



AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF
OPTOMETRY

CLINICAL SERVICES • RESEARCH • EDUCATION



NATIONAL VISION
RESEARCH INSTITUTE
OF AUSTRALIA
AN ACO DIVISION

ANNUAL REPORTS 2017



CONTENTS

2	Vision and Mission	39	MEMBERSHIP
4	Council President and Chief Executive Officer's Report	40	Overview
6	ACO Year Highlights	41	ACO Travel Grants
8	Who We Are	42	Women in Optometry
		44	Cyril W Kett Optometry Museum and Archive
9	CLINICAL SERVICES	45	Nathan Library and Members Lounge
10	Director's Report	45	In Memorium
11	Clinical Services Network	46	Members ACO
14	Victorian Eyecare Service (VES)	49	Members NVRI
16	Clinical Residency Program		
17	Victorian Eyecare Service Participating Practices and Victorian Aboriginal Spectacle Subsidy Scheme Practices	50	AWARDS
18	Outreach Sites	51	Research Awards
19	Glaucoma Collaborative Clinic Evaluation	51	Student Awards
20	Provision for Eye Health Equipment Training Project	52	Staff Awards
20	The Commonwealth Home Support Program	53	Member Awards
21	Clinical Research Data	54	NVRI Fellowship
22	RESEARCH (NVRI)	55	FUNDERS, SUPPORTERS & DONORS
23	Chair's Report	56	Government, Trusts & Foundations, Industry, Community Organisations, Donors & Bequests
24	Director's Report	59	Donors
27	Bionic Eyes	59	L.E.W. Carty Charitable Fund and the Victorian Lions Foundation Fellowship
27	Visual Cortex		
28	Primate Vision		
28	Visual Control of Flight		
29	Publications		
30	Presentations		
32	EDUCATION	60	CORPORATE SERVICES
33	Director's Report	61	Executive General Manager's Report
36	Certificate Courses	63	Council & Committees
		66	Organisation Chart
		67	AUDITED CONCISE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
		68	Councillors' Report
		75	Responsible Persons' Declaration
		76	Discussion and Analysis of the Financial Statements
		77	Independent Auditor's Report
		84	Trust Funds Financial Position



VISION

To achieve world leading eye health outcomes for all

MISSION

To improve the eye health and well being of communities through innovation, partnership and leadership in:



Clinical optometry services providing high quality public health eye care for communities in need and leading best practice;



Research undertaking high impact internationally recognised research to improve the understanding of vision science and eye care; and



Education providing best practice clinical learning pathways for optometrists from pre-registration through to professional practice.

VALUES

We are led by the following values and principles:



We deeply **care** about eye health



Everything we do drives this **purpose**



Mutual **respect** guides our expectations



We foster excellence through **collaboration** with our patients, partners and teams



Our commitment to **innovation** pushes us to question and find better ways



We **deliver** what we promise to patients, partners and each other

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Clinical Optometry Services

providing high quality public eye care for communities in need and leading best practice and standards

Research

undertaking high impact internationally recognised research to improve the understanding of vision science and eye care

Education

providing best practice clinical learning pathways for optometrists from pre-registration through to professional practice.

Sustainable Organisation

Our culture is innovative and collaborative and our people strive for excellence in everything we do, facilitated by innovative and effective technology, systems and processes. Our members and supporters are key to our success.

Chief Executive Officer

Maureen O'Keefe
BSc (Hons) DipEd MBA WCLP CAICD

Company Secretary

Clare Escott
BSc (Hons) CA GAICD

Director Clinical Services

Associate Professor Sharon Bentley (*until January 2018*)
BScOptom MOptom PhD MPH GAICD

Neville Turner (*from January 2018*)

BScOptom PGDipAdvClinOptom PGCertOcTher VACO

Director National Vision Research Institute

Professor Michael Ibbotson
BSc (Hons) PhD

Executive General Manager Finance and Corporate Services

Clare Escott
BSc (Hons) CA GAICD

General Manager Professional Development and Membership

Jolanda de Jong (*until July 2017*)
BCom B Ed

Director Education

Marcel Mihulka (*from August 2017*)
M.Ed MAICD



ACO Leadership Team (L-R): Roman Serebrianik (Head of Primary & Specialist Eye Care Services), Maureen O'Keefe (CEO), Michael Ibbotson (Director National Vision Research Institute), Jane Trevaskis (Head of Teaching & Quality), Jennifer Caulfield (Head of Clinic Operations & Support Services), Sue Jeffreys (HR Manager), Clare Escott (EGM Finance & Corporate Services), Neville Turner (GM Business Systems & Development), Marcel Mihulka (Director Education).

Absent: Sharon Bentley (Director Clinical Services), Piers Carozzi (Head of Community & Outreach Eye Care Services), Elda Rebecchi (Communications, Marketing & Membership Manager).

COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

AS PRESIDENT OF THE ACO COUNCIL AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, respectively, it has been our privilege to lead an organisation that makes such a difference to the quality of life for people experiencing disadvantage, enabling them to achieve their goals in life through provision of timely access for our patients to quality targeted public health eye care; providing innovative education to optometrists to ensure they can provide the best care to their patients; and through carrying out vision research which can be translated to improve clinical care and outcomes for all patients.

“Driving positive change will DELIVER great outcomes for the communities we serve.”

We are pleased to share with you the Australian College of Optometry's new strategic vision, priorities and roadmap for 2018-2022. This important 5-year strategic plan builds on our achievements since the establishment of the Australian College of Optometry in 1940. At the heart of this strategic plan we are led by our new organisational values: Caring, Purpose, Respect, Collaboration, Innovation and Delivery.

Our aspirational roadmap for the next 5 years will see the Australian College of Optometry focus on 4 fundamental pillars: clinical optometry services for those experiencing disadvantage; lifelong education that meets the current and future needs of the optometry profession and their patients; vision and clinical optometry research through our National Vision Research Institute; and sustainability of the Australian College of Optometry (ACO).

“The ACO will push the boundaries of our focus to lead public health eye care for some of the most vulnerable communities we CARE for who have difficulty accessing eye care across Australia.”

During 2017 the ACO began to explore how it can reach its full potential by improving access to affordable public health eye care services for the most disadvantaged across Australia. The ACO currently administers and manages a comprehensive targeted public health eye care program, the Victorian Eyecare Service (VES) for the Victorian Government across metropolitan, rural and regional Victoria. We carried out 78,000 patient consultations and provided 47,717 visual aids through the VES to patients across Victoria, including quality outreach eye care services to people who are homeless, refugees and asylum seekers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and, with new funding through the Commonwealth Home Support Program, we were able to expand our outreach services to people living in rural and regional supported residential services and older persons high rise programs.



We are very proud of our ongoing collaborations with several major public hospitals which helps reduce hospital waiting lists and assists with provision of timely and accessible care. Our hospital collaborations include a collaborative glaucoma clinic with the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital. The clinic started as a pilot funded by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services to determine the effectiveness of managing patients with low-risk glaucoma under a collaborative model of care, with ACO optometrists and Eye and Ear orthoptists working alongside Eye and Ear glaucoma specialists, at the ACO's Carlton clinic. In 2017 the project produced some very positive outcomes demonstrating the success of the collaborative model of care and the benefits of integrating work forces.

“Improving access to timely detection, management and treatment of eye disease, for the PURPOSE of preventing avoidable blindness in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people”

Diabetes related blindness in Aboriginal Australians is 14 times higher than in non-Indigenous populations and 94% of vision loss in Aboriginal communities is preventable or treatable. We are very supportive of the Commonwealth Government's commitment, with guidance from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health service sector, to provide eye health testing equipment (retinal cameras) and training in primary care clinics which will increase rates of diabetic retinopathy screening by Indigenous primary health care services and supporting referral pathways for

comprehensive eye examinations. The ACO is proud to be a member of the consortium of 5 organisations from across Australia rolling out this Commonwealth project which, through working in partnership with local and regional stakeholders and service providers, seeks to reduce avoidable blindness in Aboriginal Australians.

“Leading research through COLLABORATION”

We very proudly celebrated the NVRI’s 45th anniversary during the year with a cocktail party where many stories and memories were shared by past directors, board members, researchers, support staff and past PhD and Honours students. We learnt that many of the past researchers and students had gone on to pursue very successful research careers. To further this trend we were very pleased to see that in 2017 the NVRI has once again attracted an extremely bright cohort of Honours and PhD students. The work of the NVRI continues to thrive in the Neurotechnology Laboratory with its retinal and cortical research. Planning commenced during the year towards establishing a second laboratory in NVRI focussed on clinical vision research and seeking further collaborative matching funding.

The NVRI’s inaugural Scientific Advisory Committee was established in late 2017 to provide research strategy advice to the NVRI Director and CEO and a report to the ACO Council. This followed modernisation of the ACO constitution, and restructuring of the NVRI Board of Administration, with its final report included in this Annual Report. We would like to acknowledge the commitment and valuable advice provided over the past 45 years from the respective generations of NVRI Boards of Administration, their chairs and members.

“ACO education continues to be INNOVATIVE and expand to reach optometrists throughout Australia”

In 2017 we had a record number of people engage with our education programs, including a 30% increase in our conference attendance over the past 3 years. Our focus on developing new innovative approaches to learning continues with the development of the Glaucoma Self-Assessment Program (ACO-GAP), which enables optometrists to self-assess their performance in key areas of glaucoma diagnosis and identify areas where they can improve or obtain further education.

The ACO’s commitment to providing up to date and relevant CPD to members and the profession, includes skills training and information in the area of ocular therapeutics. The ACO-Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics (ACO-COT) provides flexible, online learning, which is accessible to optometrists in metropolitan, rural and regional locations and allows candidates to balance work, family and study. On graduation you become part of an ACO community of like-minded colleagues who are committed to being the best optometrists they can for the benefit of their patients.

“Membership of ACO – a collegial community of RESPECTED like minded optometry students and practitioners”

Our membership comprises of optometric practitioners and students from across Australia, New Zealand and internationally.

ACO membership entitles members to a range of benefits including Education (CPD), Awards, Fellowships and Grants, as well as the opportunity to belong to a collegial community of respected optometrists. Members also play an important role in supporting the ACO’s important public health eye care service for people experiencing disadvantage.

“Thank you”

We are immensely proud of the Australian College of Optometry’s achievements over the past year and sincerely thank all staff, VES practitioners, volunteers and committee members for their hard work, commitment and professionalism. We are grateful for the valuable leadership and expertise of our Board of Directors and note that two new Directors commenced in 2017, Professor Linda Denehy and Ms Denise Gronow and two Directors retired during the year, Professor Geoff McColl and Mr Mark O’Sullivan. Thank you all for your dedication and significant contributions.

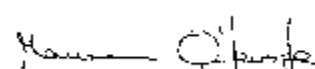
We would also like to thank two senior members of staff who have departed to pursue other opportunities and will be greatly missed, Sharon Bentley Director, Clinical Services, and Jolanda de Jong, General Manager Professional Development. Neville Turner has since taken up the Director of Clinical Services role, while Marcel Mihulka has been appointed to the new Director of Education position.

Finally, we would like to thank and celebrate our ACO and NVRI Members who are a very important part of our community, and the amazing funding and support we have received from our donors, sponsors, philanthropic organisations, partners and collaborators, including the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments.

We hope you enjoy reading about our 2017 achievements in the ACO and NVRI Annual Reports as we look forward to an exciting year ahead implementing the ACO 2018-2022 Strategic Plan and living our refreshed ACO values.



Professor Konrad Pesudovs
President
Australian College of
Optometry
National Vision Research
Institute



Maureen O’Keefe
Chief Executive Officer
Australian College of
Optometry
National Vision Research
Institute

ACO YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

Clinical Services

The Glaucoma Collaborative Clinic has continued successfully and provided best practice evidence-based care to more than

1,000
patients so far

Of the 1024 patients seen at the GCC, 76% were discharged to a community optometrist for review with less frequent visits to an ophthalmologist



\$185,000

was secured through the Commonwealth Home Support Program to extend outreach eye care services

22,185 hours of clinical education was delivered to pre-registration optometry students in 2017

78,000

patient consultations and

47,717

visual aids were provided through the VES to 61,789 patients across the state



33,000

services were provided to Victorians at the Carlton clinic in 2017

Research

National Vision Research Institute

The NVRI celebrated its 45th birthday on 22nd November 2017



The NVRI made a significant movement towards creating a third, more clinically oriented research unit

Members of the NVRI organised and hosted three international vision science events in Belgium, Sydney and Melbourne



The NVRI has firmly positioned itself as an innovative leader in its chosen research areas internationally



Professor David Vaney became a Fellow of the NVRI and has published 4 of the top 5 best-cited papers

produced to date by the NVRI over its 45 year history

283 citations

The NVRI recorded its second highest annual citation rate

Dr Ali Almasi was presented with the Nicola Family Fund travel grant

Education

Launched ACO's first self-assessment module - Glaucoma Self-Assessment Program (ACO-GAP)



New six month, education program was released -The Advanced Certificate in Glaucoma

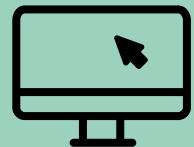


Launch of the online module 'OCT Interpretation - By the Colours' - ten years of experience in Optical Coherence

10%

growth in ACO Conference registrations over the past year

Tomography data interpretation condensed into a one hour online module



Natalie Watt was awarded the 'ACO Outstanding Graduate for Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics'

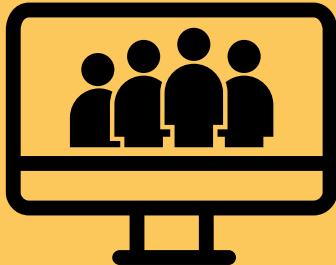
30+ CPD

events including clinical workshops, seminars, lectures, refresher courses, webinars, business development courses and National Conference offered to optometrists

Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics undertook its 6th successful year

Membership

Upgrade of our Membership portal, to better align with the needs of our members



Mitchell Anjou AM was presented with the 'ACO Member Award for Outstanding Service'

Participation by ACO Members in online courses and webinars continues to increase



Bradley Kirkwood and Heather Connor were awarded ACO Fellowships



ACO Members Luke Chong and Dr Carla Abbott were awarded the ACO Travel Grants for 2017



Completion of capital works projects, including upgrades to infrastructure leading to a continued reduction in our **carbon footprint**, technology enhancements and a project for upgrade of our Membership portal



Fundraising

Donors, Trusts, Foundations and Bequests



A 3-year Research Fellowship position continued with generous matching funding by the LEW Carty Charitable Fund and the Victorian Lions Foundation

25 donations

received by the ACO's Kett Museum of precious artefacts from members of general public, collectors or descendants of optometrists

Generous donations for the funding of the **new Museum** exhibition gallery increased significantly which will enable the relocation and development of the ACO's Kett Museum



15 corporate & vision organisations

sponsored Education Seminar Series, Workshops & the ACO National Conference

Generous donations were received for **research** into vision and its disorders, and eye **care** for people experiencing disadvantage

Corporate Services

Planning and implementing business process improvements, aimed at enhancing and supporting service delivery



Roll out of new ACO Vision, Mission and Values in the new **ACO Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022**

Co-lead for the Australian Government Department of Health funded project for Provision of Eye Health Equipment and Training Project (PEHET) which is being delivered by a consortium of five organisations from across Australia to reduce avoidable blindness in Aboriginal Australians



Implementation of a new modernised NVRI constitution that meets the current and future requirements of the ACO and NVRI

Driving business and contract development across service areas

Development and implementation of an updated constitution for the ACO that allows the Membership to vote in future elections online, thereby increasing Membership engagement and reducing the administrative burden of the current election process



Delivery of a successful, unqualified audit outcome for the year

WHO WE ARE

THE AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY (ACO) is committed to improving the eye health and quality of life of community through clinical optometry practice, research and education. We are involved in public health eye care service delivery, vision research and optometry education. We serve a diverse community and wide range of stakeholders. Our focus is to meet the equally diverse expectations and needs of these communities and to show leadership through innovation and best practice in each area. The ACO is proud to be the only organisation in Australia specialising in each of the areas of public health optometry, vision research and optometry student and professional education, which together are enhancing improvements in eye health and the wellbeing of the community.

BUILD ON OUR HISTORY

From its humble beginnings:

As a teaching clinic on the 4th floor of Kurrajong House on Collins Street, Melbourne, the Australian College of Optometry (ACO) has continued to grow. Incorporated in 1940, the ACO was the first not for profit membership institution in Australia to teach a 4-year full time Optometry course, with its first students enrolled in 1941.

Clinical Learning Pathways:

Over the past 77 years the ACO has continued to build on its commitment to education, through provision of clinical training in a public health setting to pre-registration university optometry students across Australia, and through expansion and innovation of education delivery to meet the current and future needs of members and the wider optometry profession.

Focus on the disadvantaged:

Our much valued and important work providing eye care services to disadvantaged communities began back in 1955 when we received our first grant for this purpose from the Victorian State Government. Fast forward 30 years to 1985, when the Victorian Government made a key decision to establish an integrated, coordinated public health eye care program called the Victorian Eyecare Service (VES).

Victorian Eyecare Service:

The ACO has been responsible for administering this important initiative on behalf of the Victorian Government for over 30 years, over which time more than 2 million Victorians experiencing disadvantage and most vulnerable have benefited from quality eye care consultations and services aimed at correcting refractive error and preventing eye disease. In 2017 the ACO, in partnership with rural practitioners, provided more than 78,000 consultations and dispensed close to 50,000 spectacles or other visual aids to almost 62,000 patients across the state.

Victoria and beyond:

Today the main clinic is in Carlton with a network of clinics in metropolitan Melbourne and a mobile eye care service. Outreach services began in 1998 for patients with disabilities that could not access mainstream services, and expanded in 2003 with services to indigenous Australians, homeless and other vulnerable Victorians. The ACO provides a coordinated program of clinics and outreach services across Victoria, including services for the aged and frail, indigenous communities, refugees and asylum seekers, children from disadvantaged schools, homeless and other high-risk groups. Going forward the ACO seeks to adapt and expand this important public health eye care model to benefit more Australian's experiencing disadvantage.

High impact research:

Back in 1972 the ACO reached another milestone with the establishment of its research division, the National Vision Research Institute, to pursue research in vision and the disorders of vision. The NVRI was made possible through donations from the optometry community and later strengthened in 1979 and 2001 through a generous donation followed by an even more generous bequest from the Schultz Laubman Schultz Endowment Fund Trust. Over the past 45 years, the NVRI has carried out basic, applied and clinical vision research, with current research priorities including neurotechnology, with a strong focus on the development of prosthetic vision devices (or bionic eyes), clinical optometry and public health, to improve the understanding of vision science, vision care and treatment.



CLINICAL SERVICES

QUALITY, AFFORDABLE EYE CARE FOR ALL COMMUNITIES



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

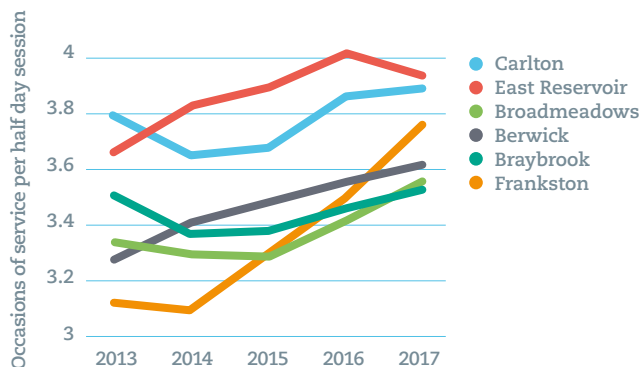
Providing high quality public health eye care for communities in need and leading best practice and standards

IT IS WITH GREAT PRIDE that I am reporting on the efforts that the Division of Clinical Services has made toward achieving the strategic objectives of the ACO in 2017. Through strong teamwork and expertise, the Clinic has maintained a path of continuous improvement and innovation, with consolidation of many previous achievements and implementation of new projects.

We continue to be known for providing quality outreach eye care services to some of the most vulnerable communities who have difficulty accessing eye care

In **leading clinical best practice**, the Glaucoma Collaborative Clinic that we established last year at our Carlton location, in partnership with the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, has continued successfully and provided best practice evidence-based care to more than 1000 patients so far. This is just one example of several ACO clinics, including a post-surgical care cataract clinic and diabetes clinics within hospital settings, as well as paediatric, contact lens, glaucoma, retina, low vision, disability and visual functions clinics. There are more in development, including retinal toxicity monitoring clinics and new models of collaborative care with ophthalmology at ACO metropolitan clinics. We continue to be known for providing quality outreach eye care services to some of the most vulnerable communities who have difficulty

Clinic Productivity 2013 - 2017



accessing eye care, including people who are homeless, refugees, and asylum seekers. Indeed, a major highlight for the year was securing \$185K through the Commonwealth Home Support Program to extend our outreach eye care services to those in regional and rural Supported Residential Services and Older Persons High-Rise programs.



Assoc. Professor Sharon Bentley
Director Clinical Services

In **providing valued public health eye care services**,

continuing areas of focus in 2017 were completing the implementation of electronic records and ordering across the organisation, strengthening our clinical governance and further increasing the productivity and efficiency of our services to ensure sustainability. The high levels of productivity seen in 2016 were maintained in primary eye care services at Carlton (4.40 occasions of service per half-day session) and exceeded at many of our metropolitan clinics. Across all clinics, income grew 3% per half-day session compared with the previous year. Patient feedback indicates that the community values what we do. We receive numerous written and verbal positive feedback interactions from our patients throughout the year and are always heartened by their reflections on our service.

“Over several years attendance I have noted patients from all walks of life are treated with dignity and kindness, from initially making an appointment, examination and treatments to arranging glasses, all staff are unfailingly obliging, courteous, efficient and punctual. It is truly a privilege to have this wonderful service available. Well done everybody”. A patient since 2011, attending our Carlton clinic.

We continue to **contribute to the evidence-base in clinical optometry through research** in the areas of glaucoma treatment, the evaluation of new models of glaucoma service delivery, the impact of eye care services in aged care facilities, barriers to accessing eye care among geographically displaced persons, and low vision.

The Clinic strives to support **providing the best possible clinical placement experience to optometry students and to support the profession**. Staff optometrists have been involved in delivering some 22,185 hours of clinical education to pre-registration optometry students in 2017. Additionally, our highly skilled optometrists have provided clinical workshops

and presentations to the profession, as well as provided input into the development of new certificates in contact lenses, glaucoma and paediatrics.

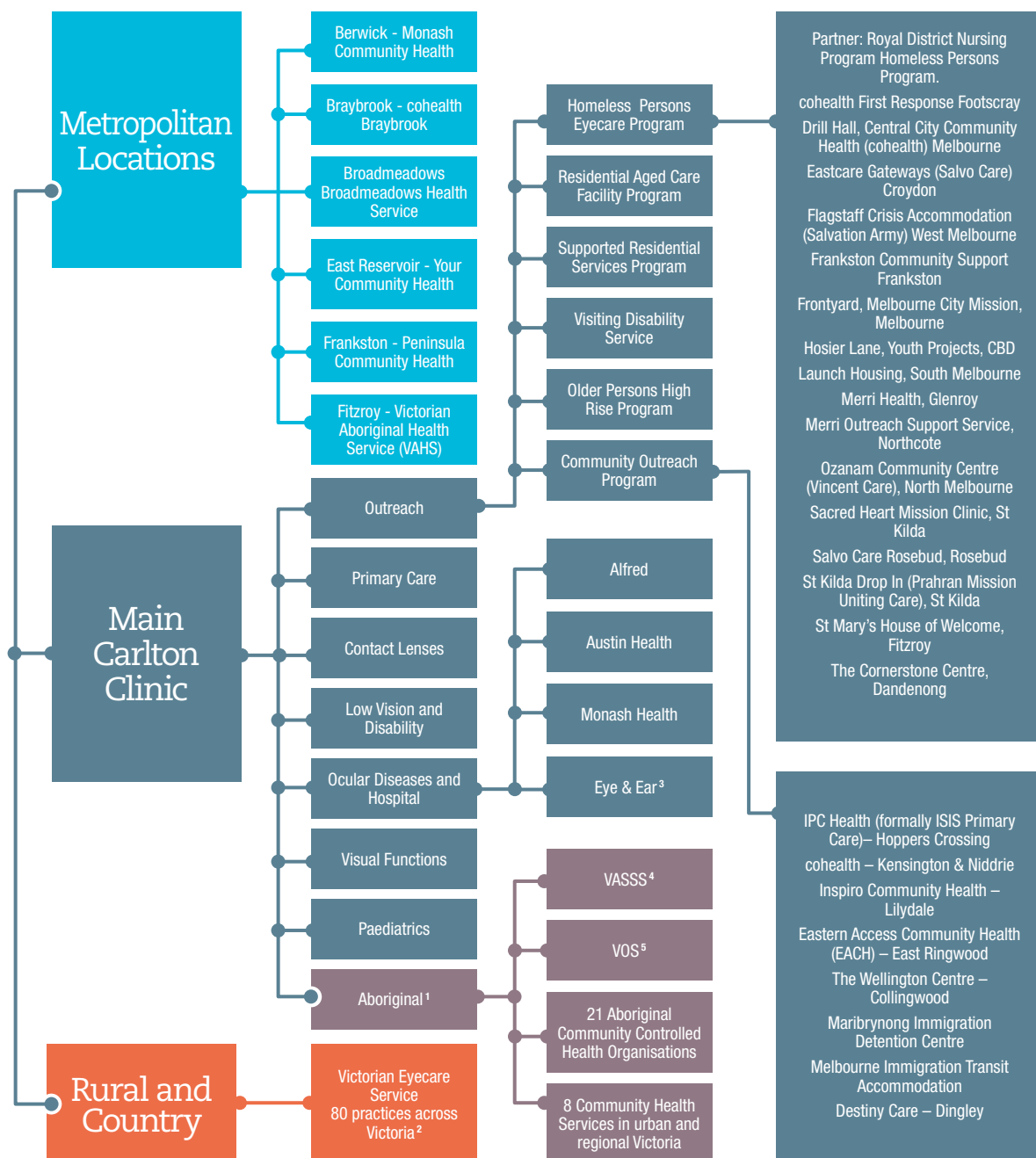
On a more personal note, after three rewarding years as Director of Clinical Services, I will be leaving the ACO to take up a new opportunity within the profession. It has been an enormous privilege and blessing to work at such an exceptional organisation with so many caring, respectful and skilled colleagues.

I give my sincerest thanks to the staff for their hard work, dedication and support. I wish everyone the very best for the years ahead and look forward to hearing about the continued success of the ACO.

Assoc. Professor Sharon Bentley

BScOptom MOptom PhD GradDipSpecEd MPH CertOcTher
GAICD FAAO(DipLV) FACO
Director of Clinical Services

CLINICAL SERVICES NETWORK



- 1 Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) also under this heading
- 2 Complete list of VES providers on page 17
- 3 Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital
- 4 Victorian Aboriginal Spectacles Subsidy Scheme (funded through the Victorian government)
- 5 Visiting Optometrists Scheme (administered by the Rural Workforce Agency Victoria on behalf of the Commonwealth government)

Clinic Management Team

Head

Piers Carozzi, *Community and Outreach Eye Care Services*
 Jennifer Caulfield, *Clinic Operations and Support Services*
 Roman Serebrianik, *Primary and Specialist Eye Care Services*
 Jane Trevaskis, *Teaching and Quality*

Lead Optometrists

Adrian Bruce, *Contact Lenses*
 Mae Chong, *Low Vision*
 Nellie Deen, *Paediatrics*
 Genevieve Napper, *Aboriginal Services*
 Leanne Nguyen, *Ocular Diseases and Hospital Services*

Manager Optometrists

Angeliki Arvanitis, *East Reservoir Metropolitan Clinic*
 Joseph Choi, *Primary Care and Clinical Teaching*
 Lesley Dacion, *Braybrook Metropolitan Clinic (acting)*
 Rosemary Haikal, *Broadmeadows Metropolitan Clinic*
 Angela Hall, *Clinical Research*
 Iris Huang, *Frankston Metropolitan Clinic*
 Lauren Kharsas, *Berwick Metropolitan Clinic*
 Josephine Li, *Community Eye Care Services*
 Lisa Lombardi, *Braybrook Metropolitan Clinic*
 Ho Wah Ng, *Visual Functions*
 Janelle Scully, *Clinic Operations and VES*

Manager Clinic Administration

Vicki McSweeney



Clinic Management Team (L-R) Jennifer Caulfield, Jane Trevaskis, Roman Serebrianik
 Absent: Sharon Bentley, Piers Carozzi

Clinic operations network

Carlton Clinic

The ACO's largest clinic and hub is located in Carlton, with more than 25 consulting rooms and state-of-the-art diagnostic and imaging equipment. In 2017 we provided more than 33,000 services to Victorians at this location, predominantly primary eye care services delivered through our 'general clinic'.

Metropolitan Clinics

The ACO has six metropolitan clinics that are an important part of our network in providing community eye care. Five of these clinics have two to three consulting rooms and are fully equipped with the latest diagnostic and imaging equipment to ensure the highest level of care possible.

- Berwick – Monash Community Health
- Braybrook – cohealth Braybrook
- Broadmeadows – Broadmeadows Health Service
- East Reservoir – Your Community Health
- Frankston – Frankston Community Health
- Fitzroy – Victorian Aboriginal Health Service

Paediatrics

The ACO has a dedicated paediatric eye care service at Carlton. We provide comprehensive age-appropriate assessments, as well as evidence-base myopia management and vision therapies to children who need them. The ACO provides a full service directly to Furlong Park School for the Deaf and Sunshine Harvester Primary School, where there are many children with disabilities or from socially disadvantaged backgrounds. The ACO works in partnership with Maternal and Child Health Nurses, teachers, behavioural psychologists, other optometrists and the Royal Children's Hospital to support the eye care needs of children.

Contact Lenses

At our Carlton location we offer a comprehensive contact lens service, ranging from daily soft to mini-scleral and prosthetic contact lenses. We welcome referrals and receive many from optometry colleagues and ophthalmologists. In addition, ACO optometrists provide contact lens services at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital.

Low Vision and Disability

The ACO leads an integrated holistic service for people with vision impairment, in partnership with Vision Australia. We offer a low vision clinic at Carlton that is supported by occupational therapists and has a full range of optical devices and adaptive equipment, including electronic magnifiers. We also provide eye care services to people with other disabilities.

Ocular Diseases and Hospital Services

At our Carlton location we offer services in anterior eye, cataract, diabetes, glaucoma and retina. Additionally, we work in partnership with the Alfred Hospital to provide a cataract surgery aftercare clinic and with the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital to provide a Glaucoma Collaborative Clinic, both at our Carlton location. ACO optometrists also provide eye care services at the Austin Hospital and Dandenong Hospital for patients with diabetes. Our optometrists are endorsed to prescribe scheduled medicines for the treatment of eye conditions.

