



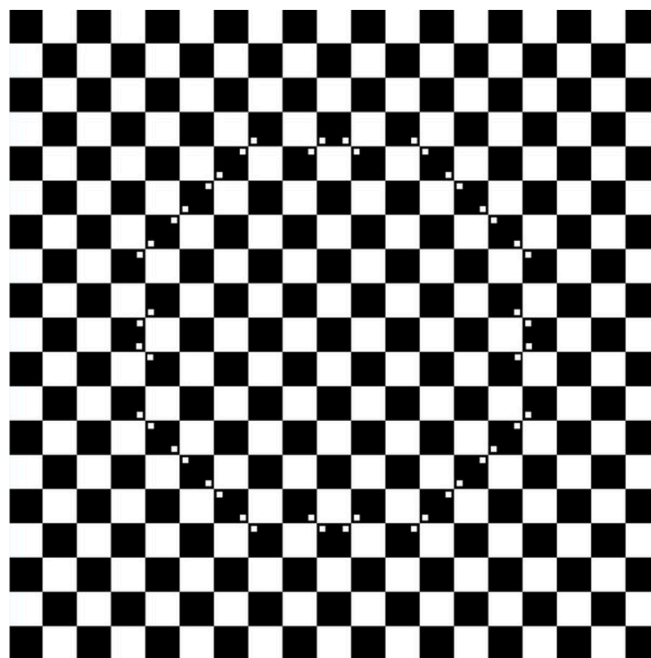
# MERCURY BAY OPTOMETRIST EYE TIMES

ISSUE 62

## AMAZING EYE FACTS

Our nose & ears keep growing throughout our life, our eyes remain the same size from birth. In the right conditions and lighting, humans can see the light of a candle from 14 miles away. The shark cornea is used in human eye surgery as it is the most similar to the human cornea. Chameleon's eyes are independent from each other, allowing vision in 2 different directions. We have all have unseen, and harmless, microscopic creatures living in our eyelashes. Blue-eyed people share a common ancestor with every other blue-eyed person in the world. The muscles in the eye are 100 times stronger than they need to be to perform their function. A camel's eyelashes can measure up to 10cm long, to protect its eyes from blowing sand. Eyes are thought to have first developed in animals around 550 million years ago. Your eyes become tired when you stare at a computer because you blink less often. Your eye is the fastest muscle in your body – hence we say 'in the blink of an eye!' Geckos can see colours around 350 times better than a human, even in dim lighting. One of the most common cosmetic injuries is poking the eyeball with a mascara wand. The cornea is the only tissue in the human body which doesn't contain blood vessels. The largest eye on the planet belongs to the Colossal Squid, and measures 27cm across. The human eye can function at 100% at any given moment, without needing to rest. New born babies cry, but do not produce any tears until they are 6 weeks old. The first blue-eyed person is said to have lived 6,000-10,000 years ago. Our eyes close automatically to protect us from perceived dangers. Eye colour is determined by the amount of melanin in your iris. People generally read 25% slower on screen than on paper. We have two eyeballs in order to give us depth perception. Diabetes is the number one cause of blindness in adults. The world's most common eye colour is brown. It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open. Dogs can't distinguish between red and green. A blink typically lasts 100-150 milliseconds. Your eyelashes keep dirt out of your eyes. You see with your brain, not your eyes. The eyeball weighs around 28 grams. Dolphins sleep with one eye open. You blink more when you talk. Owls cannot move their eyeballs. Bees have 5 eyes. Smoking reduces your night vision. All babies are colour blind at birth. An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain. The older we get, the less tears we produce. A dragonfly has 30,000 lenses in its eyes. The human eye can see 500 shades of grey. Colour blindness is more common in males. You blink on average 4,200,000 times a year. Mayans believed that cross-eyes are attractive. Most hamsters only blink one eye at a time. 80% of vision impairment worldwide is curable. Eyelashes have an average lifespan of five months. It's possible to blink five times in a single second. Eyes are the second most complex organ after the brain. Your eyebrows prevent sweat dripping into your eyes. Our eyes are made up of over 2 million working parts. Your eyes contain around 107 million light sensitive cells. The human eye only sees three colours, red, blue and green. The eye muscles are the most active muscles in the human body. Heterochromia refers to a condition where your eyes are two different colours. Our eyes are positioned in a hollowed eye socket, to protect the eye. Your eyes start to develop just two weeks after conception. Eyes are able to process 36,000 pieces of information in a single hour. Reading in dim lighting does not damage your eyes but it may tire them out. Sitting too close to a TV won't give you square eyes. The four-eyed fish can see both above and below water at the same time. Oily fish, vitamin A and vitamin C all help to preserve good eyesight. Snakes have no eyelids, just a thin membrane covering the eye. Eye transplants are currently impossible due to the sensitivity of the optic nerve. Only one sixth of the human eyeball is exposed. Pirates believed that wearing gold earrings improved their eyesight. Snakes have 2 sets of eyes: one set used to see, and the other to detect heat and movement. If you lined up all the eyelashes shed during one human life, they would measure 98 feet long. A scallop has around 100 eyes around the edge of its shell to detect predators. You see things upside down - it is your brain which turns the image the right way up. The space between your eyebrows is called the Glabella. Goats have rectangular pupils to give them a wide field of vision. Everyone has one eye that is slightly stronger than the other. The function of tears is to keep eyes clean, it's not understand why we cry when we are upset. Owls are the only bird which can see the colour blue. Your nose gets runny when you cry as the tears drain into your nasal passages. About half of the human brain is dedicated to vision and seeing. 80% of our memories are determined by what we see.

## THE EYE TIMES OPTICAL ILLUSION



A few white spots create spatial depth in this illusion of a bulging chessboard. Your brain assumes the chessboard has a uniform pattern so it sees the white spots as a distorted bulge, bending outwards.

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