

# O r B i t s

## Wet Lab -

### what is that?

For ten years working in Ophthalmic

theatres, the Wet lab had been a mystery to me. Who knows how the name originated, but at The Eye & Ear hospital there is a small room on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor dedicated to the Wet lab where trainee surgeons can rehearse surgery and get used to the equipment.

As I discovered, inside this room are several microscopes, various other instruments and some rubber eyes that have "seen" better days as well as a freezer well stocked with pigs eyes.

Our aim was to get a surgeons perspective of the anatomy of the eye and gain an appreciation for the skills of the surgery. In planning the day, we considered using "porcine" eyes, but having 18 novice nurses hacking at pig's eyes sounded too messy. Thankfully Peter Kandasamy from Alcon was able to offer us some spare rubber eyes made for the purpose of the wet lab phaco.



On the day, we worked in pairs for each

"surgery", so nurses with previous experience could tackle the initial incisions and the capsularhexis with the other nurse doing the "phacoing" of the cataract. The procedure was further simplified as we did not insert lenses. Even to those who had been to a wet lab before and have been assisting directly with thousands of cataract surgeries, it is still quite a challenge getting used to looking down a microscope and using a micro-knife on an eye without going through the cornea, the iris, the capsule or missing the eye altogether! *con't p3*

## Presidents Report

June 2010

Hi to all

As winter fast approaches I am enjoying

my sense of sight. To watch as the leaves provide such wonderful autumn colours slowly fall to the ground. It brings back the memory of a patient, who though dying of cancer, had a cataract extraction so she could see her favourite tree blossom once more before she died. This she did. We can forget how precious our sight is and though cataract surgery is so "everyday" it can mean so much.

Fall is happening here as the state registration falls away and national registration commences on July 1.

Nursing is changing and it is a time when it is truly important to be clear about our specialty and where we head in the future as professional boundaries change as delivery changes. *con't p2*

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## Presidents Report *...on't*

As nurses it is our responsibility to ensure we keep up to date in our area of practice and for AONA Vic we are endeavouring to meet the professional development needs of as many of our members as we can, to assist them with their portfolios.

This means that we need members input into what they need to provide topics that cover the diversity of ophthalmic nurses practice from theatre to emergency to clinics to rural settings.

The committee is currently planning our biennial conference as well as a nurses meeting in Adelaide in conjunction with RANZCO for our South Australian members. It is important that we provide opportunities for all our members the chance to network with colleagues across the specialty.

We look forward to providing you with a great conference in Sept in Melbourne and all is going well. The program is filling, a call for abstracts has gone out and we encourage nurses to present as our past evaluations shows nurses want to hear from nurses. It is important that our conference content reflects nursing practice as well as other professional advances as we must remember we all have a role in the ophthalmic care team and it is

important for us to hear of the advances and diversity of our practice, so I urge members to think about presenting.

We are endeavouring to provide you with on line registration thanks to the efforts of Pat Usher. The plan is: you will get instant confirmation of your registration, be able to pay by direct debit (alas not by credit card) and your receipt will be collected when you register on the day and collect your delegate bag. A preliminary program will be on the website soon but for the moment we have the topics so far scheduled for speakers.

And then to Adelaide in November for the South Australian Ophthalmic nurses meeting in conjunction with RANZCO, it is too shaping up to be an interesting day. Why not spend some time meeting your South Australian Ophthalmic colleagues they are keen to hear from interstate colleagues.

Well bye for now but looking forward to seeing you in September.....and..... November.

*Pam Armstrong*



<http://www.onwebfast.com/anf/vision-care-preview.htm>

## ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Are you pioneering new procedures, new equipment, pharmaceuticals, treated interesting cases? Let us know what's happening out there - articles for OrBits are most welcome.

Please contact Pat Usher - [Pat.Usher@eyeandear.org.au](mailto:Pat.Usher@eyeandear.org.au)

**WetLab - con't** These prosthetic eyes seemed to have capsules that are relatively easy to peel away and "cataracts" that are relatively simple to phaco. Thankfully I'm pretty sure the boffins at Alcon have made them this way in order to give the prospective trainee some confidence! There is non-compliant iris to deal with, there is nowhere for a dropped nucleus to fall. Using these eyes using a slit knife, capsularhexis forceps and a phaco machine..... and with the skilled assistance of Peter K. we ventured into the world of phaco, visco-elastic and divide and conquer.....

