The Constitution of The Save Sight Institute, under which the Institute is governed, states:

"The objects of The Institute ... include:

• Research into visual development in infancy and childhood and factors responsible for defects in visual development;

• Research into disorders of the visual system including basic research and development of appropriate management of disorders of the eye and vision;

• Complementing the work and research within the Sydney Eye Hospital and co-operating with eye departments and research groups within NSW and the ACT and particularly with the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children and the Westmead Centre of the Parramatta Hospital;

• Teaching community ophthalmology including the training of family doctors and training ophthalmologists and other health professionals concerned with eye care;

• Increasing community awareness of eye disorders and eye health, including printing and purchase of publications and distribution of the same;

• Originating programmes of relevance to training in ophthalmology, eye care and eye health including programmes for developing countries and collaborating with the Menzies School of Health Research in the Northern Territory and the Department of Public Health and other departments of the Faculty of Medicine, and Research Institute for Asia and the Pacific of the University of Sydney;

• Supporting the visits of academics and research workers from within Australia and overseas who are likely to assist the Institute in the achievement of its objectives."

Under these objects, the Institute's aim is ....
To eradicate curable blindness, thus ensuring that all people, young and old, are able to grow, to play, to learn, to communicate, to work, and to participate in society.
The Save Sight Institute was formed in 1985, when an approach was made to the Lions Save Sight Foundation to join with the University of Sydney in creating an Institute to provide a major resource for the improvement of eye health in New South Wales.

The Lions' contribution provides the infrastructure support for the Institute, and the University provides research, teaching, and hospital facilities such as the Sydney Eye Hospital and Westmead Hospital Eye Department. This tripartite arrangement of University, hospital and service organisations provides a special mixture of resources and skills.

The Institute, with the University Department of Clinical Ophthalmology, is also involved in undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate training, together with continuing education for family doctors.

My wish is that, with the help of its many supporters, the Institute will continue to thrive and, consequently, so too will the eye health of the community.
This Annual Report represents the financial results and achievements of The Save Sight Institute for the year 1991. The financial difficulties facing members of the community throughout the year have been reflected in the universities and the teaching hospitals, and have increased the need to review projects and have a clearer view of priorities and objectives.

Nevertheless, during 1991 the Institute continued to fulfil its responsibilities of research, teaching and community service, and has provided the unusual opportunity for students and doctors to work together on challenging problems relating to the prevention of blindness.

We are proud of our Director and Lions Professor, Frank Billson, for the work he continues to do, and for the rightful recognition he received for his contribution to the battle against blindness, both here and in third world countries. His appointment to the World Health Organisation reflects great credit on Professor Billson for his dedication.

At this point, I would like to express our appreciation of the patronage of The Governor of New South Wales, His Excellency Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair.

We also appreciate the continuing support from the Lions Save Sight and Public Health Care Foundations, and the Lions Clubs of NSW-ACT, particularly so during times of financial pressure. Also, the Lions Clubs of the world, through the major initiative of Sight First programmes, are forging closer links with the Institute, particularly in the Pacific region.

I would like to pay tribute to those who have made possible our achievements for the year, particularly our consistent donors, both private and corporate.

As Chairman, I would like to thank the Members of the Management Committee, the Vice-Chancellor and other senior academic staff of the University, PDG Ron Reavley and PID Ken Lentfer from the Lions Foundations, Associate Professor Paul Mitchell and Dr. John Hornbrook.

In 1991 Professor Michael Taylor ceased to be the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and we will miss his understanding, helpfulness and wisdom.

The importance of the University’s activities in the community has been recently recognised by the appointment of Professor Sam Ball, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Community Affairs), and the Management Committee has already benefitted from his advice.

I would also express our appreciation to the staff of the Institute, the Department of Clinical Ophthalmology and the University of Sydney for their contribution towards our common goal.

Ted Wilson
Chairman
1991 takes the Institute further into the second quinquennium of its existence. Five years is a period considered scientifically significant in judging outcomes and survival.

The Save Sight Institute has gathered momentum in its activities through the first five years and has, in this short time, gained international recognition. The Institute is seen as being outward looking to community concerns and fulfilling a need to provide information about the prevention of blindness and eye cancer, while at the same time supporting research and training young doctors who wish to pursue a career in ophthalmology.

