

Victorian Lions Foundation

Power Point Presentation

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History of the VLF and ongoing projects

In 1983 the District Governors of V1, V2, V3, V4, V5 and V6 appointed a committee to consider the possibilities of the formation within the six Lions Club Districts which cover the State of Victoria and parts of Southern New South Wales

The committee members were Leo Tyquin (Chairman), Jeff Lawrence and David Blyth.

There was a strong consensus that it would be in the best interest of Lionism to have one foundation to embrace existing ones and any future major fund-raising and other activity involving all six Districts.

Investigations indicated that the existing Victoria Lions Charitable Foundations with minimal formal constitutional amendments could be used as the umbrella. The only member of the existing foundation at that time was Lions Village Nicola. However, the objects enabled other suitably qualified foundations, or fund raising activities, to operate the same constitution.

It was proposed to present the required constitutional amendments to the annual general meeting of the Victoria Lions Charitable Foundation in June 1984. It was proposed that those amendments if approved would be submitted to the 1984 V1, V2, V3, V4, V5 and V6 District Conventions for approval.

They have met at a few different venues most notably at Caulfield in the early days and now meet at the Bionics Institute East Melbourne, NVRI N Carlton and Baker IDI (next to the Alfred Hospital) Melbourne

The VLF hold donated funds for the following Baker IDI, Bionics Institute, NVRI, Centre for Eye research, Lions Rheumatism & Arthritis Medical Research Foundation Australia. It also held funds for Licola, which is no longer part of the VLF, Lions Crime watch

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Lions International Diabetes Institute PDG David and Veeda Oakley.

Diabetes is the key word for Lions Clubs, but in Victoria our association with Diabetes research and funding go back as far as 1981. This was the time that the major medical breakthrough of self-blood glucose monitoring became available. What was needed, however, was an institute that could teach self-blood monitoring to insulin-dependent diabetics and health professionals. Initially the clinic was carried out temporarily from army huts and houses scattered over the hospital grounds which were totally inappropriate and Professor Zimmet was able to use his drive, foresight and his entrepreneurial talent to find the \$450,000 needed to renovate the abandoned and condemned old nurses' residence.

Sir Ninian Stephen officially opened the Lions International Diabetes Institute in 1985 and it was Australia's first Institute devoted exclusively to diabetes research, education and treatment programs. Lions Clubs throughout Victoria donated \$82,000 towards the cause with the Victorian Lions Foundation donating a further \$18,000.

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The original name was the Lions International Diabetes Institute. There have been several name changes, for various reasons and in May 2010 the International Diabetes Institute and Baker Heart Institute amalgamated to form Baker Heart & Diabetes Institute. Lions and the Victorian Lions Foundation are still supporting the Institute and the important role they play in medical research.

The original plaque that was mounted on a rock at the entrance to the Diabetes Institute – now Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute. The plaque is now on the honour wall inside the Institute in Prahran

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Lions International Diabetes Institute Baker IDI (next to the Alfred Hospital) Melbourne

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Lions Eye Research

There are many different sorts of eye conditions, Glaucoma, tunnel vision, cataracts, with about 40 different types of conditions.

The developers of a simple eye test to detect signs of Alzheimer's disease have won funding to help take their technology from the lab to the eye clinic

The team, which includes [Associate Professor Peter van Wijngaarden](#) and Senior Research Fellow Dr Xavier Hadoux, developed a technology similar to that used in NASA satellites to scan the retina for signs of brain and eye diseases. It will increase access to tests, which are currently not available in eye clinics, for these conditions.

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25 Years of Saving Sight Presentation

Lions Eye Donation Service Celebrates 25 Years of Saving Sight

Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AM, Governor of Victoria unveils a plaque commemorating 25 years of the Lions Eye Donation Service from 1991 to 2016.



Lions Past District Governor Neil Campbell pictured with the Honourable Linda Dessau AM, Governor of Victoria. Neil has been involved with the Lions Eye Donation Service from the beginning.

The Lions Eye Donation Service is a joint venture between the Lions Clubs of Victoria and Southern New South Wales, the Centre for Eye Research Australia, the University of Melbourne and the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital. It routinely provides corneas and sclera for transplantation and research across Victoria and Tasmania.

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Lions Eye Donation Service Celebrates 25 Years of Saving Sight



I think the two slides need no explanation

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About Graeme Clark

"In spite of the problems and criticisms, I just had to go on. A cochlear implant was their only hope of ever hearing."

A portrait of Professor Graeme Clark, an elderly man with white hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and red tie. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera.

Bionics Institute, set up originally as Bionic Ear Institute in 1985 under Professor Graeme Clarke AC, (due to if you want to all it an obsession with deafness due to his father having hearing loss), an independent, non-profit, medical research organisation that partnered with the University of Melbourne and Cochlear to enable those with profound hearing to be able to get some (and I use the word) “noise” that was resembling speech to help those in need.

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Bionics Institute East Melbourne

That noise was very tinny in sound to what we know through normal hearing. It started off as a Cochlear Implant, but the responders in the tube for the cochlear number in the thousands, but implants are limited to size and can only fit about 30-40 to help stimulate the nerves. However it has helped thousands to have hearing. Today they are trying for sight stimulation. One of the fund raisers was “Miss personality Quest” each year, mainly run by the Carlton Lions club with Anna-Maria Agar as the chairman. This raised thousands of dollars each year it was run.

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National Vision Research Institute

Original set up in 1940, in 1978 the first satellite clinic was set up at East Preston Community Health Centre, followed by 4 more centres

And in 2009 the current name was set up. The NVRI looks at various ways the of helping the public in eye health and provides education and performs research which are beneficial to the Optometry profession and also the community. Professor Michael Ibbotson is the research institute professor and also the main liaison with the VLF. Most of the research that is done is on mice and other small animals so as to (using the pun) seeing how the eye reacts to various conditions, plus lots of other eye issues.

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Lions Rheumatism & Arthritis Medical Research Foundation Australia. It is estimated that there are between 4 to 6 million people with Arthritis in Australia about 1 in 4 to 5 people. Different types of Arthritis are prevalent and it does not only affect the elderly but also children as well.

Two basic types Osteo and Rheumatoid. Both have effects upon those that suffer the disease. There is no known cure, but medication eases the pain. The Research Foundation was started in 1980 as part of district 201V1 to find the causes of arthritis. In 2006 it came under the VLF by a vote from the 6 V districts, the bulk of the funds were transferred to the VLF in 2007.

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This slide shows how some of the funds have been given, with the help of LCIF and also ALF plus contributions from clubs and Business.

Recently Professor Eric Morand at Monash released a report on trials that have been done with a drug to help with Lupus, another part of the arthritis symptoms, with some very good and positive outcomes.

The R&A foundation also supports a PhD student in this area for \$5000 per year for 3 years, and also showing a photo of Head of Rheumatology Professor Eric Morand

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Now how is the VLF made up

It has 3 elected councillors for each district, in V1-4 there is PDG's Helen Campbell & Eric Gittins, Rodney Hales who has been appointed for the next 2 years after PDG Malcom Qualtrough, each for a 3 year period. I have been on the VLF since 1992 and I am the longest serving member of the foundation

Finally after all that I mentioned funds at the beginning and also on the last project, well this is made up of money held in Morgans' Financial, Balanced Wealth Securities, Bendigo Charitable Account and also an Admin account. Plus a Macquarie Cash Management account, coming to a total of just under \$4,000,000.00. Hope that gives you some basic info on the VLF