Outreach Services

The ACO provides outreach services to members of the community who have difficulty accessing mainstream eye clinics via six key programs, mostly in the metropolitan area: homeless persons eye care, residential aged care, supported residential services, disability, refugee and asylum seeker centres and older person's high rise. In addition to these programs, we work with Royal Flying Doctors to provide eye care in remote parts of Victoria.

Aboriginal Services

The Aboriginal Services team at the ACO are working to "close the gap" for vision in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The ACO has had a regular clinic at the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service in

Fitzroy since 1998. We also work in partnership with more than 20 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations and a number of community health services in urban and regional Victoria, as well as in border regions in NSW and SA. The ACO's work in Aboriginal services is not only supported by the VES, but by the Visiting Optometrists Scheme (administered by the Rural Workforce Agency Victoria on behalf of the Commonwealth government) and the Victorian Aboriginal Spectacles Subsidy Scheme (funded through the Victorian state government).

Visual Functions

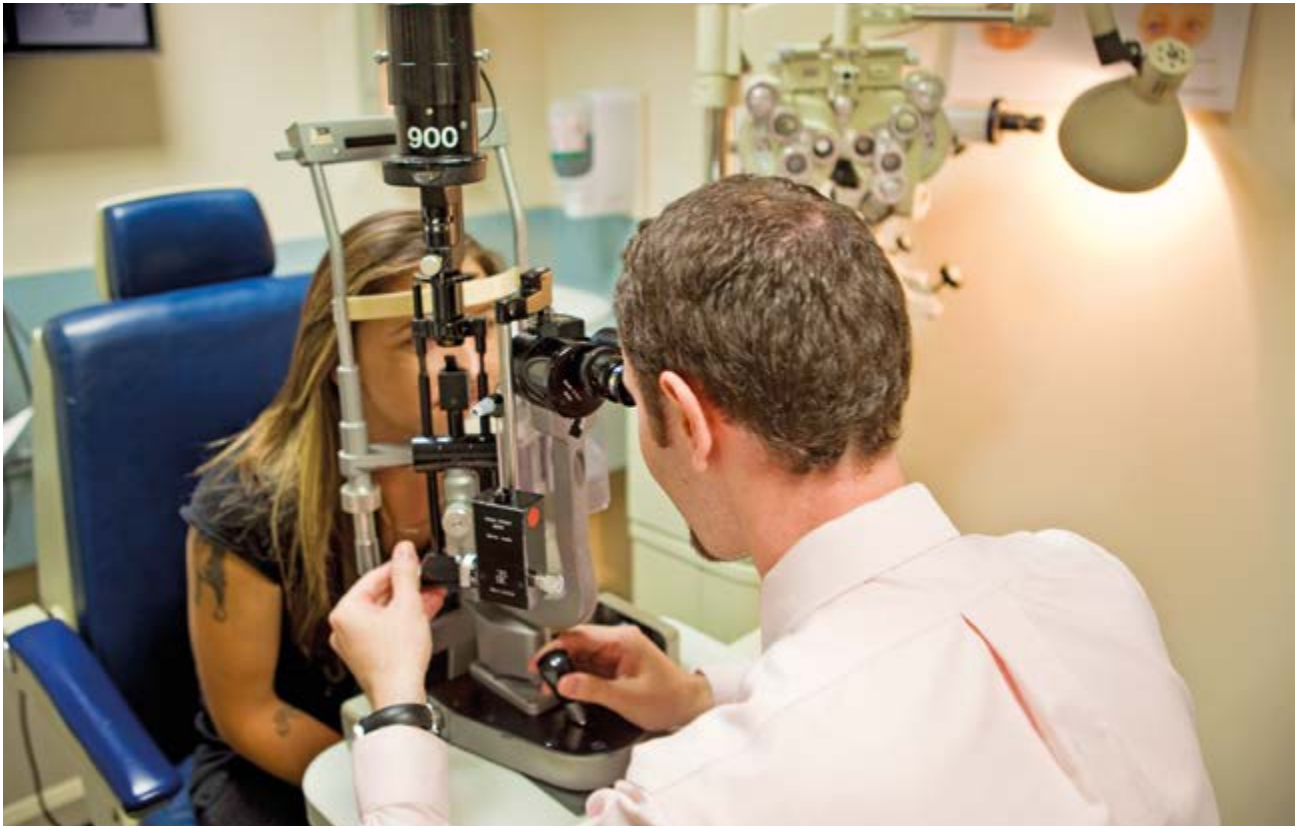
Through the Visual Functions Clinic at Carlton, the ACO provides highly specialised ocular imaging, colour vision testing, visual field testing and electrodiagnostics. Referrals for this service are welcome and we receive regular referrals for driver licensing applications, vocational assessment (police, armed forces, laser technicians, electricians, textile workers) and retinal toxicity monitoring. We also provide counselling for children and their carers about the impact of colour vision problems on career choice. In addition, our optometrists are accredited to conduct vision certifications on behalf of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority.

For the complete Clinical Services Network refer to page 11.



Sessional optometrist Ian Douglas with patient Bill Ioannou

VICTORIAN EYECARE SERVICE (VES)



ACO optometrist Roman Serebrianik with patient

THE ACO IS RESPONSIBLE for the administration and management of the Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Victorian Eyecare Service (VES). Through the VES, the ACO's Clinical Services is able to offer eye care services targeted to Victorians who are financially, socially or geographically most in need, with the aim of correcting refractive error and preventing eye disease. For more than 30 years, the VES has provided Victorians with an exemplar, coordinated program of eye care and subsidised visual aids. People are eligible for VES benefits if they are permanent residents of Victoria and either: hold a Pensioner Concession Card; hold a current Health Care Card (and have done so for at least 6 months); are children in out-of-home care; or who identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) person.

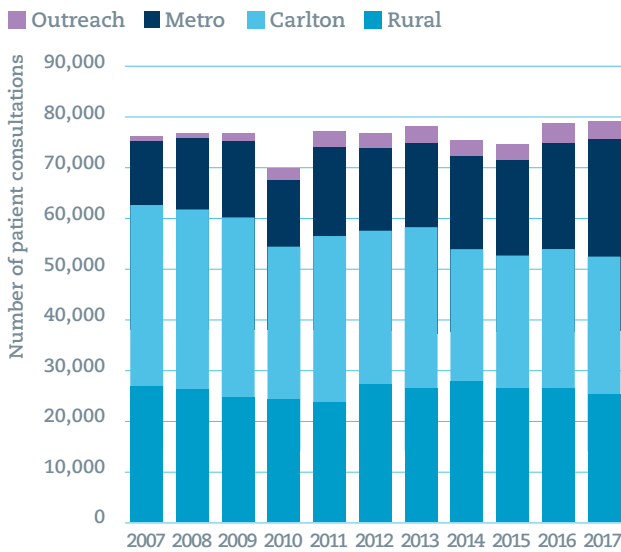
The VES is largely delivered by ACO staff in the metropolitan area and by more than 80 dedicated

partner private practices in regional and rural areas across the entire state. Services in metropolitan Victoria are provided through various clinics, including our main clinic at Carlton, six smaller satellite clinics based in community health centres and 'mobile' outreach clinics.

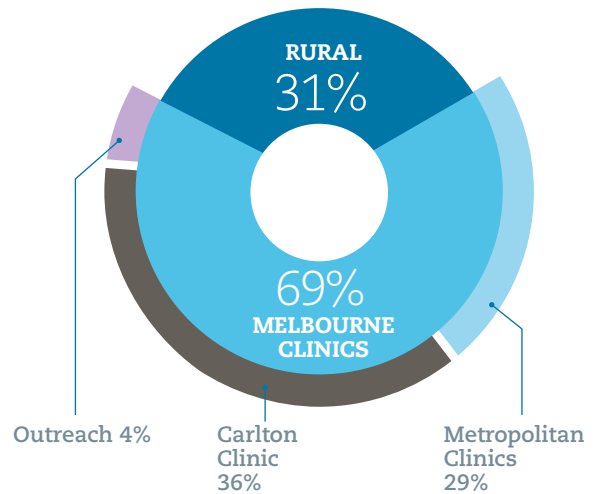
In 2017, more than 78,000 consultations and 47,717 visual aids were provided through the VES to 61,789 patients across the state. Consistently, the VES is delivered to within $\pm 3\%$ of set targets. Just under two-thirds of services are provided in our Melbourne clinics.

We have refurbished our frame display areas at our East Reservoir, Braybrook and Frankston metropolitan clinics. We are continually looking for options to enhance delivery and access to services at all our locations.

VES consultations by year 2007 – 2017

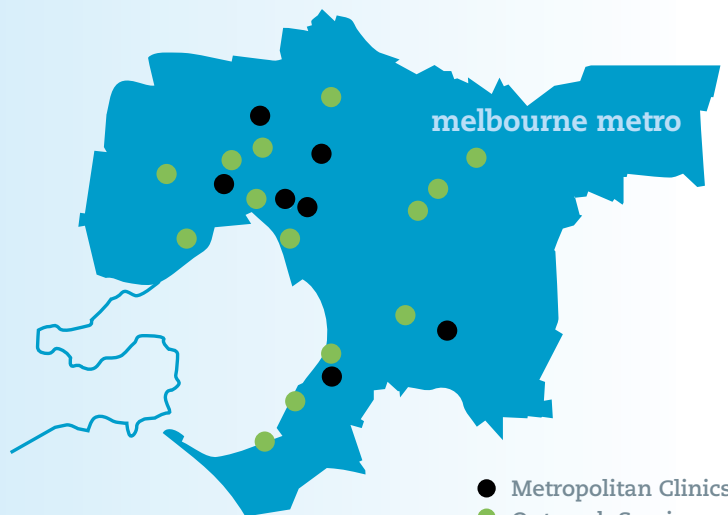


VES consultations by location



VES LOCATIONS

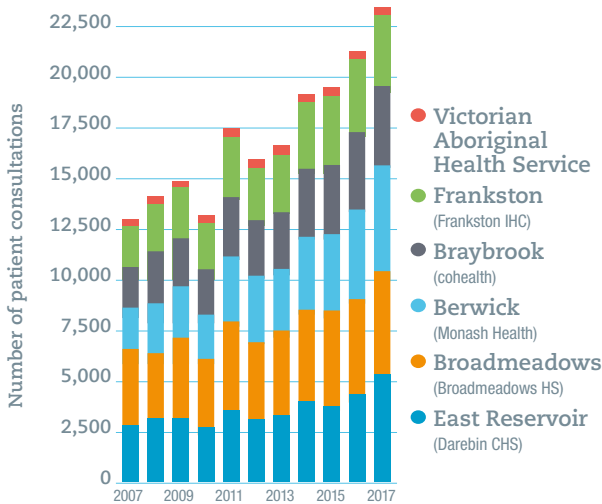
Metropolitan, rural, regional and country locations



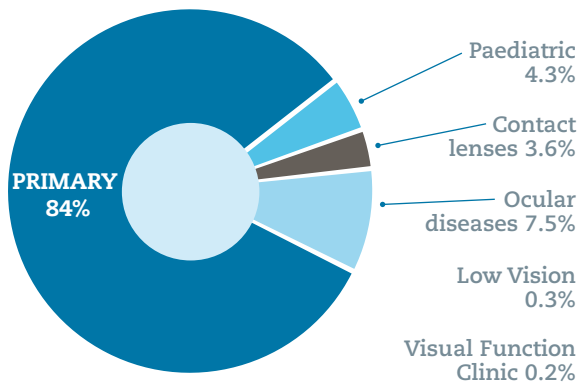
- Metropolitan Clinics
- Outreach Service
- Victorian Eyecare Service
- Provider of VES and Victorian Aboriginal Spectacles Subsidy Scheme

There are 80 practitioners across Victoria. List of VES and Aboriginal service providers are on page 17

VES Metropolitan Services by Year (2007–2017)



Type of VES service



VES Advisory Committee

The VES Advisory Committee meets three times per year to provide advice to the ACO and Department of Health and Human Services in relation to the activities and priorities of the VES and also to support us in identifying ways to continuously improve delivery of the VES. Represented on the Committee is the Department of Health and Human Services (Wellbeing & Community Support, Community Based Health Policy & Programs; Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing), cohealth, Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria, Inner North West Primary Care Partnership, Leading Age Services Victoria, Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, as well as ACO practitioners, VES regional and rural practitioners (Linda Robinson) and a consumer representative (Rosie Maddick).

VES Review

In late 2017, the Department of Health and Human Services commenced a timely review of the VES. The Review will provide recommendations to address the impact of current issues facing the VES and the needs of the target groups to inform sustainable, person centred delivery of the VES.

CLINICAL RESIDENCY PROGRAM

The ACO clinical residency program extends over a two-year period and is designed to strengthen the clinical, academic and professional development of newly graduated optometrists. After an initial period of orientation to the ACO and clinical duties, residents are expected to complete two units of approved postgraduate study in optometry, as well as a professional skill development experience. The professional skill development experience may comprise, for example, a case report, minor research project, poster at an optometry conference, additional tertiary studies or a volunteer optometry experience. Eddie Burgin and Michael Li, graduates from Queensland and New Zealand, respectively, commenced employment at the ACO as clinical residents at the beginning of 2016. As part of the residency, Eddie undertook volunteer work in the Northern Territory for Brien Holden Vision Institute and Michael went to Nepal with the Eyes4Everest team. They both also completed ACO Certificates in Contact Lenses and Glaucoma. Michael has completed his residency with a final submission of a paper for publication.



Michael Li



Eddie Burgin, pictured at Kapi Mutitjulu (waterhole at Uluru) on a volunteer eye care trip to the Northern Territory

Victorian Eyecare Service Participating Practices and Victorian Aboriginal Spectacle Subsidy Scheme Practices

Ararat RAYMOND BLIZZARD & ASSOCS	Dromana EYES ON DROMANA	Leopold GMHBA EYE CARE - LEOPOLD
Bacchus Marsh DARRYL WILSON & ASSOCS EYE CLARITY	Echuca HORSEFALLS OPTOMETRISTS	Lorne DEAKIN OPTOMETRY
Bairnsdale EYECARE PLUS BAIRNSDALE	Edenhope WIMMERA EYE CARE	Mallacoota DYSON & LONG OPTOMETRISTS
Ballarat EYE Q OPTOMETRIST GMHBA EYECARE - BALLARAT	Euroa GRAHAM HILL & ASSOCIATES	Maryborough D P HARE
Belmont GMHBA EYE CARE - BELMONT ROBINSON FAMILY OPTOMETRISTS	Foster CHRIS HELY OPTOMETRIST	Mildura EYECARE SUNRAYSLIA EYECARE SUNRAYSLIA - PLAZA MILDURA OPTICAL
Benalla FOCUS ON LAURIMAR	Geelong FRANCIS J DENAHY GMHBA EYE CARE - GEELONG	Moe MOE OPTICAL
Bendigo CARTWRIGHT & ASSOCIATES EYECARE PLUS BENDIGO	Gisborne J.C. MERRINGTON OPTOMETRY SIMON LEONG OPTOMETRIST	Mooroopna GRAHAM HILL & ASSOCIATES
Bright EYES ON BRIGHT	Hamilton GLENN HOWELL PTY LTD	Mornington 20/20 SIGHT 'N STYLE MAIN STREET EYECARE
Broadford BROADFORD OPTICAL	Healesville HARRIS, BLAKE AND PARSONS	Morwell LATROBE EYECARE
Bunyip BUNYIP OPTICAL	Hopetoun WIMMERA EYE CARE	Murchison GRAHAM HILL & ASSOCIATES
Camperdown PENRY ROUTSON OPTOMETRISTS	Horsham WIMMERA EYE CARE	Myrtleford BRENDAN NORDEN & ASSOCS
Casterton GLEN HOWELL PTY LTD	Kerang KERANG OPTICAL	Nathalia HORSEFALLS OPTOMETRISTS
Castlemaine EYEWORKS CASTLEMAINE	Kilmore IAN J WOOD	Newcomb VOGUE VISION
Cobram COBRAM OPTICAL	Kyabram HORSEFALLS OPTOMETRISTS	Nhill WIMMERA EYE CARE
Corio GMHBA EYE CARE - CORIO	Lakes Entrance LAKES ENTRANCE OPTOMETRISTS	North Geelong WINKS EYECARE
Daylesford DARRYL WILSON & ASSOCS	Lang Lang LANG LANG EYECARE	Ocean Grove GREG SLY OPTOMETRIST
	Leongatha LEONGATHA OPTOMETRISTS MCCARTIN STREET OPTOMETRISTS	

Orbost
EYECARE PLUS BAIRNSDALE

Pakenham
PAKENHAM OPTICAL

Portland
PORTLAND EYECARE

Robinvale
VISION WISE OPTICS

Rosebud
EYES ON ROSEBUD
ROBERT P ZENT

Sale
B W PETTITT

Seymour
FOCUS ON LAURIMAR

Shepparton
GRAHAM HILL & ASSOCIATES
SHEPPARTON OPTICAL SERVICES

Somerville
EYES ON SOMERVILLE

St Arnaud
RAYMOND BLIZZARD & ASSOCS

Stawell
RAYMOND BLIZZARD & ASSOCS

Swan Hill
SWAN HILL OPTICAL
WARBURTON OPTICAL

Traralgon
KAY STREET EYECARE PTY LTD

Wangaratta
WANGARATTA EYECARE

Warracknabeal
WIMMERA EYE CARE

Warmambool
PENRY ROUTSON OPTOMETRISTS
SOMER TOPRAK OPTOMETRIST
WARRNAMBOOL EYECARE

Wendouree
DARRYL WILSON & ASSOCS

Wodonga
MICHAEL SMITH OPTOMETRY
PEACHEY OPTOMETRY CLINIC
THE OPTICAL
SUPERSTORE-WODONGA
WODONGA EYECARE

Wonthaggi
AKERS EYEWEAR

Yarram
B W PETTITT

Yarrawonga
SANDRA HEANEY OPTOMETRIST

Outreach Sites

Homeless Persons Program Sites

Partner: Bolton Clarke

coHealth First Response *Footscray*

Drill Hall, Central City Community Health
(coHealth) *Melbourne*

Eastcare Gateways (Salvo Care) *Croydon*

Flagstaff Crisis Accommodation
(Salvation Army) *West Melbourne*

Frankston Community Support *Frankston*

Frontyard, Melbourne City Mission, *Melbourne*

Hosier Lane, Youth Projects, *CBD*

Launch Housing, *South Melbourne*

Merri Health, *Glenroy*

Merri Outreach Support Service, *Northcote*

Ozanam Community Centre
(Vincent Care), *North Melbourne*

Sacred Heart Mission Clinic, *St Kilda*

Salvo Care Rosebud, *Rosebud*

St Kilda Drop In
(Pahran Mission Uniting Care), *St Kilda*

St Mary's House of Welcome, *Fitzroy*

The Cornerstone Centre, *Dandenong*

Community Outreach Program

IPC Health
(formally ISIS Primary Care) – *Hoppers Crossing*

coHealth – *Kensington & Niddrie*

Inspiro Community Health – *Lilydale*

Eastern Access Community Health
(EACH) – *East Ringwood*

The Wellington Centre – *Collingwood*

Maribrynong Immigration Detention Centre

Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation

Destiny Care – *Dingley*

GLAUCOMA COLLABORATIVE CLINIC EVALUATION

THE AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY (ACO) and Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital (Eye and Ear) Glaucoma Collaborative Clinic (GCC) pilot project was a Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) funded and supported initiative that enabled the implementation and trial of a new innovative model of collaborative care for low risk glaucoma patients.

The initiative was based on the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmology (RANZCO) endorsed guidelines, which identify patients with suspected glaucoma or early stable glaucoma as a group who could potentially be co-managed with a collaborative model of care.

Responding to growing pressure on glaucoma waiting lists at the Eye and Ear, this new GCC model identifies and redirects suitable patients through more appropriate pathways and expands the hospital's capacity to manage high-risk glaucoma patients in a timely fashion in the tertiary environment.

The initiative embodies the DHHS goal to bring Victorian health services towards new models of care in order to meet growing demand. The clinic's collaborative, integrated approach to eye care strengthens our capability for disease prevention and early intervention by delivering patient-centred care through connected services.

The GCC model identifies and redirects suitable patients through more appropriate pathways and expands the hospital's capacity to manage high-risk glaucoma patients in a timely fashion

Launched in April 2016, the initiative's objective was to determine the effectiveness of managing patients with low-risk glaucoma under a collaborative care model operated at the ACO's Carlton clinic. The workforce model utilises the full scope of eye care professionals – with ACO optometrists and Eye and Ear orthoptists working alongside Eye and Ear glaucoma specialists – to provide care to the growing number of public patients suspected of having or who do have early stable glaucoma. The service aims to provide appropriate care at the appropriate time in the patient journey. Patients who do not require specialist hospital services can be monitored in a community setting by optometrists and removed off hospital waiting lists.



Patient George Aghan pictured with ACO optometrist Ho Wah Ng

Results have shown:

- A proven robust triage process for identifying patients suitable for the purpose of this project;
- Positive impact on reducing the Eye and Ear new (down 32%), review (down 11%) and overdue (down 10%) glaucoma waitlist;
- Of the 1024 patients seen at GCC, 76% were discharged to a community optometrist for review with less frequent visits to an ophthalmologist;
- GCC provides a direct pathway for the low numbers of patients (only 16%) in need of re-referral back to Eye and Ear specialist eye clinic services;
- Adherence to evidence-based practice pattern guidelines regarding the diagnostic assessments undertaken (96%) and appropriate monitoring intervals recommended (88%) were higher than rates previously reported in the literature;
- Increased collaboration between ophthalmologists, optometrists and orthoptists resulted in high clinician satisfaction with the new model and demonstrated the need for collaborative relationships to meet the future demands on the tertiary eye care setting to manage low risk glaucoma patients who require long-term monitoring;
- Patient experience showed high levels of satisfaction with the appropriateness and quality of care delivered; and
- High levels of patient satisfaction with all diagnostic tests performed in one place within a single appointment.

This project has demonstrated the success of the Eye and Ear and ACO model of collaborative care and the benefits of integrating workforces.

PROVISION FOR EYE HEALTH EQUIPMENT TRAINING PROJECT

THE ACO IS INVOLVED in an important project funded by the Australian Government Department of Health. The Provision of Eye Health Equipment and Training Project (PEHET) is being delivered by a consortium of five organisations from across Australia, who are working in partnership to deliver this project based on their existing links and experience in Indigenous eye care, and in consultation with local and regional stakeholders, and service providers. The organisations involved in the consortium are: Brien Holden Vision Institute (contractor, co-lead), Australian College of Optometry (co-lead), Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia, Centre for Eye Health and Optometry Australia.

The goal of this project is to reduce avoidable blindness for Aboriginal Australians by supplying retinal cameras and providing training to 105 primary health care clinics across Australia who provide care to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people. The cameras aim to support increased primary-level access to a retinal photograph for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people with diabetes, triggering referrals for a comprehensive eye examination or treatment where required. In addition, ongoing work is being undertaken to assist in integration of the camera into the local health pathway to support positive outcomes for the community. The project will be completed by June 2019.



Retinal Camera Training with the team at Murray Valley Aboriginal Co-Operative, Robinvale



ACO Optometrist Piers Carozzi examining patient Kerry Elsdon.

THE COMMONWEALTH HOME SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) is a federally funded program to assist older Australians to live as independently as possible. Services are targeted to people experiencing specific disadvantage, such as insecure housing or aged over 50. The ACO was successful in receiving funding to provide additional eye care services in the following areas:

- Rural Victorian Supported Residential Services (SRS') facilities
- Older Persons High Rise Facilities across Melbourne
- Additional services for people experiencing, or at risk, of homelessness in outer metropolitan Melbourne
- Services for people with chronic disease at two cohealth sites.

The ACO has provided outreach eye care services to SRS', which are a privately operated business providing accommodation and support for Victorians who need assistance in everyday activities since 2005. 96 % of residents in pension level SRS' have a disability (2013 SRS' census). We have been aware of rural SRS' facilities, but have previously not had funding to attend these sites. The CHSP funding supports the travel, accommodation and service co-ordination to allow us to expand our service delivery in this area.

The program has also allowed new community connections and identified areas of need across Victoria that will allow for improved targeting of services.

To date, we have provided care to 24 new facilities across the state, from Bairnsdale to Warrnambool, Cobram to Alfredton.

The CHSP has provided important funding for us to provide care in new ways and to extend our work to provide eye care for those in need.

CLINICAL RESEARCH DATA

THE CLINIC IS COMMITTED to conducting research that focuses on public health optometry and health services evaluation. We participate in a variety of research projects in range of ways, conducting independent research, as well as working with collaborators.

Glaucoma Initial Treatment Study (GITS)

This study compared the effectiveness of two different types of initial treatment for glaucoma, eye drops and laser (selective laser trabeculoplasty). Fifteen recruitment sites were involved in this study. The ACO was the sole optometry-led GITS site and finished the recruitment phase of this study ranked within the top three recruitment sites. Data collection was completed 2017.

Partner: Centre for Eye Research Australia

Residential Ocular Care Study

The aim of this study was to investigate the impact of eye care interventions on the quality of life of older patients living in residential facilities. Data collection was completed in 2017.

Partner: Centre for Eye Research Australia

The eyeDiP Project

This study aims to investigate the ocular health of geographically displaced persons and challenges to accessing eye care services.

Partner: Centre for Eye Research Australia and University of Melbourne

The ACO Low Vision Clinic: A new optometry-led service in metropolitan Melbourne and trial of a loan magnifier program

The aim of this project was to evaluate the demographics, clinical characteristics, and management of patients attending the Australian College of Optometry Low Vision Clinic in Carlton. This will inform planning of future low vision services.

The number of Australians living with vision impairment or blindness is expected to increase substantially. It is thought that less than 20% of those who would benefit from low vision care actually receive services and support. In response, the Australian College of Optometry (ACO) established an optometry-led low vision clinic. The aim of this study was to determine the profile and prescribing patterns in this new optometry-led low vision clinic. The study also examined the effectiveness of providing magnifiers on

loan for a period of three months to low vision patients experiencing socioeconomic disadvantage.

The mean age of the 270 patients attending the clinic in the first two years was 71 years (SD 20 years), with 52% female. The main cause of vision impairment or blindness was age-related macular degeneration (40%). At least one third primarily spoke a language other than English. Of the 49 participants who completed the loan magnifier trial, 67% made no changes and retained the magnifier(s) initially prescribed. The majority (75%) were referred by the optometrist to the onsite consultant occupational therapist for immediate assistance with activities of daily living and onward referral for additional comprehensive services as required.

The ACO has established a sustainable low vision service within a large optometry clinic for people experiencing social and economic disadvantage. Where a program of subsidised low cost magnifiers is available, there is little benefit from short-term loans of magnifiers. By providing basic affordable low vision aids and rehabilitation within a large primary care optometry setting the ACO is facilitating acceptability and uptake of critical low vision services that will increase the quality of life of those experiencing disadvantage.

Partner: Vision Australia

Funder: Eric Ormond Baker Charitable Fund

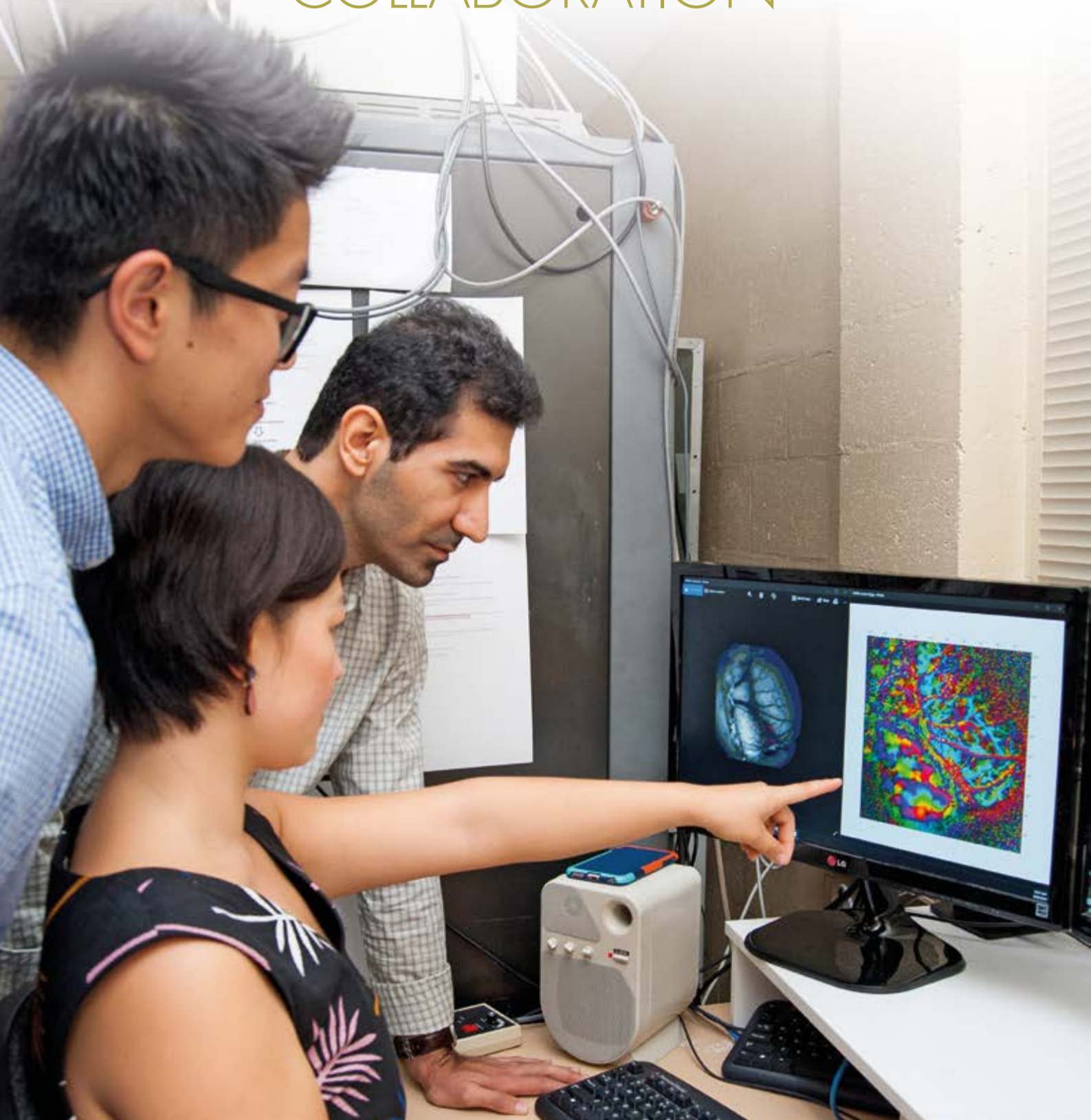


ACO optometrist Lesley Dacion with patient Pauline Emery using a low vision magnifier.