Community research gives the perspectives of the prevalence of eye disease in the community. It establishes the priorities for research. Clinical research looks at the expression of disease in individual patients and groups of patients with a particular disease.

The Annual Report reflects these emphases, commencing with the latest initiative in the community-based population study of visual impairment of 4,200 people living in the Blue Mountains area and concluding with vision research in the laboratory in the important areas of glaucoma, age-related macular degeneration and the developing eye in infancy and childhood, with particular emphasis on phenomena such as the immune system of the eye and the control and growth of new vessels and the complex nervous wiring of the visual system.

The Lions Clubs of NSW-ACT, through the Lions Save Sight Foundation and the Lions Public Health Care Foundation, support the infrastructure of the Institute, so essential for the coordination of the reporting of research and teaching and attracting funding of these activities from the community.

I wish to thank the Lions Clubs collectively and each Lion individually for their support during 1991 and for their promise of support for the future.

The role of all members of Lions Clubs is exemplified by the special role played by the Chairman of the Management Committee of The Save Sight Institute, Mr Ted Wilson, and I should like to record my special thanks to him, and, indeed, to all Members of the Management Committee for their help.

F. A. Billson
Director
Management Committee

Chairman
Lion Ted Wilson
PDC
Mr Wilson is a Lions Past District Governor and was Chairman of the Lions Save Sight Foundation until August 1991. He has been Chairman of the Institute since its inception in May 1985.

Director
Professor Frank Billson
AO MB BS MEd. DO RCP&S FRCS FRCSEd FRACS FACS FRACO
Professor Billson is Head of the Dept of Clinical Ophthalmology, The University of Sydney, and Lions Professor of Eye Health.

Professor Don McNicol
BA Adel. PhD Camb.
Vice-Chancellor and Principal,
The University of Sydney

Professor John Young
BS BSc(Path) MDDSc Qld FRACP FAA
Professor Young is Dean of the Faculty of Medicine in the University of Sydney and Professor of Physiology. He is a Fellow of the University Senate.

Professor Michael Taylor
MD BS Adel. PhD DSc Lond. FRACP
Professor Taylor is Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Sydney, where he was previously Professor of Physiology.
Professor Sam Ball  
PhD Iowa BA MEd FAPA  
Professor Ball is Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Community Affairs) in the University of Sydney and formerly Chairman of the Academic Board. He has been a member of the Management Committee since July 1991.

Lion Ron Reavley  
BEM PDG  
Mr Reavley is a Lions Past District Governor and has been Chairman of the Lions Save Sight Foundation since August 1991.

Lion Ken Lentfer  
OAM PID  
Mr Lentfer is a Lions Past International Director and a Director of the Lions Save Sight Foundation.

Dr. John Hornbrook  
MB BS DO (Sydney) DO (London)  
FRACO FRACS  
Dr. Hornbrook, who is a Past President of the Royal Australian College of Ophthalmologists, represents the College on the Management Committee.

Ass. Prof. Paul Mitchell  
MB BS MD NSW FRACS FRACO  
Professor Mitchell is Associate Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology and is a research scientist of the Institute.

Ass. Prof. Ann Sefton  
BSc(Adv) MB BS PhD  
Professor Sefton is a representative of the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine on the Management Committee. She is a Subdean in the Faculty of Medicine and an Associate Professor in the Departments of Physiology and Clinical Ophthalmology.
# Financial Statement

Save Sight and Eye Health Institute Statement of Income and Expenditure for the twelve months ended 31 December 1991

