues and mentors that I have had the fortune of working with along the way. The award of Fellowship was a very satisfying highlight of the journey thus far. That being said, I look forward to many highlights in the years ahead. I am very mindful that Fellowship of the College is a journey in itself and that the process of developing skills and knowledge is continuous. I guess that this is one of the most interesting and enjoyable aspects of our training – it is never really over!

What are your plans for your career now that you are graduated from the training program?

I intend to work as a clinician scientist with a principal focus on retinal disease, with ongoing interests in glaucoma and demyelinating diseases of the optic nerve and brain.
What was the most challenging part of the training program?

The most challenging part of the training program has centred on striving to do my very best for the patients under my care. Key challenges have been building a sound grasp of fundamental ophthalmic knowledge, enriching this with clinical know-how and staying abreast of the latest developments in the field.

What was the most rewarding part?

Without doubt (and unsurprisingly!) the most rewarding part of my training has been the opportunity to meet and care for so many wonderful patients. As clinicians we are given a remarkable gift of trust by every patient we treat and it is a privilege to be in a position to apply our skills and knowledge for their benefit. I had a salient reminder of this in clinic this morning when I was embraced by a delighted 90 year old lady at a cataract postoperative appointment – I wasn’t even her surgeon!

How did it feel to recite the College Oath on behalf of all of your peers?

It was an unexpected honour to represent the graduating cohort by reciting the College Oath. The Oath embodies the core values of our profession and it emphasises key roles and responsibilities that we have for our patients and communities at large. Reciting the Oath was a poignant moment for me, as I am certain it was for each and every one of the newly inducted Fellows.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I am a doting father of two, a husband and a die-hard distance runner. My latest passion is ultramarathon running and I have been known to do such things as competing in 100+ mile trail races or running on a 400 metre athletics track continuously for 24 hours. While this may seem odd to some, it is well suited to my driven nature and my desire to explore the limits of my abilities.
RANZCO Eye Foundation
All smiles from the Foundation!

As we approach the end of the year, we can genuinely say 2013 will have been a great year for The RANZCO Eye Foundation. The end of our calendar financial year saw the RANZCO Eye Foundation turn a financial corner to an even greater, more established, financial position.

We are pleased to report that The RANZCO Eye Foundation’s end of year accounts will show a total income well in excess of our full calendar financial year budget.

We are proud to report that all programs and projects we sought to fundraise for in 2013 will be funded to the levels we predicted. We can also report that we will have been able to fund a limited number of unbudgeted projects and increased the overall number of projects and programs funded for the year.

To this end, we report by year-end we will have distributed approximately $1,705,576 in grants out compared to a budget of $1,254,170. This compares to a figure of $1,130,351 in grants out in 2012 and $720,067 in 2011.

While our full-time equivalent staff (2.275) ratio and administration costs sit at an all-time four year low (16.82%), as our organisation continues to grow at the levels it is, we need to continue to remain very aware of where future funds will be drawn from.

For four consecutive years, we have met our budgetary goals and in most cases over-achieved, against our five-year budget and business plans. We hope to continue on this successful path across 2014.

We are thrilled to report that Novartis Australia has confirmed its further support of The RANZCO Eye Foundation, pledging an additional $390,000 (including $200,000 to the Ophthalmic Institute of Australia in 2013 and another $100,000 towards medical retina scholarships) in 2014. This elevates Novartis Australia to The RANZCO Eye Foundation’s first Diamond Elite Partner.

We were delighted at the beginning of 2013 to not only re-sign our two Diamond Supporters – Bayer and Novartis – to a value in excess of $500,000, as well as a new charitable foundation which contributed in
excess of $700,000 alone to our international development programs, we currently have another Diamond Partnership under consideration – true testament that our existing and new partners continue to see the value in supporting our cause(s).

In addition, we were appreciative to receive a grant from the Newman’s Own Foundation in support of A/Prof Angus Turner’s Kimberley Diabetic Eye Care Program in 2014.

