



SOUTH HEDLAND HOSPITAL HAS STATE OF THE ART FACILITIES

Lions in the Outback

Since 2010 Lions has had a small but dedicated team of eye health professionals committed to improving the eye health of rural, remote and indigenous Western Australians.

Known as Lions Outback Vision, the team firmly believe that everyone should have access to comprehensive and appropriate eye health care services no matter where they live.

Lions Eye Institute (LEI) managing director Prof David Mackey spent a week in June with Outback Vision chief Dr Angus Turner travelling around the Pilbara as part of the eye care program. He said the trip combined regular clinics with stopovers at centres Outback Vision teams had not previously visited.

“Angus drove from Perth to run clinics in the Goldfields, then on to the Pilbara to work with me, and after that he headed up to the Kimberley for more clinics,” David said.

Angus picked up David in Newman, where the huge Mt Whaleback iron ore mine is located in the Ophthalmia Ranges. The unusual name for the ranges was coined in 1876 by Ernest Giles, who suffered severe conjunctivitis when he explored the area.

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Giles' eye problems might have even been trachoma, which was endemic in the area nearly a century later. In the 1950s distinguished ophthalmologist Dame Ida Mann diagnosed a trachoma epidemic in the Kimberley's Aboriginal communities

and travelled Western Australia extensively examining and treating the disease. She became convinced that better housing and sanitation, rather than antibiotics, would improve this health crisis.

From Newman, David and Angus visited the Jigalong Aboriginal community, a four-hour drive to the east.

“At Jigalong we saw several patients with cataract and arranged to fly five of them plus a woman with trachoma-scarred eyelids to Port Hedland for surgery the following Monday,” David said.

The patients were booked to travel on a charter plane funded through the Indigenous and Remote Eye Health Service.

“After Jigalong we returned to Newman for a clinic at the local hospital, where we diagnosed a patient with severe glaucoma,” David said.



With the help of the WA Country Health Service's patient-assisted travel scheme, they arranged transfer to Perth for treatment.

“The more services Lions can provide for regional and remote communities, the better the health outcomes for the locals”

David and Angus then drove to Port Hedland. Angus said South Hedland's new hospital had state-of-the-art facilities and a well-appointed purpose-built hostel for Aboriginal people booked in for treatment.

“All the Jigalong patients booked in made the flight – thanks to the local GP and nurses and a short waiting time from booking to surgery,” Angus said.

David and Angus met their patients at the airport, organised a maxi taxi, checked the patients were settled in and arranged their preoperative measurements – a series of tests requiring specialist equipment – to determine the lens power for their intra-ocular surgery.

“The operating went smoothly and the patients flew back to Jigalong the next day, so David and I headed down to Karratha for our next day's operating on patients that had been booked in several months before,” Angus said.

Hedland Health Campus loaned some operating equipment, which David and Angus brought to Karratha's Nickol Bay Hospital, an older semi-underground hospital build to withstand Category 3 cyclones.

“Local patients with pterygium and cataract as well as patients booked in from Roebourne Aboriginal Clinic were scheduled although not all attended,” Angus said.

He said this demonstrated the benefit of keeping the time between diagnosis and treatment to a minimum.

David said the challenges of providing city-standard eye care to remote communities were ongoing.

“The more services Lions can provide for regional and remote communities, the better the health outcomes for the locals,” he said.



What Constitutes Autoimmunity?



The 2013 Ian Constable Lecture will provide an insight into our current understanding of latent infectious disease as revealed by the ongoing AIDS epidemic.

Professor John V Forrester, Cockburn Chair of Ophthalmology at the University of Aberdeen, will examine Autoimmunity and Latent Infectious Disease at this year's lecture on Thursday, October 3, at the Theatre Auditorium, University Club, UWA.

The prestigious lecture is presented by the LEI and is named after Professor Ian Constable, who founded the Institute and

is recognised as one of the world's leading ophthalmic surgeons.

Professor Forrester is internationally recognised as a pre-eminent expert in ocular immunology. Since 2012 he has had a joint appointment at The University of Western Australia and the LEI. He spends six months a year in Perth working collaboratively with the LEI's ocular immunology group on the causes of uveitis and defining the mechanisms that regulate tolerance and immune activation in the eye.

A better understanding of the mechanisms of tolerance will help us to develop new strategies for the treatment of autoimmune disease in the eye and in other tissues.

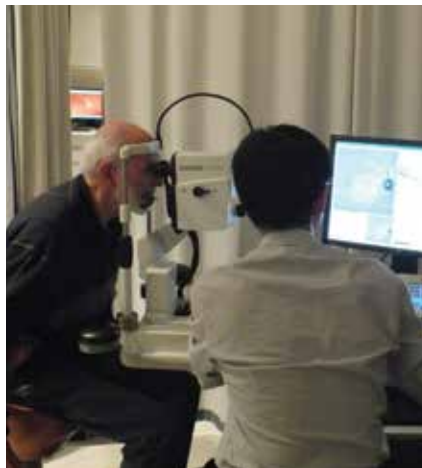
The outcomes from Professor Forrester's research will be immediately relevant to ophthalmology, but could also ultimately provide insights into the cause and treatment of the more global problems caused by autoimmune disorders.

Entry to the event is free, but an RSVP is essential. Book online and find further information at <http://2013jiclecture-eac2.eventbrite.com.au/>

Open Your Eyes



For 30 years the LEI has been on a global mission to prevent blindness. This is your opportunity to see first-hand the work of our doctors, scientific researchers and clinic staff. The day will offer information on our clinical operations and treatments, eye anatomy, the work and breakthroughs of our research groups and the world of ophthalmic photography.



Visitors will also be able to meet cricket legend Bruce Yardley. Personally signed copies of Roo's Book, the bright and breezy account of Yardley's life and career, will be available for purchase. Proceeds from book sales assist the LEI.

This year's Public Open Day will be held on Saturday, October 5.

Tours will run every 15 minutes from 12-4pm. For further information call 9381 0777 or visit www.lei.org.au

"The eye is the jewel of the body" Henry David Thoreau

Rural Professional Development

Two ophthalmologists from the LEI have shared their specialist knowledge with regional doctors. Dr Jean-Louis de Sousa and Assoc Professor Angus Turner were guest presenters on Rural Health West's Rural Doctors Broadcast in August, titled Eyes, Eyelid and Orbits.

The Rural Doctors Broadcasts are produced each month to provide the rural and remote health professionals of Western Australia with current information, research and resources on a specific topic.

The broadcast information is provided by guest presenters who are experts in their relevant field.

The broadcasts can be accessed by health professionals via the Rural Health West website [free of charge] at www.ruralhealthwest.com.au/professional-development/rural-doctors-broadcasts

30th Anniversary Celebration

For 30 years, the LEI has been changing the way people see the world. On Saturday, August 31, our supporters gathered at the Perth Arena to celebrate. Everyone enjoyed taking a journey through the past 30 years as well as looking into the future.

The full gallery of photos is available at www.lei.org.au/photos/30th-anniversary-gala-dinner/



Help Prevent Blindness

Your support allows us to continue the important work needed to prevent blindness. Our Mission is to achieve excellence in scientific research and clinical practice to prevent blindness and eye disease.

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