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Actual to 31 December 1990</th>
<th>Actual to 31 December 1991</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$5,640</td>
<td>Public Donations</td>
<td>$22,197 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lions Foundations –</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Expenses and Community Awareness</td>
<td>$117,673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$91,721</td>
<td>Recoupment of Salaries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$23,152</td>
<td>Royal Easter Show Contribution</td>
<td>$26,774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>$15,827 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$34,129</td>
<td>Pool Funds</td>
<td>$41,791</td>
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<tr>
<td>$6,744</td>
<td>M. Wilson Bequest</td>
<td>$7,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$11,182</td>
<td>Course Fees</td>
<td>$59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$160</td>
<td>Sundry Income</td>
<td>$1,135</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Community Awareness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$172,728</td>
<td></td>
<td>$233,206</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Actual to 31 December 1990</th>
<th>Actual to 31 December 1991</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$84,489</td>
<td>Salaries and Associated Costs</td>
<td>$56,173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$4,272</td>
<td>Contract Services</td>
<td>$10,219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$23,152</td>
<td>Royal Easter Show</td>
<td>$26,774</td>
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<tr>
<td>$17,651</td>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$21,548</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Committee and Executive Expenses</td>
<td>$84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Community Awareness</td>
<td>$13,360</td>
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<tr>
<td>$792</td>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>$19,670 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,781</td>
<td>Furniture</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>$11,744</td>
<td>Course Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>$143,881</td>
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<td>$161,291</td>
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<tr>
<td>$28,847</td>
<td>Surplus as at 31 December</td>
<td>$71,915</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accumulated Funds</th>
<th>Actual to 31 December 1990</th>
<th>Actual to 31 December 1991</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance as at 1 January</td>
<td>$320,603 CR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add: Prior Year Adjustment</td>
<td>$950</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus for twelve months to 31 December 1991</td>
<td>$321,553 CR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Outstanding Order</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance as at 31 December 1991</td>
<td>$393,068 CR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTES:**

(1) Includes $12,000 from Essilor Pty Ltd (nil in 1990).
(2) In December 1991 $3,800 was received for the 1992 course.
(3) Purchased for the Blue Mountains study.
(4) Includes $62,902 from M. Wilson Bequest.

S.G. Watson BA CFA
Deputy Accountant

K79.22719-22724, 24793-24796
Donations 1 January – 31 December 1991

In 1991 the Lions Foundations continued to support the infrastructure of the Institute, for which we are extremely grateful.

Donations from the following supporters throughout the year are also gratefully acknowledged:

Alcon Lab. (Aust) Pty Ltd
Arnold, J.M.
Aust.Council for Overseas Aid
Beech, H.M.
Bell, Mr. & Mrs. J.
Bollinger, P.
Bradley, E.
Brady, M.D
Brown, J.A.
Brooks, N.H.
Burgess, C.
Burridge, P.
Byrne, J.B.
Calcutt, J. & G.
Camden Haven Lions Club
Chambers, N.
Clark, E.
Coomababaran Lions Club
Coulton, A.M.
Cohen, P.
Craft, M.
Danaher, G. & K.
Davies, I.
Davies, J.W.
Diabetes (Australia) NSW
Donohue, E.
Elliott, G.
Essilor Aust. Pty Ltd
Farinelli, A.
Foley, T.
Francis, D.M.
Friends of Sydney Hospital
Gerakiteys, P.K.
Gregory, E.M.
Griffith, K.
Griffith Lions Club
Gulloni, P.
Gwandalan Lions Club Inc.
Hale, J.
Hawkeswood, H.R.
Hills, R.A.
Hornsby, R.
Hourihan, K.
Hutson, K.
Isono, K.
Kearns and Smith, Drs
Kerr, L.A.
Kirkaldy, D.M.
Kosky, M.
Kurri Kurri Lions Club
Leckie, T.D.
Lewis, P.J.
McAneny, M.L.
McCullough, K.M.
McDonald, H.K.
McKay, A.L.
Martin, B.
Martin, F.
Massy-Greene, Lady
Maylan, D.
Mirza, M.
Myhill, G.A.
Orange Lions Club
O'Sullivan, M.H.
Playfair, J.
Rodway, G.
Roland, E.
Rolls, F.E.
R.A. College of Dental Surgeons
Russell, K.
Singh, I.
St. Ives Lions Club
Storey, L.A.
Street, J.
Temora Lions Club Inc.
Tester, M.
Uy, R.T.
Wadds, J.
Watts, A.
Wechsler, A. & I.
Wellington, J.M.
Williams, R.
Wood, J.R.
Worner, C.
1991 was in many ways a landmark year for research at the Save Sight Institute. Significant research achievements were made in the areas of ocular microbiology and immunology.

Pioneering work carried out by the Institute’s retina research group, located at the Sydney Eye Hospital, into the immune system of the human retina is likely to have implications for the role of the immune system in eye disease.