The Foundation is grateful to once again have had the opportunity to forge more one-on-one relationships with many Fellows, industry partners and charitable foundations, resulting in The RANZCO Eye Foundation’s support levels from certain individuals and groups significantly growing.

A list of new corporate supporters to approach in 2014 is currently in development and will be built on as we renegotiate existing partnership arrangements for 2014 over the coming months.

With cost savings across the budget and a genuine effort to increase funding from all sectors, we have entered the strategic and budget planning phase for next year. Our 2014 planning commenced late September and once again has been focused on accessing more funds from the charitable; private ancillary and corporate sectors all while placing even greater emphasis on JuEYE.

As 2013 draws to a close our focus is on planning for the New Year, looking at how we can continue to grow, reach even more people with our eye health message, and provide even more financial resources to contribute to the prevention of avoidable blindness throughout Australasia.

Please contact The RANZCO Eye Foundation if you would like to make a contribution. The impact of any contribution you may make, either here in Australia or internationally, cannot be underestimated.

Research and Development

The RANZCO Eye Foundation and Hobart Eye Surgeons awarded two 2014 scholarships to Drs Abhishek Sharma and Genevieve Oliver who will travel to India and East Timor in 2014 to study manual small incision cataract surgery.

The Foundation has also awarded The RANZCO Eye Foundation/Novartis Medical Retina Scholarship to Dr Neil Sharma and The RANZCO Eye Foundation/Bayer Medical Retina Scholarship to Dr Sue Abhary. These announcements were made at Congress. We will call for 2014 second round applications in April 2014.

Thank You

Thank you to RANZCO, the Ophthalmic Research Institute of Australia, all RANZCO Fellows, our Partners In Sight and of course our non-executive Board Members for supporting our team over the past 12 months – we are very grateful for your efforts. Collectively we should all be very proud.

When we look back on 2013, we are genuinely pleased with what we have been able to accomplish. We very much look forward to delivering our actual end-of-financial-year results to you following 31 December 2013.

Jacinta Spurrett
CEO, The RANZCO Eye Foundation
An Introduction to the National Disability Insurance Scheme

Information for Eye-Health Practitioners

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is important to all health practitioners. In this instance, it is particularly important to eye health practitioners. You can make a very significant difference in the quality of life of your patients by fully understanding how NDIS works.

It is recognised that many eye health issues can respond to therapeutic or surgical intervention to delay progressive deterioration (e.g. macular degeneration) or even remedy vision loss (e.g. cataracts).

These conditions may, however, be causing underlying functional implications from point of diagnosis despite ongoing medical intervention and treatment.

The NDIS provides people living with significant and permanent disability (‘participants’) the ability to choose government funded services and supports to facilitate their access to and participation in community, education and employment opportunities. This includes people who are blind or vision impaired.

To be eligible to receive NDIS funded supports, participants must demonstrate their need by applying to be assessed by planners working for the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA). Eligibility is determined by a number of factors including age and the person’s functional limitations (not their clinical diagnosis).

Applicants will be considered eligible to receive NDIS cover if they are:

- Under 65 years of age at point of entry to the NDIS;
- An Australia citizen, a permanent resident or New Zealand citizen who is a Protected Special Category Visa holder;
- Have a permanent impairment and cannot join in activities or participate in the community,
education or employment without assistive technology, equipment (excluding commonly used items like prescription glasses), home modifications or require help from others to participate; and

- Currently live in a launch area and meet the specific age requirements for that area.

The NDIS was launched in July 2013 in four sites around Australia, with further launch sites to be added from July 2014:

- The State of Tasmania for young people aged 15-24;
- The State of South Australia for children aged 0-14;
- The Barwon region of Victoria for people up to age 65;
- The Hunter region of NSW for people up to age 65;
- The ACT for people up to age 65 (from July 2014);
- The Barkly region of Northern Territory for people up to age 65 (from July 2014); and
- A region in both Queensland and Western Australia (from July 2016).

These launch sites are trialling the scheme with limited numbers of participants and will progressively be scaled up by 2018/19 to cover all eligible Australians. The NDIA planners and rehabilitation agencies assist people through the application process.