RESEARCH

 NATIONAL VISION
RESEARCH INSTITUTE
OF AUSTRALIA
AN ACO DIVISION

LEADING INNOVATION IN RESEARCH THROUGH COLLABORATION



NVRI CHAIR'S REPORT

I AM DELIGHTED TO AGAIN be able to contribute to the reporting of yet another successful annual cycle for the NVRI under the guidance of NVRI Director Professor Michael Ibbotson. As you will see from his Director's report, 2017 marked two important milestones in the history of the NVRI and these occurred in conjunction with ongoing, and outstanding, successes in the scientific work of the NVRI. The first milestone was the celebration of the NVRI's 45th birthday and, as ever, such a milestone afforded the opportunity to both reflect on, and celebrate, what has gone before. However, as with any progressive institution, this milestone also served as a reference point in planning for the future of the NVRI. The second milestone may seem relatively inconsequential, when considered in the context of the Institute's scientific history, however 2017 also marked a move away from the multipurpose NVRI Board of Administration, that has been in place since the beginning of the Institute, to a structure intended to provide improved function to the NVRI.

Specifically, we have moved to separate the vital, external, scientific advisory input to the NVRI from the more procedural governance functions of the ACO, with the intent of providing the Director an environment that is highly conducive to the ongoing achievement of the Institute's research goals.

In order that both of these milestones be afforded the necessary recognition, at the end of 2017 there was a gathering of NVRI stakeholders past and present, that allowed reflection on where the NVRI came from, acknowledged the contributions of the scientists and administrators that have helped the NVRI develop into what it is today, and provoked thought about where the NVRI might go in the future under the revised governance and advisory approach. As with any such occasion it was celebratory and served as a reminder of the huge contribution that the NVRI has made to the vision science and broader optometric communities over many years, as well as of the 'cast of thousands' who have helped make this happen. However, from a personal perspective it was also a bittersweet experience, having effectively overseen a process that transferred care of the NVRI Board of Administration

from a scientist to a governance expert. Ah well, I guess that's progress! This being said, I am also extremely excited about the quality, expertise and experience of the individuals that have accepted positions on the new NVRI Scientific Advisory Committee and I wish them all the best for the future in helping the Director take the NVRI onwards to many future achievements.

As you will see from the Director's report, the underlying administrative machinations that occupied the ACO Management Team, the NVRI Board of Administration and the ACO Council throughout 2017 have done little to distract the scientific team from having yet another highly productive year. The team have been particularly active in servicing their existing grant funding, ensuring that the ongoing work of the Institute and its collaborators has flourished and in continuing to publish their important work in high impact journals. And, speaking of the NVRI's scientific impact, it was especially pleasing to see Professor David Vaney, one of the Institute's most highly cited researchers over the years, accept the award of an NVRI Fellowship. David is of course a widely recognised and celebrated vision scientist, both nationally and internationally, and this award was a very fitting celebration of his contribution to, and long association with, the NVRI.

In finishing, I'd like to acknowledge and thank those Members and Governors who have, this year, again made generous donations that continue to sustain the NVRI. On behalf of the NVRI Board I would also like to acknowledge the ongoing support of the Schultz-Laubman-Schultz Trust, the NVRI Governors Fund, the L.E.W. Carty Charitable fund, the Victorian Lions Foundation and Lions International. Without such generosity and support the NVRI would not, and could not, exist and all associated with the ACO and NVRI are very grateful for this.

Professor Alex Gentle

BSc GradCertUniTeach PGCertOcTher PhD
FACO FCOptom FFAO
Chair, NVRI Board of Administration



**Professor
Alex Gentle**
Chair NVRI Board of
Administration

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

THE NVRI REACHED AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE in 2017 – its 45th birthday! Throughout that time the NVRI has had a multi-purpose Board of Administration that has provided valuable guidance on scientific and financial matters. In 2017 we modernised the constitution so that we now have a Board that integrates better with the ACO Council and a separate Scientific Advisory Board. In December 2017 we had a gathering to celebrate the institutes longevity, thank the many past members of the NVRI's Board of Administration and to open a new chapter in how the NVRI is governed and administered. I thank all those that have contributed to the development of the NVRI over the years. The NVRI has worked hard in recent years to have two viable research units, retinal and cortical research. In 2017 we made a significant movement towards creating a third, more clinically oriented research unit. This development, in conjunction with the administrative changes will allow the NVRI to position itself to best capitalise on its skills and grow in future years.

The NVRI has shown considerable international leadership in recent years. Dr Hamish Meffin organised and chaired major satellite meetings at the annual Computational Neuroscience Society (CNS) conferences in South Korea (2016) and Belgium (2017).

The NVRI has worked hard in recent years to have two viable research units, retinal and cortical research. In 2017 we made a significant movement towards creating a third, more clinically oriented research unit.

These meetings brought together influential members of the biomedical community to talk about modeling the eye and brain, and how to translate this into bionics. Needless to say, Hamish did a great service to the Institute's international reputation. I organised and chaired a symposium at the Australasian Neuroscience Society (ANS) meeting in Sydney, which similarly attracted several prominent overseas speakers. Planning also started on an NVRI-led satellite meeting to be held in Berlin in 2018. Overall, the NVRI has firmly positioned itself as an innovative leader in its chosen research areas internationally.

Last year I reported on the win of a major NHMRC Development Grant in association with a Canada-based start-up company, iBionics. This work is in close cooperation with two University of Melbourne

collaborators, Professor Steven Praver and Dr David Garret. The funds from the grant started to flow in 2017 and we had the good fortune of employing Dr Wei Tong, who is a leading researcher in the field of biomaterials. She spent the year adding “neuroscientist” to her list of skills by learning both electrical and optical recording techniques in the retina. Wei also promoted the NVRI strongly by visiting Canada where she presented the fruits of her research activities to our Canadian collaborators. We also welcomed Dr Ali Almasi as a new staff member after he submitted his PhD thesis. Ali is funded by an NHMRC Project grant.

Perhaps one of the most interesting activities during the year for me personally was a visit to Israel as part of an Australian neuroscience delegation, to attend BrainTech 2017, a convention run by Israel Brain Technologies (IBT). The meeting was designed to bring together neuroscientists, technologists, entrepreneurs and venture capitalists to identify new ways of moving neuroscience research into translational outcomes. Israel is known for its entrepreneurial spirit and this was readily on display at the meeting. Our delegation was also taken to the “Australian Landing Pad” in Tel Aviv, which is located ‘south of the suburb Salame’ (SOSA). SOSA brings together startup companies, entrepreneurs, corporations and investors in one building. We were given a chance to listen to several pitches made by neuroscience and vision-related start-up companies and one led to an ongoing interaction with a company developing technologies related to age-related Macula degeneration. Later in the year, I met up again with some of the Israelis, this time in Melbourne's Creative Cubes Building in Cremorne. While in Israel we also visited several research institutes, including the Weizmann Institute, the Hebrew University and the Medical Faculty at the Technion. All were very impressive. It was fascinating to walk into one laboratory at the Technion, which was an exact copy of our in vitro laboratory at the NVRI, with exactly the same confocal microscope and electrode making facilities – it was good to confirm that we have internationally competitive facilities.

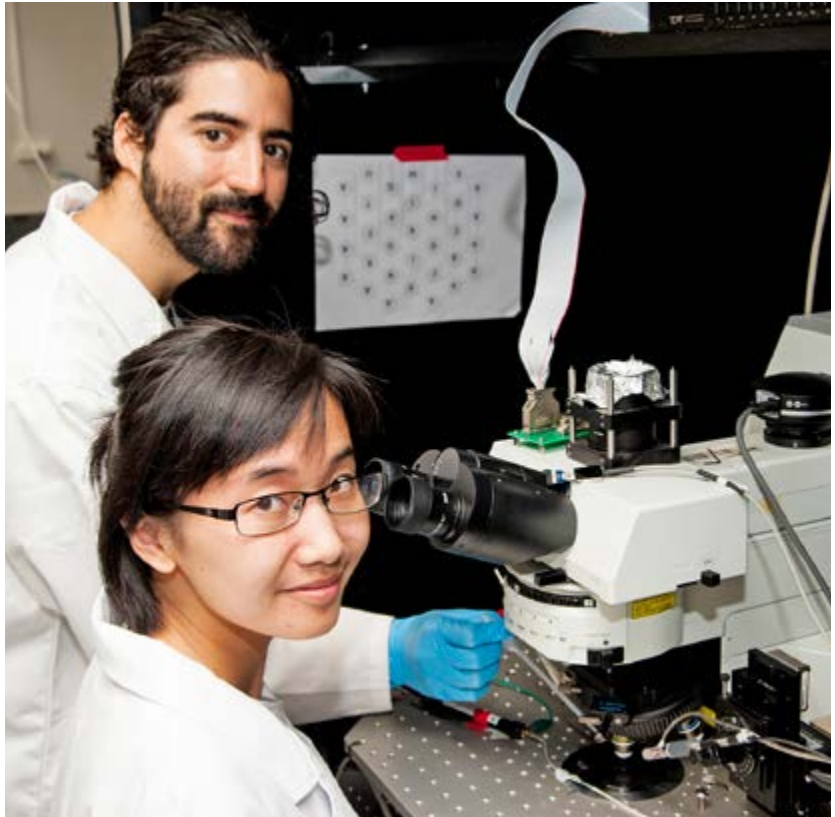
Much of 2017 was spent preparing for the mid-term review of the 7-year Centre of Excellence for Integrative Brain Function (“the Brain Function CoE”), which is a collaborative neuroscience research centre funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC), and provides a



**Professor
Michael Ibbotson
Director NVRI**



Dr Wei Tong dissecting retinal tissue under 3D microscope.



Dr Wei Tong and PhD student Artemio Soto-Breceda performing electrophysiology recordings from retinal tissue.

substantial fraction of the NVRI's income. The grant was won in 2013 and funds started rolling in 2014. For the mid-term review chief investigators from the six national nodes, the administration staff, the centre fellows, centre students and our board members all met with representatives from the ARC. These face-to-face meetings followed an extensive process of written reporting that had been collated and sent to the ARC for review. The ARC was very happy with the centre and openly congratulated us on our excellent national integration, which has brought together researchers from many institutions, including the NVRI. The early career researchers, including the NVRI's representative and LEW Carty-Lions Fellow, Dr Molis Yunzab, were very well received. Programs we had put in place for career development particularly impressed the ARC. Overall, the review led to a continuation of funding, which guarantees income until 2021. Plans for a new centre application began very soon after the review process and are ongoing.

As in previous years, public outreach was a focus of 2017. The NVRI in association with the Brain Function CoE and the University of Melbourne hosted a major event at Deakin Edge in Federation Square as part of Melbourne Knowledge Week. The keynote event included an international speaker who presented via digital technology on the big screen and several scientists on the stage demonstrating how meaningful signals can now be read out from the brain with simple

devices. The Deakin Edge theatre had an impressively full audience. The event closed with a 'Q&A' session, which generated a large number of questions from the audience fielded by a panel of experts, including myself. It was pleasing to see the event generate a lot of media interest, leading to multiple interviews on the radio. On a different level, I found myself going to Ormond Primary School to hand out a prize for the best picture painted by a Prep/Year 1 student in Australia, as part of a national art competition run by the Brain Function CoE. The competition has become very popular over the last few years. Children are asked to draw a picture that shows "what their brain is for". This brought some good press for the NVRI as journalists attended the event. Another important outreach activity is promoting our research through the internet. To this end, the NVRI's web site is regularly updated to highlight events and publications (www.nvri.org.au). To improve engagement beyond the scientific community we have been part of a program called "in a nutshell". When we publish a paper we write two sentences that are designed to explain the main findings to the general public and these sentences are put onto a website called the Brain Dialogue (www.cibf.edu.au), which receives a considerable number of "hits".

Finishing the year on a high note, in December 2017 Professor Sir Colin Blakemore, Professor Mickey Goldberg and Dr Douglas Ruff visited the NVRI as part of an international lecture series held in the

AMIES Theatre. It was a great treat for the NVRI to be visited by such an influential group of international visitors. The lecture also attracted a large cohort of vision scientists from Melbourne, Monash and La Trobe Universities. The link between current and past research activities at the NVRI was not missed. Don Mitchell (the NVRI's first Director) and Jack Pettigrew (ex-NVRI Acting Director) worked and collaborated with Colin Blakemore in their ground breaking work on neural development and binocularity in the visual system, and its link to amblyopia. It is noteworthy that one of the NVRI's main research directions is a modern development from this early work (e.g. Cloherty et al. 2016), although using rather more sophisticated modern equipment and techniques!

Finally, I would like to thank those that have offered support and assistance through the year. These include the members of the NVRI Board of Administration and the ACO Council, the members of the administrative support teams at the ACO and the many members and friends of the NVRI that so kindly donate their time and money to our causes.

Professor Michael Ibbotson

BSc (Hons) PhD
 Director, NVRI

NVRI 2017 highlights

- ↳ Members of the Institute organised and hosted three international vision science events in Belgium, Sydney and Melbourne
- ↳ Professor David Vaney became a Fellow of the NVRI and accepted the award at the 2017 annual general meeting. David published 4 of the top 5 best-cited papers produced to date by the NVRI
- ↳ Following in the steps of prior NVRI Directors Hughes and Pettigrew, the NVRI initiated an exciting new project on comparative visual physiology by investigating visual cortical development in Australian marsupials
- ↳ The NVRI recorded its second highest annual citation rate (283 citations). Citations per year have grown by 137% since 2012 and 152% since 2007
- ↳ The Institute published 2 papers in journals ranked in the top 5% based on citations per article
- ↳ Two new research fellows, Dr Wei Tong and Dr Ali Almasi, started at the NVRI.
- ↳ Two students submitted PhD theses: Ali Almasi and Parvin Zarei

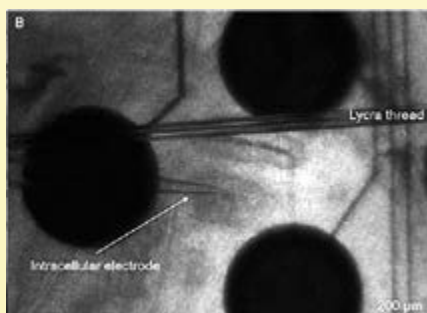
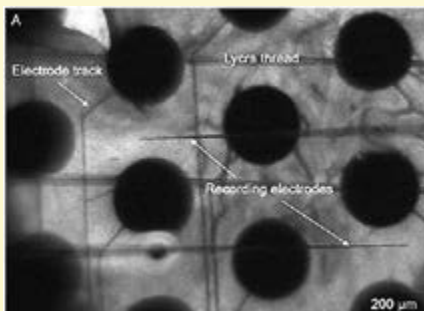


NVRI Research Fellows (L-R): Dr Ali Almasi, Dr Molis Yunzab, Dr Wei Tong, Dr Hamish Meffin.

BIONIC EYES

The NVRI is actively developing an understanding of electrical stimulation of the retina, in an effort to build prosthetic vision devices (bionic eyes). Bionic eyes use digital camera images and send processed versions to the retina via a grid of stimulating electrodes. The 2-D image projected into the camera is therefore translated into a 2-D image on the retina. The brain is able to interpret this as a meaningful image. In 2017 we were able to show that the electrical signals injected by the devices take two pathways, a rapid, direct pathway via electrical stimulation of retinal ganglion cells and an indirect path through all the interneurons that proceed the retinal ganglion cells. This second route activates natural neural processing, which increases the complexity of the signals sent to the brain. We are exploring techniques that might use this secondary pathway to enhance the images produced by bionic eyes.

Maturana M, Apollo NV, Kamenewa T, Garrett DJ, Grayden DB, Ibbotson MR, Meffin H (2018). Electrical receptive fields of retinal ganglion cells: influence of presynaptic neurons. *PLoS Computational Biology* 14(2): e1005997.



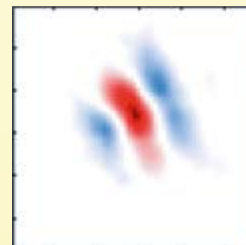
In vitro stimulating and recording. The retina was placed on a multi-electrode array (large black circles) and held in place with a perfusion chamber and lycra threads. A) Two extracellular electrodes were used to obtain recordings from the retinal surface. B) A hole was made in the inner limiting membrane to expose the RGCs. Once exposed, a glass electrode was used to obtain intracellular cell recordings of RGCs.

VISUAL CORTEX

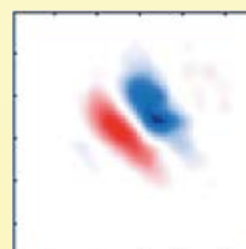
We completed a major project on modeling the receptive field characteristics of neurons in the primary visual cortex, driven by PhD candidate Ali Almasi and Dr Hamish Meffin. This prodigious volume of work has culminated from 4-years of intense labour by many members of the team to integrate a series of new techniques with a set of new equipment. The work has for the first time used novel mathematical techniques to uncover the nonlinear processing that is done by neurons in the visual cortex. We have understood linear processing for several decades but the “black box” that is nonlinear processing remained hidden to the cortical community. Ali and Hamish’s work has revealed a whole new world of processing in the visual cortex that will rapidly change our understanding of the mechanisms underlying the link between visual processing and perception. At this stage the results are held within Ali’s submitted thesis but will be published over the coming months and years. We were able to retain Ali by employing him as a post-doctoral fellow and this will optimize the transition to publication.

Almasi A. (2017). What do complex cells of the primary visual cortex encode? PhD Thesis.

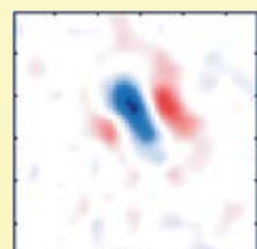
Linear



1st Exc. Nonlinear



2nd Exc. Nonlinear



Receptive field properties of an orientation-selective neuron in the visual cortex. The blue regions respond to brightness decrements and the red regions to brightness increments. The cell is highly selective to oriented edges that match the alignment of the red and blue stripes. It has been possible to extract the linear components of these receptive field properties for a long time (top left) but the excitatory nonlinear response components have been extracted for the first time at the NVRI using new mathematical techniques.

PRIMATE VISION

As part of ongoing collaborations with the Physiology Department at Monash University, we completed a long-term study of the links between visual perception and eye movement control. Using trained non-human primates we found an unexpected learning effect in a reflexive eye movement. It has long been known that sudden movements of the visual image drive short-latency ocular following (SLOF) – that is, the eyes track the movement of the image very rapidly in what was thought to be a reflexive action. We discovered that in fact with repeated training the eye movement speeds up, revealing a more plastic control system. The end result is that with training the eyes stabilise the moving image more quickly. This type of learning is slow, taking many repetitions but might be part of the reason that repetitive training is so important in ball skills (Hietanen et al. 2017). In a second project, in collaboration with Professor's Grayden and Burkitt at the University of Melbourne, one of our students, Parvin Zarei, submitted her PhD thesis. She suggested a completely new framework for how we should study the neural basis of visual motion processing in the primate brain (Zarei et al. 2018). This work attracted a lot of international interest because of its potential to significantly change the dogma in the literature. Parvin visited the USA during the year to discuss her work with leading authorities in the field.

Hietanen MA, Price NSC, Cloherty SL, Chatzidimitrakis K, Ibbotson MR (2017). Long-term sensorimotor adaptation in the ocular following system of primates. *PLoS ONE* 12(12):e0189030 doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0189030.

Eskikand PZ, Kameneva T, Ibbotson MR, Burkitt AN, Grayden DL (2018). A biologically based computational model of visual cortex that explains the X-junction illusion. *Neural Networks* 2018 Jun;102:10-20. doi: 10.1016/j.neunet.2018.02.008. Epub 2018 Feb 16

VISUAL CONTROL OF FLIGHT

How do animals use visual cues to land on vertical surfaces? This is one of Ibbotson's long-standing interests, which has also generated substantial grant wins from the US military in the past. They are interested in flight biomimetics, i.e. the copying of complex control problems from flying animals to unmanned aerial vehicles. As part of a project that began nearly 20 years ago, we finalized the identification of a set of neurons in the honeybee nervous system that provide the control circuits for flight speed control, including the ability to land safely on vertical surfaces (Ibbotson et al. 2017). Moreover, Ibbotson was invited to write an editorial in the influential journal *Current Biology* about the unique flight control system used by hummingbirds for the same purposes (Ibbotson 2017).

Ibbotson MR (2017). Visual neuroscience: Hummingbirds have a unique neural system for flight stabilisation. *Current Biology* 27: R57-R76.

Ibbotson MR, Hung Y-S, Meffin H, Boeddeker N, Srinivasan MV (2017). Neural basis of forward flight and landing control in honeybees. *Nature Scientific Reports* 7(1):14591.



A hummingbird in flight

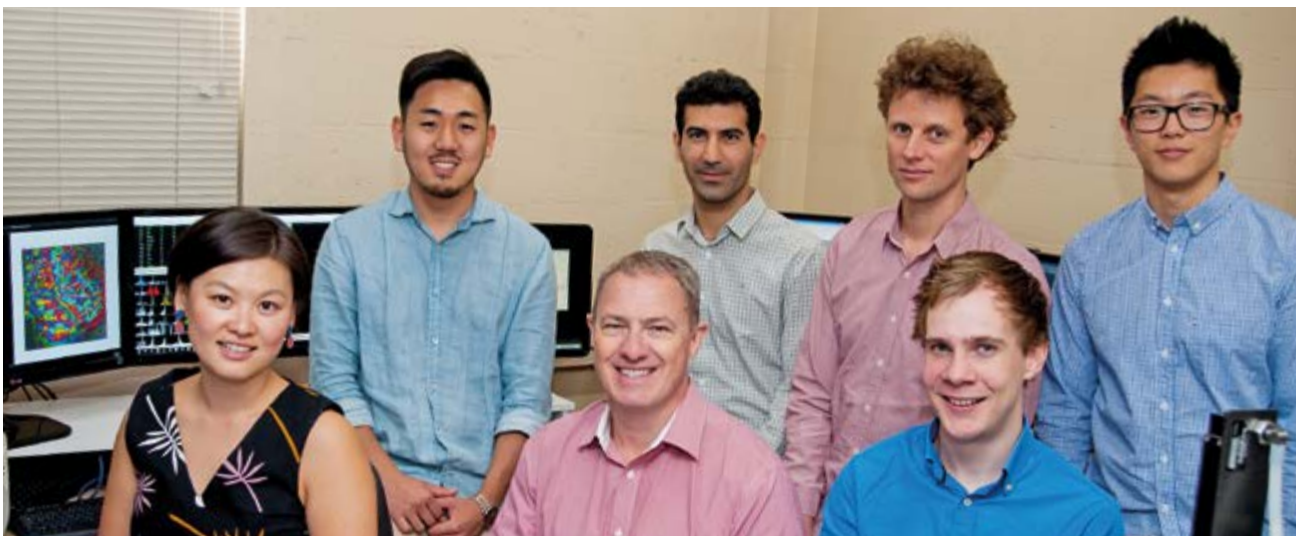
PUBLICATIONS

Neurotechnology

1. Ibbotson MR (2017). Visual Neuroscience: Unique neural system for flight stabilization in Hummingbirds. *Current Biology* Jan 23:27 (2)
2. Halupka KJ, Shivdasani MN, Cloherty SL, Grayden DB, Wong WT, Burkitt AN, Meffin H (2017). Prediction of cortical responses to simultaneous stimulation of the retina. *Journal of Neural Engineering* Feb 14(1):016006 (Epub Nov 30 2016)
3. Halupka KJ, Abbott CJ, Wong YT, Cloherty SL, Grayden DB, Burkitt AN, Sergeev EN, Luu CD, Brandii A, Allen PJ, Meffin H, Shivdasani MN (2017). Neural responses to multi-electrode stimulation of healthy and degenerate retina. *Investigative Ophthalmology Vis Sci* 1:58(9):3770-3784
4. Gawthorpe PJ, Siekmann I, Kameneva T, Saha S, Ibbotson MR, Crampin EJ (2017). The energetic cost of the action potential: bond graph modeling of electrochemical energy transduction in excitable membranes. *IET Systems Biology* pp 1-11
5. Garcia JE, Hung YS, Greentree AD, Rosa MGP, Endler JA, Dyer AG (2017). Improved colour constancy in honeybees enabled by parallel visual projections and dorsal ocelli. *Proc Natl Acad Sci* 18:114(29) 7713-7718
6. Ibbotson MR, Hung Y-S, Meffin H, Bodekker N, Srinivasan MV (2017). Neural basis of forward flight and landing control in honeybees. *Nature Scientific Reports*.
7. Hietanen MA, Price NSC, Cloherty SL, Chatzidimitrakis K, Ibbotson MR (2017). Long-term sensorimotor adaptation in the ocular following system of primates. *PLoS ONE* 12(12):e0189030

Clinical Research

1. Bruce AS (2017). *Contact Lens Practice 3rd Edition*, Chapter 37: Preliminary Examination. Efron N, Elsevier
2. Bruce AS (2017). *Contact Lens Practice 3rd Edition*, Chapter 41: Digital Imaging in Contact Lenses. Efron N, Elsevier
3. Bentley SA, Trevaskis JE, Woods CA, Guest DJ, Watt KG (2017). Impact of supervised student optometry consultations on the patient experience. *Clin Exp Optom* 13 Nov 2017 (ePub ahead of print) PDF
4. Pan Q, Liu Y, Wang R, Chen T, Yang Z, Deng Y, Zhao Z, Hu X, Chen X, Wei W, Zhang Z, Wang Y, Zheng J, Ke Z (2017). Treatment of Bacillus Cereus Endophthalmitis with Endoscopy Assisted Vitrectomy. *Medicine* 2017; 96: e8701.
5. Wang R, Bruce AS (2017). Rank order of IOP medications. *Australian Optometry (Pharma)* Pg 11-12 PDF
6. Kwok R, Bruce AS (2017). A sight for sore eyes - Clinical guidelines for managing dry eye in Sjogren's patients. *Australian Optometry (Pharma)* Pg 13-15 PDF
7. Tang V, Bruce AS (2017). When Dry Eye Heralds a Greater Threat - Vision and Life -Threatening Complications of Sjögren's Syndrome. *Australian Optometry (Pharma)* December 2017



Members of the NVRI visual cortex team

PRESENTATIONS

Presentations by NVRI Staff and Students

Author/Co-Authors	Title	Presentation Details
Tong W, Turnley A, Fox K, Prawer S, Garrett D.	Promoting the growth of neural cells on diamond surfaces.	11th Conference on New Diamond and Nano Carbon. Cairns, May 2017
Ibbotson MR	Brains that read your mind	Melbourne Knowledge Week Keynote Presentation. Melbourne, May 2017
Qin W, Hadjinicolaou A, Meffin H, Burkitt A, Grayden D, Ibbotson MR, Kameneva T.	Single-compartment models of retinal ganglion cells with different morphologies.	Twenty-sixth Annual Computational Neuroscience Meeting. Antwerp, July 2017
Tong W, Turnley A, Fox K, Prawer S, Garrett D.	Different strategies for enhancing the neural interaction on diamond surfaces.	World Conference on Carbon. Melbourne, July 2017
Almasi A, Cloherty SL, Grayden DB, Wong YT, Ibbotson MR, Meffin H.	Are receptive fields in visual cortex quantitatively consistent with the theory of efficient coding?	Twenty-sixth Annual Computational Neuroscience Meeting. Antwerp, July 2017
Yunzab M, Choi V, Meffin H, Cloherty SL, Scholl B, Priebe NJ, Ibbotson MR.	Contrast-dependent phase-sensitivity in mouse primary visual cortex: An intracellular study.	Australasian Neuroscience Society conference. Sydney, December 2017
Meffin H, Almasi A, Sun S, Cloherty SL, Wong YT, Yunzab M, Ibbotson MR.	Revisiting feature invariance of complex cells in primary visual cortex.	Australasian Neuroscience Society conference. Sydney, December 2017
Almasi A, Cloherty SL, Wong YT, Grayden D, Ibbotson MR, Meffin H.	On classification of simple and complex cells in primary visual cortex.	SCiNDU annual meeting. Brisbane, December 2017
Tong W, Apollo N, Stamp M, Meffin H, Garrett D, Ibbotson M, Prawer S.	Advances in Visual Neural Stimulation.	iBIONICS Technical Session. Montreal, December 2017

Presentations By Clinic Staff (Academic And Teaching)

