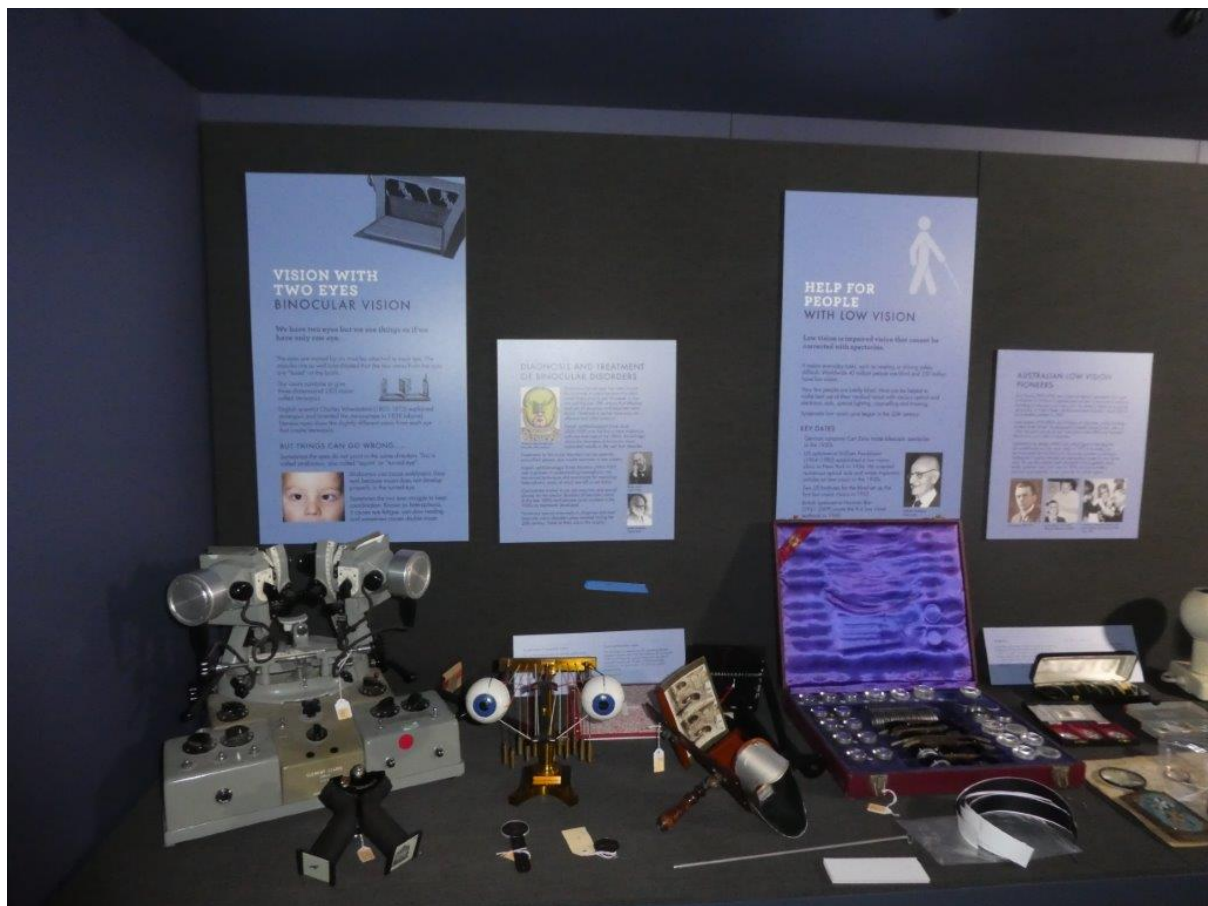


The Kett Museum exhibition space takes shape



The construction of the new Kett Museum Exhibition space is nearing completion. The cabinetry has been installed and the archivists and museum designers, Thylacine, are finishing off the signage and mounting the displays.

Creating displays is a time daunting task. Only a very small proportion of the Museum's collection can be shown. How do you choose the items? How should they be displayed? What will we say on the signs? What should the labels say?

The cabinetry must be designed and manufactured. Suitable lighting must be chosen. Mounts for the individual items must be designed and fabricated. The list goes on and on.

Above is a photograph of some of the collection waiting to be placed in their final positions.

The present plan is to have the official opening of the Museum along with the Annual General Meeting of the Australian College of Optometry.

All Friends of the Kett Museum will be invited.

Do you own a copy of this book?

Friends of the Museum are interested in the history of optometry, so many of you will have already purchased Barry Cole's book *A History of Australian Optometry*.

For those have not there are still a few copies available. This is your chance to grab a copy signed by the author with a personal message.

The book describes the how, what and why of the history of Australian optometry in the context of what was happening in other countries and the technology that drove change.

The book's author was the foundation Professor of Optometry at the University of Melbourne from 1978 to 1998 and was also head of the ACO from 1965 to 1998.

