



Australian Ophthalmic Nurses Association Newsletter April 06

“Do something. If it works, do more of it. If it doesn’t, do something else”. *Franklin D. Roosevelt*

Friends and Colleagues,

Perfect Vision Laser Correction Hornsby hosted our first Saturday Clinical meeting that turned into a mini conference 25th February 06. It was a great day. We had a line up of great speakers with interesting current topics.

The speakers and their topics were:-

Dr Alex Hunyor	Vitreoretinal Surgery for Macular Diseases
Dr Mark Gorbatov	Medical Therapeutic Options for macular degeneration
Dr Fred Schebesta	Anaesthesia for the Ophthalmic Patient
Dr Peter Benecke	Trends in Cataract Surgery last 5-10 years
Dr Alman Ogane	Intraocular Lenses
Dr Con Petsoglou	Herpetic Eye Disease in Children
Dr Steven Wine	Glaucoma
Dr John Males	Corneal Dystrophies
Dr Kathy McClellan	Corneal Infections

**Workshop Slit lamp, topography, Orbscan, Phaco Machines,
Cataract Surgery Wet Lab and Intraocular Lens loading**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who helped to make this a great day.

Dr Con Moshegov provided the venue and the help of his staff in organising the day. He also helped with the work shop following his morning clinic in Macquarie Street.

Fiona Robinson, Kate Gordon and Des Kom, Perfect Vision staff, gave their time on Saturday to help.

We thank the doctors who spoke willingly and the committee members for their tireless help and of course those who attended.

The industry as always gave their support generously. Allergan provided the lunch, Alcon, the drinks, AMO, the morning tea and Bausch and Lomb helped in covering the cost of hiring the chairs, tables and china.

Cytosol Ophthalmics, Device Technology Australia, I Q Medical and Orion gave hampers and prizes to make the day more interesting.

I would like it known that many more companies wished to contribute to this day but unfortunately due to the venue itself it was not possible to accommodate them but we appreciate their offer of support.

It was a very “squeezy” conference. Perfect Vision could accommodate fifty three people comfortably. We had hired rooms and catering at the RSL in Hornsby as plan B. The acceptances at 5pm on Friday totalled fifty, so we cancelled the RSL. On Saturday twenty four people attended who had not sent acceptances. This was a great roll up but unfortunately it meant that people were standing for the first talk. We organised more food and put chairs around and announced that we needed to be quite friendly with our neighbour. No one minded this inconvenience.

We shared this mini conference with orthoptists and optometrists. The evaluation of the day from all and, in particular, the orthoptists and optometrists was very encouraging. This day gave the optometrists 12 points. Four points is considered a good number for an educational session. They were extremely happy and said that the topics were very relevant to their work.

Well done every one who attended. It was a worthwhile day.

Don't forget to plan for the [AONA Annual Conference 24th June 06. It is to be held at the Sofitel Wentworth, Philip St, Sydney](#)

The preliminary program and registration are enclosed. With these topics and speakers, grants and prizes it is well worth your attending. Put in for days off, study leave, AONA, hospital or other grants to ensure you will be there. Please consider a year on the committee. An election nomination form is also enclosed.

Our Web Page is well under way thanks to the dedication of the committee. Cheryl Moore will fill you in on this at the conference.

From Janet Long

Recently I read an article about a nurse who is an incontinence advisor in a large Gynaecology Department in England. It inspired me to write this piece.

Why I'm glad I'm an Eye Nurse and not an Incontinence Advisor.

- 1. No-one's embarrassed to talk about their eyes.**
- 2. You don't have to ask them to take their clothes off for the doctor.**
- 3. You don't have to fumble to find euphemisms your clients are comfortable with to describe their symptoms.**
- 4. You don't need waterproof furniture.**
- 5. You get to care for healthy young men.**
- 6. The room doesn't fall silent when you mention your work at a party.**
- 7. No-one minds wearing an eye pad in public.**

Seriously though, I do love my job. Some recent highlights:

A frightened elderly woman we saw in outpatients, who needed plenty of TLC and encouragement from us all to have her dense cataracts removed, went from count fingers to 6/9. She was ecstatic.

A farmer from out West, sowing his first crop likely to survive after 3 years of drought, had to drop everything and travel to Sydney with a retinal detachment.

He struggled with the face down positioning post-op and then had “sea-sickness” from the gas bubbles, but eventually ended up back in our clinic with excellent vision. He cried for joy and said it was the skill of the doctors, yes, but more than that, the compassion and friendship of the nurses that got him through. So next time you’re feeling overworked, underpaid, under resourced and under appreciated, remember we make a real difference to our patients’ outcomes ... and be thankful you are not an incontinence advisor.

Janet Long (Sydney Eye Hospital OPD/ED)

Don't forget if you have any interesting articles or an article that you have written and would like to share it with others we would be happy to include it in our newsletter. Please send it along to the Editor of the AONA Newsletter. Email: - eileen@perfectvision.com.au or 30 Murray Farm Rd, Carlingford 2118.

If you send it by post, please send it on floppy disc. Thank you for your help.

Please send me your e-mail address. The newsletter will be sent electronically.

Please encourage your Ophthalmic Colleagues to join AONA. Give Jenny Keller a call. She would love to hear from you. 0403 904 564 or email

Executive Committee elected at June conference for 2005-2006

President/ Newsletter Editor	Eileen Betts	Perfect Vision Eye Surgery eileen@perfectvision.com.au	02 9482 5155 0409 609 346
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Dates to remember

Clinical Meetings	TBA			
<u>AONA Conference 2006</u>	Sofitel Wentworth Hotel Philip St Sydney	June	24	2006
NZ Ophthalmic Nurses In conjunction with RANZCO	Sky City Convention Centre Auckland NZ	May	5-7	2006
RANZCO Victoria	Sebel Heritage Yarra Valley	May	20-21	2006
ACORN National	National Convention Centre Canberra	May	24-27	2006
APAO(Asian Pacific)	Singapore	June	11-15	2006
AUSCRS	Hayman Island	July	14-17	2006
NSW Infection control	Coffs Harbour	July	27-28	2006
OTA Zone 1	Newcastle	July	29	2006
RANZCO Qld	Cairns International	August	9-12	2006
AONA Qld	Stamford Plaza Brisbane	August	26	2006
ESCRS	London	September	9-13	2006
AONA Vic	Ibis Hotel Melbourne	October	7	2006
Aust Private Hospitals Assoc	Gold Coast	October	9-10	2006
RANZCO National	Hilton Sydney	November	4-8	2006
Australian Day Surgery	Grand Hyatt Hotel Collins St, Melbourne	November	10-11	2006
Peri Operative Nurses Qld	Royal Pines Qld	November	9-11	2006
AAO	Las Vegas	November	11-14	2006
ASCRS	San Diego Cal USA	April /May	28-2	2007
ESCRS	Stockholm Sweden	September	8-12	2007

Eileen