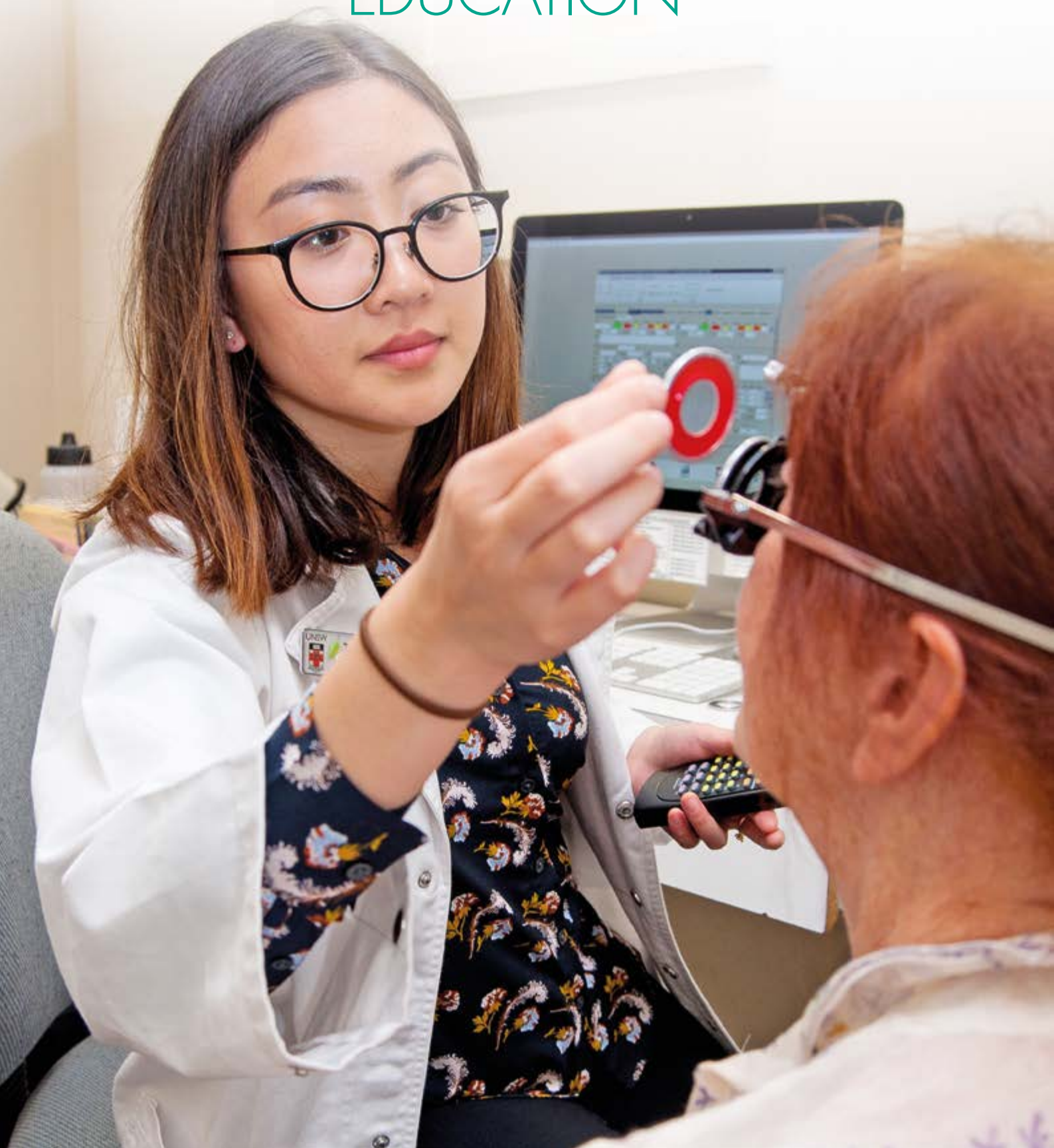
Author/Co-Authors	Title	Presentation Details
Bruce AS	Specialty Contact Lens Fitting	University of Melbourne, 3rd Year OD students, 15 February, 22 February, 2 March and 15 May 2017
Fricke TR	Evaluation of the Victorian Aboriginal Spectacles Scheme	Close the Gap for Vision by 2020 National Conference, Melbourne, 17 March 2017
Napper GA, Lovett L, Anjou M, Fricke T, Bentley SA	The Victorian Aboriginal Spectacles Scheme – Providing Successful Community Eye Health Outcomes	14th National Rural Health Alliance Conference, Cairns, 26 – 29 April 2017
Woods CA, Trevaskis JE, Guest DJ, Watt KG, Bentley SA	The patient experience during supervised student optometry care.	American Academy of Optometry Conference, Chicago, October 2017.
Ekinci E, Nguyen LM	Diabetes and Collaborative Care	Southern Regional Congress 27 May 2017
Fricke TR	Pathways for Solving Everyday Binocular Vision problems	Southern Regional Congress 28 May 2017
Ng HW, Chi J	Contact Lens: Fitting Grafts and Collaborative Care	Southern Regional Congress 28 May 2017
Bentley SA	Vision and Falls; Crash! When Vision Impacts Driving; What You Need to Know about Low Vision and Quality of Life	New Zealand Association of Optometrists 13 to 15 October 2017
Bruce AS	How to do OrthoK (Another Perspective)	International Contact Lens conference, Sydney, 10 September 2017

Presentations To Community Groups And Professional Groups (Not Conferences)

Author/Co-Authors	Title	Presentation Details
Bruce AS	Contact lenses for Advanced Applications	University of Melbourne, 3rd Year OD students, 15 February, 22 February, 2 March and 15 May 2017
	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Seminar series), 21 February	Close the Gap for Vision by 2020 National Conference, Melbourne, 17 March 2017
Chong MF	Vision Assessment for Sports Classification	Blind Sports and Recreation Victoria,
Serebrianik R	Eye Health – Caring for You and Your Family's Sight	Vision Initiative, Mandarin Carer's Support Group, Preston, 14 February 2017
Joshi A	Eye Health – Caring for You and Your Family's Sight	Vision Initiative, Senior German Group, Moonee Ponds and St Albans, 29 and 30 February 2017
Carozzi PN	Eye Health – Caring for You and Your Family's Sight	Vision Initiative, Lexington Retirement Village, Springvale, 24 March 2017
Ahmed S, Choi JCS	Foreign Body Removal	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Clinical Workshop), 29 April 2017
Napper G	Optometry Services	IPC Health Wyndham Vale, Wyndham Vale Elders Lounge Meet and Greet Seminar, 4 May 2017
Deen N	Children's Vision	MCHN Moonee Valley, Civic Centre, 16 May 2017
Burt B, Au SSH, Lotay J, Serebrianik R	Therapeutics weekend (Part 3) – External Eye (theory and practice)	ACO Continuing Professional Development, (Course), 21 May 2016
Bruce A, Hutanhan	Miniscleral Contact Lens Workshop	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Clinical Workshop), 17 June 2017
Serebrianik R	Seeing Red: What to do with Red Eye	Think GP Video Recording (online education resource for GPs) for Optometry Australia, 20 June 2017
Kharsas LM	Eye Health – Caring for You and Your Family's Sight	Vision Initiative, RSL Women's Auxillary Group, Dandenong, 21 June 2017
Li CHJ	Eye Health – Caring for You and Your Family's Sight	Vision Initiative, Men's Shed, Westvale Community Centre, St Albans, 12 July 2017
Bruce AS & ophthalmic supplier reps	OCT – Instruments and Technique	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Clinical Workshop), 22 July 2017
Serebrianik R, Pakrou N	OCT Workshop – Interpretation of Data	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Clinical Workshop), 22 July 2017
Chong MFA	Lens Correction and Technology Solution	Albinism Conference, Melbourne, 19 August 2017
Chong MFA, Edwards T	Binocular Indirect Ophthalmoscopy, Scleral Indentation and Pre-corneal Fundus Lens Examination	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Clinical Workshop), 26 August 2017
Huang ISY, Skalicky S	Gonioscopy and other glaucoma assessment techniques	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Clinical Workshop) 26 August 2017
Deen N, Mathew A, Higginbotham E, Howell E, Sipos-Ori C	Paediatrics Clinical Workshop	ACO Continuing Professional Development (Clinical Workshop), 8 September 2017
Serebrianik R	OCT Interpretation: Understanding the Basics and Avoiding the Pitfalls	Doctor of Optometry Student Conference, University of Melbourne, 21 September 2017
Chong MFA	Low Vision and Technology	Doctor of Optometry Student Conference, University of Melbourne, 21 September 2017
Ng HW	There Is More Than Meets The Eye: Specialisations In The Profession	Doctor of Optometry Student Conference, University of Melbourne, 21 September 2017
Arvanitis A	Diabetes and Your Eyes	Diabetes Support Group, Your Community Health, The Hub Reservoir, 2 October 2017

EDUCATION

EXPANDING OUR EDUCATION



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Providing best practice clinical learning pathways for optometrists from pre-registration through to professional practice.

RURAL AND REMOTE, city to city, coast to coast, ACO education continues to expand to reach optometrists throughout Australia. This year has seen a record number of people engage with our education program and we still have plenty more to offer.

Of great excitement was the release of the Glaucoma Self-Assessment Program (ACO-GAP), the first in a series of new and unique online programs for optometrists. This program will enable optometrists to self-assess their knowledge of specific eye conditions and their ability to provide an initial diagnosis of the condition, within a simulated and timed patient consultation.

The new Advanced Certificate in Children's Vision (ACO-ACCV) was also finalised with commencement in early 2018. The ACO-ACCV is a highly focused and clinically advanced course following an evidence based approach, delivered flexibly to suit the busy optometrist.

This year has seen a record number of people engage with our education program and we still have plenty more to offer.

I am thrilled to see the continued success of the ACO Certificate courses, attracting candidates from Australia, New Zealand, UK, Canada, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong & The Philippines. The ACO National Conference is always a highlight of the year and we are very proud that 2017 saw the highest number of delegates to this important event. Our annual CPD program also continued to provide value to our members and the profession with a diverse range of interesting topics and workshops.

It would be remiss of me not to give thanks to my predecessor, Jolanda De Jong, who farewelled the ACO in 2017. Jolanda was instrumental in growing the Education Division to what it is today.

I would like to acknowledge the professionalism and dedication displayed by all Education staff,



Marcel Mihulka
Director of
Education

curriculum committees and examiners who work tirelessly to support our members and education consumers, raise the profile of optometry education in Australia and contribute to the ongoing success of the ACO.

I am very much looking forward to the next 12 months as we continue to build on the diversity and strengths of the optometry profession and provide our members and education consumers with a strong and relevant professional home.

Highlights of the 2017 year included:

- ✎ the launch of the Advanced Certificate in Glaucoma, a six month online course with local clinical placements based along the same format as the Certificate in Advanced Contact Lenses launched in 2016
- ✎ the launch of our first self-assessment module – Glaucoma self-Assessment Program (GAP) which measures one's performance in 9 key areas in glaucoma diagnosis in a timed environment designed to simulate real-life clinic situations
- ✎ the launch of an online module on OCT Interpretation – By the Colours. Ten years' of experience in Optical Coherence Tomography data interpretation from two of the ACO's highly experienced optometrists – Dr Adrian Bruce and Mr Roman Serebrianik – condensed into a one hour lecture
- ✎ a new clinical workshop on ocular foreign body removal
- ✎ a further 10% growth in registrations in the ACO National Conference

Education Activity

The Education Division at the Australian College of Optometry aims to provide a range of quality education options to suit any optometrist and that offer a point of difference from what is offered elsewhere in the optometric continuous professional development space in Australia and New Zealand.

This range now comprises an ever expanding suite of Certificate Courses, clinical workshops giving hands-on practice in techniques in small group environments, seminar series lectures that can be accessed face to face or online, an interactive webinar package dedicated to improving therapeutic knowledge, self-assessment modules benchmarking one against

all other participants, online lectures on particular topics, a therapeutic refresher weekend and a national conference which covers a range of current and future topics of relevance to today's optometrist.

Continuing Professional Development

In 2017 the CPD calendar offered optometrists over 30 events comprising 7 clinical workshops, 10 Seminar Series lectures, six Therapeutic Webinars, a 3-course Therapeutics Weekend, a business development course the 2 day National Conference and 2 CPR days.

In answer to requests from optometrists, in 2017 we held a new clinical workshop on the removal of Ocular Foreign Bodies. Under Dr Suheb Ahmed's guidance, candidates practiced the removal of different foreign bodies from agar plates. Attendees rated the workshop very highly both in what they learnt and how their learnings would change their current practices. Repeat workshops on OCT, BIO, Gonioscopy and Paediatrics show there is still a need for small-group hands-on learning across a range of areas with the ACO one of the few to offer optometrists this type of learning. The therapeutic webinar package is an ideal form of online learning that provides interaction with the presenter and is accessible anywhere in the world while the Therapeutics Refresher Weekend delivers updates in anterior eye and posterior eye for those who are therapeutically endorsed.

National Conference

Between 2014 and 2017 the ACO has seen a 30% increase in attendance at the ACO National Conference. The conference once again reached record numbers in 2017, with a delegate increase of 10% from 2016.

94% of those who attended the 2017 Conference felt it met or exceeded their expectations and 78% said they would recommend the Conference to others. Attendees rated the breadth of the weekend (availability of CPD points); the interesting programs; and the availability of therapeutic points as the main reasons for attending. 58% of Conference attendees were members, with approximately 70% of all attendees based in Victoria. The remaining delegates came from all states across Australia, New Zealand as well as elsewhere overseas.

Presentations on the role of OCT in glaucoma and the symposium on alternative methods of treatment for glaucoma rated particularly well. Dr Jesse Gale impressed upon the audience the value of OCT in the diagnosis and management of glaucoma. Jesse also highlighted the relative merits of each imaging modality, but also alerted attendees to the possibility of OCT (structural) changes without concurrent (functional) changes in visual fields. He reiterated the benefits of OCT as a complement to – but not a substitute for – methodical clinical observations. Jesse was also highly sceptical of the view that OCT should be used as a routine or a targeted screening procedure.

**NATIONAL
CONFERENCE
2017**



Attendees at the 2017 ACO National Conference

The symposium entitled ‘The Alternative Approaches to the Management of Glaucoma’ was a fascinating discussion during which three glaucoma specialists offered some enlightening views. Dr Heathcote Wright addressed the fundamental issue of clearly identifying which patients were highly likely to suffer glaucomatous optic neuropathy before considering the need for treatment. In addition, Heathcote highlighted the value of central corneal thickness (CCT) as a powerful predictor of the risk of glaucoma. Dr Jesse Gale introduced the intracameral delivery of medication and explained the value of selective laser trabeculoplasty. Dr Nathan Kerr enumerated the benefits and limitations of minimally invasive glaucoma surgery (MIGS).

Innovative new program release

Glaucoma Self-Assessment Program (ACO-GAP)

The Education Division released an exciting new innovative program in 2017 titled the Glaucoma Self-Assessment Program or ACO-GAP for short. Meeting the fundamental objective to support and improve clinicians in their diagnostic and management skills relating to glaucoma, the program provided the unique ability to pin point and tabulate areas of weakness based on responses to a set of 90 real clinical scenarios. The tailor-made report directs practitioners back to evidence-based guidelines to review any areas of concern. “This is a novel concept and will meet future needs for the profession going forwards by enhancing practitioner awareness of the specific areas

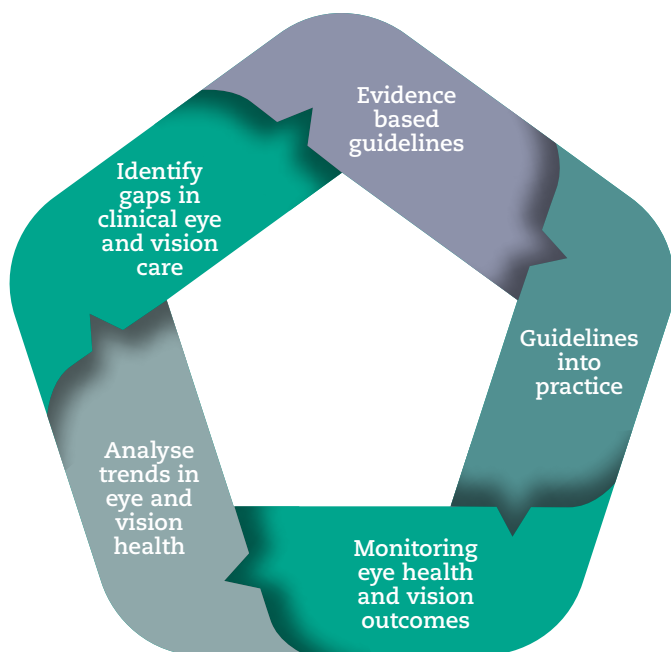


Figure 1. Continuous Quality Improvement Framework. Adapted from National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2016. *Making Eye Health a Population Health Imperative: Vision for Tomorrow*, Washington DC: The National Academies Press.

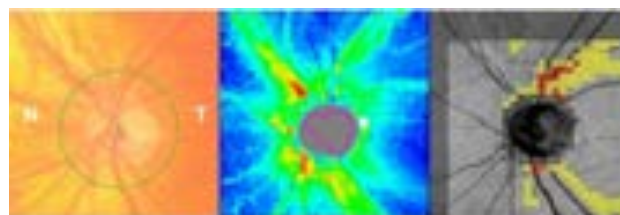


ACO optometrist Lauren Kharsas with patient Gurloveleen Bahl.

they can improve or obtain further education in,” said CEO Maureen O’Keefe, ACO. “There have been a number of impressed early adopters who have found this impressive program to delve into a clinical knowledge base and assess which areas can be improved,” said Marcel Mihulka, Director of Education at the ACO.

The program clearly aligns with the ACO’s aspiration to lead in the innovation space, and to continuously improve public health outcomes via the promotion of evidence based guidelines utilisation by practitioners (see Figure 1). “Often clinicians will not have the time to read even the best evidence based guidelines, such as the outstanding NHMRC Guidelines for Screening, Prognosis, Diagnosis, Management and Prevention of Glaucoma,” says Michelle Waugh, Course Program Manager. “One of the key abilities of this program is to place the evidence based outcomes within the context of real clinical scenarios and provide you with useful feedback on which to base further education.”

OCT Interpretation By the Colours



As Optical Coherence Tomography machines are introduced into more and more clinics, the need for a simplified explanation of OCT interpretation was identified. Two of the ACO’s accomplished optometrists, Dr Adrian Bruce and Mr Roman Serebrianik, have combined 10 years’ of experience into a one hour lecture that aims to simplify the understanding of OCT interpretation through the use of colours.

Marcel Mihulka
M.Ed MAICD
Director of Education

CERTIFICATE COURSES

ACO Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics

The ACO is pleased to inform that after successfully delivering 6 intakes of the Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics course in the past four years; we will be commencing the seventh intake in April 2018. As the numbers of non-therapeutic endorsed optometrists in Australia and New Zealand continue to decline with current and recent graduates already therapeutically endorsed, some education providers have chosen to discontinue their courses due to falling registrations. However, the ACO's Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics course continues to attract strong numbers for registration and we will continue to provide this course while there are optometrists requiring this qualification.

2017 saw two changes to the ACO-COT committee. As mentioned earlier, Jolanda de Jong farewelled the ACO after four years' of service as the General Manager Professional Development and Dr Jonathan Ruddle departed the committee after four years. Their guidance and hard work has greatly contributed towards the success of the course and we thank them both.

In a survey conducted in 2017, 90% of the candidates responded that they have significantly improved their diagnostic skills and the ability to manage Ocular disease. 98% of the candidates said that their course expectations were achieved and are happy to recommend the course to their friends and colleagues.

The ACO COT is unique with its flexible style of delivery through online learning, local clinical placements and assessments. 75% of candidates rated the flexible learning feature as their main reason for selecting the ACO for pursuing their therapeutic endorsement.

Candidate responses from the survey:

.....
“Easy to manage your learning with work and family commitments”

.....
“Very achievable as long as you follow the schedule which is very reasonably set out, and a lot of time is allocated for clinical placement and case studies”

.....
“Convenience, online learning structure was fantastic with the ability to revisit the lectures and webinars as required”

.....
“It was fantastic to be able to study without leaving home and to be able to organize local venues for exams and local clinical placements which strengthened relationships with local ophthalmologists, especially as I live in a rural area and most other CPD requires travel”

.....
“Online course good for single practitioner away from cities”

.....
“Extremely good course for learning new things and refresher with fantastic support”

ACO Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics Curriculum Committee:

- A/Prof Ian Gutteridge, MScOptom LOsc FAAO FACO PGCertOcTher
- A/Prof James Armitage, MOptom, PhD
- Dr Bang Bui, B.Optom, M.Optom, PhD, PGCOT
- A/Prof Colin Chan, MBBS(HONS) FRANZCO
- Prof Erica Fletcher, PhD, MScOptom, FAAO winner of the 2016 Glenn A Fry Award
- Dr Graham Wilson, MB ChB 1990 Otago; FRANZCO 2000
- Dr Jonathan Ruddle, MBBS, FRANZCO



Education Team (L-R): Marcel Mihulka, Linda Morton, Elizabeth Salvatore, Michelle Waugh, Shazia Tahseen, Ryan Rosario.





Advanced Certificate in Glaucoma

In this age of co-management of glaucoma patients and the need for optometrists to develop their skills in this area, nineteen optometrists signed up for the inaugural intake of the ACO Advanced Certificate in Glaucoma. “Flexible online learning” and the “course content” were the main reasons for people choosing this Certificate Course. Of the initial 19, four deferred for various reasons with the remainder continuing with the course.

Alan Burrow stated; ‘I found the course content to be extremely relevant, the method of delivery both convenient and efficient, especially for someone outside of the main cities. I feel that I have derived significant benefit and have been able to expand my knowledge on this topic which is especially important for me, as I see a large number of glaucoma patients.’

The ACO course is a six month course comprised of online lectures and local clinical placements which candidates described as “contributing greatly to their skills development”. Upon completion of the course 100% of the respondents either strongly agreed or agreed that both the ‘scope of their practice’ and their ‘critical decision making’ had improved as a result of this course.

Clinical placements at local ophthalmology clinics provide the candidates with the opportunity to develop



relationships with ophthalmologists near to them to assist with the co-management of their patients with glaucoma.

As one candidate described; ‘(I) loved how it gave me reasons for how I should treat the various glaucoma subtypes and my clinic co-manages many patients with ophthalmology ... so it was nice to connect with the surgeons once again and talk the right lingo’.

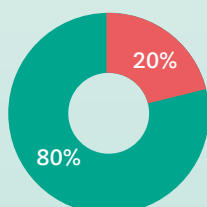
Certificate in Advanced Contact Lenses

Following the success of the first intake in the CACL certificate course in 2016, a second intake registered in 2017. Registrations for this cohort were 25% up on target and 32% up on the previous year with 22 going on to complete the course early December.

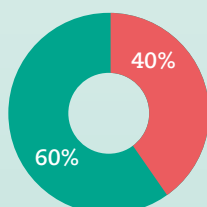
The provision of complex education modules like the ACO’s Certificate Courses cannot be achieved without the help of many people. From those who design the programs to those who present the lectures, assessors of case reports, logbooks as well as the guidance we receive from Clinic Staff, the steering and review committees, the ACO’s Education Division could not continue to expand its offerings without the assistance from all of the above. We would like to acknowledge the ongoing support we receive from all those involved in the development and continuation of our Certificate Courses.

Respondent feedback

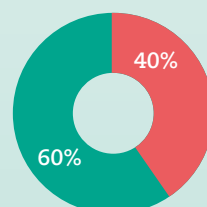
Course has significantly contributed to skills development



Scope of practice had increased



Critical decision making improved



● Strongly Agree
● Agree

Launching in 2018 – The Advanced Certificate in Children’s Vision

Developed in 2017 and launched early 2018 the widely anticipated Advanced Certificate in Children’s Vision attracted an impressively large cohort which spanned a variety of demographics and had a nationwide reach plus candidates from New Zealand. Several previous ACO-COT candidates also joined the first cohort following on the back of their previous positive experiences with ACO online certification.

As per previous Certificates, the ACO-ACCV offers a blended learning experience for candidates, combining didactic online lectures, written case reports and coordinated clinical placements. The other key features are: self-paced learning, academic article access and access to a vast cache of relevant books via the Nathan Library. To improve the interactive experience for candidates participating in this Certificate, we incorporated an assessment on forum participation.

The Education Division consulted widely with practitioners in the field to arrive with a thoughtful syllabus which achieves a balance of practical clinical pearls and clinically relevant evidence-based insights. Moreover, this is the first certificate to set a critical appraisal hurdle for candidates, to address the ever-present issue of quality when assessing the literature.

The ACO has been fortunate to work with an expert range of clinicians and scientists in the field from Australia and New Zealand and provides the most up-to-date diagnostic and management education on Binocular Vision assessment, Amblyopia, Strabismus (optometric and ophthalmic considerations), Nystagmus, Vision Therapy, Visual Perception, Learning related Vision Problems, Paediatric Ocular Diseases and Myopia Control.

“We hope to impart the mindset of how paediatric optometry works within a collaborative interdisciplinary environment, the differences between evidence-based practice and practice-based evidence and the importance of critical appraisal when assessing the information landscape and choosing the right management practices for the future” said Dr Michelle Waugh, the Course Program Manager.

The Certificate has benefitted from having outstanding external organisational representation, including Dr Monica Jong from the Brien Holden Vision Institute explaining the latest research to come out of the field of Myopia Control, as well as a representation of some of the best paediatric ophthalmologists from the Royal Children’s Hospital discussing paediatric ocular disease. However, ultimately, the course would not be possible without the paediatric optometrists, both from the ACO and private practice, who were able to take time out of their busy practice to create outstanding content for this course.

It is clear that there is a lot to learn as the field evolves, both in terms of updates in management based on the latest studies, and in terms of peer-learning

which is promoted via the clinical placement process. “There is still a lot being learned about what actually works in clinical practice and for which patients they most benefit, some of these techniques may not yet have been proven via randomly controlled trials and yet are worthy of debate and discussion among clinicians. The discussion forum associated with this Certificate allows a safe space to discuss with like-minded peers different treatment paradigms and content specific matters,” said Michelle Waugh.

Graduates receive post-nominals upon completion of the course.

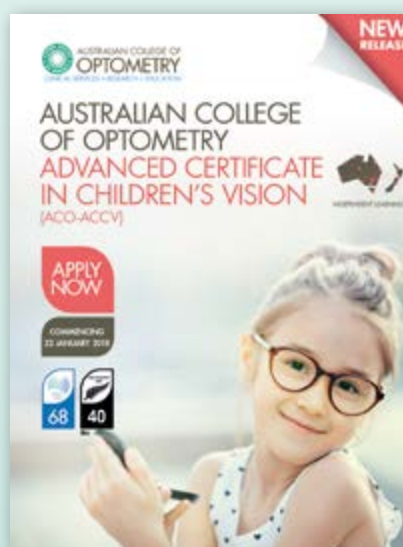
We acknowledge and thank the advisory committee and the lecturers who made the Advanced Certificate in Children’s Vision possible.

Advisory Committee

- A/Prof Rod Baker
- Dr Nellie Deen
- Mr Joe Choi

Lecturers

- Dr Michelle Waugh *B.Optom, MSc., PhD, CertOcThera.*
- Dr Nellie Deen *O.D.*
- A/Prof Edwin Howell *BSc.Optom, MSc, PhD, FACO, FACBO, FCOVD*
- Ms Jean Walters *BSc.(Optom) Grad. Dip. (Child development), Cert.OcThera, FACO*
- Dr Lisa Hamm *BSc. MSc. PhD*
- Dr Tina Gao *B.Optom, PhD*
- Ms Francoise Rateau *B.Optom, FACO*
- Mr Paul Croucher *B.Optom, FACO*
- Dr Lionel Koval *MBBS, FRACS, FRANZCO*
- Dr Elaine Wong *MBBS (Hons), MPH, FRANZCO*
- Ms Elisse Higginbotham *B.Optom, FACO*
- Mr Peter Nixon *B.Optom, FACO*
- Mr Daniel Chew *B.Optom, PGCertOcThera*
- Dr Anu Mathew *MBBS, FRANZCO*
- Dr Troy Lim Joon *MBBS, FRANZCO*
- A/Prof James Elder *MBBS, FRANZCO*
- Dr Jonathan Ruddle *MBBS, FRANZCO*
- Dr Monica Jong *B.Optom, PhD*



MEMBERSHIP

BUILDING MEMBERSHIP VALUE



OVERVIEW

To remain a strong, effective and sustainable membership organisation

THE ACO HAS BEEN OPERATING since 1940 as an independent education organisation. Founded by optometrists, it is the only not for profit member based organisation of its kind in Australia.

Our Membership comprises of optometrists and students across Australia, New Zealand and Internationally.

ACO members become part of a broader collegial optometry community and help increase the importance of eye health to the public and health professionals

ACO Membership entitles Members to be part of a respected optometry organisation which provides an invaluable service for the community especially those experiencing disadvantaged. It also delivers world class professional education for registered practitioners and optometry students and undertakes research into new and important areas of visual health through the National Vision Research Institute.

ACO Members become part of a broader collegial optometry community and help increase the importance of eye health to the public and health professionals as well as having access to a range of member benefits including voting rights as a fully paid ACO Member.

Members can access a large number of free education events, both in person and through the online learning platforms. They can gain access to a variety of online resources and publications and also apply for Fellowship, travel grants and access discounted world class professional education post-graduate level courses, workshops, courses and the ACO National Conference.

The ACO's national footprint continues to increase as interstate and overseas member participation in ACO online seminars and webinars continues to grow year on year.

The following anonymous quotes indicate why members value ACO Membership.

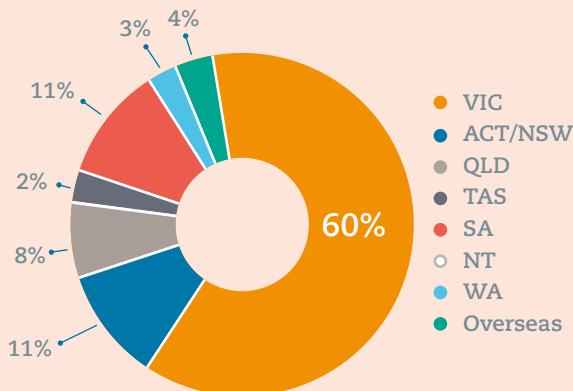
"I find my ACO Membership an invaluable part of my Continuing Professional Development. It provides a sense of community and professional support"

"ACO Membership is an important part of the profession. The ACO services, reputation and community services all significantly contribute to the standing of the profession"

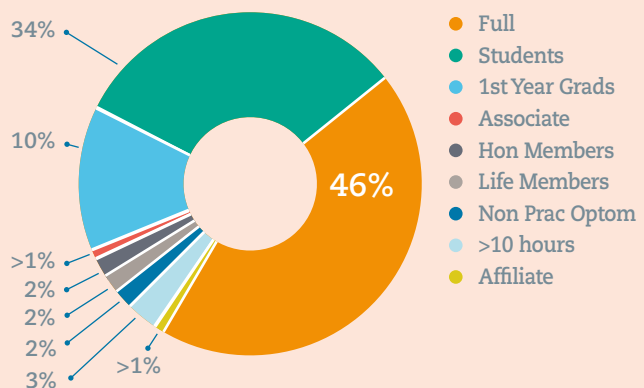
"My ACO Membership keeps me informed, up to date and connected to optometric networks and Continuing Professional Development opportunities"

"I highly recommend my colleagues to be part of the ACO's ethical optometry community"

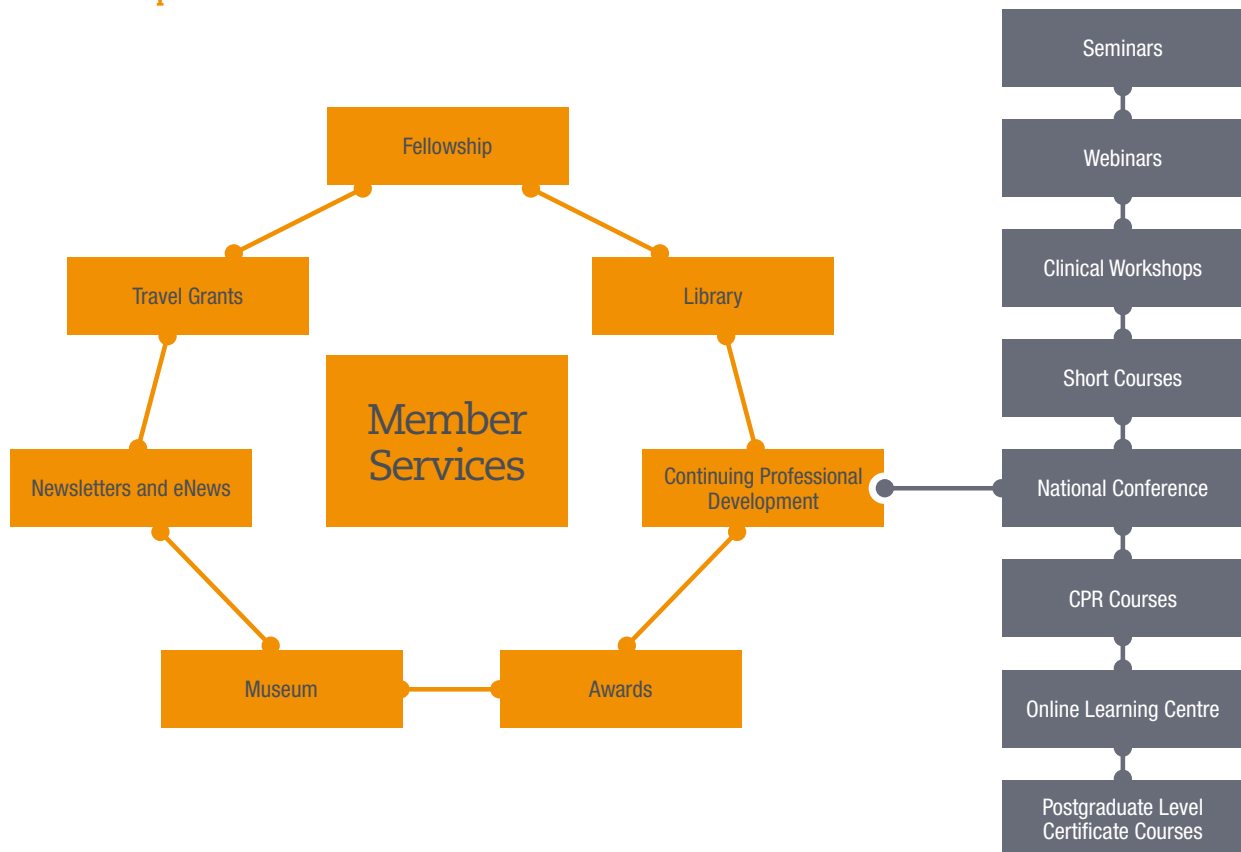
ACO members by location 2017



Members 2017



Membership features and entitlements



ACO TRAVEL GRANTS

ACO TRAVEL GRANTS are provided with the aim of giving members an opportunity to travel overseas in order to gain knowledge of international best practice or to contribute their time and skills to disadvantaged community either in remote Australia or overseas.