This research, led by Dr Philip Penfold, looks at the role of the immune system in various forms of age-related macular degeneration, the major cause of blindness in the Australian community.

During the year a Tissue Culture Laboratory was established at the Sydney Eye Hospital, and this will be used to study the functional aspects of various retinal cells, complementing the research into retinal development and age-related macular degeneration.

Ocular microbiology research in 1991 was directed towards completion of a study of conjunctival flora in people commencing contact lens wear, infection prone people and normal controls, as part of a study of the mucosal defences of the outer eye in health and disease.

Dr Kathy McClellan heads the Ocular Microbiology Laboratory and External Eye Disease Unit. She is completing her PhD in Surface Immunity of the Eye and its role in ocular infection.

This laboratory also isolated the fungus phialophora mutabilis from biopsy specimens obtained from a corneal infection in a patient who had sustained a penetrating corneal injury six months prior to the onset of suppurative keratitis. This soil fungus has not previously been known to cause eye infections in humans.

The clinical trial and long term follow up of a new suture material (polybutester) in corneoscleral sections after cataract surgery was completed, and the report on results from 60 patients is currently being prepared for publication.

Dr Tom Fitzgibbon, research scientist of the Institute, is currently conducting research into neuro-transmitters of the retina. Specifically, the main research carried out during the first half of the year concerned the continuation of two collaborative projects with Dr I.D. Thompson’s laboratory at Oxford.

In the second half of the year, an electronmicroscopic investigation of the developing retina of the ferret was completed with Dr B.E. Reese at Santa Barbara, California. This collaborative study noted the position of growth cones within the retinal nerve fibre layer of foetal ferrets.

Electrophysiological studies in support of a major clinical trial of Fenretinide, a drug used in rheumatoid arthritis, were conducted with the support of Johnson & Johnson during 1991.
The Blue Mountains Eye Study

A FIRST FOR AUSTRALIA

The Save Sight Institute is making history in scientific eye health research in Australia with its sponsorship of the Blue Mountains Eye Study. This study of vision and eye diseases among the elderly residents of Katoomba and

Leura commenced late in 1991 and will continue for the next eighteen months.

The Blue Mountains Eye Study will focus on the major causes of blindness among the elderly, including cataract, age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy.

This will be the first large eye study of the elderly conducted in Australia and is being jointly funded by the Department of Community Services and Health and The Save Sight Institute, assisted by the Australian Foundation for the Prevention of Blindness and The A E Hingeley Trust.

The study aims to assess vision, the need for glasses, the frequency of major eye diseases which cause blindness and the associations between visual loss and possible underlying causes. It will provide much needed information on the frequency of common eye problems and will help the Institute in developing strategies for the prevention of blindness.
In January of this year the Institute hosted a Symposium on Glaucoma, which was attended by sixty trainee ophthalmologists from all over Australia.

Professor David Epstein, Head of Glaucoma Service, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Boston, USA, was the visiting lecturer. Professor Epstein discussed drugs and the management of glaucoma. Each year the Institute is host to this Symposium and works with the Registrars in its development. It is unique as it is a scientific congress for those in training for ophthalmology.

The doctors make scientific presentations, and the international guest participates in the discussions with the registrars. Also participating is a small panel of Fellows of the Royal Australian College of Ophthalmologists.

The other main teaching project during the year was the Ophthalmic Basic Science Course, which was held from 17 June to 5 July.

This Course is the only full-time course in Australia that caters for doctors planning a career in ophthalmology and those training to become Fellows of the Royal Australian College of Ophthalmologists. It is also open to those seeking an introduction to vision research. Three young people who did the recent Course have sought to enrol for research training projects supported by the Institute.

Dr. Karin Attebo was trained in basic ophthalmology in 1991, to enable her to work on the Blue Mountains Eye Study, a project jointly funded by The Institute and the Federal Department of Community Services and Health.

The Institute continues to be host to The University of Sydney undergraduate medical students' teaching. The staff at the Institute are actively involved in this programme, which now includes a significant section devoted to the prevention of blindness.

The Director of the Institute, as the Australian representative to the WHO Prevention of Blindness Programme Committee, visited Gambia, West Africa during the year.

