

Jacqui in Tivatu



### Staff Profile - Jacqui Ramke

Jacqui joined ICEE in January 2000. She is a project manager and has worked on ICEE projects in Australia and the Pacific, including Timor Leste (formerly known as East Timor).

Jacqui graduated from Optometry at Queensland University of Technology in 1997 and worked in private practice in Queensland and the Northern Territory before joining ICEE's Northern Territory project, which expanded to include work in Timor Leste. Jacqui relocated to the Sydney office in April 2001 to take up her Masters in Public Health studies part-time at University of New South Wales, which she hopes to finish in 2003.

Much of Jacqui's work has been centred upon facilitating the development of local eyecare capacity in the Western Pacific region. This has included building relationships with various stakeholders, including eyecare providers, Ministries of Health and other organisations involved in prevention of blindness activities in order to plan the most locally appropriate services.

### Creating a sustainable environment

ICEE strives for sustainable outcomes by ensuring that the quality, quantity, and coverage of services are:

- Technically sustainable. Equipment and supplies match resources available for their long-term use and maintenance;
- Financially sustainable. Based upon cost-effective use of local resources, appropriate cost-sharing and cost-recovery; and
- Managerially sustainable. Emphasis upon building local commitment and capacity to administer services independently.

## MARCHON®

### Proudly supports ICEE

Marchon Eyewear Australia has placed its considerable support behind ICEE. Managing Director Peter Lewis has lent the organisation's voice to ICEE's effort in the fight against global blindness. "I think this is a terrific initiative, one in which the whole industry can come together to support. I firmly believe that the corporates must take a strong role in assisting an organisation such as ICEE to achieve its mission. Together, we really can do something quite profound. We can change people's lives for the better."

Marchon is one of the world's leading manufacturers and distributors of eyewear. In Australia, their range includes Airlock, Calvin Klein, DKNY, Flexon, Nautica and Nike. Marchon Eyewear donates stock of frames to ICEE that are then fitted with donated lenses and used on ICEE's projects around the globe. These can be either assembled in Australia or dispatched to an edging laboratory in the developing world for distribution. The Marchon Sales Team is also acting as an advocate for ICEE when making visits to optometric practices. ICEE thanks Marchon for its considerable support.



Prof Brien Holden and Peter Lewis

### Facts & Figures – The Scale of the Problem

#### Fact:

People who live in the developing world are 10 times more likely to go blind than people who live in developed countries.

#### Did You Know?

Ray Charles was not born blind. He became blind at a young age as a result of undiagnosed glaucoma.

#### Keeping the Costs Down

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### Country Wrap-up

	Tuvalu	Vanuatu	Australia
Total Population	11,000	201,000	19.4 million
Land Mass sq.km	25.3	12,189	7,617,930
Per Capita GNP (US\$)	1.49 <sup>1</sup>	1,140 <sup>1</sup>	21,200 <sup>3</sup>
Life Expectancy	(m)62yrs(f)65yrs <sup>2</sup>	(m)65yrs(f)69yrs <sup>2</sup>	(m)76yrs(f)82yrs <sup>2</sup>
Infant Mortality Rate deaths/1000 births	26.1 <sup>2</sup>	41 <sup>2</sup>	6 <sup>2</sup>
Adult Literacy Rate	93% <sup>3</sup>	53% <sup>3</sup>	100%
No. of Optometrists	0	2	3,100
No. of Ophthalmologists	0	1	750
Ratio of Optoms to Popn	0:10,000	1:100,500	1:7,000

<sup>1</sup> UN, 2000

<sup>2</sup> WHO, 2000

<sup>3</sup> CIA, 1999



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SIGHT

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# World Sight Day

World Sight Day is a global public health initiative that seeks to gain response to vision issues worldwide and address the issue.

## Message From The Chair

Support for World Sight Day, 10th October 2002, continues to grow with major events throughout the world. World Sight Day is a global public health initiative that seeks to gain response to vision issues worldwide and address the issue. In 2002, the theme of "See for life - Save your sight" promoted the need for eye screening, especially in the older adult age groups to prevent vision loss.

In Australia, vision care groups marked the day with a number of activities, including a breakfast launch hosted by ICEE and other Australian vision partners including Vision 2020 Australia, Christian Blind Mission and the Victorian Royal Blind Foundation. The Federal Minister for Ageing, the Hon Kevin Andrews MP, launched World Sight Day 2002 in Australia at the National Launch breakfast in Melbourne. A strong advocate for eye health, Minister Andrews regards good vision as an important part of health and healthy ageing.

ICEE's operations in Africa also celebrated World Sight Day with

significant national press raising the issue of preventable blindness.

I am delighted to announce that in Australia ICEE will conduct our inaugural National Sunnies For Sight Day. This is a major fundraising and awareness initiative. All funds raised on this day will go directly to supporting ICEE eyecare programs in East Timor and the Western Pacific. We hope you can get behind and support this effort.

**Prof. Brien A. Holden**  
Chairman

## ICEE Chairman receives Academic recognition!

Our Chairman, Professor Brien Holden, has been recently recognized and honored on two separate occasions.

The National Optometry Hall of Fame recognizes persons whose lifetime achievements have advanced the profession of optometry. Professor Holden was inducted at this year's EastWest Eye Conference in October 2002, Cleveland, Ohio.

Brien also received an Honorary Doctorate for services to science and eyecare in Africa at the graduation ceremony for the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Durban Westville - the first such award to an optometrist in Africa. He received his Doctorate at the same ceremony that a posthumous Doctorate was conferred on Govan Mbeki, father of the current Prime Minister.

ICEE congratulates Brien in his endeavors and supports his recognition to optometry, and to the vision care field overall.