ACO Members Travel to ARVO

In 2017 the ACO awarded travel grants to two members to assist them to travel to the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) 2017 Annual Meeting.

This year's annual meeting was held in Baltimore, USA, from 7-11 May 2017. ARVO is the largest gathering of international eye and vision researchers in the world, with over 11,000 attendees. It featured a diverse program of keynote lectures, award lectures, special interest groups, poster sessions, symposiums, workshops and paper sessions that spanned across 5 days.

Luke Chong was awarded an ACO travel grant to present a poster at ARVO entitled "Perimetric Threshold Predictability between Goldmann Size III and V Stimuli".

Luke's presentation addressed whether it is feasible to switch from Goldmann size III to size V whilst continuing to monitor glaucomatous progression. It has been shown that a size V stimulus extends

the clinically useful dynamic range of visual field testing and has better repeatability than size III. Luke developed a novel sensitivity conversion model which allows for conversion between Goldmann size III and V stimuli. Using this model, he established that there is strong predictability between visual field thresholds obtained with size III and V stimuli.

Luke said "ARVO was a fantastic opportunity for me to present my research to other like-minded researchers around the world. It was encouraging to receive so much positive feedback and interest in the work I've been doing. Presenting at this conference enabled me to network with leading researchers in my field and to receive feedback from them which was invaluable. Aside from that, it was also interesting to learn about the latest trends and techniques in vision research outside of my field."

ACO Fellow Dr Carla Abbott was also awarded a travel grant to present her Centre for Eye Research Australia (CERA) research. This focused on both the preclinical and clinical safety and efficacy testing of Bionic Vision Australia's suprachoroidal retinal prosthesis for vision restoration purposes in patients with Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP).

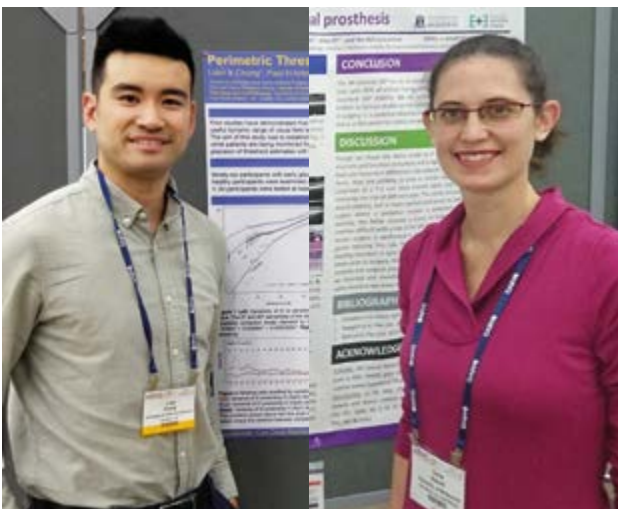
Carla's poster presentation entitled "Passive safety outcomes of a preclinical 44-channel suprachoroidal retinal prosthesis" was well-received and led to many detailed discussions with leaders in the bionic eye field.

Carla explained that “the successful outcomes of this work have led our multidisciplinary team at CERA and the Bionics Institute (BI) to proceed to our second human clinical trial, which we anticipate beginning later in 2017. There were several interesting presentations from the other retinal prosthesis groups detailing advancements in technology and clinical trial outcomes. There was particular interest from the bionic eye community in the initial results from the first clinical trial for use of the Argus™ II retinal prosthesis in advanced age-related macular degeneration patients with geographic atrophy, currently being conducted in Manchester, UK. Although patients experienced some adverse events requiring medical intervention, they reported stable vision and subjective integration of the normal peripheral vision with the artificial central vision.”

Carla also attended a pre-conference education course titled “Retinitis Pigmentosa – Novel treatments and Challenges”. She found this very useful in providing the latest results from clinical trials and preclinical work from the multiple streams of research focusing on providing treatment options for RP patients including stem cells, gene therapy, CRISPR and retinal prostheses. She noted that “as an optometrist, it is great to see how far all these research streams have come in hopefully providing several treatment options for RP patients in the future.”

Carla also spent half a day visiting Associate Professor Gislin Dagnelie’s laboratory at the Lions Vision Research Foundation within Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. A/Prof Dagnelie has been a principal investigator for clinical trials of the Argus™ II retinal prosthesis and the Optobionics Artificial Silicon Retina.

She states “it was great to gain insight into international retinal prosthesis clinical trials and hear about recent work he has been conducting in visual function measurement in low vision patients. Overall, I had an excellent, productive trip and I am very grateful to the ACO for their generous support.”



(L-R): Luke Chong and Dr Carla Abbott attending ARVO

WOMEN IN OPTOMETRY

“Women in the Life of the ACO’s Early Days”

By Dawn Odgers

IN 1946 THE AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY was an institution occupying half the 4th floor of Kurralong House in Collins Street. It was staffed by a Secretary, Mr Gray, a dedicated team of volunteer optometrists, and the additional relevant science subjects taught by The University of Melbourne’s faculty of Science (later applied Sciences).

The end of World War II brought a sudden staggering increase in the number of students enrolling each year, from a previous average of 3 or 4 to about 20 in 1946. There were made up of young returning servicemen (notably David Cockburn) and school leavers.

In 1950, 17 of these graduated, some completing additional Science subjects at The University of Melbourne before graduating later (notably Geoff Henry). Two of those graduates were women, joining the two or three already in practice.

... at a time when you sometime still heard expressions of prejudice against women in other professions. It was not so in Optometry.

Because of this sudden increase in student numbers, the College facilities had to be shared e.g. patients had each eye examined by a separate student, with a third “observing” and a clinician supervising, making the four small examination cubicles extremely crowded.

Dispensing the resulting prescription required the patient – or someone – to provide a second hand frame (and possible a toothpaste tube to be used to secure an overenthusiastically edges lens!). The frame was heated over a small electric “heater”, which doubled as a sandwich toaster for some students who used the laboratory for its other role of lunchroom.

The decision to move the College to Cardigan Street, where two of the old terrace houses could be converted to more adequate accommodation spreading gradually into adjoining house sites, was brave and sensible but also financially challenging! While funds were sourced for the bare bricks and mortar so as to transform these old houses to this purpose, furnishings and “luxuries” like a large sign on the outside wall of the building to enable visually impaired patients to find the Clinic, were lacking. A

“Women’s Auxiliary” of wives, mothers and other far sighted women was proposed to fundraise for this. Geoff Henry loudly rejected this idea of a “mother’s club”, tainting the image of this scholarly establishment – but he also wanted the money! So, reluctantly he agreed, provided the group was called the Women’s Optometric Group (WOG). And so they sprang into action (circa 1960) and raised the necessary funds.

The contribution of women was by no means restricted to fundraising and the whole profession encouraged and appreciated the achievements of people like Helen Robbins who became National President of the Optometric Association. Also Sue Kalf, long time Chair of the NVRI Board.

Women have contributed to various paediatric groups through the years, notably Margaret Banks whose dedication to behavioural optometry was honoured with an Order of Australia.

The public gradually became aware that women were an integral part of the profession e.g. I spent my first year in the Donald practice of Ray Swaby who was moving to Hamilton. Ray’s name and contribution to rural optometric is commemorated by the NVRI.

On one occasion, an elderly mum and dad arrived from their remote farm in Donald. They were aghast to learn that they would not be seeing the well-respected Mr Swaby, but a young woman! From the city!!!

Horrified at having spent all that money coming into town on the “Match Box” [a diesel bus converted to run on train lines], ‘Dad’ decided there was nothing for it, but to come in together, and he would “get done” first to see how it went. To my alarm, at the end of the examination, he leaped out of the chair, grabbed “Mum”– saying “Gee Mum, come and have a go, it’s beaut!”

The optometry “trade” also learned that women were here to stay. While Melbourne optical firms welcomed female customers, the international firms took a little while longer to do so. A Japanese company visiting to introduce the new “Varilex” lens was very reluctant to allow me into the room for their presentation until one of their group realised I was a professional part of the group. A year or so later they returned to introduce an updated version of the lens. The doubting member greeted me warmly saying, “How good to see you again!”

It was never any problem with optometrists, or students, at a time when you sometime still heard expressions of prejudice against women in other professions. It was not so in optometry. I heartily congratulate, and thank the men and boys for their mature and helpful behaviour towards women.

The current generation is a tribute to this and the public the better for it.



Dawn Odgers (R) with Honorary archivist Pamela Sutton

CYRIL W KETT OPTOMETRY MUSEUM AND ARCHIVE

THE KETT OPTOMETRY MUSEUM acquires and preserves items of importance in the history of optometry. These include books, ophthalmic equipment, spectacles and lenses, photographs and videos, archival papers, works of art and ephemera.

The Kett Museum was established in 1970. It has its foundation in the gift of an ophthalmic collection belonging to Melbourne optometrist, Cyril W Kett FBOA FSMC FVOA (1890-1970) who was one of the founders of the College in 1940 and was Chairman of its Council from 1944 to 1947.

The Museum is a member of Museums Victoria and a contributing partner to Trove, the aggregator platform of the National Library of Australia.

Honorary archivists

Michael J Aitken *LOSc*

Colin B Bates *BScOptom LOSc*

Joseph Chakman *AM BSc*

Barry L Cole *AO PhD MAppSc BSc LOSc FAAO FACO*

Pamela R Sutton *BScOptom FACO*

Statistics	2017	2016
Total catalogued items at Dec 31	3391	3133
Items catalogued	258	421
Acquisitions	306	491
Number of donors of items	25	36

Widening the reach of the Museum

The Museum widened its reach in 2017. It entered into partnership with the National Library of Australia to become a contributor to the NLA's aggregator, TROVE. The contents of the Kett Museum's catalogue are now regularly harvested into TROVE. Users of TROVE can now find information in the Kett Museum relevant to their search and be directed to the Museum's full catalogue record and historical notes. At the same time we opened the catalogue to Google searches.

The Museum also began reaching out to offer its historical preservation services to the optometry associations of Australia. The Museum invited the former long-serving CEO of Optometry Australia, Joe Chakman AM, to become an honorary archivist, specifically to liaise with the National and State Associations about the preservation of historical material in their possession.



Joe Chakman AM.
A new honorary archivist

He enthusiastically accepted and has started liaising with the associations with great success. Already 86 items of historical importance have been donated by Optometry Australia, Optometry NSW/ACT and Optometry Queensland/NT. Material has also come from South Australia donated by former Optometry Australia President, Ian Bluntish.

Donors

There were 25 donors this year. Some are regulars and others new, and some just cleaning out the back room or offering us great-granny's spectacles. We thank them all.

Donors are not always optometrists. The Museum receives material from members of the general public, often the descendants of optometrists or sometimes just collectors.

This year the descendants of Victorian optometrist Henry Van Heems (1813-1917) made a donation of material related to Van Heems and relatives of an early Queensland optometrist, Ella Pink (1890-1986) donated a large collection of material owned by her. She was one of the few female optometrists in Australia in the early years of the 20th century and possibly the first Australian woman to qualify by examination in 1915 for the Fellowship of the Spectacle Makers Company (London) and the dioptric certificate of the British Optical Association.

Perhaps the most notable donation in 2017 was a tin-glazed earthenware tile depicting a spectacle seller. The tile was made in Delft, The Netherlands, more than 350 years ago, about 1650. It was donated by Pamela Sutton, one of our honorary archivists and a Fellow of the College. She found this valuable antique when she was visiting Amsterdam and generously decided to buy it for the Kett Museum.



A prized acquisition: a Delft tile depicting a spectacle seller circa 1650

Historical research

The honorary archivists research the provenance and origins of material catalogued for the Museum the results of which are recorded in the "Historical Significance" field of the catalogue record. Sometimes this leads to a more thorough investigation the results of which are published.

These papers were published in 2017:

1. Cole BL. Serving optometry for 100 years: the story of Clinical and Experimental Optometry. *Clin Exp Optom* 2017; 100(4): 303-312
2. Cole BL. Did TR Procter bring modern optometry to New Zealand and Australia? An investigation through archival newspapers. *Hindsight: Journal of Optometry History* 2017; 48: 34-51.

The Museum Exhibition Gallery

In 2015 it was decided that the Kett Museum should have an exhibition gallery to display some of the most interesting items in the Museum's collection and use them to tell the story of optometry.

This is an exciting but challenging task. A concept plan has been developed by Thylacine, a highly regarded firm of Museum consultants. Fifteen displays have been planned by the honorary archivists. Full design development and construction began in 2018.



Concept design for the entry to the new exhibition gallery for the museum

NATHAN LIBRARY AND MEMBERS LOUNGE

IN 2017, THE NATHAN LIBRARY and members lounge have surpassed the previous years number of requests for resources, especially with the 2017 intake of the ACO Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics. The library was also pleased to support the candidates of the new post graduate level course ACO-Certificate in Advanced Contact Lenses (ACO-CACL) and Advanced Certificate in Glaucoma with their reading material and journal requests.

Most of the requests received by the library supported candidates with their required reading and their preparation of case reports and there was also a substantial increase in Members requesting articles. 760 document delivery requests were accomplished in 2017.

The resources made available through the Nathan Library make it possible for us to almost service all requests. However, if unable to source a book or article ourselves we are grateful that requests can be supplied through the Library's membership of the Association of Vision Science Libraries (AVSL) and Gratisnet. In return, the Nathan Library continues to support these channels with requests for articles that were not available anywhere else, making us very proud to have such an outstanding and unique resource within our own College.

In addition to the Nathan Library's collection of specialist books in the fields of optometry, ophthalmology, vision science and optics we house the two significant archival collections; Aitken Rare Book and Hewett collection. These collections can be accessed through the Nathan Library's web catalogue as well as the Kett Museum and Archive's own catalogue. There has been an increase in members and staff requesting items from the extensive reserve book collection.

IN MEMORIAM

Vale Duncan Barnett

Duncan Barnett graduated from UNSW in the class of 1992. Immediately following graduation, he was employed in regional South Australia in the practice owned by Ken Long. He and Ken enjoyed a number of years of association, during which Duncan became part of the local community with sports and other community groups.

He eventually purchased the business when Ken relocated to Victoria, and continued his strong engagement with the local community and care for his patients. After almost a decade he established a brand new practice, also in regional SA, this time in Victor Harbour. The practice thrived with Duncan consulting his patients with diligence, good humour and a genuine sense of care. He established strong links with colleagues and the medical team in town, receiving many referrals from GPs, and co-managing a number of patients with the visiting Ophthalmologists. He invested in quality equipment for his clinical work, always with the aspiration of providing the best care possible for his patients. He also was more than compliant with continuing professional development requirements, viewing CPD as a necessity to stay current with contemporary models of care. He also relished the opportunity to network with colleagues and industry partners, and enjoyed the "down time" that CPD afforded. He was staunchly independent, proud of his chosen profession, and dedicated to his patients. His membership with the Australian College of Optometry since 2010, Optometry SA and Cornea & Contact Lens Society were cherished. He saw benefit in supporting organisations whose values aligned with his own - high quality care offered in environments that allowed for professional independence. Duncan was a professional Optometrist whose energy and enthusiasm for his craft was an inspiration. In recent years he was involved in the supervision of Optometry students from Flinders University undergoing clinical placements, and instilled in those students a passion for full scope Optometry. His patients, community, colleagues and the members of the wider Optometry profession who knew him mourn his loss. Vale Duncan.



Duncan Barnett

Members ACO

Life Members

1961 Lady Meriel Wilmot-Wright
 1963 Dr Alan Isaacs AM
 1965 Dr Jonathan Nathan OAM FACO
 1981 Emer Prof H Barry Collin AM, FACO
 1990 Prof Barry L Cole AO, FACO
 1994 Ms Jean S Colledge PSM
 2007 Mr John L Pettit, FACO
 2011 Mr Graham O. Hill, FACO, OAM
 2012 Mr Ross W Harris, FACO
 2012 Prof Hugh Taylor AC
 2013 Mr Wolfgang F Gartner, FACO
 2013 Mr Anthony J Gibson OAM, FACO
 2013 A/Prof Ian F Gutteridge, FACO
 2013 Anthony Hanks OAM
 2014 Prof Ian L. Bailey
 2014 Prof Janette E Lovie-Kitchin
 2015 Emer Prof Kenneth J Bowman AM
 2016 A/Prof Rodney Watkins AM, FACO

ACO Fellows

Dr Carla J. Abbott, FACO
 Mr Hans-Peter Abel, FACO
 Rev Douglas G Allen, FACO
 Mr Nicholas C. Anderson, FACO
 Mr Michael G Andrews, FACO
 Mr Mitchell D. Anjou AM, FACO
 Mr Max J Astri, FACO
 Mr Dimitrios Athanasakis, FACO
 Dr Lauren Nicole Ayton, FACO
 Ms Nicole J. Baines, FACO
 Mr Rod Baker, FACO
 Mrs Margaret M Banks OAM, FACO
 Mrs Kristina Barnhill, FACO
 A/Prof Sharon Bentley, FACO, PhD
 Mr Terence H. Blake, FACO
 Mr Ian S. Bluntish, FACO
 Mr Antony L Bolton, FACO
 Mr Ian W. Bouchier, FACO
 Mr Ian D Breadon, FACO

Dr Adrian Bruce, FACO
 Miss Susan L Callahan, FACO
 Mr Giorgio Campanella, FACO
 Mr Brian J Carney, FACO
 Mr Piers N Carozzi, FACO
 Dr Kathryn A. Case, FACO
 Mrs Jennifer M. Caulfield, FACO
 Mr Kuong Chang, FACO
 Miss Jessica Chi, FACO
 Mr Jeffrey Chibert, FACO
 Mr Joseph CS Choi, FACO
 Mr Luke Xiang-Yu Chong, FACO
 Mr Christopher K. Chong, FACO
 Ms Mae Chong, FACO
 Dr Gillian Cochrane, FACO, PhD
 Prof Barry L Cole AO, FACO
 Emer Prof H Barry Collin AM, FACO
 Dr Heather Connor, FACO
 Ms Jenny B. Cooke, FACO
 Mr Norman H Corbett, FACO
 Mr Darren G. Couch, FACO
 Mrs Sandra J Coulson, FACO
 Mr Jeffrey J. Coulson, FACO
 Mr Peter M Craven, FACO
 Mr Paul H Croucher, FACO
 Ms Jennifer M. Currie, FACO
 Dr Paris P Deliyannis, FACO
 Ms Rachel Denham, FACO
 Mr Paul Donaldson, FACO
 Mr Ian S Douglas, FACO
 Mr Anthony G Dowling, FACO
 Dr Laura Elizabeth Downie, FACO
 Ms Sally K Doyle, FACO
 Mr Robert B Drewitt Smith, FACO
 Ms Jane F. Duffy, FACO, OAM
 Prof Nathan Efron, AC FACO
 Mr Clifton Egarr, FACO
 Mr John W. Farmer, FACO
 Prof Erica L Fletcher, FACO
 Mr Timothy R Fricke, FACO
 Mr Bryan P Fuller, FACO
 Mr Wolfgang F Gartner, FACO
 Ms Sonja U Gaulke, FACO
 Prof Alexander Gentle, FACO
 Mrs Anne Gibson, FACO
 Mr Anthony J Gibson OAM, FACO

Mr Malcolm Gin, FACO
 Mr Kenneth B Gregory, FACO
 A/Prof Ian F Gutteridge, FACO
 Mr Michael C Hare, FACO
 Mr David P Hare, FACO
 Mr Andrew K Harris, FACO
 Mr Ross W Harris, FACO
 A/Prof Leo P. Hartley, FACO, MBBS
 Ms Tania L Hartung, FACO
 Ms Elizabeth F. Hatfield, FACO
 Dr Charlotte Hazel, FACO
 Mr Graham O. Hill, FACO, OAM
 Dr Suit May Ho, FACO, PhD
 Mr Robert I Holloway, FACO
 Mr Glenn M. Howell, FACO
 Dr Edwin R Howell, FACO
 Mrs Petra M Hurleston, FACO
 Mr Rodney Jackson, FACO
 A/Prof Robert J. Jacobs, FACO
 Mr Donald S Jessop, FACO
 Dr Alan W. Johnston AM, FACO
 Mr Stephen J Jones, FACO
 Mrs Susan Kalff, FACO
 Mr Chris Katopodis, FACO
 A/Prof Peter R. Keller, FACO
 Mr Ian Kent, FACO
 Mr John M Kingshott, FACO
 Dr Bradley Kirkwood, FACO
 Mr Michael G Knipe AM, FACO
 Dr Carol Lakkis, FACO
 Dr Graham Lakkis, FACO
 Mr Sam Lauriola, FACO
 Mr David J Lawry, FACO
 Ms Nicole J. Leong, FACO
 Mr Mark B Letts, FACO
 Mr Geoffrey A Leunig, FACO
 Dr Josephine Li, FACO
 Mrs Ka-Yee Lian, FACO
 Mr Richard G Lindsay, FACO
 Mr Robert T Loutit, FACO
 Mr Peter D Martin, FACO
 Mr Andrew G Maver, FACO
 Mr Christopher J McDonald, FACO
 Mr Ross McDowell, FACO
 Mr Kurt A Mechkaroff, FACO
 Dr Alan Kwok Hei Mok, FACO
 Ms Paula Monaco, FACO
 Mr James J Moran, FACO

Dr Genevieve A. Napper, FACO
 Dr Jonathan Nathan OAM, FACO
 Ms Leanne Nguyen, FACO
 Dr Bao Nguyen, FACO, PhD
 Mr Peter J Nixon, FACO
 Mr Markus N Ochsenbein, FACO
 Mrs Majella I O'Connor, FACO
 Mr Russell G Oldham, FACO
 Mr Donald R Owen, FACO
 Mr Brett L Parsons, FACO
 Ms Sonia Pellizzer, FACO
 Prof Konrad Pesudovs, FACO
 Mr John L Pettit, FACO
 Mrs Anne J Pezzimenti, FACO
 Mr Orlando J Pezzimenti, FACO
 Mr Trevor S Pritchard, FACO
 Miss Francoise S Rateau, FACO
 Miss Helen G. Robbins, FACO
 Mr Neil F Roche, FACO
 Mr Kevin Rooney, FACO
 A/Prof Mark Roth, FACO
 Mrs Anne R Russell, FACO
 Mr Norman J Russo, FACO
 Mr George J. Sahely, FACO
 Ms Janelle J. Scully, FACO
 Mr Roman Serebrianiuk, FACO
 Mr Gregory P Sly, FACO
 Dr Damien P. Smith, FACO, FFAO
 Mr Kent D Snibson, FACO
 Mrs Jenni M Sorraghan, FACO
 Dr Margaret A Squires, FACO
 Mrs Susanne E Strachan, FACO
 Mr Gregory J Strachan, FACO
 Mrs Hayley Supple, FACO
 Mrs Pamela R Sutton, FACO
 Mr Kenneth W Thomas, FACO
 Mr Neville W. Turner, FACO
 Mr Peter J Turner, FACO
 Mrs Lesley J Vedelago, FACO
 Mr Glenn A Vessey, FACO
 Dr Stephen Vincent, FACO, PhD
 Ms Carmela Violi, FACO
 Mr Leonidas D Vlahakis, FACO
 A/Prof Richard T. Vojlay, FACO
 Ms Jean M. Walters, FACO

Mr John A Warren, FACO
 A/Prof Rodney Watkins AM, FACO
 Dr Harrison Weisinger, FACO, PhD
 Mrs Carolyn J West, FACO
 Mr David West, FACO
 Dr Anne E Weymouth, FACO
 Mr David S Wilson, FACO
 Ms Rosemary E Wilson, FACO
 Mr Darryl G Wilson, FACO
 Miss Eva P Wong, FACO
 Dr George C Woo, FACO
 Prof Craig A. Woods, FACO
 Dr Yota Yoshimitsu, FACO
 Mr Konstantinos Zagoritis, FACO
 Mr Robert P Zent, FACO

Honorary Members

Mr Michael J Aitken
 Rev Douglas G Allen, FACO
 Mrs Margaret M Banks OAM, FACO
 Ms Ronda H Beer
 Mrs Miriam Bergman
 Mr Raymond H Blizzard
 Mr Brian J Carney, FACO
 Dr Barry AJ Clark
 Mr Norman H Corbett, FACO
 Mr Clifton Egarr, FACO
 Mr Michael J Frith
 Mrs Anne Gibson, FACO
 Mr Donald S Jessop, FACO
 Mr Francis A Keogh
 Mr Geoffrey A Leunig, FACO
 Mr Robert T Loutit, FACO
 Prof Ted Maddess
 Prof Geoffrey McColl
 Mr John E McGibbony
 Miss Dawn G Odgers
 Mr Donald R Owen, FACO
 Dr Damien P. Smith, FACO, FAAO
 Dr Gad Trevaks, AM
 Mr Peter J Turner, FACO
 Mr Duncan R Waite
 Dr George C Woo, FACO
 Mr Ronald N Wrigley

ACO Members

Mr Stuart K. Aamodt
 Mr Ian D. Abraham
 Dr Julie M. Albietz
 Mrs Amani Alghanem
 Mr Claude Allen
 Mr John Murray Altmann
 Miss Susan Anastasiadis
 Dr Andrew J Anderson
 Mrs Mary Andreou
 Ms Dianne Andrews
 Mr Ian K. Angell
 Mrs Carole A Anjou
 Mr David Antonios
 Miss Johanna K Arendsen
 Dr Azrin Ariffin
 A/Prof James Armitage
 Mr Shaheen Asgar
 Dr Benjamin D. Ashby
 Mr Con Athanasiou
 Mr Constantine Atzemakis
 Mr Darrell Anthony Baker
 Mrs Kirsty Banfield
 Miss Alyce Barich
 Mr Michael Barradell
 Mr Colin B Bates
 Mr Adrian J. Bell
 Mrs Michelle D. Bell
 Mr Reginald F Bennett
 Mr Mark G Besley
 Mr Dean C Binns
 Mr Geoffrey Phillip Blackwell
 Mrs Natasha Boase
 Ms Kirsten B. Bolton
 Dr Antonio M. Borazio
 Mr Mario Borazio
 Miss Sonia Louise Bostjancic
 Ms Katherine Bouma
 Ms Kirily Bowen
 Mr David Peter Box
 Ms Amanda R. Brand
 Miss Shelley Eliza Brannigan
 Ms Riona T Brennan
 Ms Sonja Katherine Brock
 Miss Cassandra Brooks
 Mrs Rosanna Bruno
 Mr Matthew J. Buckis
 Mr John G Buckley
 Ms Debra K Bunting
 Mr Eddie Burgin
 Dr Alan Burrow
 Mrs Samantha J. Bushby
 Mrs Karyn Champion
 Mrs Clare E Campitelli
 Mr Dario L Canale
 Mr Jonathan Cawley
 Dr Rufina Tin Yan Chan
 Ms Kwok Yan, Winnie Chan
 Ms Ashley Chan
 Mr Ka Sing Chan
 Mr Chuong Trieu Chau
 Mr Po Y Chen
 Mr Daniel Chew
 Mrs Raelene Christ
 Dr Michael G. Christian
 Mr Graham N Chuck
 Mr Simon Clark
 Mr Philip Clem
 Mrs Janelle Coates
 Ms Judith H Coey
 Mrs Rashelle P Cohen
 Mrs Hayley Louise Colbert
 Mr Anthony Collivas
 Dr Emma J. Colquhoun
 Mrs Jennie C Cooke
 Mr Daniel Corti
 Mrs Gemma Cowan
 Mr John G Cronin
 Mr Andries Herman Cronje
 Miss Magdalena Cullinan
 Mr Bill E. Cutler
 Ms Lesley Dacion
 Mrs Alyse D'Agostini
 Mr Bhargav Dave
 Mrs Shannon Davies
 Mr John R Davies
 Mr Jelle Feike De Bock
 Mr Michael De Felice
 Mr Salvatore De Pasquale
 Mrs Lisa Jean Deacon
 Mr Simon P. Della Vedova
 Miss Sinead Denny
 Mr Mark A DePaola
 Mr Salvatore Di Falco
 Mr Paul Dini
 Mrs Katherine Dini
 Mr Lawrance Dove
 Mrs Melissa J. Downing
 Mr Daniel I. Duldig
 Mr Cameron J Dyson
 Mr Andrew K Eastaugh
 Mr Matthew Eastes
 Mr Jose Javier Estevez
 Ms Carolyn M Evans
 Ms Belinda Giuseppina Falletti
 Ms Haroula Fantaoutsakis
 Mr Luke Farquhar
 Mr Daniel J Farrugia
 Mr Gregory J Fielder
 Mr John Patrick Fitzgerald
 Mr Brendan Fitzpatrick
 Mr Christopher Mark Rohan Fonseca
 Mr Mark C. Fortey
 Miss Caroline Foster
 Mr Timothy J Fowler