Pretty quickly it was accepted that a keen hand-eye co-ordination was required and while the eye looks pretty big under the microscope one false move and you realise you have come in at a wrong angle and hit the

cornea with your knife or maybe "phaco-ed" through the posterior chamber !!

At the end of the day, we all appreciate being given the opportunity to practice some surgery to gain an appreciation for the skills needed for this surgery as well as the anatomy of the eye. For me, after seeing so many surgeries it was great fun as well as satisfying having a good go at one of those "nuggets". Those of us in theatre will definitely have some sympathy for any registrars in the early stages of their training.

*Ron Hoppenbrauer AONA Vic committee*

A huge thank you to Gail McCombe for the cataract information sheets that she put together as background material.

## "EYEBALL 2010"

**Eyes For Africa** staged their fund raising at the Intercontinental Melbourne 'The Rialto Hotel', Melbourne on June 5<sup>th</sup> 2010.



Julie Tyers with Graham Romanese

Guests arrived at 7 pm and were greeted in

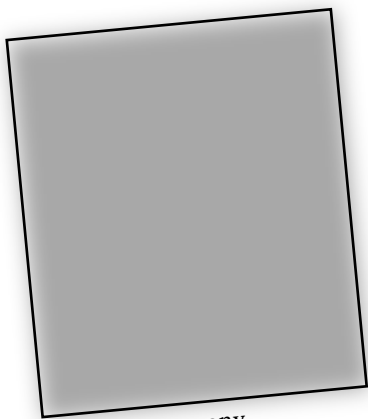
the foyer with a selection of wines, all kindly donated by Chandon Wines. To start the African flavour there was a traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony set up in the foyer where Hararian women had prepared traditional coffee, popcorn and pancakes.

Simon Fraser's African dancers and drummers performed a spectacular show as the guests were being seated for an excellent three-course meal.

Graham Romanes (Hon Consul of Ethiopia) was our M.C. for the night.

Another highlight of the evening was the Auctions (live and silent), which were conducted by auctioneers group Helping Hand who worked

tirelessly to promote bidding on their goods for the charity. "Fletchers" real estate auctioneer Simon



Coffee Ceremony

Lord was excellent in his skills to 'up the bidding' for the live auction.

The dancing continued until after midnight thanks to Mobydisc and their music selections.

The total funds raised for the evening were above \$15,000

Subsequently, 'Eyes For Africa' can confirm a trip to Harar, Ethiopia in December 2010 and intend to purchase some equipment for their future trips, for e.g. an A-scanner and a portable ophthalmic microscope.



Revelers....

'Eyes for Africa' would like to thank all those involved for their support of the Eyeball, 2010 and this worthy cause.

## A Word from your Sponsorship Team

**G**ail McCombe and Julie D'arcy will be enthusiastically

working towards approaching companies to encourage them to participate in this opportunity to display their latest surgical products offering educational, networking and advice. The message we seem to be hearing from our members is that they would like to see Optometrists involved in our trade so Julie and Gail will be working towards this. The exhibition will allow registrants to view and discuss state of the art health related technology also allowing the knowledge gained at the trade exhibition as contributing to the registrants overall professional development. The trade exhibition will be open 'til the conclusion of afternoon tea.

**So keep Saturday September 4<sup>th</sup> free  
and come along and join us at  
the Mantra on Collins.**

Also please check our website for the latest information provided via USB from ACORN to help you with your Perioperative Professional Development Portfolio.

### Sydney Hospital & Sydney Eye Hospital Peri-operative Ophthalmic Nursing Seminar

"Are you surgically scrubbing for patients' with ophthalmic conditions?" or  
"Do you want to learn more about ophthalmic surgery?"

Friday September 24, 2010

See [www.aonavic.com.au](http://www.aonavic.com.au)

for link to pdf

### Australasian Mobility Conference 2010

The 4th Australasian Orientation and Mobility Conference will take place between 24-26 November 2010, and will be hosted by Guide Dogs NSW/ACT at The Women's College within the University of Sydney. This is a conference for the professional development of Orientation & Mobility and Guide Dog specialists.

### Orbis FEH

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Australian College of  
Operating Room Nurses  
Peri-operative Professional  
Development Portfolio

See [www.aonavic.com.au](http://www.aonavic.com.au)

for link to pdf

## AONAVic Events 2010

AONA Victoria are already planning for 2010.

- Our biennial conference will take place on Saturday the **4<sup>th</sup> of September**. Details on website
- Adelaide in November @ RANZCO, assisting our South Australian members with their clinical meeting.