March 2019 Newsletter

Dear Friends,
Collaboration is an important part of Sight For All's projects, working together with partners to undertake our key strategies of research, education, infrastructure support and eye health awareness. It's one of the reasons I love the photo above! It was taken in August last year, when our Executive Officer Judy Hatswell and Visionary Dr Craig Donaldson were in Cambodia for the Paediatric Ophthalmology Fellowship Presentation Ceremony for Drs Kheng and Soleaphy.

You can see the excitement on the faces of our Fellows and their colleagues. It demonstrates the support they have for each other as they work together, in collaboration with Sight For All. We are so proud of their commitment to develop sustainable solutions for vision impairment and fighting blindness in their country. Through our teaching and their learning, we are collectively having a direct and sustainable impact on tens of thousands of people each year.

Sight For All's projects are made possible through the support of our Visionaries and volunteers, our Vision 1000 Members, the Australian Government, corporate supporters, donors, in-kind sponsors, event attendees, raffle ticket purchasers...the list goes on! To each and everyone of you, I say a most sincere thank you - together we are making a real difference. As we celebrate our 10th Birthday this year, we couldn't be happier!

Thank you for helping us to Teach the World to See.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr James Muecke AM
Chairman
Sculpture For Sight, what a night!
Thank you to all who attended our major event Sculpture For Sight. A wonderful evening of sculpture, delicious food, wine, dance and festive spirit!

Sculpture For Sight is a culmination of many months of work by the Sculpture Artists, the Sight For All Events Committee and staff team. Thank you to our very generous sponsors, the support of our volunteers and the hospitality of St Mark's College. To all involved we say a very big thank you! Please enjoy social photos of the night here.

We are pleased to announce that Sculpture For Sight raised close to $120,000. This will help fund projects related to diabetic eye disease.

Did you know that diabetes is the leading cause of blindness in working age Australians? Sight For All is working locally and abroad to address this blinding condition, including the provision of educational workshops and Fellowships in our partner countries, and the production of impactful videos in Australia such as this one about Neil.

For more information about Sight For All's approach to blindness caused by diabetes please visit our website.
Making a sustainable impact in Myanmar

Sight For All are proud to report on our first projects in Myanmar funded by the Australian Government's Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

The first project involved up-skilling nine refractionist's over a two year period. Led by 13 Australian optometrists, over 13 weeks each year, lectures and tutorials were delivered at the Yangon Eye Hospital. Through time spent in the outpatient clinics, practical skills have been further developed. As a result, five teaching hospitals across Myanmar are now benefiting from our training. The trained optometrists will soon host their own training program, a great example of how our sustainable approach to furthering education will ultimately improve eye care in Myanmar.

The second project aims to increase the capacity of local ophthalmologists and eye health workers to diagnose and treat two of the leading causes of blindness in regional Myanmar - **glaucoma** and **diabetic retinopathy**. This ongoing initiative, involves the provision of advanced equipment to regional eye centres, training in the use of this equipment, and workshops to increase knowledge of
these blinding conditions. So far, 32 centres in Myanmar have been equipped through this project, with another 7 centres to be visited in the next few months.

We thank the Australian Government’s ANCP Program for their support in funding these sustainable, sight-saving projects and ICare Finland for its generosity in supplying the ICare tonometers.
Visionary Focus
Meet Dr Ashish Agar

Dr Ashish Agar has supported Sight For All projects in Lao, Cambodia and most recently Vietnam.

Dr Agar was inspired to become an ophthalmologist whilst travelling in India as a student. He was touched by the enormous burden of cataract blindness and was compelled to do something about it.

As a Glaucoma Specialist, Dr Agar has long been a valued member of Sight For All's Visionary team after learning of our work through a senior colleague. His first Visionary trip with Sight For All was to Lao, training the countries very first Glaucoma Fellow. This was a powerful experience for Dr Agar and one he will never forget.

Dr Agar summarised Sight For All’s work as "Doctors helping doctors treat blindness by teaching them skills in their own communities, so they may be permanently armed in the fight to preserve vision."

"Sight For All's ‘teach a man to fish’ model is brilliant - nothing is as powerful as education."

Thank you Dr Ashish Agar.
2018 Annual Report

The **Sight For All** Board of Directors are pleased to advise the 2018 Annual Report is now available on our [website](https://us6.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/show?id=1228637).

The 2018 Annual Report provides a comprehensive outline of our many educational projects, research studies and infrastructure programs conducted over the past year. We hope you enjoy reading it.
Together let's fight blindness

How you can help Sight For All?

- Join the **Vision 1000** giving program, a collective which accelerates our sight saving work. [Find out more here](#)
- Nominate **Sight For All** in your workplace giving program and help beat the rise in vision loss globally!
- Consider leaving a gift to **Sight For All** in your last Will and Testament. [Find out more here](#)

No matter how you'd like to support **Sight For All** we would love to hear from you. Together we can all make a difference. Please contact our Executive Officer, Judy Hatswell via [email](mailto:) or 0428 049 888 for a confidential conversation.