Mr Anton Frank
 Ms Carolyn J. Galloway
 Ms Lori Leanne Gaterell
 Ms Anna Lee Gatsios
 Ms Melissa Genovesi
 Mr Patrick Gerry
 Mr Stephen A. Giacon
 Ms Mirella C Giorlando
 Mr Russell Glasser
 Mr Adam Gloury
 Mr Rory B Gordon
 Mr Rodney J. Gordon
 Ms Katherine Gouliaev
 Mr Ashley Grace
 Mr Alan N Greenhill
 Mr Andrew S. Greer
 Ms Anne Louise Greeves
 Ms Suzanne Gregory
 Dr Victoria Grimsey
 Mr Giuseppe Grossi
 Dr Zheng Guan
 Ms Deborah-Anne Hackett
 Mrs Marrwa Hafez
 Mr Peter Haman
 Mr Benjamin Hamlyn
 Mrs Linda J. Harris
 Ms Kerry Hart
 Ms Sandra J Heaney
 Ms Suzanne Heaps
 Mr Tristan James Heath
 Ms Emily Henry
 Mr Aaron Henry
 Ms Amy O Higginbotham
 Ms Elisse J Higginbotham
 Mr Luke Higgins
 Mrs Carol Hinch
 Mr Huy Q. Ho
 Mr Richard H. Ho
 Miss Sao Mai Hoang
 Mrs Janine Hobson
 Mr Rodney Hodge
 Ms Mary-Louise Hooton
 Mrs Nayha Patel Hopkins
 Ms Annelisa Howes
 Mr Tomas Josef Hruby
 Miss Chia-Wei Hsieh
 Mr Russell L. Hunter
 Ms Anh Huynh
 Mr Kenneth Ingram
 Miss Koon Ching Ip
 Miss Brittny Ismail
 Mr Darko Anthony Ivkovic
 Ms Leesa M. Jagers
 Mr John J Jalowicki
 Ms Lisa M. Jansen
 Mrs Michelle Jedwood
 Mr Robert B Jenkinson
 Ms Erica Jane Johnston

Mr Paul Leon Johnstone	Mr Kenneth R Long	Mr Bruce Vivian Nicholls	Mr David C Southgate
Mrs Diane A. Jones	Mr Anthony C Lord	Mrs Neda Nikanjam	Mrs Jennifer A Spicer
Mr David Albert Jones	Miss Michelle Lucas	Mr Neville J Noller	Ms Samantha St John
Miss Anita Jones	Mr Ronnie Lui	Mr Brendan C Norden	Ms Karina Stephens
Miss Katrina Kalff	Miss Tuyet Quan-Sharon Ly	Dr Rebecca Nowaczek	Mr Michael John Stevens
Prof Michael Kalloniatis	Ms Hue K. Ly	Miss Sally O'Brien	Ms Glenda Lee Stewart
Mr Chris Karanasio	Mr Michael Macbeth	Mr Kevin M O'Brien	Miss Kyra Stretton
Mr Phillip A. Kearney	Mr Graeme Kenneth Mackenzie	Dr Abigail O. Odarno	Mr Wayne A. Strudwick
Mrs Naomi Joy Keast	Mr Ashley M Madeira	Mr Adam Olechnowicz	Mr Gerald C Sue
Ms Danielle Keogh	Ms Julia C. Mainstone	Mr Malcolm David Omrod	Mr Raj Sundarjee
Miss Lauren M. Kharsas	Miss Eve E. Makrai	Ms Margaret T. O'Neill	Ms Karina Sutanto
Ms Hana M Khoo	Mr Andre P. Mallet	Mrs Sabine Ostrowski	Mr Richard Sutton
Mr Rajan D. Khosla	Mr Mario Marchionna	Mr Arthur Panagiotidis	Mr Oliver Svadlenak
Ms Lisa Kingshott	Mr Theo Markos	Mr Jim T Papas	Mr Andri T
Mr Gordon D Kirk	Ms Michelle Martin	Mr Athanasios Papoulias	Mr Yee Xuan Tai
Miss Jacqueline Kirkman	Ms Jennifer Martin	Ms Patricia E Paprocki	Mr Alan W. Tait
Dr Divya Kirubaharan	Mr Timothy D. Martin	Mr Ben Park	Ms Vanessa Tang
Mr Nicholas Klidis	Mr Stephen Mason	Miss Perugina Partridge	Mr Allan Targett
Mr Andrew J. Knight	Ms Lori Matthews	Mr Ioannis Pataridis	Mr Pasquale A Tascone
Miss Sophie Su-Hui Koh	Mrs Michelle T. McCambridge	Mr Michael Peter	Mr Cameron P. Taylor
Mr Can Komser	Mr Paul F McCann	Mr Michael A Petraitis	Ms Michelle C Teh
Miss Sook Ling Koo	Mr Stewart J McConnell	Ms Novka Petric	Mrs Wendy A Thompson
Mr Edward Kosmac	Ms Kaye R McCraw	Mr Danh Thanh Phan	Mr William B Thomson
Miss Linda Kotsos	Mr Brett Leigh McGregor	Dr Sebastian Pinel	Mr Nigel Thrush
Dr Harry Koutavas	Mr Robert G. McIlroy	Mrs Catherine Louise Plenderleith	Mr Timothy J Thurn
Ms Alexandra Koutsokeras	Mrs Allyson M. McIvor	Mr Jakub Plociennik	Mrs Andrea Tims
Mrs Catherine M Kubale	Ms Subahsinee McKenzie	Miss Nicky Poly	Ms Yulianti Tjan-Lim
Mr Andre S Kupfer	Ms Jeanine E McKenzie	Mr George Prassinis	Mrs Elpida Tolan
Ms Rachael Kwok	Mr Robert J McQualter	Ms Jackelyn O. Prentice	Mr Minh V Tran
Ms Isabella La Rocca	Ms Anna Melrose	Mrs Vivienne M. Price	Ms Dzung Tran
Mr John A. Lacey	Dr Hayden Merrett	Miss Loan Quach	Ms Vicky Tranis
Mrs Bao Minh Lam	Dr James Merrington	Mr Martin A. Rattle	Ms Phung Hue Truong
Miss Wing Yan Winnie Lam	Mr Peter J Merrington	Ms Madonna Mary Rigney	Ms Kim Chi Truong
Mr Patrick W-C Lam	Ms Paula Mildenhall	Mr Stephen J. Robertson	Ms Bonnie Tsang
Miss Katherine Landrigan	Mr Philip K Milford	Mrs Linda Robinson	Mrs Dina Tsirigotis
Miss Emilie Langley	Mrs Sheetal Mistry	Mr Glenn C Robinson	Mr Ian Tyssen
Mr Peter D Larsen	Ms Audrey Mary Molloy	Mr Martin Robinson	Mrs Rajinder Uppal
Mr Craig Laundon	Ms Rosalyn A. Moyle	Mrs Melissa J. Rollings	Mr Anthony Van Aalst
Mr William K. Law	Mrs Felicity Alice Mullette	Mr Peter J Rose	Mr Caleb W. Van Cooten
Mrs Heather J. Law	Ms Nelly H Munckhof	Dr Gennaro Rosella	Mr Barry Van Der Vyver
Ms Yien Law	Mr Peter J Murphy	Dr Richard Ross	Ms Catherine G Van Paassen
Dr Christopher Law	Dr Elizabeth J. Murray	Mr Peter R. Roth	Mrs Louella Cathryn Varney
Mr Jeff S. Lee	Mr Murray J Nagle	Miss Linda M. Rozitis	Ms Elizabeth S. Vidor
Ms Anna Lee	Mr Rabinder Singh Nahal	Mr Frank V Salsone	Ms Wrania Vlahos
Ms Helen Lee	Mr Surendran Naidoo	Ms Daniela Scalora	Mr George Vlastaras
Mrs Hie Rin Lee	Ms Victoria J Nankervis	Mr Gary Stuart Scheckter	Mrs Rosalyn K Voullaire
Mrs Julianne M Lehmann	Mr Stephen J Nash	Mr Alan J Schmedje	Mr Stephen B Wakeling
Miss Jia Jia Lek	Mr George Nasser	Mr Paul Schoneveld	Mr Matthew John Walcott
Mrs Suzanne J. Lenne	Mrs Kathryn Naumann	Mrs Glenda J Schubert	Mr Colin A Waldron
Mr Richard C Lenne	Mr Richard J. Newson	Mr Alan H. Sher	Mr Richard J Wales
Mr David W. Leong	Mr Clifton Ying Keung Ng	Ms Margaret L Sherborne	Ms Zhan Wang
Mr Simon WB Leong	Mr David Ng	Ms Sae Kyung Shin	Miss Ruixi Wang
Mr Peter W Lewis OAM	Miss Van Phuong Kim Ngo	Ms Karina Sinclair	Mr Jayson C. Ward
Miss Rebecca Li	Mr Simon Ngo	Ms Anitha S. Sinnadurai	Mr Andrew J Watkins
Mr Michael Li	Miss Tu-My Nguyen	Mrs Christa Sipos-Ori	Ms Natalie A Watt
Mr Ian D. Liley	Miss Monica Nguyen	Mr Shivan Sivakumaran	Dr Michelle Waugh
Miss Amy Lim	Mr Ronald Nguyen	Mr Murray G. Smith	Mr Maxwell J Webb
Miss Lu Liu			Mr Tibor Weisz

Members NVRI

Mrs Rosslyn H Wells
 Mr Matthew T Wells
 Miss Gaynor E. Whitehead
 Mr Mark Wickens
 Mr Stuart Nigel Willats
 Mr Kin H. Wong
 Mr Jeremy Wong
 Mr Kien Wong
 Mr Thomas W Wong
 Mr Ian L. Wynn
 Miss Vin-Lin Yang
 Mr Jeffrey Mark Yates
 Mr Michael Yen
 Ms Dorline Young
 Ms Catherine Young
 Mr Michael Zammit
 Miss Xianyi Zhang

Associates

Mr Tim Connell
 Ms Jolanda De Jong
 Ms Denise Gronow
 Hon Paul Lucas
 Ms Maureen O'Keefe

NVRI Fellows

Prof Robert Augusteyn
 Prof Ian Bailey
 Emer Prof Peter O Bishop, AO
 Dr David M Cockburn OAM, FACO
 Prof Barry Cole AO, FACO
 Mr Edmund F Coote
 Dr Geoffrey H Henry
 Prof Abbie Hughes
 Prof William Levick
 Prof Paul Martin
 Prof Donald Mitchell
 Prof John Pettigrew
 Prof Allan Snyder
 Emer Prof David I Vaney
 A/Prof Rodney Watkins AM, FACO
 Prof Robert Weale
 Dr Gerald Westheimer

Honorary Life Members

Ms Jean Colledge PSM

Principal Governors

Mrs Margaret M Banks OAM, FACO
 Mr John Nicola

NVRI Life Members

Mr Max J Astri, FACO
 Mr Richard G Bennett
 Mr Terence H. Blake, FACO
 Mr Ewen D Clemens
 Mr John D Clemens
 Mrs F B Cockburn
 Prof Barry L Cole AO, FACO
 Dr David P Crewther
 Prof Sheila M Crewther
 Mr Eugene Dovgan
 Mr Peter S Dwyer OAM
 Mr Ronald H Fieldhouse
 Mr Wolfgang F Gartner, FACO
 A/Prof Ian F Gutteridge, FACO
 Mr Nicholas A Hansen
 Mr Ross W Harris, FACO
 Prof Abbie A. Hughes
 Mr John B Jennings
 Mr Liang T Kang
 Mr Theodore J Kannis
 Mr Frank M Kindler
 Mr Henry J Kruszewski
 Mr Michael McCabe, FACO
 Mr Peter H Milhinch

Dr Jonathan Nathan OAM, FACO
 Prof John D Pettigrew
 Mr John L Pettit, FACO
 Mr Robert V Sigmont
 Mr Gavin A Smyth
 Mr Penrhyn F Thomas
 Mr Gwynfor Williams

Governors

Mr John M Cartwright, FACO
 Mr Peter Haman
 Mr Graham O. Hill, FACO, OAM
 Mr Rodney Jackson, FACO
 Mrs Susan Kalf, FACO
 Mr John M Kingshott, FACO
 Mr Johnathan Nathan OAM, FACO
 Miss Dawn G Odgers

NVRI Members

Mr Ronald Andrew
 Mr Rod Baker, FACO
 Ms Janice N Bastiaan
 Mr Colin B Bates
 Ms Kirily Bowen
 Mr Ian D Breadon, FACO
 Miss Susan L Callahan, FACO
 Mr Christopher K. Chong, FACO
 Mr Philip Clem
 Emer Prof H Barry Collin AM, FACO
 Ms Jenny B. Cooke, FACO
 Mrs Jennie C Cooke
 Dr Paris P Deliyannis, FACO
 Ms Rachel Denham, FACO
 Mr Ian S Douglas, FACO
 Mr Lawrance Dove
 Ms Sally K Doyle, FACO
 Mr John W Farmer, FACO
 Mr Daniel J Farrugia
 Prof Erica L Fletcher, FACO
 Mr Kenneth B Gregory, FACO
 Ms Tania L Hartung, FACO
 Ms Elizabeth F. Hatfield, FACO
 Ms Sandra J Heaney
 Mr Anthony J Hogan
 Mr Glenn M. Howell, FACO
 Mr Bassam Issa
 Mr Donald S Jessop, FACO
 Mr Chris Katopodis, FACO
 Mr Michael G Knipe AM, FACO
 Mr Josef O Krusche
 Dr Graham Lakkis, FACO
 Mr Sam Lauriola, FACO
 Ms Yien Law
 Mr Mark B Letts, FACO
 Mr Peter W Lewis OAM
 Mr Richard G Lindsay, FACO
 Mr Anthony C Lord
 Mr Ashley M Madeira
 Ms Julia C Mainstone
 Mr Ian J McBeath
 Mr Paul F McCann
 Mr Christopher J McDonald, FACO
 Mr Robert G. McIlroy
 Mr Bruce M Mellick
 Mr Peter L Mildren
 Ms Paula Monaco, FACO
 Mr James J Moran, FACO
 Ms Elise Pocknee
 Prof Konrad Pesudovs, FACO
 Mr David C Pye
 Miss Loan Quach
 Mr Neil F Roche, FACO
 Mr Kevin F Rooney, FACO
 Mrs Anne R Russell, FACO
 Mr Peter R Russell
 Mrs Jenni M Sorraghan, FACO
 Mr David C Southgate
 Mrs Jennifer A Spicer
 Dr Margaret A Squires, FACO
 Mr Gregory J Strachan, FACO
 Mrs Susanne E Strachan, FACO
 Mrs Pamela R Sutton, FACO
 Mr Christopher W Thomson
 Mr Anthony Van Aalst
 A/Prof Richard T. Vojlay, FACO
 Mrs Rosalyn K Voullaire
 Mr Stephen B Wakeling
 Mr Richard N Watt
 Mr Robert W Webster
 Mr Matthew T Wells
 Mrs Carolyn J West, FACO
 Mr David West, FACO
 Mr Bruce G Willis
 Mr Thomas W Wong
 Dr Yen L Yap
 Dr Steve G Zantos
 Mr Robert P Zent, FACO

AWARDS

CELEBRATING OUR PEOPLE



RESEARCH AWARDS

Nicola Family Fund Travel Grant 2017

Awardee:

Dr Ali Almasi

The Nicola Family Fund is a capital fund that exists in perpetuity to be a permanent reminder of the family's support of vision research. The fund supports young professionals as they begin their career in vision research. Each year a member of the Nicola family will be invited to present the award, this year John Nicola attended the AGM to present the award to Dr Ali Almasi. Ali used the prize money towards his travel to attend and present at the Systems and Computational Neuroscience Down Under (SCiNDU) conference held in Brisbane, 13-15 December 2017. Ali submitted his thesis in August 2017 and this meeting was a great platform to present the research conducted during his studies at the NVRI.



Dr Ali Almasi accepting the Nicola Family Fund Travel Award pictured (L-R) with John Nicola, Michael Ibbotson and Maureen O'Keefe.



Jessamy Bound



Natalie Guillon



Jade Lindsay

STUDENT AWARDS



Natalie Watt pictured with Curriculum Committee member A/Prof Ian Gutteridge at the 2017 ACO-COT Graduation.

ACO Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics outstanding graduate award

Awardee:

Natalie Watt

This award was initiated in 2016 to recognise the commitment to the study of therapeutics by the graduate of the ACO Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics (ACO-COT). The "ACO Outstanding Graduate for Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics 2016" was awarded to Natalie Watt (VIC) at the 2017 ACO-COT graduation ceremony.

This award recognises the candidate who has achieved the outstanding score across all assessments for their graduating year.

ACO Most Outstanding Graduate Award 2017

The selection criteria for these awards are based on a combined evaluation of academic excellence and professional commitment. Under this award, Australian universities are invited to nominate their most outstanding optometry graduate. The award consists of a plaque to commemorate the achievement, a two year ACO membership and \$250 in prize money. The following recipients are the outstanding graduates for 2017:

Jessamy Bound from Flinders University

Natalie Guillon from Deakin University

Louise Kowalski from Queensland University of Technology

Jade Lindsay from the University of Melbourne

Kellie Xie from University of New South Wales

STAFF AWARDS

Each year at our End of Year Celebration we commend a number of ACO staff for their outstanding efforts during the year. Staff are invited to nominate individual colleagues and/or teams in any category. To align with the launch of our refreshed values, 6 new categories were created for the awards, representing each value. And the winners were:

We deeply CARE about eye health – Joseph Waterman (Staff Optometrist)

Joe joined us as a Deakin Graduate in August 2016. From his first day here at the ACO, Joe has shown unrelenting passion for providing high quality eye care to those in need and to everyone in the ACO. He is a wonderful advocate for the ACO in everything he does. He is heavily involved in our outreach and RWAV program as well as regular days at the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service. His willingness to go over and above the call of duty is exceptional. His RWAV trips are even more impressive given that the nights away keep him from his young son. Joe truly displays the value of care and in fact many of the ACO Values in his work.



Joseph Waterman

Everything we do drives this PURPOSE – Michelle Haddrell (Receptionist/ Optical Dispensing Assistant)

Michelle has been at the ACO for just over 12 months, and is recognised as a valuable member of the dispensing and reception team. Michelle is a highly motivated, dedicated and hard worker, who has been actively involved in the satellite clinic dispensing trials. Michelle often suggests new ways to do things, in order to provide higher quality service to patients, but at the same time having the organisation's goals in mind.



Michelle Haddrell

Mutual RESPECT guides our expectations – Sue Jeffreys (HR Manager)

HR can be a complex job at times. Sue was awarded for the excellent work she has undertaken in 2017, handling a range of complex projects as we plan and implement some changes within the ACO, including the introduction of an all staff culture survey and review of the ACO's performance development program. She has handled every aspect of the projects with thought and confidentiality.



Sue Jeffreys

We foster excellence through COLLABORATION with our patients, partners and teams – Diane Leaf (Victorian Eyecare Service Administrative Assistant)

Diane has been recognised for the wonderful relationships she has with the Victorian Eyecare Service Practices. When visiting the practices there is nothing but praise for the kind, warm and caring person she is, clearly demonstrating her ability to collaborate with various people and businesses.



Diane Leaf

Our commitment to INNOVATION pushes us to question and find better ways – Dr Adrian Bruce (Lead Optometrist Contact Lenses)

Adrian is always available to optometrists for case discussions or to offer a helping hand, even if it's at 8pm. He shows innovation to find better ways to push optometry forward, for example, using Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) to detect brain lesions early, using supporting research papers in literature.



Dr Adrian Bruce

We DELIVER what we promise to patients, partners and each other – Tenille Ryan (Senior Projects Officer (Trusts & Foundations, Compliance & Risk), ACO HREC Secretary and CIBF Melbourne Node Administrator)

Tenille has worked very closely with the ACO's Finance team and provides a critical link between Corporate Services and the NVRI. She has provided excellent support in ensuring that complex research funding and management of associated costs are managed effectively. Tenille is the node administrator for the Centre of Excellence for Integrative Brain Function, which is the NVRI's largest single source of funding. In her role as node administrator, she coordinates not only the NVRI's income but also two other senior Chief Investigators at the University of Melbourne. Tenille manages and coordinates NVRI events, including those organised locally and overseas and provides a high level assistance with grant writing.



Tenille Ryan

Staff Service Award

Awardees:

Professor Michael Kalloniatis, Lee Yin Chong, Quyen Pham, Jennifer Caulfield

Each year at the ACO-NVRI AGM in May, we recognise staff members who have contributed more than 20 years' of service at the ACO. This year we awarded 4 staff members: Professor Michael Kalloniatis, sessional optometrist celebrated 25 years of service in October 2016, along with Lee Yin Chong Executive Assistant to Director of Clinical Services who also celebrated 25 years in March 2017. 20 years of service was also celebrated by Quyen Pham, Senior Receptionist in December 2016 and Jennifer Caulfield, Head of Clinic Operations and Support Services in January 2017. All four of these staff members have been part of our Clinical Services Division since they started at the ACO two decades ago. Thank you all for your hard work and your ongoing contribution to the organisation.



Professor Michael
Kalloniatis



Lee Yin Chong



Quyen Pham



Jennifer Caulfield

MEMBER AWARDS

Fellowship Award

ACO Fellowship is awarded to members who have been a member for the last 3 years and who have made a significant contribution to the practice and profession of optometry and to the community. It is awarded under two or more of the following categories. 1. Personal achievement in acquiring skill; 2. Contribution to knowledge and learning; 3. Acquisition of special clinical expertise and/or 4. Professional leadership and/or service. We would like to acknowledge two new Fellows, as at May 2017:

Dr Heather Connor

Heather graduated from the University of Melbourne in 2003 with the Postgraduate Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics. In 2013 she completed a Doctor of Philosophy in the Department of Ophthalmology, University of Melbourne. Her thesis title was Functional and Structural Changes in the Visual Pathway Associated with Ageing and Glaucoma. She presented work from this research at a number of international conferences. In 2015 she graduated from the Deakin University with a Graduate Certificate in Higher Education. She is a clinical lecturer in the undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Optometry with Deakin University.



Dr Heather
Connor

Bradley Kirkwood

Bradley has been a member since 2013 and is a qualified optometrist, holds a Bachelor of Nursing, and a Masters in Practitioner Development (Ophthalmic). He has made a significant contribution to optometry and the community through lecturing at Flinders University, assisting with establishing the new optometry course, chairing the therapeutics master class at the Adelaide conference and has 28 peer reviewed journal articles in publications across ophthalmology, optometry, ophthalmic nursing, with a special interest in ocular diseases and therapeutics. Congratulations to both Heather and Bradley!



Bradley Kirkwood

ACO Member Award for Outstanding Service

This Award recognises the valuable contribution of ACO members, who support the College in a voluntary capacity. Through this award the ACO wishes to acknowledge the 'exceptional contributions' of specific members in the areas of governance of the ACO, either on a Committee and/or Council; provision of support, time and advice; promotion of the principles and practices of the ACO in a positive and beneficial light; and the high regard of peers of the awardee, often over a lengthy period of time. **This year the ACO Member Award for Outstanding Service was awarded to Mitchell Anjou AM.** Mitchell is an Academic Specialist and Senior Research Fellow in Indigenous Eye Health at the University of Melbourne, a position he has held since 2010. Mitchell completed his initial optometry training at the University of Melbourne in 1982 and then a research Master's degree undertaken at the National Vision Research Institute of Australia. In 1985 Mitchell was awarded Fellow of the Australian College of Optometry and in 1992 he was appointed as Clinic Director. Mitchell also held an appointment as a Senior Fellow in the Optometry Department of the University of Melbourne. Mitchell has led the expansion and broadening of public optometry services in Victoria developing services through community health facilities for people with low vision, as well as outreach services designed for homeless people, those with disabilities and those living in supported accommodation. Optometry clinics under Victorian Aboriginal Health services were also formed, offering services to other rural and metropolitan Aboriginal



Mitchell
Anjou AM

community-controlled health organisations. Mitchell has made significant contributions through his work in Indigenous eye health including the development and implementation of 'The Roadmap to Close the Gap for Vision', improving the quality and sustainability of eye care service experiences for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and is providing the basis for important systems reform and improved health outcomes. As a result of his contributions to eye health, in particular the eye health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Mitchell was awarded as a Member of the Order of Australia in 2013 as part of the Australia Day honours. Congratulations Mitchell.

NVRI FELLOWSHIP

NVRI Fellows are held in the highest of esteem for their work and contribution. **Professor David Vaney** has made many outstanding contributions to neuroscience research over the past 42 years on visual systems and the structure and function of the retina. He has a PhD from ANU where he was supervised by Professor Abbie Hughes and later took up a research position at Cambridge University, returning to Australia in 1984 to work at the NVRI. In 1986 he published a sole author paper in Science on a new technique he had developed for identifying a neurotransmitter system in living tissue, and was awarded an NHMRC Fellowship the following year. David has also served as President of the Australian Neuroscience Society and on NHMRC committees and on Retina Australia. David's research career continues to thrive today as Emeritus Professor at the Queensland Brain Institute. Congratulations David.



Professor David Vaney pictured (L-R) with Professor Michael Ibbotson, Maureen O'Keefe and Professor Konrad Pesudovs

FUNDERS, SUPPORTERS & DONORS

OUR VALUED SUPPORTERS



Government, Trusts & Foundations, Industry, Community Organisations, Donors & Bequests

The Australian College of Optometry is extremely grateful for the support of the following organisations and bodies, which make it possible for us to continue our important work in preserving sight and preventing blindness.

CLINICAL SERVICES

Government

Department of Health and Human Services, Victoria



Victoria State Government



Victorian Eyecare Service (VES)



The ACO is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Health



The Department of Health

Bequests

Beresford Cambridge Fund (Bequest)

Trusts & Foundations

Beresford Cambridge Fund

Perpetual



VOTE Trust
Optometry Board of Australia



Community

Commonwealth Bank Australia



Donald Cant Watts Corke



Lions Club Vermont



Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal



EDUCATION

Professional Development Conference, Workshops & Seminar Series

Coopervision



Designs for Vision



Device Technologies



Optimed



Ellex Australia



Zeiss Australia



Rimoptics



Opticare



Pacific Vision



Good Optical



Guide Dogs Victoria



Experien



Vision Australia



Moore Stephens



Tomato Glasses



RESEARCH – NATIONAL VISION RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Government

Australian Research Council



Australian Government



National Health & Medical Research Council



RESEARCH – NATIONAL VISION RESEARCH INSTITUTE CONTINUED

Bequests

Schultz Laubman Schultz
Endowment Fund



Industry

Essilor



iBionics



Optiqueline



Kevin O'Brien
Optometrists



Optometry Australia



Trusts & Foundations

Schultz Laubman Schultz
Endowment Fund



Equity Trustees (ANZ
Trustees)



Victoria Lions
Foundation



Lions Vision
Research Fund



NVRI Governors
Endowment Fund



LEW Carty
Charitable Fund



Rebecca L. Cooper Medical
Research Foundation



DONORS

Individuals

Mr Michael Aitken
 Mr Ronald Andrew
 Mr Rod Baker, FACO
 Ms Janice Bastiaan
 Mr Colin Bates
 Miss Susan Callahan, FACO
 Dr Colin Chan
 Emer Prof H Barry Collin AM, FACO
 Dr Brendan Cronin
 Dr Tom Edwards
 Dr David Fabinyi
 Dr Brent Gaskin
 A/Prof Ulrike Grunert
 Mr Peter Haman
 Mr Anthony Hogan
 Mr Unal Jarkan
 Mr Donald Jessop, FACO

Mr Stephen Jones, FACO
 Mrs Susan Kalf, FACO
 Dr Graham Lakkis, FACO
 Dr Michael Loughnan
 A/Prof Andrew Metha, FACO
 Mr John Nicola
 Sandipkumar Panchai
 Miss Loan Quach
 Mr Kevin Rooney, FACO
 Mrs Anne Russell, FACO
 Mr Christopher Thomson
 A/Prof Richard Vojlay, FACO
 Mr Robert Webster
 Mr Bruce Willis
 Dr Yen Yap

Organisations

Lions Club of Clarinda
 Lions Vision Research Fund
 Optometrists Association Australia (VIC)
 Optique Line

NVRI Governors

Mrs Margaret Banks OAM, FACO
 Mr John Cartwright, FACO
 Mr Peter Haman
 Mr Graham Hill, FACO
 Mr Rodney Jackson, FACO
 Mrs Susan Kalf, FACO
 Mr John Kingshott, FACO
 Dr Johnathan Nathan OAM, FACO
 Mr John Nicola
 Miss Dawn Odgers

L.E.W. CARTY CHARITABLE FUND AND THE VICTORIAN LIONS FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP

THE AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY thanks the L.E.W. Carty Charitable Fund and the Victorian Lions Foundation for their generous support in jointly funding a new post-doctoral research fellowship at the National Vision Research Institute.

The outstanding total contribution of \$360,000 over 3 years, jointly funded by the L.E.W. Carty Charitable Fund and the Victorian Lions Foundation will make a significant difference to people affected by blindness.

The new LEW Carty-Lions Victoria Research Fellow will design the next generation of bionic eye devices and investigate taking visual prosthetics (bionic eyes) from the current prototype stage to something offering true functional vision, where wide-field images can be formed. This will allow a profoundly blind person to experience a more independent quality of life.

Sustainable high quality research in Australia is increasingly reliant on philanthropic funding, especially for early career researchers. The vision of the trustees of the L.E.W. Carty Charitable Fund and the Victorian Lions Foundation is the creation of a philanthropic partnership through co-funding. This has enabled the establishment of a new postdoctoral research fellowship at the National Vision Research Institute at the Australian College of Optometry, through provision of matching funding of \$180,000 each over three years.

The National Vision Research Institute (NVRI) is a partner in the Bionic Vision Australia consortium

and works closely with the physics and engineering departments at the University of Melbourne. Dr Molis Yunzab was awarded this position, having completed her PhD at the University of Melbourne in 2015. Molis will work on projects associated with the development of the next generation of a bionic eye.



(L-R): Dr Sue Forrest (Trustee, L.E.W. Carty Charitable Fund), Rod Jackson (Victorian Lions Foundation), Professor Konrad Pesudovs (Council President, ACO) and Maureen O'Keefe (CEO, ACO) at the announcement of the new Fellowship

CORPORATE SERVICES

A STRONG, EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ORGANISATION



EXECUTIVE GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Our culture is innovation and collaboration and our people strive for excellence in everything we do, facilitated by innovative and effective technology, systems and processes. Our members and supporters are key to our success.

THE CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION is made up of a team of staff dedicated to providing central support services across the whole of the ACO. The services delivered by the Division include the provision of technical and administrative support and advice to the ACO's operational divisions in relation to:

- Building Services
- Business Systems & Development
- Finance
- Human Resources
- Marketing & Communications
- Projects & Administration

Corporate Services is also responsible for providing governance support to the ACO Council through the ACO Company Secretary. During the year, the team worked closely with the operational divisions to ensure that we continue to contribute to the development and improvement of the ACO's services, supporting the process for continuous improvement across the organisation.