It is important to note that if a person is accepted to receive NDIS funding before age 65, they will be eligible to continue to receive NDIS funding for life. If a patient lives in an appropriate NDIS launch site and is under age 65, it is worth their while investigating applying for a funded package under the NDIS.

Concurrent referral made at point of diagnosis will ensure your patients have every opportunity to access comprehensive rehabilitation services funded by the government for the rest of their lives. Please don’t wait to refer.

NDIS funding, when granted to a participant, will be tailored for that person’s needs and specifically allocated to the services or equipment that the NDIA planner and the participant decide are needed to enable them to functionally engage in activities in the community.

The funding will be in the form of a Funded Package that will usually be managed by a third party. The participant will be able to select the provider of the service or equipment from a list of accredited suppliers, and in this way the participant has choice and control over their services.

The type of services or equipment that people who are blind or vision impaired may be able to access through the NDIS include:

- Orientation and mobility assessment and training;
- Independent living skills assessment and training;
- Guide Dogs;
- Mobility aids, visual aids and equipment (such as a long cane, magnifier or Mini Guide);
- Assistive technology assessment, set up and training (such as computers, software or CCTV, or video magnification);
- Assistive equipment (including for household tasks, recreation and leisure);
- Home modifications;
- Counselling; and
- Travel assistance (such as an allowance for public transport or taxi).

It is therefore important that eye health professionals think of service providers as a concurrent referral rather than an end point referral.

Often low level rehabilitation interventions can make a significant difference to quality of life, even while medical treatment is ongoing. Service providers, including Guide Dogs Australia members, provide a broad range of services that can assist people with low vision.

Participation in the NDIS is not means tested and will not alter continuation of or eligibility for either the Disability Support Pension or Aged Pension.

People who are blind or vision impaired and over the age of 65 years come under the umbrella of the Living Longer, Living Better program (http://www.livinglongerlivingbetter.gov.au/). This program is focussed on home care, requires co-payment by participants and does not include many of the funded benefits that are covered by the NDIS.

To understand more about eligibility, call the information line on 1800 800 110 or visit the NDIS website http://www.ndis.gov.au. Patients can conduct an initial self-assessment survey (called My Access Checker) by going to www.ndis.gov.au/my-access-checker.

Under the current legislation, when the scheme is fully implemented, services will only be available for people who have applied and been accepted for NDIS funding prior to reaching age 65 years.

Guide Dogs Australia members are continuing to advocate for the rights of people who are blind or vision impaired under both the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the Living Longer, Living Better program.

Dr Graeme White
CEO, Guide Dogs NSW/ACT
Teaching - a life’s work
Dr Alan Isaacs

In a few months’ time, Melbourne Fellow, Dr Alan Isaacs, will celebrate his 90th birthday. He is still teaching trainee ophthalmologists – a work which he began in 1967.

The following is the speech Alan gave as the Guest of Honour of the Melbourne Ophthalmic Alumni at its 22nd Annual Dinner held on 13 July, 2013 at the Royal South Yarra Tennis Club.

“Willie [Campbell], Anne [Brooks] and Melbourne Ophthalmic Alumni, I am not an alumnus of the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital and so, when Anne telephoned me to tell me that it was your wish that I be your guest – your Guest of Honour – this evening, I was astounded. And I remain so.

I supposed that the invitation had something to do with the tutorials I’ve been providing for some decades.

I am told that I am to speak to you – but not for too long. This talk will be very informal.

There is only one topic about which I am competent to speak to this scholarly and highly trained group of alumni.

I thought I might say a few words about the teaching of Optics (as the College calls it) in Melbourne since 1967. I hope that what I say might be of interest to some of the younger alumni.

Nowadays, my friend Mark Whiting and I give some of the tutorials together. Some of them I give solo.