**Dr Nag Rao**  
Director, ICEE Board



Taula Kaio

Talofa!

## Tuvalu: Building the Foundations of the Western Pacific Model

Tuvalu is a small Western Pacific island nation located north of Fiji. The national population of approximately 11,000 is distributed across 9 islands. There are as few as 90 people on some islands and about 5,000 on the main island Funafuti.

There are no trained eye care providers in Tuvalu. Visiting Australian teams have endeavoured to fill some of the gaps over the last six years. The Pacific Islands Project (PIP) funded by AusAID and organised by the Royal Australian College of Surgeons, have provided cataract and other eye surgery during annual one-week visits since 1996. ICEE Optometrists joined the surgeons in 2001 and 2002 to provide complimentary screening, refraction services and spectacles.

Our most recent trip in 2002 saw two final year optometry students, Anna Palagyi and Amanda Kyte, from the University of New South Wales accompany ICEE optometrists Jacqui Ramke and Renee du Toit. In addition to supporting the surgical team, the students provided screening and refraction to the pupils of the only high school on Vaitupu, as well as two primary schools.

While the quality of the care provided by visiting professionals has been of a high standard, it would obviously be better to have permanent eye care in Tuvalu. Preventive and primary eye care services, available to individuals in their communities on an ongoing basis, are needed to address common eye and vision problems.

During the visit ICEE was involved in discussions with representatives of the Ministry of Health (MOH), as well as with general practitioners, nurses, teachers, and community members to determine their eye care needs. After these discussions a study conducted by the MOH in partnership with ICEE has been proposed to gather further information of eye care needs and assist in the development of a national eye care plan in Tuvalu. This is scheduled to take place in early 2003 and includes:

- the determination of the number and kinds of visual disabilities present;
- further discussions with the community to ascertain their perceptions of eye care;
- a trial of eye care education for the community to increase awareness of eye care and utilisation of services; and
- a pilot nurse vision screening and presbyopic correction training.

Written by Jacqui Ramke

## Tuvalu: In the Field - written by Taula Kaio (pictured)

First of all I would like to greet you all in our customary way, "Talofa!"

My name is Taula Kaio and I am 17 years of age. I am from Nukufetau, one of the nine coral atolls that compile Tuvalu.

I started wearing glasses ever since class four, but I had lots of dreadful experiences and was ashamed to wear them. Three years ago I obtained a pair of contact lenses from Fiji.

Unfortunately I dropped my contact lenses and they were stepped on and broken. Without my contact lenses, things in school got pretty tough. I could not read notes written on the board and my nose was nearly touching my books when I read.

Now my wishes have come true, and we had an eye team visit our school. Now my eyes have been examined and the optometrists who are on the team told me that I really need glasses. They were really kind and gracious, and I will wear my new glasses so I can see clearly again.

Thank you all very much. "Tofa!"



Globally, 6 million people are blind simply because they don't have glasses!

All schools can participate by asking students to:

1. Wear sunglasses to school
2. Create their own designer pair
3. Conduct a casual day.

You can help by encouraging your local school to participate. All schools can register online at [www.icee.org](http://www.icee.org) or Tel: 03 9816 1542

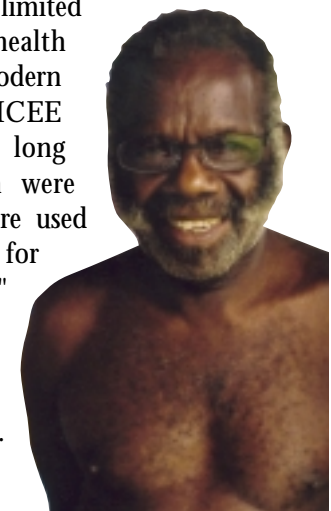
## Vanuatu Trip Report

Vanuatu is a small South Pacific Island nation of 200,000 people, previously served by only one optometrist and visiting surgical teams. Australian optometrists May Ho and Genevieve Napper have delivered ICEE training courses in basic optics and refraction to Eye Nurse Practitioner trainees in Vanuatu in 2001 and 2002. The ICEE training course is in partnership with the Vanuatu National Eye Care Program managed by ophthalmologist Dr John Szetu. Dr Szetu is originally from the Solomon Islands, and is supported by the Fred Hollows Foundation and the Vanuatu Ministry of Health. At the close of 2002, nine Eye Nurse Practitioners will have graduated from Dr Szetu's training program. They will return to their home provinces after completion of their training and provide primary eye care and refractions for spectacles. The Eye Nurse Practitioners are able to perform external eye surgery and assist Dr Szetu with cataract surgery during surgical tours. By the end of 2002 all 6 provinces of Vanuatu will have at least one Eye Nurse Practitioner. As a result of the Vanuatu National Eye Care Program all people in Vanuatu now have greater access to eye care, and ICEE is honored to have played a

part in this. ICEE low cost spectacles and sunglasses can now be provided to patients at affordable prices allowing cost recovery. ICEE hopes to maintain involvement in development of eyecare in Vanuatu.

## Vanuatu: In the Field

ICEE glasses are making a difference to people all over Vanuatu. This traditional bushman (pictured) from a Kastom village in a rural area of Vanuatu walked for two days to the nearest health outpost to attend an outreach clinic. His eyes were tested by a trainee Eye Nurse Practitioner in Dr John Szetu's Vanuatu National Eyecare Program. In Kastom villages people live a traditional lifestyle and grow and collect their own food and have limited access to health services and modern technology. ICEE glasses for long distance vision were provided and are used by the man for "killim pigeons" or hunting birds for food using a traditional slingshot.



Traditional bushman wearing new ICEE glasses.



Prof Brien Holden & Dr Kovin Naidoo(Director, ICEE Africa) receiving awards at UDW, Africa.