The audited concise financial statements of the Consolidated Group are set out on pages 68 to 83 of this annual report. The balance sheet position remains strong and the net assets of the Consolidated Group (ACO and Trust Funds) at 31 December 2017 were \$22,541,960 (2016: \$21,757,681).

Year Highlights

✎ Planning and implementing business process improvements, aimed at enhancing and supporting service delivery arrangements.

✎ Rolling out the new ACO Vision, Mission and Values

✎ Acting as co-lead for the Australian Government Department of Health funded project for Provision of Eye Health Equipment and Training Project (PEHET) which is being delivered by a consortium of five organisations from across Australia

✎ Developing and implementing an updated constitution for the ACO that allows for Membership to vote in elections online, thereby providing an opportunity to increase Membership engagement and reducing the administrative burden associated with the current election process.

✎ Implementing a new NVRI constitution that meets the current requirements of the ACO and NVRI.

✎ Completing capital works projects, including upgrades to infrastructure leading to a continued reduction in our carbon footprint, technology enhancements and a project for upgrade of our Membership portal.

✎ Involvement in business and contract development for new and renewed service areas.

✎ Delivery of a successful, unqualified audit outcome for the year.

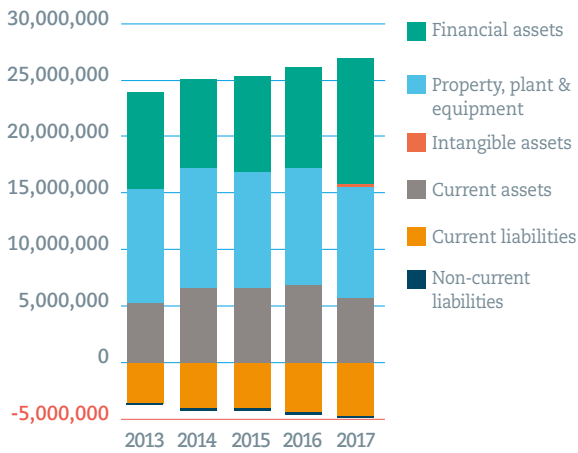


Clare Escott,
EGM Finance &
Corporate Services

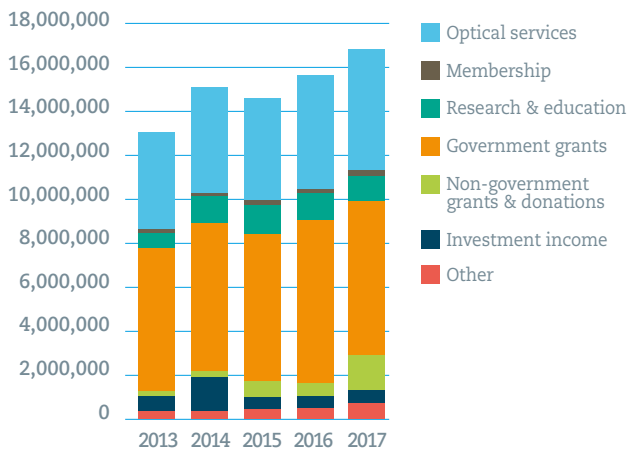
RESULTS FOR THE YEAR

	Consolidated Group		College	
	2017 \$	2016 \$	2017 \$	2016 \$
Revenue	16,657,418	15,629,383	16,312,205	15,536,350
Expenses	(16,186,989)	(15,544,712)	(16,130,465)	(15,503,828)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	470,429	84,671	181,740	32,522
Other comprehensive income	313,850	355,130	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income	784,279	439,801	181,740	32,522

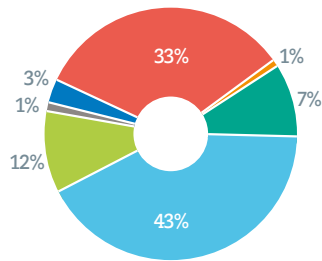
Balance Sheet Breakdown \$
(2013 – 2017) CONSOLIDATED GROUP



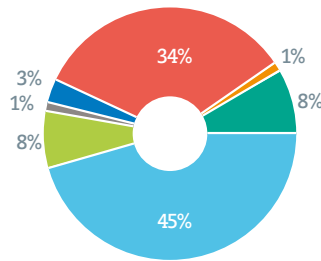
Income from Operating Activities \$
(2013 – 2017) CONSOLIDATED GROUP



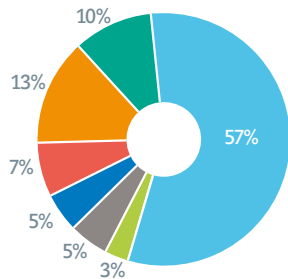
Income from Operating Activities (2017) ACO



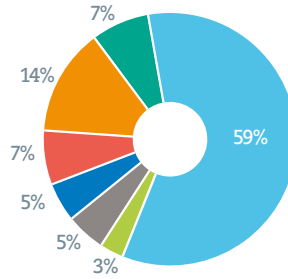
Income from Operating Activities (2016) ACO



Expenses (2017) ACO



Expenses (2016) ACO



Corporate Services Team (L-R): Colette Davis (Senior Projects Officer), Sue Jeffreys (HR Manager), Peta Coats (Administration Officer), Tenille Ryan (Senior Projects Officer), Holly Gouldthorpe (Membership & Communications Assistant), Neville Turner (GM Business Systems and Development), Chelsey Seamer (Executive Assistant to the CEO), Addie Jiang (Project Accountant Trainee), Maria Carlos (Finance Officer), Clare Escott (EGM Finance & Corporate Services), Pat Huen (Finance Manager), Jessica Sloan (Accounts Clerk & Administrative Assistant).
Absent: John Dascoli (Building Services Manager), Sarah Jeffrey (Marketing Officer), Elda Rebecchi (Communications, Marketing & Membership Manager), Bob Tobin (Technical Officer)

Council & Committees

The ACO would like to thank all Councillors and Committee members for their dedication and commitment in 2017.

Council

Professor Konrad Pesudovs *President*
 Professor Alex Gentle *Vice President*
 Mr Mark O'Sullivan *Honorary Treasurer (until February 2017)*
 Ms Denise Gronow *Honorary Treasurer (from February 2017)*
 Mr Mitchell Anjou AM
 Ms Sarah Byrne
 Professor Linda Denehy *(from October 2017)*
 Ms Melissa Downing
 Mr Benjamin Hamlyn
 Hon Paul Lucas
 Professor Geoffrey McColl *(until September 2017)*
 Ms Maureen O'Keefe *CEO*
 Ms Clare Escott *Company Secretary*

NVRI Board of Administration

Professor Alex Gentle *Chair (until June 2017)*
 Ms Denise Gronow *Chair (from June 2017)*
 Mr Brian Buchanan *(from June 2017)*
 Professor Michael Ibbotson
 Mr Rodney Jackson *(until June 2017)*
 Mr Ted Maddess *(until June 2017)*
 Ms Maureen O'Keefe *CEO*
 Professor Konrad Pesudovs
 Mr Paul Takac *(until June 2017)*
 Professor Trichur Visyasagar *(until June 2017)*
 Associate Professor Rod Watkins AM *(until June 2017)*
 Ms Clare Escott *Secretary*

NVRI Scientific Advisory Committee

Professor Sarah Dunlop *Chair*
 Professor Paul Baird
 Professor Erica Fletcher

Professor David Grayden
 Professor Marcelo Rosa
 Professor Michael Ibbotson
 Ms Maureen O'Keefe *CEO*
 Ms Chelsey Seamer *Secretary*

Finance & Risk Committee

Mr Mark O'Sullivan *Chair (until February 2017)*
 Ms Denise Gronow *Chair (from February 2017)*
 Mr Mitchell Anjou AM
 Ms Pat Huen
 Ms Maureen O'Keefe *CEO*
 Mr Joseph Panuzzo
 Professor Konrad Pesudovs
 Associate Professor Rod Watkins *(until June 2017)*
 Ms Clare Escott *Secretary*

Human Research Ethics Committee

Ms Sarah Byrne *Chair*
 Mrs Mary Archibald
 Ms Maureen O'Keefe *CEO*
 Mr Frank Lavorico
 Mr Geoffrey Poliness
 Dr Cheryl Read
 Ms Kerryn Risely
 Dr Rasa Ruseckaite
 Mr Adam Walker
 Ms Jenny Wilkins
 Ms Tenille Ryan *Secretary*

Victorian Eyecare Service Advisory Committee

Sharon Bentley
 Chelsea Brand *(from July 2017)*
 Jane Canaway
 Piers Carozzi
 Emma Fitzsimon
 Graham Hill *(until July 2017)*

Veronica Jamison
 Elisa Lim *(from July 2017)*
 Levi Lovett
 Rosie Maddick
 Kaye McCraw *(until February 2017)*
 Catherine Noone *(until February 2017)*
 Maureen O'Keefe *CEO*
 Nicholas Rittinghausen
 Linda Robinson *(from November 2017)*
 Janelle Scully
 Sundram Sivamalai
 Catherine Thompson
 Lee Yin Chong *Secretary*

Senior Leadership Team

Sharon Bentley
 Piers Carozzi
 Jennifer Caulfield
 Jolanda de Jong *(until July 2017)*
 Clare Escott
 Michael Ibbotson
 Sue Jeffreys
 Marcel Mihulka *(from August 2017)*
 Maureen O'Keefe *CEO*
 Elda Rebecchi
 Roman Serebrianik
 Jane Trevaskis
 Neville Turner

CEO's Office

Maureen O'Keefe *Chief Executive Officer*
 Chelsey Seamer *Executive Assistant to CEO*

Clinical Services

Sharon Bentley *Director Of Clinical Services*
 Piers Carozzi *Head Of Community & Outreach Eye Care Services*

Jennifer Caulfield *Head Of Clinic Operations & Support Services*

Roman Serebriani *Head Of Primary & Specialist Eye Care Services*

Jane Trevaskis *Head Of Teaching & Quality*

Adrian Bruce *Lead Optometrist Contact Lens*

Mae Chong *Lead Optometrist Low Vision*

Nelofar Deen *Lead Optometrist Paediatric Services*

Genevieve Napper *Lead Optometrist Aboriginal Services*

Leanne Nguyen *Lead Optometrist Ocular Disease*

Carla Abbott *Sessional Optometrist*

Emily Alessi *Receptionist*

Yiota Anastasopoulos *Receptionist*

Anna Angelodemou *Administration Assistant*

Carole Anjou *Sessional Optometrist*

Judd Aravena *Receptionist & Optical Dispensing Assistant*

Angeliki Arvanitis *East Reservoir Site Manager*

Sandra Au *Staff Optometrist*

Carol Bramich *Receptionist*

Megan Bridges *Receptionist*

Maria Bui *Sessional Optometrist*

Edward Burgin *Staff Optometrist*

Jillian Campbell *Sessional Optometrist*

Jordan Carozzi *Casual Receptionist*

Mabel Ceballos *Optical Dispensing Assistant*

Margaret Chan *Casual Receptionist*

Kuong Chang *Sessional Optometrist*

Lauren Chang *Sessional Optometrist*

Helen Cho *Staff Optometrist*

Joseph Choi *Manager Of Primary Care & Clinical Teaching*

Lee Yin Chong *Executive Assistant To The Office Of Director Of Clinical Services*

Timothy Chung *Sessional Optometrist*

Hazel Corry *Administration Assistant*

Lynn Cupido *Receptionist*

Ricardo D`Cruz *Dispensary Services Assistant*

Albert D'Souza *Staff Optometrist*

Lesley Dacion *Staff Optometrist*

Aiden Deane *Senior Optical Technician*

Carla Dinardo *Sessional Optometrist*

Ian Douglas *Sessional Optometrist*

Bozana Dusanovic *Receptionist & Optical Dispensing Assistant*

Zeinab Fakhri *Staff Optometrist*

Jasmine Featherston *Sessional Optometrist*

Angela Fornaro *Administration Assistant*

Hayley Fraser *Receptionist*

Timothy Fricke *Sessional Optometrist*

Abbie Guy *Optical Dispensing Assistant*

Michelle Haddrell *Receptionist & Optical Dispensing Assistant*

Rosemary Haikal *Broadmeadows Site Manager*

Angela Hall *Manager Of Clinical Research*

Kerryn Hart *Sessional Optometrist*

Melinda Heap *Receptionist*

Elisse Higginbotham *Sessional Optometrist*

Nicholas Hockley *Staff Optometrist*

Alena Hodzic *Receptionist & Optical Dispensing Assistant*

Li Ting Hoo *Sessional Optometrist*

Peregrine Horton *Staff Optometrist*

Erica Hotvedt *Receptionist*

Iris Huang *Frankston Site Manager*

Vianh Huynh *Sessional Optometrist*

Nilmini John *Staff Optometrist*

Anagha Joshi *Staff Optometrist*

Katrina Kalff *Sessional Optometrist*

Michael Kalloniatis *Sessional Optometrist*

Lauren Kharsas *Berwick Site Manager*

Masumi Kobayashi *Sessional Optometrist*

Sophie Koh *Sessional Optometrist*

John Komser *Staff Optometrist*

Rachael Kwok *Staff Optometrist*

Shalini Lal *Administration Assistant*

Jeremy Lau *Sessional Optometrist*

King Li Lay *Receptionist*

Diane Leaf *Casual Administration Assistant*

Ling Lee *Sessional Optometrist*

David Leeming *Optical Technician*

Josephine Li *Manager Of Community Eye Care Services*

Michael Li *Staff Optometrist*

Steffanie Liang *Sessional Optometrist*

Jasmine Lichtenstein *Sessional Optometrist*

Amanda Lim *Staff Optometrist*

Shuli Liu *Staff Optometrist*

Lisa Lombardi *Braybrook Site Manager*

Jivan Lotay *Staff Optometrist*

Sharon Ly *Sessional Optometrist*

Hue Kim Ly *Sessional Optometrist*

Theo Markos *Sessional Optometrist*

Subahsinee McKenzie *Staff Optometrist*

Alice McLennan *Staff Optometrist*

Vicki McSweeney *Manager Clinic Administration*

Tessa Mihailou *Optical Technician*

Elizabeth Montgomery *Optical Dispensing Assistant*

Ho Wah Ng *Manager Visual Functions Services*

Dung Nguyen *Staff Optometrist*

Lisa Perri *Dispensary Services Assistant*

Quyen Pham *Senior Receptionist*

Danielle Raiti *Senior Receptionist*

Kay Read *Receptionist*

Heidrun Saheed *Receptionist*

Daniela Scalora *Sessional Optometrist*

Janelle Scully *Manager Of Clinic Operations & VES Rural*

Stella Shin *Staff Optometrist*

Christa Sipos-Ori *Staff Optometrist*

Jessica Sloan *Receptionist*

David Southgate *Sessional Optometrist*

John Sweeney *Sessional Optometrist*

Vanessa Tang *Staff Optometrist*

Lynette Taylor *Senior Receptionist*

Angela Thomson *Receptionist*

Linda Toban *Sessional Optometrist*

Dzung Tran *Staff Optometrist*

Mary Travis *Sessional Optometrist*

Karen Trinh *Staff Optometrist*

Courtney Turner *Casual Receptionist*

Neville Turner *Staff Optometrist*

Leonidas Vlahakis *Sessional Optometrist*
 Kevin Vo *Sessional Optometrist*
 Pam Vorias *Senior Optical Dispenser*
 Jean Walters *Sessional Optometrist*
 Ruixi Wang *Staff Optometrist*
 Joseph Waterman *Staff Optometrist*
 Natalie Watt *Staff Optometrist*
 Matthew Wells *Sessional Optometrist*
 Katrina Wong *Staff Optometrist*
 Eva Wong *Sessional Optometrist*
 Jianing Yan *Staff Optometrist*
 Vin-Lin Yang *Sessional Optometrist*
 Michael Yen *Staff Optometrist*
 Hee Wei Yii *Staff Optometrist*
 Danielle Zheng *Staff Optometrist*

National Vision Research Institute

Michael Ibbotson *NVRI Director*
 Ali Almasi *PhD Student (until August 2017)*
 Ali Almasi *Research Fellow (from September 2017)*
 Austin Barachina *Research Technician*
 Mitchell Crawford *Research Technician (from December 2017)*
 Marcela Gomez-Escudero *Research Technician*
 Cill Gross *Senior Research Technician*
 Maryam Hejazi *PhD Student*
 Jung Young Jun *PhD Student*
 Matias Maturana *Research Fellow (until May 2017)*
 Matias Maturana *Student Supervisor (from May 2017)*
 Hamish Meffin *Research Fellow*
 Isabella Power *Honours Student*
 Tenille Ryan *CIBF Node Administrator*
 Susmita Saha *Research Fellow*
 Kabir Uddin Skider *PhD Student*
 Max Slattery *Honours Student*
 Artemio Soto-Breceda *PhD Student*
 Scott Sun *PhD Student*
 Wei Tong *Research Fellow (from May 2017)*
 Megan Young *Honours Student*
 Molis Yunzab *LEW Carty Lions Research Fellow*

Education

Jolanda de Jong *GM Professional Development & Membership (until July 2017)*
 Marcel Mihulka *Director Of Education (from Aug 2017)*
 Michelle Waugh *Course Program Manager*
 Linda Morton *Library & Office Administrator*
 Ryan Rosario *Clinical Education Coordinator*
 Liz Salvatore *Education & Events Coordinator*
 Shazia Tahseen *Course Administration Coordinator*
 Barry Cole *Honorary Archivist*
 Michael Aitken *Honorary Archivist*
 Pamela Sutton *Honorary Archivist*
 Colin Bates *Honorary Archivist*
 Joseph Chakman *Honorary Archivist*

Marketing, Communications & Membership

Elda Rebecchi *Communications, Marketing & Membership Manager*
 Sarah Jeffrey *Marketing Officer*
 Holly Gouldthorpe *Membership & Communications Assistant*

Corporate Services

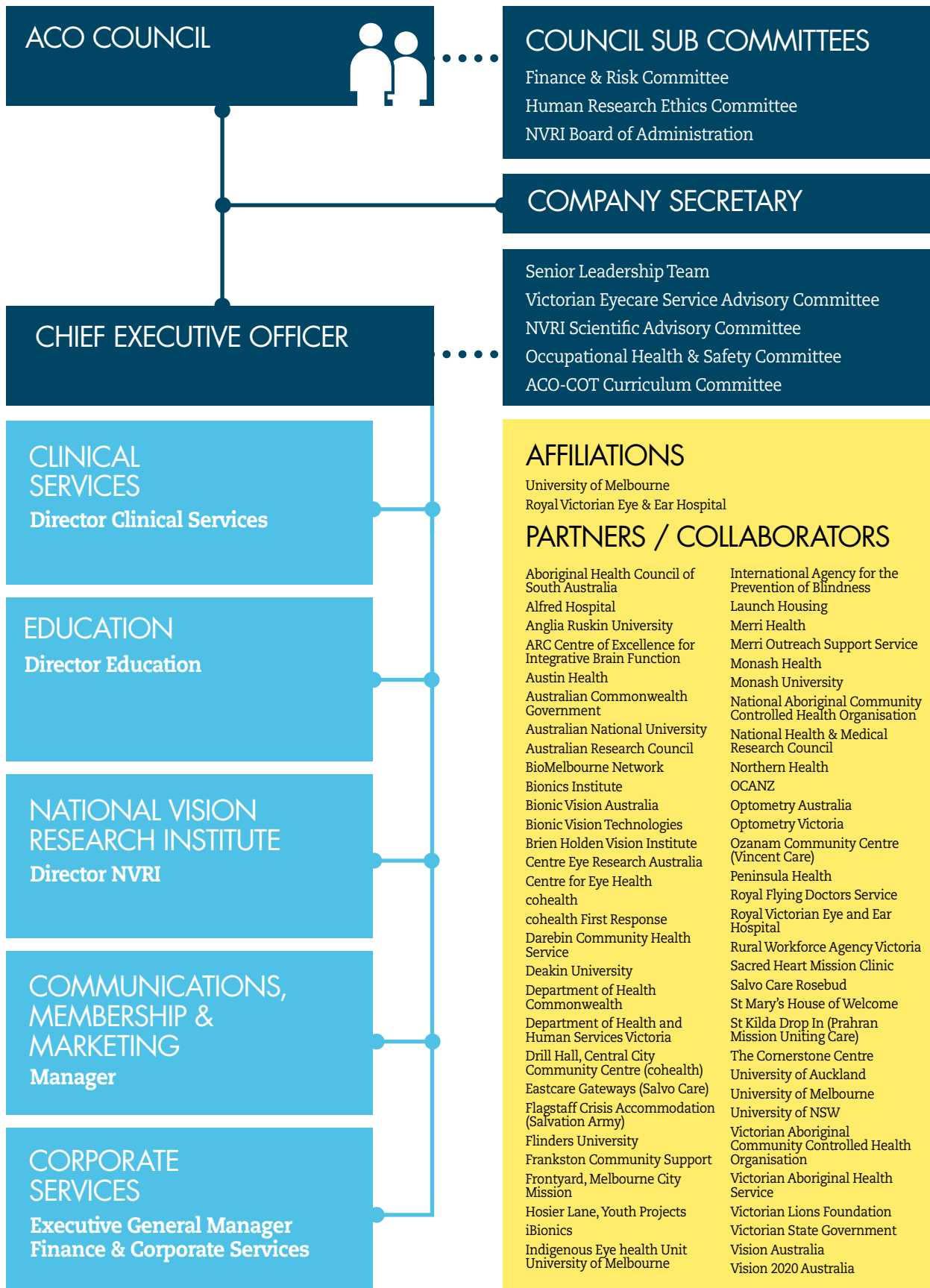
Clare Escott *EGM Finance & Corporate Services*
 Maria Carlos *Finance Officer*
 Peta Coats *Administration Officer*
 John Dascoli *Building Services Manager*
 Colette Davis *Senior Projects Officer*
 Pat Huen *Finance Manager*
 Sue Jeffreys *Human Resources Manager*
 Addie Jiang *Project Accountant Trainee*
 Tenille Ryan *Senior Projects Officer*
 Jessica Sloan *Accounts Clerk & Administration Assistant*
 Bob Tobin *Technical Officer*
 Neville Turner *GM Business Systems & Development*
 Jeremy Chan *Casual Administration Assistant*

Isaac Curkpatrick *Casual Administration Assistant*
 Sage Escott *Casual Administration Assistant*
 Chloe Turner *Casual Technical Assistant*

People Who Departed in 2017

Stacey Atkinson
 Gracie Azzaro
 Josephine Battista
 Ashley Chan
 Jolanda de Jong
 Anthony Dowling
 Michelle Foo
 Anna Gatsios
 Tara Gray
 Chang-June Jung
 Katrina Koenig
 Justin Maher
 Matias Maturana
 Hannah Tosolini

Organisation Chart



AFFILIATIONS

University of Melbourne
Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital

PARTNERS / COLLABORATORS

- | | |
|---|---|
| Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia | International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness |
| Alfred Hospital | Launch Housing |
| Anglia Ruskin University | Merri Health |
| ARC Centre of Excellence for Integrative Brain Function | Merri Outreach Support Service |
| Austin Health | Monash Health |
| Australian Commonwealth Government | Monash University |
| Australian National University | National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation |
| Australian Research Council | National Health & Medical Research Council |
| BioMelbourne Network | Northern Health |
| Bionics Institute | OCCANZ |
| Bionic Vision Australia | Optometry Australia |
| Bionic Vision Technologies | Optometry Victoria |
| Brien Holden Vision Institute | Ozanam Community Centre (Vincent Care) |
| Centre Eye Research Australia | Peninsula Health |
| Centre for Eye Health | Royal Flying Doctors Service |
| cohealth | Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital |
| cohealth First Response | Rural Workforce Agency Victoria |
| Darebin Community Health Service | Sacred Heart Mission Clinic |
| Deakin University | Salvo Care Rosebud |
| Department of Health Commonwealth | St Mary's House of Welcome |
| Department of Health and Human Services Victoria | St Kilda Drop In (Prahran Mission Uniting Care) |
| Drill Hall, Central City Community Centre (cohealth) | The Cornerstone Centre |
| Eastcare Gateways (Salvo Care) | University of Melbourne |
| Flagstaff Crisis Accommodation (Salvation Army) | University of NSW |
| Flinders University | Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation |
| Frankston Community Support | Victorian Aboriginal Health Service |
| Frontyard, Melbourne City Mission | Victorian Lions Foundation |
| Hosier Lane, Youth Projects | Victorian State Government |
| iBionics | Vision Australia |
| Indigenous Eye health Unit | Vision 2020 Australia |
| University of Melbourne | |

AUDITED CONCISE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



CONCISE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2017

COUNCILLORS' REPORT

The Responsible Persons (the Councillors) present their report on the Australian College of Optometry (the College) and its controlled entities (collectively the consolidated group) for the financial year ended 31 December 2017.

Councillors

The names of the Councillors of the College in office at any time during, or since the end of the financial year are:

K Pesudovs
M Anjou
S Byrne
L Denehy (from 1 October 2017)
M Downing
A Gentle
D Gronow (from 27 February 2017)
B Hamlyn
P Lucas
G McColl (until 30 September 2017)
M O'Keefe
M O'Sullivan (until 13 February 2017)

The Councillors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

Consolidated Group

The Australian College of Optometry is appointed as Trustee to the Schultz Laubman Schultz Endowment Fund Trust and the NVRI Governors Endowment Fund Trust. The Councillors of the College are appointed as Trustees to the Beresford Cambridge Bequest Trust.

The Councillors of the College consider it is a reporting entity as defined by AASB 1053 and the general purpose financial statements of the Australian College of Optometry have been prepared under Section 60-95 of the ACNC Act. In preparing these financial statements, the ACO has included controlled entities (the Trust Funds) that are part of the 'ACNC reporting group' consolidated in these financial statements as follows:

- The Trustee for Schultz Laubman Schultz Endowment Fund Trust;
- The Trustee for NVRI Governors Endowment Fund Trust; and
- The Trustee for the Beresford Cambridge Bequest Trust.

The College holds Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status.

Principal Activities

The object of the College is to undertake public charitable activities primarily in Australia to promote the prevention and/or the control of disease in human beings.

The principal activities of the consolidated group in the course of the year have been the provision of affordable eye care services, principally to communities experiencing disadvantage; the advancement of eye and vision care through research; and to support the education of current and new generations of optometrists.

There were no significant changes in the nature of the consolidated group's principal activities during the financial year. In addition, the operations of the College remained essentially unchanged in 2017.

The income and property of the College must be used and applied solely in promotion of its objects and no portion will be dismantled, paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or by way of profit to Members. The assets and income of the Trust Funds must be used solely for the furtherance of its' objectives and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the members of the Funds.

Short-term and Long-term Objectives

The ACO Council has approved the College's strategic plan for 2018 - 2022.

The entity's short-term objectives are to:

- continue to strengthen our clinical governance framework;
- continue to be a respected leader in the sector;
- identify opportunities to address unmet need in public health eye care;
- deliver high impact, internationally recognised research;
- build research capability and increase the translation of research to deliver outcomes that benefit the community;
- develop best practice clinical learning pathways;
- build membership and supporters;
- foster a culture of leadership, innovation, development and partner engagement;
- improve digital capability and maximise the benefit returned to the community through the investment of resources.

The entity's medium to long-term objectives are to:

- **Clinical Optometry Services:** provide high quality public health eye care for communities in need and to lead best practice and standards;

- **Research:** undertake high impact internationally recognised research to improve the understanding of vision science and eye care;
- **Education:** provide best practice clinical learning pathways for optometrists from pre-registration through to professional practice;
- **Sustainable Organisation:** develop an innovative and collaborative culture with our people striving for excellence in everything we do, facilitated by innovative and effective technology, systems and processes and with our members and supporters key to our success.

Strategies

Business plans and operational budgets for each Division are in place which set out the specific strategies adopted to support the achievement of the overall short-term and long-term objectives.

Key Performance Measures

The College measures its own performance through the use of both quantitative and qualitative benchmarks, including benchmarks relating to patient numbers, clinic occupancy and productivity, membership and key financial indicators. The benchmarks are used by management and the Council to assess the financial sustainability of the College and whether the College's short-term and long-term objectives have been achieved. The Council has not identified any additional actions that need to be taken arising from this process.

This work continues to be supported by a range of management committees, with oversight of risk and financial performance issues by the Finance and Risk Committee which is scheduled to meet at least four times during each year.

Operating Results and Review of Operations

The results for the year for the College and the Consolidated Group are summarised as follows:

	Consolidated Group		College	
	2017 \$	2016 \$	2017 \$	2016 \$
Revenue	16,657,418	15,629,383	16,312,205	15,536,350
Expenses	(16,186,989)	(15,544,712)	(16,130,465)	(15,503,828)
Surplus for the year	470,429	84,671	181,740	32,522
Other comprehensive income	313,850	355,130	15,783	–
Total Comprehensive Income	784,279	439,801	197,523	32,522

The consolidated group surplus for the year was \$470,429 (2016: surplus \$84,671).

The net assets of the consolidated group at 31 December 2017 were \$22,541,960 (2016: \$21,757,681).

The College is exempt from income tax and therefore no provision for income tax has been made.

Significant Changes in the State of Affairs

There were no significant changes in the consolidated group's state of affairs during the financial year.

Events Subsequent to the End of the Reporting Period

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the consolidated group, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the consolidated group in future financial years.

Likely Events and Expected Results of Operations

Likely developments in the operations of the consolidated group and the expected results of those operations in future financial years have not been included as the inclusion of such information is likely to result in unreasonable prejudice to the consolidated group.

Environmental Regulation

The operations of the consolidated group are not subject to any significant environmental regulation under the laws of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territories.