Some weeks ago (Mark hadn’t yet arrived), I greeted the last group of registrars thus: ‘As you can see, I am decrepit and deaf. You will soon find that I am ignorant – and perhaps a little demented. However, if I can be of help to you …’

Tutorials usually start at 2pm and continue for three hours. At a subsequent tutorial, after a time I looked at my watch. “Does anyone know the time?” “No” We’d been going for nearly four hours! So they must have been having fun. They told me that the tutorials were actually useful! Of course, they might have said this just to please me.
It was in 1967 that Prof Gerard W Crock, having heard that I had practised as an optometrist and had taught optometry students, asked me to provide some tutorials in the recently-established University of Melbourne Department of Ophthalmology. The subject, of course, was Optics, Physiological Optics and Clinical Refraction, just the parts of Physiological Optics of relevance to Clinical Refraction.

The establishment of the Chair of Ophthalmology in the University of Melbourne was made possible by the efforts of a group of ophthalmologists led by J Ringland Anderson, after whom the Chair is named. A portrait of Dr Anderson hangs in the Ringland Anderson Seminar Room of the University Department. Incidentally, J Ringland Anderson is an ancestor of our recent professor, Hugh Ringland Taylor.

In Prof Gerard Crock’s – later Prof Hugh Taylor’s – Department I provided tutorials of duration three to four hours, once a week, throughout the calendar year. An attempt was always made to teach the subject – not in isolation – but as an integral part of ophthalmology and of medicine.

I also gave lectures at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons for their ophthalmology candidates.

At that time there was no College of Ophthalmologists. The Universities of Melbourne, Sydney and Queensland each provided a course leading to a diploma of ophthalmology – and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, a course leading to fellowship of that College (in ophthalmology).

In the University of Melbourne Diploma of Ophthalmology course, questions on Optics, Physiological Optics and Clinical Refraction were asked in the Physiology examination. And so I was appointed an examiner in Physiology along with Prof Gerard W Crock, Prof Roy D (“Pansy”) Wright and Prof Rand from the Faculty of Pharmacology.

Some years after our (then-named) Australian College of Ophthalmologists was formed, it became an examining body. Brian Wilson from Brisbane and I were appointed its first examiners in Optics, as the subject was called.

I had always called the subject “Optics, Physiological Optics and Clinical Refraction”.

At a meeting preceding the first examination to be held, it was insisted that all Part I subjects should be strictly non-clinical! This educationally stifling restriction soon came to an end. But we are left with “Optics”, a title which does not suggest the strong and necessary bias in our syllabus towards its content of ophthalmological relevance.

Because the Optics, Physiological Optics and Clinical Refraction teaching began before the College existed, it had always been administered by the University of Melbourne Department of Ophthalmology.

In that Department, I have held numerous appointments including Senior Lecturer, Senior Associate and Senior Fellow. I don’t think I hold any appointment now.

I am grateful to Gerard Crock for asking me to provide the tutorials and for his support, and particularly to Hector Maclean who, from the time of his appointment to the University Department, was my principal collaborator in relation to the teaching.

Hugh Taylor was, of course, equally supportive.
Obituaries

Dr Charles (Charlie) Henry Akkermans
23 July 1935 to 17 August 2013

Charles (known as Charlie) Akkermans was born in Munich, Germany on 23 July 1935 to a Dutch father and a Bavarian mother. Dad lived in Holland until the age of four, when Hitler began his invasion of Europe. Dad was then moved to Singapore and attended a Dutch school there, until late January 1942, just before the Japanese invaded. He was then sent to Perth, Western Australia where he attended Aquinas College. The next four years of his schooling were in Melbourne, then back to Aquinas College, where he completed his studies. Dad attended the Perth University for his first year of Medicine, residing at the then University Hostel.

From 1954 to 1958 he attended the Adelaide University residing at Aquinas College, North Adelaide, completing his Medical and Surgical Degrees. He joined the Adelaide University Football club (Blacks) in 1954. He made an immediate impression in the Amateur League with his ability to kick goals. After beginning the season in the C grade side, he was promoted to the A1s by mid-way through the season. He was awarded his Club Letters in 1954 and his Blue in 1955. In 1955 Dad kicked 80 goals to top the A1 goal kicking. In 1957 he kicked 106 goals for the minor round and won the first Charles Irvine Memorial Trophy for A1 goal kicking. He topped the A1 list again in 1958 with 58 goals. He played in the state amateur sides in 1954, 1956 and 1957 and was a key player in the premiership wins of 1954 and 1955.

