

PBA&E: HEADLINE NEWS

LIONS CLUB OF WILRO PARK WILL NOT TURN A BLIND EYE

The Lions Club of Wilro Park is a branch of Lions Clubs International and one of 46 000 Lions clubs worldwide. With 1.35 million members, Lions International is the world's largest service organisation and clubs the world over do what they can to help their local communities.

The Lions Club of Wilro Park in partnership with Beryl Carvalho, ophthalmologist of Eyes Alive will shortly be providing an artificial eye to a patient in need .



Front row: Delphine Ferreira (President, **Lions Wilro Park**) Shirley Gerhard (Chairperson, Service, **Lions Wilro Park**)
Back row: Blyda Rosen (Director, **PBA&E**) Khomotso Ramodipa (Optometrist), Beryl Carvalho (Ophthalmologist, **Eyes Alive**), Harry Rosen (CEO, **PBA&E**)

The loss of an eye can result from medical problems such as cancer and infection or trauma such as a motor accident. Whatever the reason for it, the loss of an eye is a devastatingly traumatic experience for any person and the close family. Information available indicates that the incidence of patients requiring an ocular prosthesis in South Africa is one in ten thousand, affecting all ages, irrespective of race, gender, religion or geographic boundaries.

The insertion of an artificial eye or ocular prosthesis has the potential to dramatically lift the thoughts and emotions of the patient and the family and significantly improves confidence, while enhancing the quality of life for all concerned. An ocular prosthesis can be custom-made or a stock eye. To improve the comfort and matching of the prosthesis with that of the adjacent natural eye, a custom-made ocular prosthesis is preferred.

“Losing an eye is most definitely not the end of the world. There are many, many examples of individuals who have lost an eye and went on to fulfil their dreams despite their loss.” says ophthalmologist Beryl Carvalho of Eyes Alive. “In fact, in many cases, it could be argued that the loss focussed their

attention on what is important and made them stronger personalities. History provides sufficient evidence in this regard. “

The manufacture of an artificial eye is labour intensive, requiring dedication, care and skill, encompassing psychological counselling, ocular anatomy and physiology knowledge, artistic flair and general sensitivity. For many South Africans in need, this service is out of reach due to accessibility or affordability factors.

The Lions Club of Wilro Park has identified the need to assist individuals who have had the misfortune and undergone the psychological trauma of losing an eye (or both eyes). President of the Lions Club, Delphine Ferreira states: “It is extremely important that both the aesthetic and emotional needs of the person are addressed and so the patients concerned require an aesthetically acceptable ocular prostheses which keeps their dignity intact. We are so privileged to have partnered with Beryl Carvalho of Eyes Alive who has offered her professional services to provide an ocular prosthesis to a patient in need at no charge. We will soon be making someone very happy – and that is what we at Lions do: we serve! “

Well-known personalities who lost an eye

Teddy Roosevelt - lost an eye while boxing and went on to be the President of the United States.

Moshe Dayan- lost an eye in World War 11, and went on to be one of Israel’s most revered generals.

Sandy Duncan –actress who lost an eye and then went on to star on Broadway in the 1977revival of Peter Pan.

Sammy Davis Jr – lost his eye in a car wreck in 1954 and went on to become one of the greatest entertainers of all time and a member of the famous ‘Rat Pack ‘with Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and others.

John Ford –Legendary one eyed movie director.

Peter Falk – One eyed actor of the famous Columbo television series.

Degas – French impressionist who did some of his best work after losing his right eye.

James Joyce – Famous author who lost an eye and then went on to write some of his greatest works.

Horatio Nelson – When signalled by his superior to halt his attack during the Battle of Copenhagen, Nelson raised his telescope to his blind eye and announced: “I do not see the signal“, and then pressed his attack to final victory. It is believed that this is where the phrase, turning a blind eye “originated.

Ian Douglas Smith – Prime Minister of (then) Rhodesia from 1964 – 1980. Lost his eye as a Royal Air Force fighter pilot during the Battle of Britain in World War 1.

July, 2013