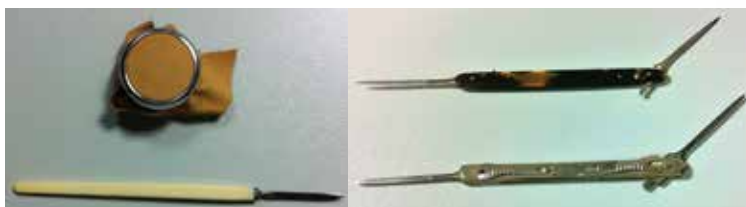


RANZCO Museum

Early 20th Century cataract surgeons were often itinerant. Multiple devices for transporting surgical equipment were developed, as in this handsome four drawer instrument case. The ivory handled instruments were sterilised by soaking in alcohol.

The surgery was performed gloveless with an assistant holding a light. Cataracts were removed through a Graefe section by extra capsular expression with the aid of magnifying loupes.

This fine pair of folding cataract knives suited below the portability of the surgeons. Made of tortoise shell and stainless steel, they required re-sharpening and testing between each case on kid skin drums in which the weight of the knife was enough to perforate the stretched skin if the knife was sharp enough.



Museum at Congress

Preparations are well advanced for the Museum Exhibition at RANZCO Brisbane which includes a large collection relating to the history of cataract surgery. Some excellent posters, are being prepared for the Museum and a prize will be awarded to the winner of the best poster in honour of Dr Jim Martin, the former Curator of the Museum.

Any enquiries regarding submission of a poster which is in a separate section to the other scientific posters, should be made to the Curator at ranzco@ranzco.edu

Due to renovations at the Eye and Ear Hospital in Melbourne, the whole museum storage area has to be packed up and transported to a new location for the duration, which is expected to last between two and three years. Again I am very grateful to the tireless work given by my assistants and volunteers.

Dr David Kaufman
Curator

Pictured left: Delegates looking at the Museum Exhibition in Tasmania 2013