In 1959 he had his intern year at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and in 1960 was a Medical Officer at the Repat Hospital, Adelaide. The following year he married Maureen Joan Carroll. From 1961 to mid-1963 he was a Registrar at the Sydney Eye Hospital and obtained his ophthalmic diploma. He became a member of the Australian College of Ophthalmologists in 1969 and a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Ophthalmologists in 1978. Dad then returned to Adelaide with his family and in 1963 joined Dr David Tonkin and Dr Norm Wicks in private practice.
practice in Melbourne Street, North Adelaide. Dad’s main interest was paediatric ophthalmology and he had a senior consultant visiting position at the Adelaide Children’s Hospital until his retirement, he was appointed Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at the ACH in April 1981. He was also a visiting consultant to the Royal Adelaide Hospital, Port Lincoln Hospital and for the Mentally Retarded Health Services and also a Squadron Leader consultant to the RAAF. He lectured on ophthalmology to nurses at the Adelaide Children’s Hospital and staff of MBH Services.

In 1979 Dad co-authored an article with Dr LM Stern “Ankyloblepharon filiforme adnatum”, which was published in the British Journal of Ophthalmology. He also wrote two papers and presented them at the International Congress on Paediatric Ophthalmology in Sydney, November 1979.

Together with Dr Evelyn Robertson, Dad interviewed and examined most of South Australia’s Albinos. This resulted in the formation of the Albinism Fellowship and Support Group, a self-help organisation for the parents of new Albinos, of which he was Honorary Vice President.

In 1983 he was the Trade Exhibit organiser for the Fifteenth Annual Scientific Congress for Royal Australian College of Ophthalmologists held at Glenside, South Australia.

In 1988 he awarded medals to the winning competitors of the 7th Australian Championships for the Blind held in Adelaide, also that year he retired due to ill health from a heart attack, with a second heart attack following in 1994. Dad was Patron of the 12th Australian Championships for the Blind in Adelaide and opened the Championship in 1992, also held in Adelaide.

During his retirement he played golf, travelled to Europe with mum to visit his brother and sister and became a personal ‘chef’ for my mother, Maureen.

Dad passed away peacefully at home in Glen Osmond, South Australia in the early hours of the morning on 17 August 2013, after a very short illness due to cancer.

Dad was a talented, wonderful, funny and adored father and pa. A true gentleman and is missed terribly by all his family. He is survived by his widow Maureen and children Richard, Andrew and Johanna and seven grandchildren.

A few days after dad died, a representative of the Adelaide University Football Club delivered some gifts [memorabilia] for Dad to thank him for his continual support of the club, being unaware of his passing. Also a month after his passing, Dr Hooper CEO of the AMA of South Australia, presented mum with a certificate for Dad, being awarded Life Membership in 2013 for his long standing commitment to the Australian Medical Association and its code of ethics.

