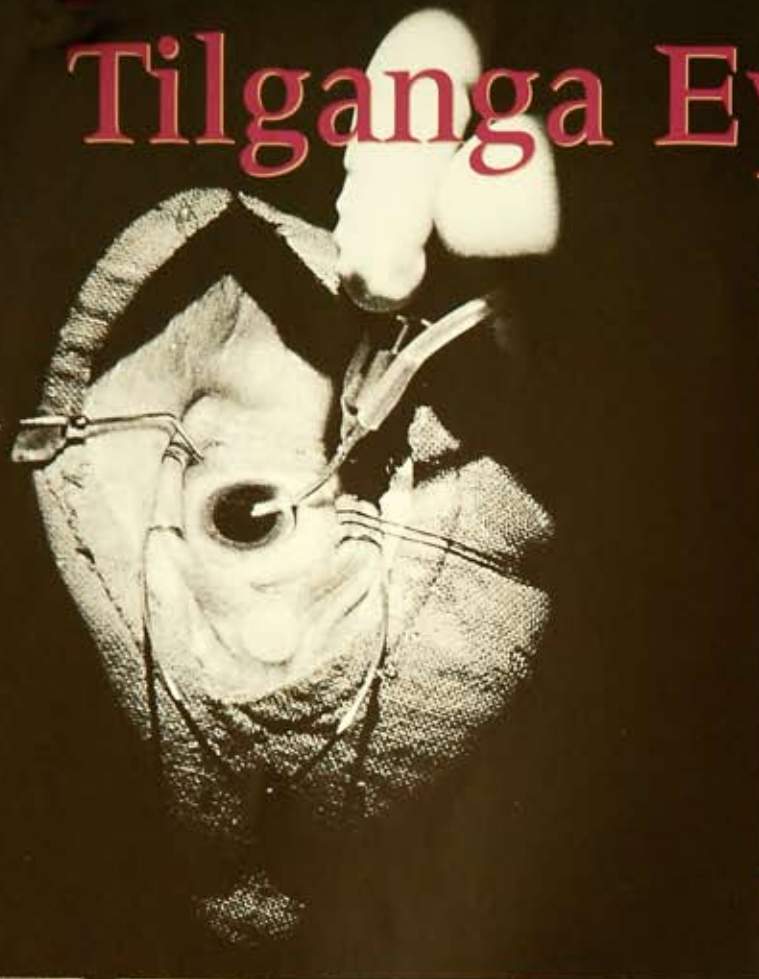


Tilganga Eye Centre, Nepal



The Tilganga Eye Centre in Nepal, on the outskirts of Kathmandu, is continuing the work of the late Professor Fred Hollows to eradicate cataract and corneal blindness. Dressed in sterile surgery gown, hat and mask, I was given the opportunity to document a continuous flow of patients undergoing eye surgery.

A few minutes was all it took to replace the defective lens with the new intra-ocular lens, all of which are actually manufactured at Tilganga at the rate of between 15,000 to 20,000 a month. These lenses are made to exact international standards and are exported around the world, giving Tilganga a truly independent status.

The Surgicentre at Tilganga registered 57,586 (old and new) patients in 1998 and performed over 3000 operations, and all this with only two ophthalmologists.

The Eye Bank also collects and maintains a supply of donated corneas. Corneal blindness is the second major cause of impaired vision in Nepal. **P**

If you are interested in supporting The Nepal Eye Program Australia contact the Fred Hollows Foundation on (02) 9669 5899.

The damaged lens is removed, and the eye prepared for the intra-ocular lens. All the new lenses are made to international standards at the centre. The operation is done under a local anaesthetic, and takes around ten minutes.



The spectacle shop is a staff-run co-operative.



Photographs and Words
by Alan Bennett.



Professional

Canon EOS