

Eye Museum



The Eye Museum Continues to Flourish at Congress

The 2023 Perth Congress hosted a large and diverse RANZCO Museum presentation.

Featuring rare and curious objects from the Ian McAllister collection, the display included French 19th century autorefractors and large early versions of keratometers (Figure 1) and curious functioning models simulating ocular movements including a rare Donders brass device (Figure 2).

For surgeons wishing to improve their operating skills, an ophthalmic

phantom modelled on Julius Caesar featured sockets to hold pigs' eyes to practice Graefe cataract incisions. At the time of its use, surgeons often had difficulty manipulating the blade with their left hand and were able to practice using the head (Figure 3).

The history of vitrectomy instrumentation, involving collaboration between Parel in Melbourne and Machemer in Miami, was shown in a video presentation together with prototypes of the Sutherland intraocular vitrectomy instruments and early VISC machinery.

Dating into the early 20th century, ophthalmologists had to rely on remote



Figure 1. French 19th century autorefractors and large early versions of keratometers.

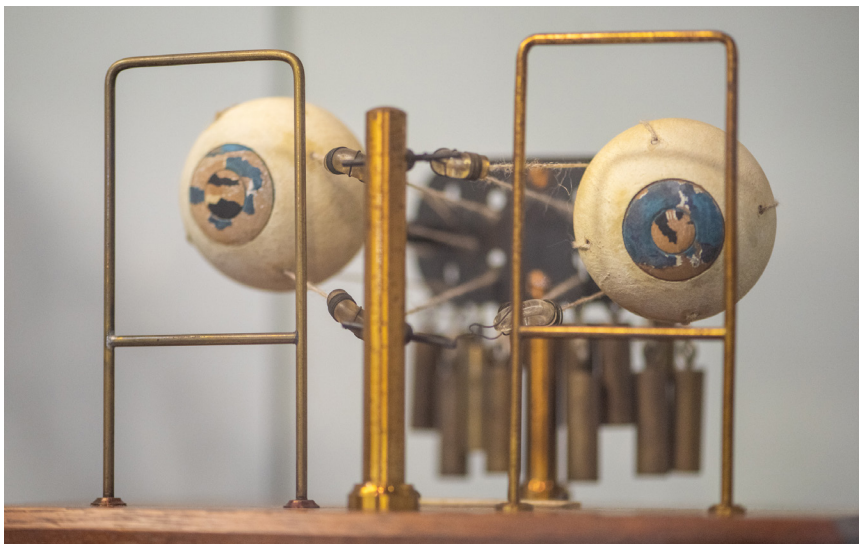


Figure 2. A rare Donders brass device.



Figure 3. Phantome styled after Caesar for practicing Graefe cataract sections on pig eyes 19C.

light sources to illuminate reflecting ophthalmoscopes and retinoscopes. Prior to electric lamps, relying on candle power, a display featured the Priestly Smith lamp and early diagnostic tools with a video presentation of the 1920 consulting room.

A record number of historical posters were received competing for the Jim Martin prize. The 11 posters submitted were all of high quality and diversity from aspiring trainees. The winner was Dr Nicholas Dewhurst on the 'Evolution of topical glaucoma therapy' and runner up, Dr Jonathan Chua on the works of Jules Gonin.

The posters can be found on the Presentations tab on the Eye Museum website.

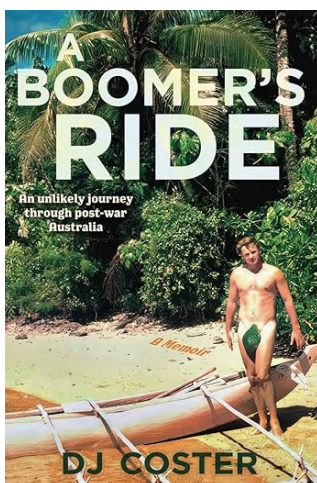


The museum continues to flourish with additional artefacts from Ian McAllister's collection as well as donations from College Fellows.

Fruitful contact continues with the All India Society of Ophthalmology to enable the Indian museums to be upgraded and develop online access.

Again, many thanks for the support from the College staff and helpers in setting up the display within a tight time frame at the Congress.

David Kaufman
Curator, RANZCO Museum



A BOOMER'S RIDE

- DJ Coster AO

This book is a unique insight into postwar medicine particularly ophthalmology in Australia and Great Britain.

An easy read covering the evolution of medicine pre and post Medicare, with colourful anecdotes from the perspective of training then academia and government administration.

The story is told honestly and reflectively by someone not afraid to provoke. It is not a story of personal achievement against the odds, but a description of factors that made the baby boomer generation more privileged than any other generation, before or since, and the way national and global events and chance encounters and luck shape lives.

Available from Amazon Australia