Ms Johanna Akkermans [daughter]
## Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Contact details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JANUARY</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEBRUARY</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Endoscopic Orbital Workshop</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:mgriffiths@stvincents.com.au">mgriffiths@stvincents.com.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>7-8</td>
<td>ANZGIG Scientific Meeting</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:kathpoon@bigpond.com">kathpoon@bigpond.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>20-22</td>
<td>7th International Congress on Glaucoma Surgery</td>
<td>Website: <a href="http://www.isgs.info">www.isgs.info</a></td>
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<td>21-23</td>
<td>6th international Bali Ophthalmology Retreat</td>
<td>Website: <a href="http://www.baliophthalmologyretreat.com">www.baliophthalmologyretreat.com</a></td>
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<td>MARCH</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-7</td>
<td>31st Australian and New Zealand Cornea Society Meeting</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:Marg_eyehlth@hotmail.com">Marg_eyehlth@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>7-8</td>
<td>Australian and New Zealand Strabismus Society Meeting</td>
<td>Events calendar <a href="http://www.ranzco.edu">www.ranzco.edu</a></td>
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<td>21-22</td>
<td>NSW Branch Scientific Meeting</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:shan@conferencelink.com.au">shan@conferencelink.com.au</a></td>
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<td>20-23</td>
<td>The 5th World Congress on Controversies in Ophthalmology</td>
<td>Website: <a href="http://comtecmed.com/cophy/2014">http://comtecmed.com/cophy/2014</a></td>
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<td>31-3 Apr</td>
<td>The 11th International Conference on Low Vision</td>
<td>Website: <a href="http://vision2014.org">http://vision2014.org</a></td>
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<td>APRIL</td>
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<td>26-30</td>
<td>ASCRS / APOA 2014</td>
<td>Website: <a href="http://www.ascrs.org">www.ascrs.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Website: <a href="http://www.asao.org">www.asao.org</a></td>
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<td>9-10</td>
<td>Tasmanian Branch Meeting</td>
<td>Events calendar <a href="http://www.ranzco.edu">www.ranzco.edu</a></td>
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<td>16-17</td>
<td>New Zealand Branch Meeting</td>
<td>Events calendar <a href="http://www.ranzco.edu">www.ranzco.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Victoria Branch Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>JUNE</td>
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<tr>
<td>14-15</td>
<td>Australia and New Zealand Society of Retinal Specialists (ANZSRS) Mid year meeting</td>
<td>Events calendar <a href="http://www.ranzco.edu">www.ranzco.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>19-22</td>
<td>The 11th International Symposium on Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics</td>
<td>Website: <a href="http://isopt.net">http://isopt.net</a></td>
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<td>24-27</td>
<td>Manchester Royal Eye Hospital Bicentenary Conference</td>
<td>Website: <a href="http://www.mreh200.org.uk">www.mreh200.org.uk</a></td>
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### Calendar of Events 2014

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<tr>
<td>JULY</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Pediatric Special Interest Group Meeting</td>
<td>Events calendar (<a href="http://www.ranzco.edu">www.ranzco.edu</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Sydney Eye Hospital Alumni Association Meeting</td>
<td>Website: <a href="http://www.sehalumni.org/conference/2014-meeting">http://www.sehalumni.org/conference/2014-meeting</a></td>
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<td>SEPTEMBER</td>
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<td>5-7</td>
<td>Western Australia Branch Meeting</td>
<td>Events calendar (<a href="http://www.ranzco.edu">www.ranzco.edu</a>)</td>
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<td>19-25</td>
<td>The 9th Greek Legal and Medical Conference</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:eugenia@greekconference.com.au">eugenia@greekconference.com.au</a></td>
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<td>OCTOBER</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-21</td>
<td>2014 Annual Meeting of American Academy of Ophthalmology [AAO]</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:meetings@aao.org">meetings@aao.org</a></td>
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<td>NOVEMBER</td>
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<tr>
<td>22-26</td>
<td>46th Annual Scientific Congress</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:ranzco@thinkbusnessevents.com.au">ranzco@thinkbusnessevents.com.au</a></td>
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<td>DECEMBER</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-4</td>
<td>XIIth Meeting of the International Strabismological Association [ISA] in Kyoto, Japan</td>
<td>Website: <a href="http://www.isa2014.jp">www.isa2014.jp</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### The Royal College of Ophthalmologists Annual Congress

**19 – 22 May 2014**

**International Convention Centre, Birmingham, UK**

RANZCO Members are invited to join us for our Annual Congress 2014

**ATTEND THE LARGEST OPHTHALMIC CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION IN THE UK**

The Royal College of Ophthalmologists, UK is delighted to invite RANZCO members to join us for our Annual Congress 2014.

World-renowned experts will be contributing to the meeting on all eye conditions. Whether it is to hear the latest translational research, late breaking news, updates on your speciality, learning new skills, networking with fellow ophthalmologists or viewing the latest products and equipment, you will find it all at Congress 2014.

The perfect opportunity to visit the UK!