Information on Councillors

PRESIDENT

Professor Konrad Pesudovs

BScOptom PhD
PGDipAdvClinOptom MCOptom
FACO FAAO FCCLSA FARVO
FAICD



Professor Pesudovs was elected to Council in 2010 and was appointed to the position of President in June 2016. His career has been spent in Outcomes Research in Ophthalmology and in Optometric Education. He completed Optometry at The University of Melbourne, a PhD in Ophthalmology at Flinders University and held appointments in the US and UK before returning to Australia to the NHMRC funded Centre for Clinical Eye Research at Flinders University. In 2009 he became the Foundation Chair of Optometry and Vision Science at Flinders University where he designed and operationalised the optometry program until resigning at the end of 2017. He now works as a research and education consultant. He is a Graduate and Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. His past governance experience includes roles as a Councillor of the Flinders University Council (2017), Councillor of the SA Division of the Optometrists Association of Australia from 1992-1996. Professor Pesudovs was also on the committee of the SA Chapter of the Contact Lens Society of Australia from 1993-2000, President between 1994-1996. Professor Pesudovs is a member of the editorial boards of two professional journals having previously sat on another six.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Mitchell Anjou AM

MScOptom BScOptom FACO



Mitchell Anjou was elected to Council in 2015 and holds a position of the College's Executive Committee. He is also a member of the College's Finance & Risk Committee. He has been a member of the Australian College of Optometry since 1982 and a Fellow since 1985. He worked at the ACO for over 22 years as a clinician, educator and manager up to 2010. Since then he has been employed at The University of Melbourne as an Academic Specialist, Senior Research Fellow in Indigenous Eye Health in the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health. Mitchell trained as an optometrist at the University of Melbourne and was then awarded his Master's degree for research undertaken at the National Vision Research Institute of Australia. After a period of overseas travel, he took up a position as staff optometrist in the Melbourne Optometry Clinic at the ACO. He was appointed Director of the Clinic in 1991 and was also a senior fellow and coordinator of the clinical school for the Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences in the University of Melbourne. Mitchell served for over 10 years on the Optometrist Registration Board of Victoria, including five as Deputy Chair, and was subsequently an appointed member of the Registration and Notifications Committee of the Optometry Board of Australia for six years. He was a Director of the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand from 2012 to 2017 and founding member of the Public Health Optometry Group (PHOG). Other professional involvements include Optometry Australia and Vision 2020 Australia Aboriginal eye health committees and Optometry Victoria Optometric Sector Advisory Group. Mitchell is co-author of the Roadmap to Close the Gap for Vision, the policy framework nationally adopted to achieve equitable vision and eye care outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. He publishes, presents, advises and advocates in support of this work. Mitchell's many contributions to optometry and public health, particularly the eye health of Indigenous people, were recognised in the 2013 Australia Day honours when he became a Member of the Order of Australia and in 2017 he was awarded the ACO member award for outstanding service.

**CHAIR OF HUMAN
RESEARCH ETHICS
COMMITTEE**

Sarah Byrne

BA LLB GAICD



Sarah Byrne is a practising lawyer of over 25 years' experience in public law, health law, corporate governance, and related policy development. Positions she has held include General Counsel for the Australian Medical Association and two Commonwealth Government Departments, ACT Public Advocate, Deputy CEO of the ACT Justice & Community Safety Department, and Executive Director with responsibility (inter alia) for Research Integrity and Corporate Governance for the National Health & Medical Research Council. She has served on the boards of several non-profit arts organisations and three NHMRC Partnership Centres, chairs the Commonwealth Department of Health's Human Research Ethics Committee, and is the lawyer member of the Defence and DVA HREC. She is a Principal Advisor for Proximity Legal, and a Consultant for AHRECS Pty Ltd. She has particular interest and expertise in information law, health and medical research law and ethics, and governance in the public and non-profit sectors.

Professor Linda Denehy

BAppSc (Physio), PhD

(from 1 October 2017)



Professor Linda Denehy is Head of the Melbourne School of Health Sciences and Professor of Physiotherapy at The University of Melbourne, Australia. She also has a joint appointment as head of Allied Health Research at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. Linda has extensive teaching and learning experience, at both under and post graduate level and has supervised over 30 research higher degree students to completion. Her research interests are in rehabilitation in critically ill patients, those with cancer, COPD and in perioperative medicine. She has over 150 research publications in peer reviewed journals, including 25 invited publications or book chapters and has been invited to 50 national and international meetings as a key note speaker. Linda has been successful in obtaining funding of over AUD \$7million for research into physiotherapy and rehabilitation, including as a chief investigator on five nationally competitive grants in rehabilitation after critical illness, lung cancer and in COPD. Linda is a member of the Society of Critical Care Medicine where she is currently on a guidelines panel examining

rehabilitation in ICU. She reviews for national and international competitive granting bodies and for several international scientific journals including Lung Cancer, Intensive Care Medicine, Critical Care Medicine and Thorax.

Melissa Downing

B.Sci. B. Optom (Hons)

GradCertOcTher



Melissa Downing was elected to the ACO Council in 2016. Melissa studied her undergraduate science and optometry degrees, and attained therapeutic endorsement through the University of Melbourne. Melissa has worked in a wide range of independent and corporate optometry businesses including in regional locations. From 2003 Melissa was involved with Education committees for both OA Victoria and the ACO, highlighting her passion for pertinent continuing education for optometrists. Melissa is also passionate about developing quality graduate optometrists and was a Clinical Instructor for the University of Melbourne for several years. Melissa's 6 years on the OA Victoria Board including 4 years as President and range of sub-committees, gives her the governance skills and experience to contribute to the ACO council in shaping the next generations of optometrists and providing accessible eye care for the community.

VICE PRESIDENT

Professor Alex Gentle

BSc GCertUniTeach PGCertOcTher

PhD FAGO FAAO FCOptom



Alex Gentle was elected to Council during 2012 and, as well as holding the position of Vice President, has held the position of Chair of the College's Human Research Ethics Committee and Chair of the NVRI Board of Administration. He obtained his optometry degree at City University and completed pre-registration training at Moorfields Eye Hospital, in London. His PhD studies, at the University of Wales, Cardiff, and his post-doctoral research, at the University of Melbourne, reflected his broader interest in the mechanisms of ocular and refractive development and a specific interest in scleral biochemistry. In 2014, he was part of the research team honoured with the American Academy of Optometry's Garland W. Clay Award. Alex underwent ocular therapeutics training at the University of Melbourne and, since then, his teaching duties have spanned the ocular biological sciences, ocular disease and therapeutics, and clinical optometry. His overarching

interest in optometric education has led him to deliver continuing education to practising optometrists and other health professionals. A continuing interest in ocular therapeutics also led Alex to serve on the PPAC of the ORBV and, most recently, the SMAC of the OBA. He was appointed to Deakin University in 2012, where he currently holds the Chair in Vision Science and is Associate Head of School for Teaching and Learning in the School of Medicine. He played an integral role in conceiving, designing and delivering Deakin's new Optometry Program.

HONORARY TREASURER
Denise Gronow

CA
(from 27 February 2017)



Denise Gronow was appointed as Honorary Treasurer and as Chair of the College's Finance & Risk Committee in February 2017. She was appointed as Chair of the NVRI Board of Administration in June 2017. Denise has been an independent member of the ACO's Finance & Risk Committee since March 2014. Denise previously acted as an alternate director on ACO Council between August 2015 and January 2016. Denise is a qualified chartered accountant with significant experience working at a senior level in both the professional practice and banking sectors.

Ben Hamlyn

BOptom (Hons), GradCertOcTher



Ben Hamlyn was elected to Council in 2016. Mr Hamlyn studied his undergraduate optometry degree in Queensland and attained therapeutic endorsement through the University of New South Wales. Ben has spent much of his professional life working in regional and remote locations across the Northern Territory and South Australia. In this time he has worked with the Fred Hollows Foundation, Brien Holden Vision Institute and Papua New Guinea Eyecare. He is passionate about ensuring quality eye care is available to all. Ben was first appointed to the board of Optometry South Australia (then Optometrists Association Australia, SA) in 2011 and continues in this role. He has been a member of a number of committees and working groups both regionally and nationally for the OA. In 2014 he became a lecturer in Optometry at Flinders University. He has a key role in the teaching and development of

the optometrists of the future in the final years of their studies. Ben recognises the importance of quality graduate optometrists in ensuring a vibrant profession into the future.

The Honorable Paul Lucas

BEcon LLB MBA MURP CMILT
FAICD



Paul Lucas was appointed to Council in July 2014, and reappointed in June 2015. After 10 years' experience in private legal practice, he served over 15 years in Queensland Parliament including ministerial responsibilities in health service delivery and policy. He was responsible for a number of initiatives in broadening scope of practice for Optometrists and other Allied Health Professionals – an issue he continues to be passionate about. Mr Lucas served in numerous Ministerial capacities including Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Attorney General and Minister for Local Government, and Minister for Innovation and Information Economy. He holds Bachelor's Degrees in Economics and in Laws and Master's Degrees in Business Administration and in Urban and Regional Planning. He is an Adjunct Professor in the School of Law at Bond University and in Law & Business at Australian Catholic University. He lectures to undergraduate, postgraduate, and into international programs at The University of Queensland. He is a Non-Executive Director of Powerlink (Queensland Electricity Transmission Corporation Limited) and the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health. He is a Consultant to National law firm Holding Redlich. He is a Chartered Member of the Institute of Logistics and Transport, and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He holds postgraduate qualifications in Arbitration and Mediation.

Professor Geoff McColl

BMedSc BS MB PhD Med
(until 30 September 2017)



Geoff McColl is Head of the Melbourne Medical School and Professor of Medical Education and Training. Since 2008 he has led the development and implementation of the new Melbourne MD. He has previously held the positions of Associate Dean (Academic) in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences and Clinical Dean of the Royal Melbourne Hospital/Western Hospital Clinical School. His undergraduate medical training was completed at the University of Melbourne including a BMedSc at the Repatriation General Hospital. After internship and residency at the Austin and Repatriation General Hospitals he completed advanced training in rheumatology attaining his FRACP in 1992. He completed a PhD examining antigen-specific immune responses in patients with recent-onset rheumatoid arthritis at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in 1996 and a Master of Education in 2008 describing the methods used by clinician educators to improve diagnostic reasoning skills in medical students. Professor McColl is a visiting rheumatologist at the Royal Melbourne Hospital and past president of the Australian Rheumatology Association. He has also been a member of Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee since 2005 and Chair of the Drug Utilisation Subcommittee since 2013. Professor McColl's current research interests are related to the teaching and assessment of diagnostic reasoning skills in medical students.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER**

Maureen O'Keefe

BSc (Hons) DipEd MBA GAICD



Maureen O'Keefe was appointed as CEO of the Australian College of Optometry in March 2013, having spent the previous seven years as COO at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research. Maureen holds a Masters in Business Administration, a Bachelor of Science degree with Honours and a Diploma in Education. In addition, Maureen is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, the Williamson Community Leadership Program and an Executive Education Program at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Maureen has spent her career

in higher education, research and health organisations and has more than fifteen years experience in senior executive roles. Maureen was previously a member of the Council of the Victorian Cancer Agency for 6 years, including two years as a member of the VCA Clinical Trials Working Group. Maureen is currently a Board member of both the BioMelbourne Network (since 2011), Vision2020 Australia (since 2013) and the ARC Centre of Excellence in Convergent Bio-Nano Science and Technology Governance Board (since 2015). Maureen was appointed to the Victorian Department of Health's Clinical Trial Research Consultative Council for a 2-year term from July 2014 to June 2016.

Mark O'Sullivan

BEC FICAA FFin MAICD
(until 13 February 2017)



Mark was appointed to Council in February 2016 and was re-elected in May 2016. He held a position on Council until February 2017. He was partner at a global professional services firm for 17 years until mid 2014 when having spent 3 weeks a month of the last 10 years overseas, he decided to have period of time at home with his family. Mark's career has focused solely on the financial services industry specialising in asset management. Mark was also responsible for several ASX listed clients and has deep, extensive experience on risk, corporate governance and operations. Mark is a member of the NSW Department of Financial Services & Innovation main Audit and Risk Committee as well as that Department's Property and Housing Group's Audit & Risk Management Committee. Mark held the positions of Honorary Treasurer and Chair of the College's Finance & Risk Committee from February 2016 until February 2017.

Meetings of Council

During the financial year, seven (7) meetings of Council were held. Attendance by each Councillor during the year was as follows:

	Councillor meetings	Meetings attended
K Pesudovs	7	7
M Anjou	7	7
S Byrne	7	7
L Denehy <i>(from 1 October 2017)</i>	2	1
M Downing	7	6
A Gentle	7	6
D Gronow <i>(from 27 February 2017)</i>	6	6
B Hamlyn	7	7
P Lucas	7	6
G McColl <i>(until 30 September 2017)</i>	5	2
M O'Keefe	7	7
M O'Sullivan <i>(until 13 February 2017)</i>	-	-

In addition, the Council also met on one (1) other occasion for a strategic planning event.

Guarantee by Members

The entity is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 and is a company limited by guarantee. If the company is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$50 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the entity. At 31 December 2017, the total amount that members of the company are liable to contribute if the company is wound up is \$36,850 (2016: \$39,350).

Indemnification and Insurance of Officers and Auditors

The College provides insurance cover to Councillors and Officers against loss for which they may not be indemnified by the College arising from any claim by reason of any wrongful act committed by them in their capacity as a Councillor or Officer. This policy also covers the College against any legal payment which is made arising out of a claim by reason of any wrongful act committed by any Councillor or Officer of the College. The amount of the premium paid in respect of this insurance contract is not included as such disclosure is prohibited under the terms of the contract.

The Auditors of the College are not indemnified out of assets of the College.

Proceedings on Behalf of the College

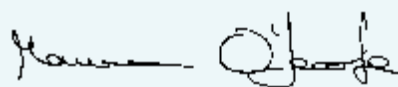
No person has applied for leave of Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the College or intervene in any proceedings to which the College is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the College for all or any part of those proceedings.

The College was not a party to any such proceedings during the year.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of the Councillors.



Konrad Pesudovs
President



Maureen O'Keefe
Chief Executive Officer

Dated this 23rd day of April 2018

Responsible Persons' Declaration

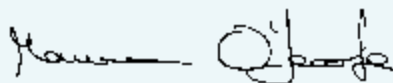
The Responsible Persons (the Councillors) of the Australian College of Optometry declare that the concise financial report of the Australian College of Optometry and Controlled Entities (Consolidated Group), comprising the consolidated statement of financial position, consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, consolidated statement of changes in equity, consolidated statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements set out herein for the financial year ended 31 December 2017:

- a. complies with Accounting Standard AASB 1039: Concise Financial Reports; and
- b. is an extract from the full financial report for the year ended 31 December 2017 and has been derived from and is consistent with the full financial report of the Australian College of Optometry and Controlled Entities.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Councillors.



Konrad Pesudovs
President



Maureen O'Keefe
Chief Executive Officer

Dated this 23rd day of April 2018

Discussion and Analysis of the Financial Statements

Information on the Australian College of Optometry Concise Financial Report

The concise financial report is an extract of and is derived from the full financial report of the Australian College of Optometry and Controlled Entities for the financial year ended 31 December 2017. A copy of the full financial report and auditor's report from which this is derived will be sent to any member, free of charge, on request. This discussion and analysis is provided to assist members in understanding the concise financial report.

ACO The College saw income increase by 5% to \$16,312,205 analysed as follows:

	2017	2016	Change
	\$	\$	%
Optical services	5,393,655	5,235,069	3.0%
Membership	173,432	172,664	0.4%
Property services (Note I)	158,930	136,417	16.5%
Research and Education	1,200,752	1,274,660	-5.8%
Government grants	7,019,675	6,994,908	0.4%
Non-government grants, trusts and donations (Note II)	1,964,146	1,282,866	53.1%
Capital grants	1,448	30,160	-95.2%
Dividends and distribution (Note III)	51,421	-	100.0%
Interest revenue (Note III)	89,470	122,524	-27.0%
Other	259,276	287,082	-9.7%
TOTAL REVENUE	16,312,205	15,536,350	5.0%

Note I – Additional tenants occupied space at the ACO in 2017.

Note II – Income for 2017 includes \$781,564 under contract with Brien Holden Vision Institute towards a project for the provision of eye health equipment and training to indigenous communities across Australia. This project is ultimately funded by the Australian Government, Department of Health.

Note III – Increase in income arising from change to investment policy.

Expenditure grew by 4.04% to \$16,130,465, which included expenditure arising from the project for the provision of eye health equipment and training for distribution to indigenous communities across Australia.

Trust funds

Total Trust Fund investment income was \$614,093 (2016: \$423,472), including gains on sale of financial assets of \$203,684 and, after distribution to the NVRI, the funds returned a surplus of \$288,689 (2016: \$52,149).

Statement of Financial Position and Changes in Equity

Net assets of the consolidated group, including the Trust Fund, increased by 3.6% to \$22,541,960. Details of the net assets of the consolidated group are set out on page 14.

Within its Statement of Financial Position, the consolidated group maintains a strong financial position, with total property, plant and equipment of \$9,669,401 (2016: \$9,936,488) and cash and total financial assets of \$16,298,275 (2016: \$14,997,766). The increase in financial assets is due to a conservative change in the investment

Statement of Comprehensive Income

The consolidated surplus from ordinary activities, including income from Schultz Laubman Schultz Endowment Fund, NVRI Governors Fund and Beresford Cambridge Bequest, was \$470,429, including net gains on sale of financial assets of trust funds of \$203,497 (2016: \$78,380). The total comprehensive income of the consolidated group for the year, including fair value gains on financial assets of \$313,850, is \$784,279 (2016: \$439,801).

policy adopted by Council early in 2017 to allow a small holding of hybrid securities. This change was considered appropriate at a time when interest rates of return remain low and with a view to enhancing income returns to support the ACO and, in particular, the NVRI.

At 31 December 2017, the consolidated group retained surpluses stood at \$16,808,940, a 2.9% increase from the previous year. The Reserves stood at \$5,733,020 a 5.8% increase from the previous year. A full analysis of changes in equity is set out on page 82.

Statement of Cash Flows

Net cash inflow during 2017, as set out on page 16, was \$272,964 (2016: outflow \$883,568), comprising a net cash inflow from operating activities of \$890,219 (2016: inflow \$726,258) available for investment in asset improvements and replacements. Cash outflows from investing activities were \$617,255 (2016: outflow \$1,609,826).

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of the Australian College of Optometry



Report on the concise financial report

Opinion

The concise financial report, which comprises the consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2017, the consolidated statement of profit or loss and comprehensive income, consolidated statement of changes in equity and consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and related notes, are derived from the audited financial report of the Australian College of Optometry and Controlled Entities for the year ended 31 December 2017.

In our opinion, the accompanying concise financial report, including the discussion and analysis, is consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial report, in accordance with AASB 1039: Concise Financial Reports and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act).

Concise Financial Report

The concise financial report does not contain all the disclosures required by the Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements applied in the preparation of the audited financial report of the Australian College of Optometry and Controlled Entities. Reading the concise financial report and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report and the auditor's report thereon. The concise financial report and the audited financial report do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the audited financial report.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the ACNC Act. We confirm that the independence declaration required by the ACNC Act, which has been given to the responsible persons of the Australian College of Optometry and Controlled Entities, would be in the same terms if given to the responsible persons as at the time of this auditor's report.

The Audited Financial Report and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial report in our report dated 24th April 2018. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities section of our report.

Responsible Persons' responsibility for the concise financial report

The responsible persons are responsible for the preparation of the concise financial report in accordance with AASB 1039: Concise Financial Reports and the ACNC Act, and for such internal control as the responsible persons determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the concise financial report.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the concise financial report is consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial report based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810: Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

McBain McCartin & Co
Chartered Accountants

123 Whitehorse Road
Balwyn VIC 3103

Dated this 24th day of April 2018

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AUDIT & ASSURANCE SERVICES

PO BOX 82 BALWYN
VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA 3103
ABN 26 028 714 960

Simon Aukstin (CA)
Partner

Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

	CONSOLIDATED GROUP		COLLEGE	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
	\$	\$	\$	\$
REVENUE FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Optical services	5,393,655	5,235,069	5,393,655	5,235,069
Membership	173,432	172,664	173,432	172,664
Property services	158,930	136,417	158,930	136,417
Research and Education	1,200,752	1,270,724	1,200,752	1,274,660
Government grants	7,019,675	6,994,908	7,019,675	6,994,908
Non-government grants, trusts and donations	1,704,266	967,765	1,964,146	1,282,866
Capital grants	1,448	30,160	1,448	30,160
Dividends and distribution	450,091	332,368	51,421	-
Interest revenue	92,209	133,248	89,470	122,524
Other	462,960	356,060	259,276	287,082
TOTAL REVENUE	16,657,418	15,629,383	16,312,205	15,536,350
EXPENSES				
Cost of goods sold	(1,164,857)	(1,146,381)	(1,164,857)	(1,146,381)
Reimbursements to optometrists	(2,125,658)	(2,247,631)	(2,125,658)	(2,247,631)
Other divisional costs	(1,545,284)	(1,017,167)	(1,545,284)	(1,026,569)
Employee expenses	(9,121,304)	(8,870,022)	(9,121,304)	(8,873,958)
Provision for employee benefits	(1,761)	(119,059)	(1,761)	(119,059)
Operating charges	(532,962)	(526,831)	(532,962)	(526,831)
Depreciation and amortisation	(810,158)	(778,167)	(810,158)	(778,167)
Insurance	(80,547)	(80,393)	(80,547)	(80,393)
Bad and doubtful debts	(16,839)	(23,978)	(16,839)	(23,978)
Other expenses	(787,619)	(735,083)	(731,095)	(680,861)
TOTAL EXPENSES	(16,186,989)	(15,544,712)	(16,130,465)	(15,503,828)
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	470,429	84,671	181,740	32,522
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME ITEMS THAT MAY BE RECLASSIFIED SUBSEQUENTLY TO PROFIT OR LOSS				
Fair value gains on available-for-sale financial assets	313,850	355,130	15,783	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PARENT ENTITY	784,279	439,801	197,523	32,522

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

as at 31 December 2017

	CONSOLIDATED GROUP		COLLEGE	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
	\$	\$	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	2,133,111	1,860,147	1,756,076	1,049,980
Financial assets	3,028,753	4,405,706	3,028,753	4,405,706
Trade and other receivables	465,735	580,746	625,514	798,347
Inventories	256,097	255,370	256,097	255,370
Other current assets	129,842	93,376	129,842	93,376
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	6,013,538	7,195,345	5,796,282	6,602,779
NON CURRENT ASSETS				
Property, plant and equipment	9,669,401	9,936,488	9,669,401	9,936,488
Intangible assets	148,903	51,013	148,903	51,013
Financial assets	11,136,411	8,731,913	1,408,331	-
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	20,954,715	18,719,414	11,226,635	9,987,501
TOTAL ASSETS	26,968,253	25,914,759	17,022,917	16,590,280
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Trade and other payables	1,224,808	1,073,989	1,233,808	1,117,090
Provisions	1,728,900	1,683,301	1,728,900	1,683,301
Other current liabilities	1,319,460	1,200,414	1,319,460	1,200,414
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	4,273,168	3,957,704	4,282,168	4,000,805
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Provisions	153,125	199,374	153,125	199,374
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	153,125	199,374	153,125	199,374
TOTAL LIABILITIES	4,426,293	4,157,078	4,435,293	4,200,179
NET ASSETS	22,541,960	21,757,681	12,587,624	12,390,101
EQUITY				
Reserves	5,733,020	5,419,170	133,901	118,118
Retained surplus	16,808,940	16,338,511	12,453,723	12,271,983
TOTAL EQUITY	22,541,960	21,757,681	12,587,624	12,390,101

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Consolidated Statement of Changes In Equity for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

	Reserves				Total \$
	Asset Revaluation- Investments \$	Contributed Equity \$	Development Fund \$	Retained Surplus \$	
CONSOLIDATED GROUP					
Balance at 1 January 2016	1,038,103	3,907,819	118,118	16,253,840	21,317,880
Surplus for the year	-	-	-	84,671	84,671
Other comprehensive income					
Net movement in market value of listed investments	355,130	-	-	-	355,130
Balance at 31 December 2016	1,393,233	3,907,819	118,118	16,338,511	21,757,681
Surplus for the year	-	-	-	470,429	470,429
Other comprehensive income					
Net movement in market value of listed investments	313,850	-	-	-	313,850
Balance at 31 December 2017	1,707,083	3,907,819	118,118	16,808,940	22,541,960
Total Reserves at 31 December 2017					5,733,020
COLLEGE					
Balance at 1 January 2016	-	-	118,118	12,239,461	12,357,579
Surplus for the year	-	-	-	32,522	32,522
Balance at 31 December 2016	-	-	118,118	12,271,983	12,390,101
Surplus for the year	-	-	-	181,740	181,740
Other comprehensive income					
Net movement in market value of listed investments	15,783	-	-	-	15,783
Balance at 31 December 2017	15,783	-	118,118	12,453,723	12,587,624
Total Reserves at 31 December 2017					133,901

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

	CONSOLIDATED GROUP		COLLEGE	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
	\$	\$	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Receipts from government grants	7,852,594	7,299,772	7,852,594	7,299,771
Receipts from patients, other funding sources and members	8,977,581	8,653,172	9,628,670	8,920,090
Payments to suppliers and employees	(15,232,700)	(14,609,236)	(15,572,312)	(14,587,097)
Net GST paid	(707,256)	(617,450)	(687,003)	(617,450)
Net cash provided by operating activities	890,219	726,258	1,221,949	1,015,314
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Dividends received	432,365	328,026	51,421	-
Interest received	101,539	134,598	89,470	123,808
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	-	2,772	-	2,772
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(522,126)	(756,247)	(522,126)	(756,247)
Purchase of intangible assets	(118,835)	(56,715)	(118,835)	(56,715)
Proceeds from sale of financial assets	11,515,992	6,731,322	10,141,580	5,860,489
Purchase of financial assets	(12,026,190)	(7,993,582)	(10,157,363)	(7,589,774)
Net cash (used in) investing activities	(617,255)	(1,609,826)	(515,853)	(2,415,667)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	272,964	(883,568)	706,096	(1,400,353)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	1,860,147	2,743,715	1,049,980	2,450,333
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	2,133,111	1,860,147	1,756,076	1,049,980

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Concise Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2017

Note 1: Basis of Preparation of the Concise Financial Report

The concise financial report is an extract from the full financial report for the year ended 31 December 2017. The concise financial report has been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standard AASB 1039: Concise Financial Reports, and the Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

The financial statements, specific disclosures and other information included in the concise financial report are derived from and are consistent with the full financial report of the Australian College of Optometry and Controlled Entities. The concise financial report cannot be expected to provide as detailed an understanding of the financial performance, financial position and financing and investing activities of the Australian College of Optometry and Controlled Entities as the full financial report. A copy of the full financial report and auditor's report will be sent to any member, free of charge, upon request.

The financial report covers the Australian College of Optometry, Schultz Laubman Schultz Endowment Fund Trust, NVRI Governors Endowment Fund Trust and Beresford Cambridge Bequest Trust ("Controlled Entities") as the "Consolidated Group" or "Group".

The accounting policies have been consistently applied in the preparation of the Consolidated Group financial statements and are consistent with the policies of the previous financial year. The Consolidated Group financial statements were prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

Note 2: Presentation Currency

The concise financial statements have been prepared in Australian dollars.

Note 3: Events Subsequent To Reporting Date

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the consolidated group, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the consolidated group in future financial years.

Segment Reporting for the Year Ended 31 December 2016 and 2017

CONSOLIDATED GROUP	Professional Development	Clinical Services	National Vision Research Institute	Corporate Services	Trust Funds	Intersegment Eliminations	Total
2017	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
REVENUE							
External Revenue	840,414	13,195,542	1,063,004	3,796,868	614,093		19,509,921
Other Segment Revenue						(2,852,503)	(2,852,503)
	840,414	13,195,542	1,063,004	3,796,868	614,093	(2,852,503)	16,657,418
Net surplus/ (loss)	75,434	201,371	(30,285)	(64,780)	288,689	-	470,429
ASSETS							
Segment assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unallocated segment assets							26,968,253
							26,968,253
LIABILITIES							
Segment liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unallocated segment liabilities							(4,426,293)
							(4,426,293)
2016							
REVENUE							
External Revenue	902,351	13,185,520	1,043,083	2,965,085	423,472		18,519,511
Other Segment Revenue						(2,890,128)	(2,890,128)
	902,351	13,185,520	1,043,083	2,965,085	423,472	(2,890,128)	15,629,383
Net surplus/ (loss)	107,272	(87,211)	12,461	-	52,149	-	84,671
ASSETS							
Segment assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unallocated segment assets							25,914,759
							25,914,759
LIABILITIES							
Segment liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unallocated segment liabilities							(4,157,078)
							(4,157,078)

This Consolidated Detailed Income Statement is prepared by management and does not form part of the audited financial statements

Trust Funds Financial Position

The financial statements for the Consolidated Group include the results and net assets of:

- the Schultz Laubman Schultz Endowment Fund Trust;
- the NVRI Governors Endowment Fund Trust; and
- the Beresford Cambridge Bequest Trust.

The ACO or the ACO Council members act as the Trustees of these three internally-managed funds.

In accordance with the terms of their Trust Deeds, income from two of the internally-managed funds (Schultz

Laubman Schultz Endowment Fund Trust and the NVRI Governors Endowment Fund Trust), together with income from one externally-managed fund (Lions Vision Research Fund), is designated to fund vision research delivered through the National Vision Research Institute of Australia, a division of the ACO. Income for the Beresford Cambridge Bequest Trust is designated to fund research in to visual impairment.

The financial position and results for the Trust Funds as at 31 December 2017 is summarized as follows:

	INTERNALLY MANAGED FUNDS						EXTERNALLY MANAGED FUNDS	
	Beresford Cambridge Bequest Trust		Schultz Laubman Schultz Endowment Fund Trust		NVRI Governor's Endowment Fund Trust		Lions Vision Research Fund	
	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE								
Profit / (Loss) on ordinary activities	26,215	14,768	242,090	38,335	20,384	(954)	7,806	10,302
Net increase / (decrease) in asset revaluation reserve	22,623	22,566	248,447	301,235	26,997	31,331	(370)	1,566
Total Changes in Equity	48,838	37,334	490,537	339,570	47,381	30,377	7,436	11,868
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION								
Current Assets	37,646	39,807	378,208	801,472	79,283	78,013	441,582	487,749
Non Current Assets								
Shares in listed companies and units in listed trusts at market value	542,105	496,105	8,432,980	7,527,601	752,995	708,207	9,896	10,266
Total Assets	579,751	535,912	8,811,188	8,329,073	832,278	786,220	451,478	498,015
Current Liabilities	-	5,000	240,243	248,663	28,638	29,962	-	38,362
Net Assets	579,751	530,912	8,570,945	8,080,410	803,640	756,258	451,478	459,653
EQUITY								
Contributed equity	-	-	3,600,153	3,600,153	307,666	307,666	173,867	173,867
Asset revaluation reserve	68,330	45,707	1,512,910	1,264,465	110,060	83,062	65	435
Retained profits	511,421	485,205	3,457,882	3,215,792	385,914	365,530	277,546	285,351
Total Equity	579,751	530,912	8,570,945	8,010,410	803,640	756,258	451,478	459,653

This information is prepared by management and is extracted from the financial records of the ACO and controlled entities and of the Lions Vision Research Fund for the year ended 31 December 2017.



AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF
OPTOMETRY
CLINICAL SERVICES • RESEARCH • EDUCATION

**374 Cardigan Street, Carlton
Victoria 3053 Australia**

Tel **+61 3 9349 7400**
Fax **+61 3 9349 7499**
Email **aco@aco.org.au**
Web **www.aco.org.au**



NATIONAL VISION
RESEARCH INSTITUTE
OF AUSTRALIA
AN ACO DIVISION

Tel **+61 3 9349 7519**
Fax **+61 3 9349 7499**
Email **info@nvri.org.au**
Web **www.nvri.org.au**



