

EDITORIAL

Forty years ago the first scientific meeting of The Australian Orthoptic Association was held. Four years later Orwell in his writings was attempting to predict the changes in the quality of life that would occur by 1984. It would have been even more difficult, perhaps, to foresee the progress that would be made in orthoptics in that time.

An interesting yardstick by which to measure this progress is the paper, entitled "Observations on Hyperphoria", initially presented by Lucy Retalic at that meeting, forty years ago, and which she was prevailed upon to reread at our last annual conference in Adelaide. I quote:

"It occurred to the writer that the absence or presence of hyperphoria might be a definite contributory factor to the prognosis of these cases".

"The high percentage of cases in which hyperphoria was present—53% of 200 cases surveyed—was unexpected."

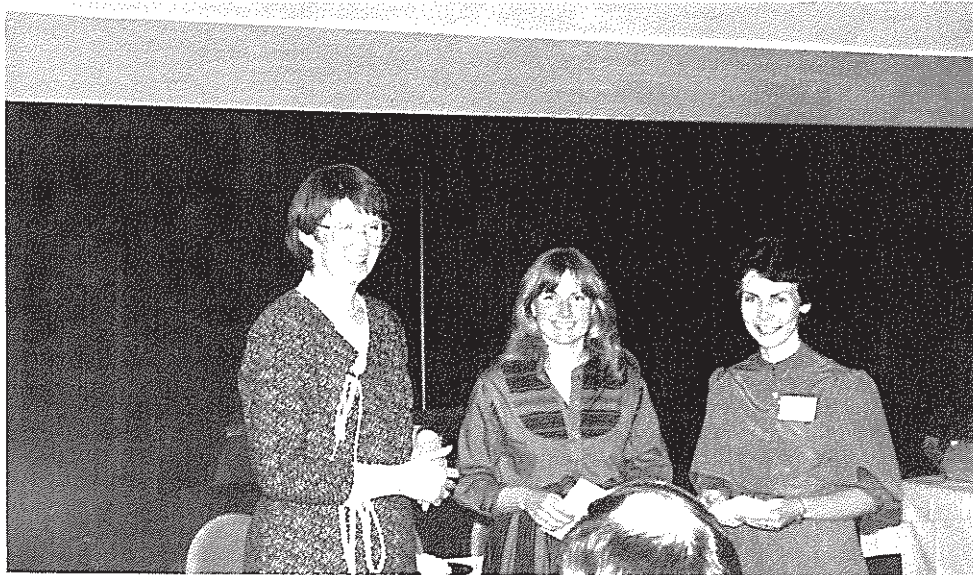
"The presence of suppression and its breaking down was a big factor in reducing or eliminating the hyperphoria."

"The development of binocular vision generally and ductions in particular was another large factor in the successful treatment of this defect."

Ideas which were contained in those early observations have been developed further to-day and where there is obvious contrast it is evidence of the changes that have taken place in diagnostic, management and research methods in keeping with current scientific trends.

One wonders where the next forty years will lead. Shall we be judged on the papers presented in this journal with their emphasis on electrophysiology, community health and neuro-ophthalmology?

Margaret Doyle



Immediate Past President, Miss Jill Stewart (L.), presents co-authors, Mrs Susan Horne (C.) and Miss Cathie Searle (R.), with their award as joint winners of The Emmie Russell Prize for 1983.

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