

EYECURE.

NEWS FROM THE QUEENSLAND EYE INSTITUTE FOUNDATION
ISSUE 18 | AUTUMN 2023

WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION FOR 2023

Queenslanders were challenged by floods and COVID-19 in 2022, again testing our versatility and resilience. We could not have navigated the year without your support, so thank you.

In this newsletter, I am pleased to share the details of Last Seen – An Exhibition & Performance to Save Sight. It's an inspiring and creative showcase in collaboration with Griffith University, and it's here in Brisbane.

It's also been a busy start to the year with new clinical trials, the re-opening of the Queensland Electro-Diagnostic & Imaging Centre (QEDIC) and a second research trip to Romania.

Thank you for your continued support and donations, we could not continue our research without you.

Mark Radford, CEO.



LAST SEEN AN EXHIBITION & PERFORMANCE TO SAVE SIGHT. SEE. HEAR. FEEL.

Last Seen is a creative showcase, pairing vision impaired Australians with renowned artists and composers to depict their last, or most cherished, visual memory. The multisensory art exhibition and performance will take place at Griffith University in April, bringing to life powerful stories through art, music, soundscapes, and short film.

▶ SEE PAGE 2

THE QEDIC CLINIC HAS RE-OPENED

Thanks to a recent generous donation and the fundraising efforts of 'Help us Help Max' and the Bridge to Brisbane, we are pleased to announce the recommencement of comprehensive electrophysiological testing at Queensland Eye Institute (QEI). This testing is a non-invasive technique to evaluate visual function, and can be useful in diagnosing a number of different inherited eye diseases.

▶ SEE PAGE 6

LAST SEEN

How might you remember the last thing you saw, if you were losing your sight?

More than 450,000 Australians are blind or have low vision. For many others, eyesight can be something we take for granted. We are delighted to have collaborated with Griffith University to present *Last Seen – An Exhibition and Performance to Save Sight*.

This emotional and ground-breaking project partners 10 influential artists and composers with vision impaired Australians to depict their last or most cherished memory before their sight deteriorated.

It's an exciting initiative that helps make the connection between the research we conduct at the Institute, and the medical treatments our ophthalmologists deliver in our clinics.

For those of us without a vision impairment, the project makes us stop and think what our most memorable vision of this world might be, if our own sight deteriorated.

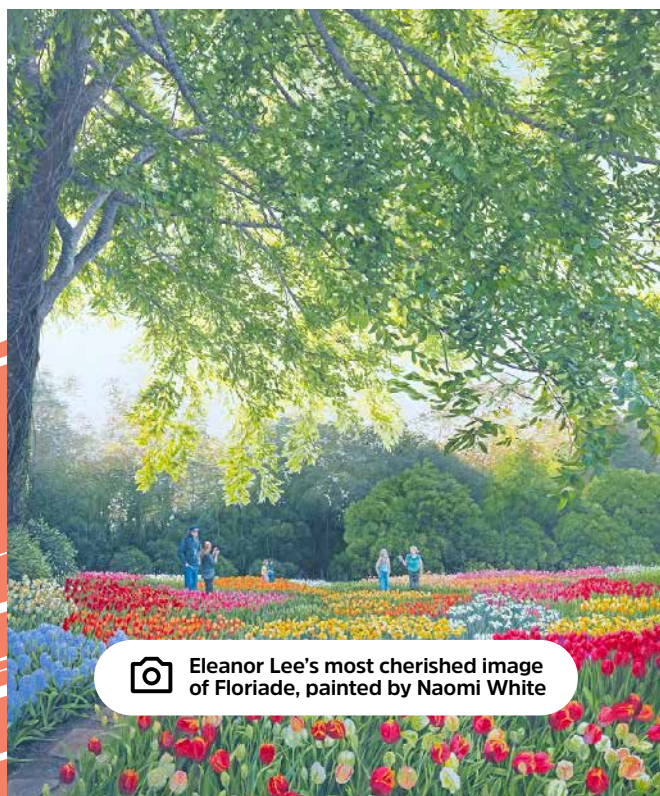
LAST SEEN - AN EXHIBITION TO SAVE SIGHT

A free multisensory exhibition.

Compelling and powerful stories are brought to life in a stunning display of specially created art, soundscapes and short film. The exhibition debuts original works from Robert Brownhall, Rick Everingham, Tracie Eaton, Kym Hart, Meredith Howse, Dylan Jones, Gary Myers, Kathleen O'Hagan, Michael Connolly and Naomi White.



