



# NEWSLETTER

Volume 19: December 2011

## A Word from the President:

There were 5 surgical team trips to the region in the last half of 2011.

In July **Brian Miller** led a general surgery team to Halilulik.

In August **Mark Moore AM** led a plastic and reconstruction surgical team to Timor Leste; in September he led a team to Cancar.

In October **Tim Keenan** led an orthopaedic team to Naob and Waingapu.

In November **Yugesh Caplash** led a plastic and reconstruction surgical team to Timor Leste.

At the AGM on 6 October, I was elected as President, after Stephen Baker's 3 year term as President was completed. Much of my working life has been in the health sector and currently have responsibility for control of infectious diseases. Stephen has taken on the role of Secretary. We thank retiring secretary Ros Sells and member Dr Andy Beinssen for their contributions to the committee and OSSAA. The OSSAA COM for 2011/12 comprises President Joan Reed, Vice Presidents Mark Moore AM and Doug Omond OAM, Secretary Stephen Baker, Treasurer Alex Jonson, Sue Freeman, Patrick Markwick-Smith, Helen van der Jeugd, John Russell (seconded) and Lorraine Venables (seconded).

Your Management Committee continues to meet monthly and the Medical Sub Committee quarterly. Latest recruits into the visiting OSSAA surgical teams included nurses Melanie Richards, David Grant, and Kate Cogill.

Successful fundraising events included an organ recital in July and a film evening (*The Help*) in September.

## Joan Reed

## Timor Leste (East Timor)

### a. Dili

Under the 'Timor Leste Program of Assistance Specialist Services' (ATLASS) a team visit was undertaken from August 6 -13. The team comprised plastic surgeon Dr Mark Moore, anaesthetist Dr David McLeod and theatre sister Elizabeth Mazzei. Local participants included RACS Team Leader Dr Eric

Vreede, surgeons Dr Joao Ximenes and Dr Mingota Anaesthetic Trainee. The team was assisted and supported by approximately 15 to 20 anaesthetic and instrument nurses as well as the staff of the sterilization department, all members of the operating theatre complex of the Hospital National Guido Valadares. Mr Abilio and Mr Jacinto are to be thanked for their direction and oversight of the staff who were most helpful with the teams work.

There were 64 Patient Consultations, 41 Operations, mainly cleft lip palate(29) but included cleft lip, burn contractures and others.



*Before and after shots.....very neat as always*

### b. Baucau

Again under the ATLASS program, plastic surgeon Dr Yugesh Caplash visited Baucau Nov 18 – 26 with his team of anaesthetist Dr Pat Moran and theatre sister Sr Margaret Maloney.

There were 29 consultations and 24 operations. The operations mainly consisted of cleft lip and palate repairs, with some burn contractures. It was pleasing to have a solid but manageable surgery list.

All patients progressed well post-operatively and were left in the expert care of Dr Philip Mwaura.

The team is looking forward to a return visit in November 2012



*One very happy Dad!*

## **Nusa Tenggara Timur (West Timor)**

### **Halilulik**

Dr Brian Miller's surgical team visited Halilulik July 9 - 25 at the request of the Director of the Rumah Sakit Marianum, Sr Helma Nahak SSpS. Team members included general surgeon Dr Brian Miller, anaesthetist Dr Mary Brooker, theatre and recovery sister Sr Cath Coombe, coordinator/interpreter Dr Fifi Djatmiko, and accompanying clinician Dr Harijanto.

There were 205 consultations and 102 surgical procedures.

42 procedures were larger operations done by Dr Brian Miller and 50 were minor procedures by Dr Hari and the local interns. The major operations included numerous thyroidectomies, laparotomy and appendicectomy with wash out for generalized peritonitis, excision of giant head and neck lipomas, hysterectomy, above knee amputation, caesarean section, skin graft to ankle, colostomy for imperforate anus and orchidopexy. There were numerous hernia operations for small children and for adults. The first gastroscopy to be done in Halilulik Hospital was performed on this visit for a patient with helicobacter infection.

The visit was a beneficial experience for the sisters, staff and the patients at the Halilulik hospital. The long term plan for the hospital is to rebuild the ward and other facilities, with a new x-ray unit when funds become available. The hospital remains suitable for future visits by general surgical teams. Many patients were helped with life-changing procedures that they would not have had otherwise, and considerable skills enhancement took place for the nurses and for the six junior doctors that were present this time.