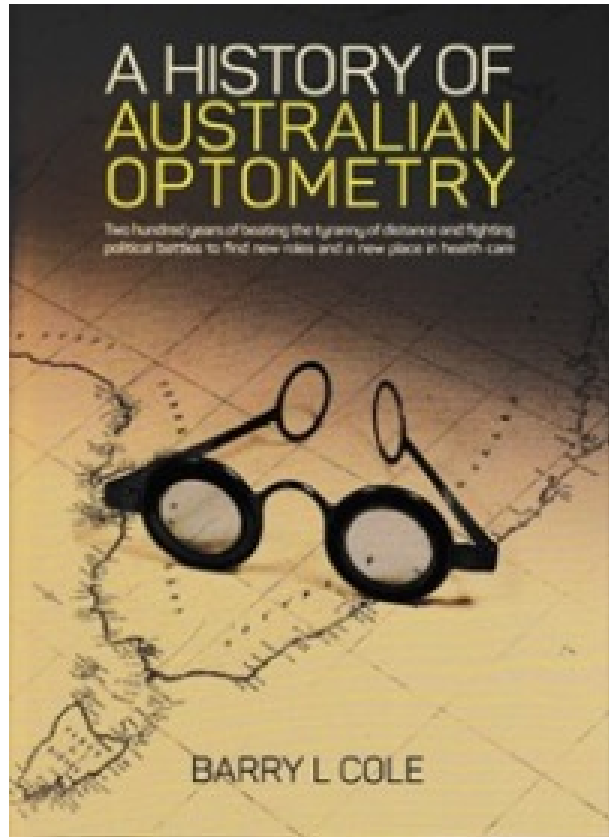
He has been an honorary archivist in the Kett Optometry Museum for the last 20 years. He knows the history of optometry from his research and personal experience in the thick of things.

The book was published in late 2015. It is 320 pages, A4 size, and lavishly illustrated in colour throughout. There are two versions, a paperback and a hard cover.

It is a very readable book – the style of writing is light and personal. However, it is also a reference book. There is an index and each Chapter ends with a table of key events. There is an extensive list of references. A lengthy appendix lists the people who made the history happen and their roles in doing so.

What will cost you? Paperback \$70; hard cover \$150 (including GST) This is a discounted price for Friends of the Museum. Postage is \$15 in Australia.

How to buy. Go to <http://www.aco.org.au/75th-anniversary/history-book> to download an order form or telephone 03 9349 7550 and speak to **Emma**.



MUSEUM ACQUIRES 100 YEAR OLD OPHTHALMOSCOPE IN PRISTINE CONDITION

The Kett Optometry Museum has an excellent collection of ophthalmoscopes, dating from the 1860s to the late 20th century. Examples in the collection illustrate the development of instruments for direct and indirect ophthalmoscopy. The earliest instruments had no focussing systems or inbuilt illumination. The incremental development of increasing complexity of ophthalmoscopes can be understood from the collection.

Most instruments in the Kett collection are donated after a lifetime of service and show signs of wear. An exception to this is a recently donated Down Brothers ophthalmoscope (Cat #3666), c1900, which is in pristine condition. It is housed in a fitted leather-covered case which is lined with purple velvet and satin. The ophthalmoscope is non-illuminated and has 2 mirrors to allow both direct and indirect ophthalmoscopy. It contains a large number of lenses (+12 to -20) within the instrument head and four supplementary lenses (+5, +20, -10, -30) mounted on a disc on the outside. A condensing lens of +13.50 is held within the case.



Gilt lettering inside the case reads 'DOWN BROS OPPOSITE GUY'S HOSPITAL'. The firm of Down Brothers was founded in London in 1879 and manufactured high quality medical and surgical instruments.

In contrast, another recent acquisition is extremely simple. The Priestley Smith combined ophthalmoscope and retinoscope (Cat # 3672), c1920, consists of 2 mirrors on a



Bakelite handle. One mirror is condensing and the other is plane and both mirrors have a 4mm clear central sight hole. The instrument has a tan leather slip-in case.

Priestley Smith LLD, FRCS, (1845-1933) was an accomplished surgeon, known throughout the world for his studies in glaucoma. (The Museum holds his book on glaucoma Cat No 3610).

What did ophthalmology think of optometry 45 years ago?

Archivist Joe Chakman is working with the State and National divisions of Optometry Australia to identify archival material and historical objects held by them that might be better safeguarded by the Kett Museum.

A recent acquisition from this exercise was the donation by the National office of a booklet entitled "*Optometry in the Australian Health Services. A commentary by the Australian College of Ophthalmologists*" published in 1974. (Edited by James Fair; Paper wrapper, 250 x 201 mm, 80 pp, Beaver Press, Sydney. Museum Cat # 3660).

These days optometrists and ophthalmologists have good working relationships in the care of patients and in sharing knowledge. This was not so in past years.

The booklet was written in the course of the political battle to have optometrical services included in the then very new universal health insurance scheme that was introduced by the Whitlam Government in 1974. It was then called Medibank but later named Medicare.

You can read the full story in Chapter 14 in Barry Cole's book. The booklet is held in the storerooms of the Kett Museum and can be accessed by contacting one of the archivists.

An early auto-perimeter

Canberra resident Ron Parker has donated a Synemed Fieldmaster 101 PR Visual field plotter that belonged to his late wife, Janice Parker (1959-2016), who was a Canberra optometrist.

It is an early example of an automated self-recording static perimeter and is in fine condition with instruction manuals.

It was first produced in 1976. This model 101 was made in 1980. It pre-dates the Dicon automated perimeter (c.1982) and the Medmont (1988) that was designed and made in Australia.



The first static perimeter was the Oculus Tubinger perimeter made in 1969 but it was not automated.

Before static perimetry optometrists of an earlier era had to struggle with arc perimeters and the Bjerrum tangent screen. The younger generation can search the Museum's web site for "perimeters" to see what the older guys has to work with.

Browse the Museum's website



The Kett Museum website works well. We get a steady stream of visitors to it. In February we had 457 unique visitors (up 14% from January) from all around the world They logged 570 sessions for the month.

In our newsletters we give the catalogue numbers of items we have described. You can get more information by entering the catalogue number into the search engine.

If you want to look at all items of a particular type that the Museum holds you can search by "Category". For example if you want to look at our holdings of perimeters and their accessories chose the category "Equipment" and the sub-category "Perimeter, visual field analyser". This will give you a list of 13 items. For any given item click on "More details" to see the full catalogue record.

THANKS TO DONORS (LAST THREE MONTHS)

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