Oliver Fanshawe's last seen cherished image of the Grand Canyon painted by Gary Myers



Eleanor Lee's most cherished image of Floriade, painted by Naomi White

When: 18th – 29th April 2023
(Tues- Sat. 10am- 4pm)

Where: Grey St Gallery
Queensland College of Art
226 Grey St, South Brisbane
Griffith University South Bank Campus

Admission: Free

To appreciate the audio aspects of the exhibition, we encourage you to bring earphones.

The venue is wheelchair accessible, and accessible for patrons who are blind/vision impaired, or deaf/hard-of-hearing. Blind or low vision people can enjoy the exhibition with assistive technologies, sighted guides, tactile art and braille programs.

LAST SEEN – A PERFORMANCE TO SAVE SIGHT

Presented by the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University and featuring the Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra and Choir with the Voices of Birralee, The Last Seen Concert brings the cherished memories of 10 vision impaired Australians to life through music, art and short film.

Conducted by Peter Morris, the repertoire will debut original and inspirational works from composers John Rotar, Lisa Cheney, Dr Ralph Hultgren, Tim Davies, Hudson Beck, Dr Jeff Usher, Steve Newcomb. Lorin Nicholson OAM, Paul Jarman and Dr Catherine Likhuta.

When: Friday 21 April, 7pm

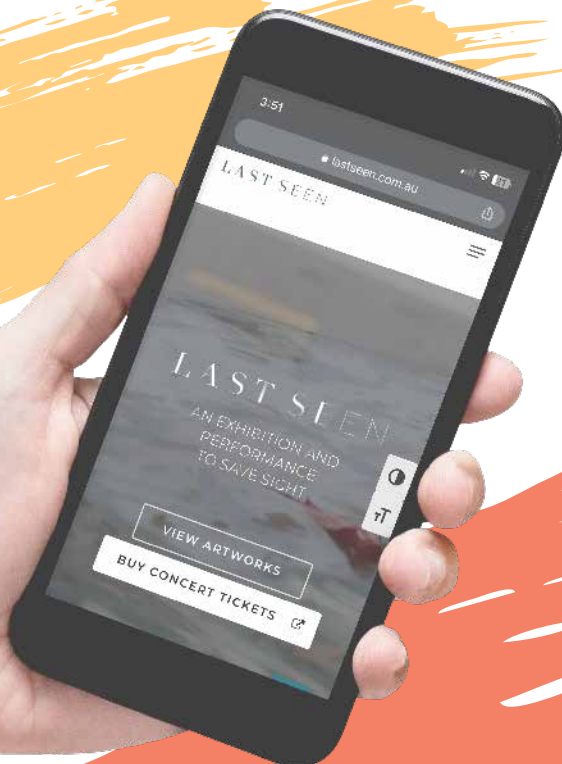
Where: Queensland Conservatorium Theatre
140 Grey St, South Brisbane
Griffith University

Admission: Adults \$58
Concession \$47



 Queensland Conservatorium
Griffith University

Proceeds from Last Seen will support our focus on inherited eye diseases and the creation of Queensland's first genetic eye diseases register to connect patients with clinical trials. Proceeds will also develop our electrophysiological testing capabilities to aid the diagnosis of genetic eye diseases.



 Dr Jeff Usher, participant and
composer in Last Seen



Tickets are now on
sale via Qtix.com.au
or lastseen.com.au



LAST SEEN

2023

SEE. HEAR. FEEL.
A PERFORMANCE TO SAVE SIGHT

PRESENTED BY



FRIDAY 21ST APRIL, 7.30PM
CONSERVATORIUM THEATRE,
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY.

THE CONSERVATORIUM SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA AND CHOIR WITH
VOICES OF BIRRALEE.

CONDUCTOR PETER MORRIS.

Tickets at lastseen.com.au





Eye examination

CLINICAL TRIALS UNIT AT QEI

Have you considered being a participant in a clinical trial?

Clinical trials usually focus on people with specific ocular conditions and can test on medications (including tablets, eye drops, injections) as well as surgical or diagnostic instruments or procedures. Our clinicians oversee the trials and there is no cost to the volunteer.

Volunteering in a clinical trial means you are contributing to research which can have a sight saving impact. You can make a real difference.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

At QEI we are now recruiting volunteers across four different clinical trials: Usher syndrome, Stargardt disease, geographic atrophy and thyroid eye disease.

Want to know more? Please see QEI website for more details qei.org.au/clinical-trials and to register your interest.




