

# Potential recruits turn to new eye correction technology to enhance their chances of joining Police service

One of the main requirements of joining the Police is excellent eyesight, which has been an obstacle for many aspiring recruits.

A new vision correction laser technology called IntraLase Custom LASIK surgery is proving popular with recruits with inferior natural vision and is allowing hopefuls to get one step closer to their dream of entering the Police service.

LASIK, which stands for Laser-Assisted in-Situ Keratomileusis, is a procedure that can eliminate the need for glasses or contact lenses. IntraLase is a new technique in LASIK vision correction surgery introduced by the Eye Institute in Auckland. The procedure does not involve blade surgery. Apart from allaying patient fears, it has also proven to be more precise, safer and to allow faster recovery.

## Clear vision

Kate Sherson, a Police hopeful, noticed the results almost immediately after undergoing the IntraLase procedure. "I went from someone who couldn't see road signs or number plates clearly while driving, to clear vision the very next day," Ms Sherson said.

Glenn Dunkerley, who is now undergoing

training at the Royal New Zealand Police College at Porirua is a qualified optician, and was impressed by the recovery time after undergoing the procedure.

"The LASIK procedure took between 30 and 40 minutes. My vision was improved as soon as I opened my eyes. I've never had complete freedom in vision like this before and having worn glasses for 18 years, it is liberating," Mr Dunkerley said.

## No barriers

"Prior to having the laser procedure I would not have had a chance to join the Police as I would have not passed the first interview. Now, my eyesight won't hold me back any further," Mr Dunkerley added.

According to surgeon Dr Trevor Gray from the Eye Institute, who has been performing LASIK laser vision correction for more than a decade, the IntraLase procedure can correct all common eye problems such as near-sightedness, far-sightedness and astigmatism, which, if uncorrected, will usually disqualify a potential Police recruit.

"From a treatment standpoint, patients much prefer this modern, safer treatment procedure," Dr Gray told *Police News*.

# Luke Shadbolt appointed as Region 4 Director



• **Luke Shadbolt**

Luke Shadbolt has been appointed Police Association Regional Director for Region 4.

Mr Shadbolt replaces Chris Cahill (Napier) who has resigned his directorship to take up a position in Auckland.

Detective Sergeant Shadbolt, 38, is based in Hastings. He joined the Police in 1987 and his wife, Rachael, is a Napier-based senior constable. He has worked in Otara, Otahuhu, Te Awamutu, Napier and Hastings.

Mr Shadbolt has been an active Association member for most of his police career, serving on local committees and as a Napier delegate.

## CIB supervisor

Mr Shadbolt works as a CIB supervisor and has also been O/C of the Hawke's Bay Search and Rescue Squad since 1999. He has been a part-time member of the National Clan Lab team for the last three years.

He is also a keen sportsman and his interests include competing in triathlons, cross-country, rugby sevens competitions, surf life saving and mountain running. His other outdoor pursuits are deerstalking and duck shooting. He was a member of the gold medal winning NZ Police team, which took out the Veteran Men's Sevens Rugby competition at the 2005 Police and Fire Service Games in Adelaide.

Mr Shadbolt said that he looks forward to working closely with the respective district committees within Region 4 to best represent members' interests at a national level.

## What is IntraLase?

- The IntraLase laser performs the critical first step of LASIK surgery. LASIK is a procedure that can eliminate the need for glasses or contacts.
  - Step 1 - requires the creation of a corneal flap, which is lifted to allow Step 2.
  - Step 2 - removes corneal tissue by a special laser to reshape the cornea and change its focusing power.
- Prior to IntraLase, the corneal flap was cut using a hand-held oscillating steel blade called a microkeratome, which will soon be a thing of the past.
- IntraLase creates the corneal flap. It is a computer-controlled laser that delivers rapid pulses of light to a pre-programmed depth and position within the cornea.
- As the IntraLase moves across the eye, each pulse forms a microscopic bubble.
- The bubbles connect to form a corneal flap, which can be lifted back to reveal a smooth corneal bed, an optimal surface for reshaping.
- The creation of the flap takes around 25 seconds per eye.
- The Eye Institute was the first eye clinic in New Zealand to introduce the IntraLase in May 2006 and has performed the procedure on over 2000 eyes in the interim.



### We remember...

### Who passed away...

WHITAKER Ayla Rose	10-Dec-06	Daughter of member	Upper Hutt
POLLOCK Julie Anne	4-Apr-07	Daughter of member	Raumati South
BLUMBERG Terrence Cecil	14-Apr-07	Retired member	Christchurch
WESTERLUND John Walfrich	19-Apr-07	Member	Mangere, Auckland