

## **View News**

<http://viewnews.com.au/bm/news/ground-breaking-eye-operation-a-success.shtml?21702>

### **Ground breaking eye operation a success**

Two of Underwater Worlds Australian Sea Lions have successfully undergone ground breaking eye surgery to remove bilateral cataracts.

One of the world's leading veterinary ophthalmologists, Dr Carmen Colitz visited the Sunshine Coast aquarium over the weekend to perform ground breaking surgery on two of UnderWater World's oldest and favourite seals, Portia and Liette.

23 year old Liette and 22 year old Portia underwent surgery to remove bilateral cataracts, which are a common occurrence in mammals and frequently found in seals and sea lions. Both seals have been part of the UnderWater World family for nearly twenty years and are quite healthy with Liette still doing seal kisses and Portia still involved in the seal show. The removal of the cataracts is aimed at increasing the quality of their life and the operation was part of the ongoing care program at UnderWater World.

Whilst the eye surgeries were the first eye surgeries to be performed at UnderWater World, Dr Colitz is no stranger to performing surgery on mammals, having completed thousands of optical surgeries during her career. The founder of Aquatic Animal Eye Care, LLC, their mission is to understand and improve the ocular diseases that affect marine mammals, penguins and fishes both under human care and in the wild.

The operations on both Portia and Liette which took approximately 4 hours for each surgery have been successful with the removal of the cataracts and no complications. As the seals recuperate under the watchful care of their Primary Trainers, Julie Lightfoot and Katie Miers we expect their recovery time to be approximately three to four weeks.

With further good news to report, UnderWater World is delighted to advise that Nelson, the New Zealand Fur Seal who was rescued, rehabilitated and relocated from Adelaide in late 2010 also underwent a successful operation. Nelson had trauma to one of his eyes which had caused loss of sight and the ongoing risk of infection. The eye was successfully removed and already Nelson is showing positive signs.

"All in all, the operations were very successful and we look forward to keeping you updated on their progress." states General Manager, Tim Stonhill.

Tags: [Mooloolaba](#), [Underwater World](#)