THE QEDIC CLINIC HAS NOW RE-OPENED

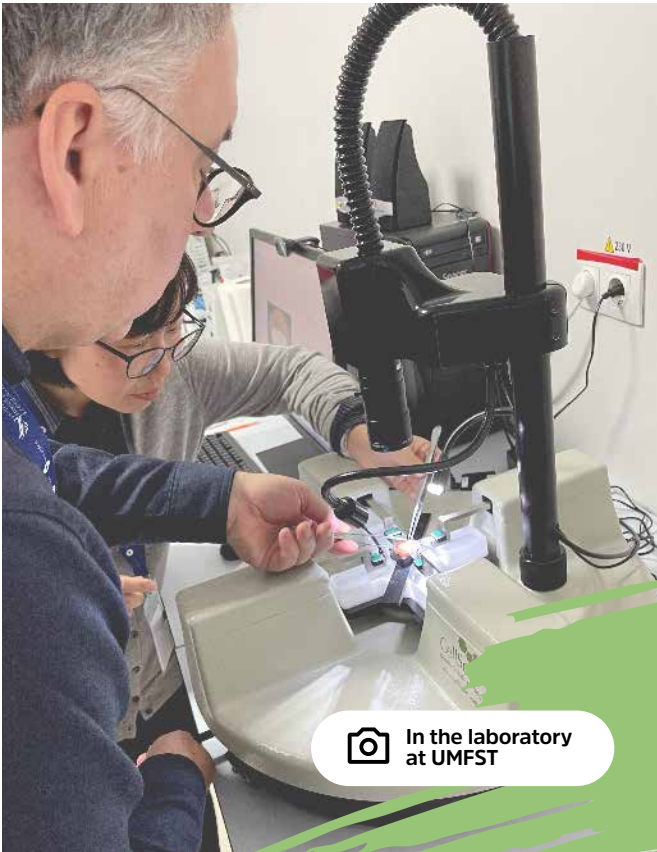
Thanks to a recent generous donation and the fundraising efforts of 'Help us Help Max' and the Bridge to Brisbane, we are pleased to announce the recommencement of comprehensive electrophysiological testing at QEI. These tests measure the retina's response to light stimulus, enabling our ophthalmologists to clearly delineate which layers of the retina are not functioning properly, for a more accurate diagnosis. This is important as an early diagnosis can sometimes mean the difference between vision or potential blindness.

Often infants or young children are unable to tell you about the problems they may have with how they see things. In such cases, these tests can

help us determine what those problems might be. These tests are not invasive and are safe for babies and young children.



 Person sitting down and undergoing Multifocal ElectroRetinoGram testing at Queensland Eye Institute



 In the laboratory at UMFST

OUR ROMANIA COLLABORATION

Queensland Eye Institute (QEI) continues to develop its collaboration with the George E. Palade University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Science and Technology (UMFST) in Târgu Mureş, Romania. In late November 2022 Professors Radford and Chirila visited the University's laboratory facilities which are focused on a number of QEI research projects.

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The aim of these projects is to progress our understanding of the biomechanical nature of connective tissues which have been subjected to photochemical crosslinking of collagen.

During this recent visit, a new project by a Ph.D. student involving tendon tissue commenced.



On leaving Romania, we gifted some iconic Australian toys to the families of the scientists working on this project



Professors Radford and Chirila outside the University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Science and Technology



Professor Radford and Dr Suzuki in the laboratory in Romania

SCAN ME!



Your donation is gratefully appreciated.

Your donation today will help the QEI Foundation save sight through its research, education and clinical care. Help us save money by donating online. Visit www.qei.org.au or use the camera on your phone to scan the QR code to donate through the website or call **07 3239 5050**.

Enclosed is my donation of: \$25 \$50 \$100 Own choice (please specify amount):

Please find enclosed a: cheque money order (made payable to Queensland Eye Institute Foundation).

Please debit my card: Visa Mastercard Amex



Bill code: **30585**
Your reference number

Card Number:

Expiry: /

Name on card:

Signature:

Thank you! Your gift of \$2 or more is tax deductible.

Please complete this form and return it in the reply paid envelope.

The QEI Foundation respects your privacy. Your personal information will not be disclosed to any third parties and all information is treated in confidence. Our full privacy policy is available at qei.org.au/privacy-policy

QUEENSLAND EYE INSTITUTE FOUNDATION

facebook Instagram twitter LinkedIn YouTube

07 3239 5050

info@qei.org.au

www.qei.org.au

140 Melbourne St, Sth Brisbane Qld 4101

ABN 37 009 737 384

