



Autumn Edition Newsletter



ACHS ACCREDITATION FOR THE VCDS

The Vision Centre Day Surgery started the year off on a positive note by achieving ACHS accreditation for the second time for a further 4 years. ACHS accreditation sends a clear message to the community that the Vision Centre Day Surgery, its management and staff, are committed to excellence in health care with a strong and continuing focus on safety, quality and performance.

All involved are to be commended including, importantly, patients, for their contribution not only during the assessment and evaluation process, but also for their support and commitment to quality through continuing dialogue and improvement initiatives. We are aware that patients today demand a high standard of health care, and we are pleased and proud that the Vision Centre Day Surgery has been recognised for meeting this expectation.

The Vision Centre Day Surgery is located on the ground level of the Vision Centre, 95 Nerang Street, Southport and provides ophthalmic surgery for DVA and privately insured patients as well as providing competitive rates for uninsured patients especially pensioners.

NEW VISION CENTRE DOCTORS

We welcomed two new doctors to the Vision Centre Gold Coast medical team, ophthalmologist Professor Lawrence Hirst and oculoplastic, lacrimal and orbital surgeon Dr Phung Vu.

Professor Hirst's clinical achievements are well-known and include corneoscleral grafts for patients with severe infections of the front of the eye; a new method for removal of pterygium which has resulted in only few recurrences and a good cosmetic appearance; and new techniques for the application of tissue adhesives in perforated eyes that have saved eyes in elderly patients who previously would have lost their eyes because of infection.

Graduating from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Queensland in 1969 with first class honours, Professor Hirst undertook a clinical fellowship in cornea and external disease at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, USA, during 1976-77. Following this he was the assistant director of the corneal service at the Johns Hopkins Hospital for five years and then the director of the corneal service at the Bethesda Eye Institute, St Louis University for three years.



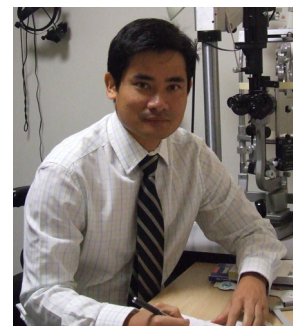
Prof Lawrence Hirst

He returned to Australia in 1986 as chair and executive director of the Queensland division of Australian Foundation for the Prevention of Blindness (now the Prevent Blindness Foundation) and has devoted his practice entirely to anterior segment diseases and surgery.

Currently completing a master of Medical Science degree at the University of Newcastle, Dr Vu specialises in all aspects of eyelid surgery including cosmetic procedures such as eyelid reductions, brow lifts and ectropion/entropion repairs. His other areas of expertise include basal cell carcinoma excision and reconstruction of periocular eyelid tumours, thyroid eye disease, surgical management and endoscopic dacryocystorhinostomies (bypassing blockages in the tear drainage system).

Following Dr Vu's graduation from the University of Queensland in 1991 he completed a residency at the PA Hospital, was an intensive care medical officer at the Holy Spirit Hospital and was the eye registrar at the Gold Coast, Newcastle and Brisbane hospitals.

In 2003, Dr Vu completed a clinical fellowship at Exeter, followed by an oculoplastic and reconstructive fellowship at the Queen's Medical Centre (University of Nottingham) in 2004 and an orbital fellowship at the Academic Medical Centre (University of Amsterdam) in 2005.



Dr Phung Vu

OUR FLYING DOCTORS

The Vision Centre Medical Team continues to provide ophthalmic care to rural areas with Dr Andre Theron joining Dr Roger Welch and Dr Denis Stark this year in conducting rural clinics. This service is essential to provide access to ophthalmic care for patients, especially the elderly, who are unable to travel to the cities for care due to the demands of their properties or lack of mobility.

Dr Welch and Dr Andre Theron travel to Moree in Central Northern NSW and paediatric ophthalmologist Dr Stark visits both Longreach and Biloela during the year with fellow ophthalmologist Dr Bill Glasson.

LENS IMPLANTS

Advances in intraocular lenses have seen the introduction of the ReSTOR and TECNIS multifocal lens and the Toric Lens. Vision Centre surgeons Dr Roger Welch and Dr Andre Theron have utilised these lenses for selected patients and achieved successful surgical outcomes.

The ReSTOR and TECNIS lenses are utilised for the treatment of patients with presbyopia, cataracts or both. This lens restores the ability of patients to see up close and distance and in 90% of cases without the use of glasses post-operatively.

The Toric lens is designed to incorporate astigmatism correction, eliminating the need for extra corneal incisions in many cases. These tiny incisions were placed at the edge of the cornea and caused the cornea to heal in a more spherical shape. Dr Theron has commenced implanting the new Alcon Toric intraocular lens which is likely to give even better results.

Right: AMO TECNIS lens



TREATMENTS FOR MACULAR DEGENERATION

Macular Degeneration patients have the treatment options of both Visudyne and Lucentis at the Vision Centre Gold Coast.

Visudyne works by utilising a non-thermal (cold) laser to trigger a photo-chemical reaction with the Visudyne drug that selectively occludes abnormal blood vessels while sparing healthy retinal tissue. Treatments are provided every 2-3 months over a 2-3 year period (generally 7-10 treatments in total).

Lucentis suppresses abnormal growth of blood vessels in the eye and can result in vision improvement if started early. Lucentis treatment is provided in the sterile environment of the Vision Centre Day Surgery theatre where patients are given sedation before the Lucentis is injected into their eye to ensure their comfort during the treatment. Lucentis injections are performed monthly.

Visudyne and Lucentis can be used as stand alone treatments or in combination dependant upon the individual patient's clinical need. Great advance in the treatment of macular degeneration.

NOT ALL WORK AND NO PLAY

The Vision Centre Gold Coast doctors and staff have enjoyed some well earned relaxation and adventure outside of the practice.

Natasha ventured to the USA and was captivated by the Grand Canyon. Terry conquered Tasmania hiking Cradle Mountain and Cataract Gorge. Katie enjoyed the relaxation of massages and retail therapy in Phuket. Robyn visited both the Hunter and Barossa Valley. Dr Roger Welch endured a challenging week of skiing and mountaineering in NZ, scuba diving in Tawali, PNG; Bequa, Fiji and Vanuatu. Dr Andre



Dr Roger Welch climbing the Franz Josef Glacier

Theron joined the inaugural voyage of the Queen Mary II. Dr Denis Stark spent a week cruising the Antarctic and visited Mawson's Hut.

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*(Located opposite the
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undercover car parking
available)*

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*(Located next to the Mermaid
Beach Bowls Club with car
parking available)*

- Cataract surgery
- Treatment for macular degeneration using Lucentis and Visudyne
- Management of glaucoma
- Diabetic eye examinations
- Squint surgery
- Pterygium surgery
- Eye surgery including droopy upper eyelids
- Care and treatment for red and irritated eyes, watery eyes and dry eyes
- General eye examinations including flashes and floaters and sudden visual loss