

magnification feature



## Ballarat practice goes Global

By Joseph Allbeury

**D**entistry@Ballarat is the brand new practice of Drs Brian Johnston and Ian Harper. The pair have been practising in Ballarat for some 13 years and for this new practice, upgraded a Victorian heritage building to a 21<sup>st</sup> century state-of-the-art dental centre.

Six surgeries are fitted out with the latest dentistry has to offer including Global G6 operating microscopes in five of the rooms.

"Prior to moving in, we hadn't used scopes before, just loupes," Dr Johnston said. "We'd only played with microscopes at conferences and trade shows so investing in five from the outset was quite a leap of faith. The more familiar we became with microscopes however, the more we liked them and the more we could see how they fitted in with our style of diagnosis in dentistry.

"There was also an element of trying to save our backs and necks. We're both in our late 40s with young families and by using scopes, we're trying to preserve our bodies and work another 20 years, so that was another reason we went down this path.

"We also both like to work to a high standard and scopes allow you to have the ultimate in attention to detail. You get greater clarity when you're prepping and finishing margins for instance."

As a side benefit, using a microscope for almost every procedure has also created greater efficiencies in the delivery of care. As an example, the dental assistants now see exactly what the dentists are doing via a video screen and can then better anticipate what instrument or material will be required next.

"Patients can also see what we see on a screen above the chair," Dr Johnston said. "We can walk them around their mouth and show them any issues with great clarity. This alleviates any mistrust in your relationship with the patient and the scopes are proving to be a practice builder."

As far as clinical preferences go, Dr Johnston likes doing implants and Dr Harper enjoys orthodontics. Neither, however, is particularly enamoured with endodontics!

"Everyone thinks scopes are only for endo but I think you can gain benefits in every aspect of dentistry using a scope. We'd give up endodontics tomorrow if we could."

Microscopes also make it simple to record procedures on video which makes an ideal record of treatment from an educational as well as a medico legal perspective.

"When we started shopping for scopes, we looked at everything and it quickly came down to a choice between two," Dr Johnston said. "We ended up buying five Global G6 scopes from Inline Medical & Dental because they met our goals in terms of features, performance and price.

"We know the Global G6 is a big seller in the US and we knew a bit about it so we were confident it would be a good choice. It doesn't have all the bells and whistles like motorisation that other models in the Global range have, but when you start using it for everything every day, you don't miss those features. If they came with a small cost increase, we would take them, but the price difference is significant and we were investing in five units.

"My main concern was the step focus on the Global G6, but once I started using it, it has proven to not be an issue.

"The real winner though with the Global scopes are that they have an LED light source. This gives you a cool, bright white light at a cost-effective price and with a very long life expectancy. Most scopes have a yellowish halogen light at their basic level."

Dr Johnston said that Inline Medical & Dental provide good service and support for the microscopes and the practice also purchased digital x-rays, an OPG and software from the company.

"It took about a month to get used to working with a microscope. The learning curve was very small and now, 95% of the time I'm looking at a patient, I'm using the scope. If you dive into it like that, then the learning curve is far shorter.

"We've also discovered that our previous dentistry perhaps wasn't as good as we thought it was! With the microscope, you know exactly where the bur is at all times. It's quite extraordinary how much more you see with a microscope and it literally opens up a completely different world. The clarity is amazing - you now see too many problems! That slows you down a bit in the beginning while you get used to it, but it makes you speed up long term because you can see the work you are doing and ensure the quality is right.

"We've become real fans and believe that it should be the new standard in all areas of dentistry."

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*For more information on the Global range, contact Inline Medical & Dental on 1300-033-723 or see [www.inline.com.au](http://www.inline.com.au).*