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(WA) Inc.**

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The Lions Save-Sight Foundation NEWSLETTER

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Your Foundation has a new Dr Jack Hoffman Scholar!

We are very please to say that we have appointed a new Dr Jack Hoffman Scholar. Yujia Yao, a PhD student who will be doing a research project in the field of ocular inflammation and retinal neurovascular health, with a particular focus on the long-term impact of cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection in the eye.

The scholarship is in partnership with Monash University, with Professor Mariapia Degli-Esposti (LEI) as her supervisor. We are very excited has she already impressed many people in the first few months she has been at Monash. Yujia started her Scholarship in April at Monash and will be moving to WA to continue her research project with LEI in late July.

In 2025, your Foundation reviewed the Scholarship and the Board decided to update it to ensure consistency with other scholarship programs and therefore be more attractive to students to pursue further study. The scholarship was extended from a 12-month term to a 3 ½ year term, as this is the commonly accepted term for a scholarship.

Dr Brian King Fellowship—Dr Jessica Mountford.

In our February Newsletter we advised that this Fellowship would end in March, however, with the amazing work done by Dr Mountford and a request from LEI, the Board have decided to continue this Fellowship to the end of 2026, making this the sixth year of supporting this worthwhile project. It is generally accepted that support for research projects such as this run for at least a 5-year period, so the Board did not hesitate in increasing the timeframe of the Fellowship.

Other News

The Foundation continues to support 50% of the Lions Curtin Chair of Ophthalmic Big Data, with Professor Andrew Turpin becoming an integral part of LEI coming up with workable solutions on the complex issue of data usage and how to use this to the benefit of research and treatment of eye health at LEI. Curtin University has been very impressed with his work and his contract with him was recently renewed.



Your Foundation is also continuing support of Dr Danial Roshandel in his vital research into ocular surface diseases. The Board has also approved to support Dr Roshandel in his professional development which will enable him to be registered with AHPRA and assessed by RANZCO so he can continue this important research with LEI.

Congratulations

Kings Birthday Honours for two of Lions Eye Institutes own—Professor Bill Morgan received an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) and Professor Mariapia Degli-Esposti received a Member of the Order of Australia (AM).



Level 2—LEI Building Redevelopment

This \$14.1 million major redevelopment project will transform LEI's existing facilities into a state-of-the-art ophthalmic theatre complex. The original theatres on Level 2 were opened in 1996.

We are pleased to report that this major redevelopment is on-time and on-budget!



Parts of the redevelopment have been completed and are now in use. Completion is expected in the first half of 2027 with the opening of the new operating theatres and laser vision procedure room.

Touring Lions Eye Institute

Why not arrange for your Club to take a tour of the state of the art facility at the Lions Eye Institute, plus the current upgrades to Level 2 and see what Lions in WA have achieved.

Since 1983, the Lions Eye Institute, which was spawned out of the Lions Save-Sight Foundation and receives our ongoing support, has worked at the frontiers of eye science - contributing to global understanding of eye disease, developing new therapies and driving technological innovation. LEI specialist research groups are world-renowned and collaborate at national and international levels to bring the next generation of therapies from the laboratory bench to the bedside. The Institute is home to one of the largest ophthalmological clinical trial research centres in the world, giving patients access to new treatments before they are available to the general public.

Contact our office to book a tour of this amazing facility (contact details on front page).

Perth Half Marathon & 5km

The 42nd Perth Half Marathon is set for Sunday the 2nd August! The run is organised by the West Australian Marathon Club who **generously** donate proceeds to The Lions Save-Sight Foundation. Several Lions Clubs set up and man the water stations, and a BBQ is organised for after the run.

Participants have the option to run or walk 21.1km or 5 km allowing for all age groups and fitness levels. This year will also see the WA State Half Marathon Championships and the Kids Marathon. All finishers receive a medal.

Lion Paul Tomas co-ordinates this project on behalf of the Foundation. Our thanks goes to Paul for all his efforts.



TOM CAMERON AWARDS

Recognise the efforts of a Lion or someone in your community who has shown outstanding service.

The award can be purchased for \$300 and comes with a pin, framed certificate and recognition on the awards register on the LSSF website.



A worthy way of meeting the challenge of being 'Knights of the Blind'.