It was encouraging to have had such a positive response from Sister Helma and Dr Hari with respect to planning our next visit to Halilulik Hospital in 2012.



*An above knee amputation by Dr Brian Miller assisted by Dr Filo.....patient up and walking on day 4.*

The OSSAA team left a donation of \$140 to be used for a prosthesis.



*and another successful operation*

### **Naob (West Timor) and Waingapu (Sumba)**

Dr Tim Keenan's orthopaedic team visited Naob and Waingapu Oct 21 - Nov 1. Team members consisted of anaesthetist Dr Pat Moran, theatre nurses Darren Bradbrook and David Grant, interpreter Dr Dion Suyapto and coordinator Dr Hari. This was the first visit by an OSSAA team to Waingapu.

In Naob there were 40 consultations and 7 surgical procedures: in Waingapu there were 65 consultations and 5 procedures to correct injury problems, leprosy and other defects. Theatre conditions and equipment in Naob were testing; Waingapu was better placed. With a longer lead time some of the operational issues will be resolved. Training of local nursing staff will also be given a priority. If Waingapu is to be visited again, it would be preferable to make it a separate trip.

Dr Keenan would like to thank and congratulate the team for the successful mission, especially Dr Dion Suyapto who was the linchpin of the trip due to his organising skills and his fluency in Bahasa.



*Non union of humerus to be fixed*

### **Flores**

#### **Cancar**

Dr Mark Moore's plastic and reconstruction surgical team which comprised anaesthetist Dr Brian Spain, theatre sister Kate Cogill and interpreter Anastasia Stain visited St Damian's Hospital Sept 24 - 30. They were accompanied by Assistant Surgeon Joao Ximenes (trained by Mark) and joined by Dr Harijanto.

The plastic surgical team's visit to St Damian followed a visit in March 2011.

There were 88 consultations and 38 surgical procedures, mainly comprising cleft lip, plate and burn contractures.

Dr Hari performed 32 minor operations and 19 consults.



The local clinic

### 2012 is set to be busy

- In February Dr Bob Sillar's general surgery team will be heading back to Halilulik.
- Dr Mark Moore's plastic team will visit East Timor in February
- Dr Rob Coren's plastic team will visit Cancar in March.
- Dr Colin Whitewood's orthopaedic team will visit Cancar in May.
- There is likely to be a further 6 trips during the year.

### Acknowledgments

Thanks are again due to our generous donors, the many volunteers who work behind the scenes in Australia and overseas, Indonesian embassy staff, airline staff and others who assist our wonderful surgical teams operate so successfully.

### Profile

#### **SUE FREEMAN (Medical Subcommittee Coordinator)**

Sue has been involved in the medical industry for over 25 years working locally and internationally with medical companies and in the recruitment of health professionals to Australia.

Sue joined the OSSAA committee in 2004 however her interest goes back to supporting Dr John Hargrave in his work through ASEA Rehab in Darwin in the early 90's. Sue attended one of the first OSSAA presentations in 2002 and assisted the organisation on special projects prior to joining the committee. Since becoming a committee member in 2004 Sue has held the position of Secretary for 3 years and worked with teams in organising visits, first with teams going to West Timor followed by Flores.

In 2007 OSSAA established its Medical Subcommittee to advise the Committee of Management on clinical

matters and review trip activities and Sue has been the COM liaison and secretary for this committee. Early this year OSSAA appointed an Admin Officer to relieve some of the workload from Sue on the organisation of trips however she is still actively involved in the COM and Medical Subcommittee as well as *her new role as Grandma.*



*Sue and husband Barry – the baby and the dog will remain nameless to protect the innocent.*

## OUR 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY IS LOOMING

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# Photographic Gallery

## East Timor



*Nasal reconstruction 1 year later..... how good do i look now?!*

*And this is the team with Cath Coombe and Sisters Helma and Angela firmly in control*



## Cancar



*About to have a major jaw reconstruction*



*The importance of both saying ah! together cannot be understated*



*Resting comfortably with a new lease on life*

## Halilulik



*This pain in the neck is about to become a whole lot better*

*If all else fails, this is the way to go*