Not only is Birmingham one of Europe’s leading city centres – offering award winning restaurants, hotels, fashion and art venues – but it is only an hour from London making it the perfect base to explore the UK!

**EPONYMOUS LECTURES 2014**

- **The Barrie Jones Lectures 2014**
  Dr. Gullapalli Rao, India

- **The Bowman Lecture 2014**
  Professor John Marshall, UK

- **The Duke Elder Oration 2014**
  Professor Richard Abbott, USA

- **The Optic UK Lecture 2014**
  Dr. Neil Miller, USA

Registration opens 14th February 2014!

All information at:

[www.rcophth.ac.uk/annualcongress](http://www.rcophth.ac.uk/annualcongress)
Positions Vacant

Opportunity for sessional or full-time Ophthalmologist

Knox Surgicentre/Knox Specialist Medical Centre

Equipped with Ellex Tang, Ellex Integra, Lens star, Heidelberg OCT and angiography. Fully equipped Day Surgery facilities on site at Knox Surgicentre.

Contact: Ms S Woodward (DON)
Phone: +61 3 9887 0000 or 0425 765 112
or Dr John Sutton (CEO) on 0412107137

General Ophthalmologist

Busy practice in Western Sydney seeks an Ophthalmologist to join their team, seeing a wide and varied case-mix. Fully trained staff and latest equipment provided.

Contact: Sheila Martin, Practice Manager
for more information or to send your CV:
Phone: +61 2 9622 9638
Email: sheila@metwesteyecentre.com.au
Website: www.metwesteyecentre.com.au

Ophthalmologist required for Western Sydney

A growing practice in Western Sydney now has a vacancy for a general ophthalmologist. The practice has a reputation for outstanding patient care and has the latest technology. The position would suit a young RANZCO graduate, subspecialist with general ophthalmology ability, or general ophthalmologist with subspecialty interest.

Flexible sessions and hours,
Phone: 0412 227 035.

Full time Ophthalmologist – Hobart

We are seeking the services of an ophthalmic surgeon for our practice with four locations in Hobart. Our facilities include fully computerised medical equipment including OCT, Fluorescein angiography, SLT, Yag and Argon lasers and fundus photography.

You will be working with a team of ophthalmologists with support staff including optometry. We specialise in cataract surgery, diabetic and glaucoma management and general ophthalmology. We have a high surgical volume.

We are offering an attractive salary package for the successful applicant.

Contact: Dr Gordon Wise
Phone: 0419 379 214
Email: gordonwise@netspace.net.au or doctors@taseye.com.au

Long Term Locum(s) Wanted

For a busy private glaucoma and cataract practice in Hamilton, New Zealand.

I will be away from my practice from July 1st 2014 to Sept 1st 2016.

The practice operates out of a modern, extremely well-equipped, mixed sub-specialist and generalist nine person eye clinic, Hamilton Eye Clinic.

Locums will not need to perform glaucoma surgery.

Hamilton is a pleasant university town with good cultural and sporting facilities 1 – 2 hours from Auckland, Rotorua, Taupo and the Coromandel Peninsula, 3 hours from ski fields

Contact: Dr Jim Stewart
Email: jfgs@xtra.co.nz

Locums

Locum Position

Looking to start up your career, we are looking for a locum every Thursday and Friday to work in a large regional area in a modern practice with the latest equipment available at your disposal.

There is the opportunity for two public list per month and also the opportunity for one private list every month with the view to increasing.

This opportunity would suit a newly qualified ophthalmologist, very good terms available accommodation provided

Send all enquiries to
Email: john@bettersight.com.au
Phone: +61 2 6925 6997

Equipment for sale

Items for sale

Four sided Rotating Vision Chart, $750.
Two available.
Raynors C Range trial Lens set, $1250.
Two available
Medmont Visual Field Analyser M700.
Computer and Printer with the table, $4500.
Gonio Lense with handle Type, $200.
All in good condition, all offers considered.

Contact: Bala
Phone: 0430 306 344
Email: bala2012@hotmail.com