In April, Professor Billson was a guest of Professor Carl Kupfner, the Director of the National Eye Institute in Washington. He had discussions on the possibility of the National Eye Institute funding joint projects in intraocular malignancy and glaucoma. A highlight of Professor Billson's visit to Paris in May, for the International Council of Ophthalmology and the International Academy of Ophthalmology, was a tour of the headquarters of Essilor, one of the Institute's major supporters during 1991.
Community Awareness

The Institute has been very active during 1991 with its community awareness programme.

The Institute’s role in community awareness was demonstrated by participation in various eye screenings throughout the year. During the twelve days of the Royal Easter Show in Sydney free eye testing was carried out by 100 medical staff, organised by the Institute. These included ophthalmologists and registrars from Sydney Eye Hospital, Westmead Hospital, St. Vincent’s Hospital and the Department of Clinical Ophthalmology of the University of Sydney, ophthalmic nurses and staff of the Sydney Eye Hospital, orthoptists from the Children’s Hospital and the Cumberland College; and orthoptic students.

Using the latest equipment, the volunteers worked together to provide free examinations to detect eye conditions such as glaucoma and diabetic eye disease in adults, and strabismus (often called squint, crossed eyes or wall-eyed) and amblyopia (lazy eye) in children.

The total number of people tested at the Show was 2,533, including 956 children, and eye defects were detected in many of those tested, who were then referred on for specialist treatment.

During the year, to assist with the detection of eye defects, new eye health information brochures were prepared on diabetic retinopathy and strabismus. Together with brochures on glaucoma and amblyopia, these were distributed throughout the State to Lions Eye projects, The Royal Blind Society, Municipal Council libraries, health care centres, hospitals and Diabetes Australia community programmes. To assist with patient counselling, they were also made available to general practitioners in NSW and ACT, where thousands were distributed. We are now in our second reprint of these brochures in answer to the overwhelming demand.

The Institute’s newsletter EYE SIGHT was also widely circulated, as part of our programme to reach a broad section of the community. In the July/September issue an article appeared on the importance of safety glasses, both in the workplace and at home when there is danger of eye injury; and the recipients of this issue included the metal/steel industry.

The Institute is delighted with the response to EYE SIGHT. Constant phone calls and letters are being received in reaction to certain articles, and also demands for further information and help on eye conditions.

On this one activity alone – community awareness – the Institute plays a vital role within the community.

Eye Awareness Week was held at Sydney Eye Hospital from 20-26 October, and the Institute was a major participant in this project – again, in its campaign to eradicate curable blindness.
The Future

The future of The Save Sight Institute depends on the quality of community support and its ability to attract young, intelligent and energetic scientists with a commitment to our shared objectives.

It is pleasing to see the number and calibre of young people with scholarships working towards postgraduate degrees associated with the Institute.

The establishment of visual science research at Sydney Eye Hospital and The Save Sight Institute, and the encouragement of epidemiological research at Westmead Hospital represents the future direction of the Institute. Part of this will be encouraging cross-fertilisation of scientific and medical endeavour between Faculties of the University as well as with other institutions and community settings.

As well as achieving its research objectives, the Institute is moving into the future with a community awareness campaign designed to make people aware of the importance of protecting their eyesight. The campaign provides information that helps with the early detection of eye disease which, in many cases, results in the curing or stabilisation of the condition.

The Institute is reaching out to the community through the publication of its newsletter EYE SIGHT and a range of eye health information brochures. The media also serves as an important element in the campaign, as a means of publicising eye health issues.

The free community eye screenings will continue into the future as part of the Institute’s community awareness activity.

Exciting news for the Institute’s future is the announcement that Sydney Eye Hospital will be rebuilt on the Macquarie Street site, in connection with the other medical services of the Sydney Hospital. The historical south block of the hospital in Macquarie Street is to be made available to The Save Sight Institute and The University of Sydney. Plans are well advanced, and there is a possibility that the project may be complete within three years. It is understood that the Director-General of the Department of Health, the Minister for Health, the East Area Health Board and the Sydney City Council all strongly endorse this proposal. The medical staff and scientists have agreed to commit themselves to work for the successful completion of the project.


SAV E
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N I N S T I T U T E