



NEWSLETTER

Volume 21: December 2012

A Word from the President:

For the second half of 2012 there were 3 surgical team trips to the region to bring the total to 9 for the year.

In July **Bob Sillar** led a general surgery team to Halilulik;

In November **Yugesh Caplash** led a plastic and reconstructive team to Timor Leste;

and also in November, **Mark Moore AM** led a plastic and reconstructive team to Cancar.

A planned orthopaedic trip by **Tim Keenan** to Halilulik West Timor did not proceed, and Tim has expressed the wish to relinquish his TL role but continue to participate. Tim has provided excellent leadership and service since the 1990s.....one of John Hargraves' warriors.

The **Annual General Meeting** was held on 18 October. Guest Speaker anaesthetist Dr Todd Maddock related his experiences on the three plastic and reconstructive surgical visits he has undertaken. Alison Kelty provided an update on her Balibo school project in East Timor. Of interest was that Martinho who had received life saving surgery in Adelaide by Mark Moore (see June 2011 newsletter) is now a student at Alison's school.

Your committee of management for 2012/13 is: President, Patrick Markwick-Smith; Vice Presidents, Dr Mark Moore AM and Doug Omond OAM; Secretary, Stephen Baker; Treasurer, Alex Jonson; and members Sue Freeman, Dr Todd Maddock, Dr Dion Suyapto, Helen van der Jeugd, John Russell, Barbara Flaum and Lorraine Venables. A special welcome to new members of the committee, Barbara Flaum and Dion Suyapto.

Our surgical teams to Indonesia continue to attract large numbers of local doctors to surgery and training sessions, and relationships between the teams, the hospitals and the Indonesian health authorities are working well. Visa arrangements for trips between East and West Timor however remain problematic and will remain a focus of attention for 2013.

Two very successful fundraising functions were held:

- the annual mid-year luncheon in July with Mark Moore as guest speaker.

- a film evening on August 19 with a showing of 'Hope Springs' starring Meryl Streep. We were joined by East Timorese students who mixed with guests and sold their produce.

Further corporate sponsorship will be pursued during the year ahead.

Please accept my thanks for all your efforts.

Patrick Markwick-Smith

Timor Leste (East Timor)

a. Baucau

Under the 'Timor Leste Program of Assistance Specialist Services' (ATLASS) a team visit was undertaken from 16 – 24 November. The team comprised plastic surgeon Dr Yugesh Caplash, anaesthetist Dr Pat Moran, and theatre sister Elizabeth Mazzei. Trainee plastic surgeon Dr Joao Ximenes accompanied the team for surgical management of the patients.

There were 50 patient consultations and 31 operations, comprising 15 cleft, and a variety of repairs to burn contractures and other lesions. It was disappointing that staff were still not handling some of the equipment, the autoclave in particular, as well as expected. Overall the team was very pleased with the patient management and the quality of surgery.



Yugesh in operating theatre with local trainee plastic surgeon Dr Joao Ximenes

Nusa Tenggara Timur (West Timor)

Halilulik

At the invitation of Rumah Sakit Katolik Marianum, Dr Bob Sillar and his general surgery team visited the hospital from August 1-10. His team comprised

general surgeon Dr Christine O'Neil, anaesthetist Dr Mary Brooker, theatre and recovery nurse Cath Coombe, and interpreter/coordinator Fifi Djatmiko.

There were 110 consultations, resulting in 38 operations, including 12 major head and neck operations, mostly thyroids. There were also several intra-abdominal operations including removal of a large ovarian cyst and a bowel resection of an unusual malignant tumour of the appendix. Visiting members from the Ministry of Health in Jakarta expressed appreciation for the quality of teaching provided. The team was surprised and delighted to receive 2 booklets made up of thank-you letters from the patients and local doctors...including one in English.



Team welcome

Flores

Cancar

Dr Mark Moore's plastic and reconstructive team comprising anaesthetist Dr Phil Blum, plastic surgery fellow Dr Vani Prasad, theatre and recovery nurse Margaret Maloney, and coordinator/interpreter Anastasia Stain visited St Damian and St Raphael Hospitals at Cancar from November 17-24. Dr Nova Primadina, a recently qualified plastic surgeon from Surabaya was an active participant.

There were 129 patient consultations and 68 operations, of which cleft/palate numbered 42 and burn contractures 4. Since visitations commenced over 10 years ago, there have been 737 cleft surgical procedures. There is a high incidence of cleft deficiencies due to lifestyle, nutrition and intermarriage influences. Of the 20 other operations, 14 (removal of 'lumps and bumps') were achieved under local anaesthetic. Ibu Nunuk from the Lions Club of Jakarta again accompanied the team.



These are the real movers and shakers - Ibu Nunuk, Marg Maloney and Ibu Nona

Future trips

For the next six months the following trips are planned:

- Dr Brian Miller's general surgery team is heading back to Halilulik in February.
- Dr Mark Moore's plastic team will visit East Timor in March and perhaps also June.
- Dr Rob Coren's plastic team is planning to visit Cancar in May.
- Dr Colin Whitewood's orthopaedic team is likely to visit Cancar in May.
- Dr Michael Switajewski's ENT team is planning to visit Cancar in June.

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 marvelous surgical teams operate so successfully.

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Request for help

The **Alola Foundation** was formed in 2001 by then First Lady of East Timor, Kirsty Sword Gusmao, to support the women and children of Timor Leste to build a better future. The South Australian chapter is **seeking volunteers** to assist with its stall at Womad 2013. If you would like to help, here are the details: Womad runs Friday 8 to Monday 11 March inclusive. There are 3 four-hour shifts each day from 10am – 10pm. Free transferable entry tickets are to be used by volunteers. Please contact **REBEKAH KUEHN** alolasouthaustralia@gmail.com 0431 374 720 (ah)

Photographic Gallery

Baucau - East Timor Plastic and reconstructive



Joao, Yuges and Liz celebrating a successful trip



Action stations with MM



Phil Blum and physiotherapist Ferdi

Halilulik – West Timor General



OSSAA donated ultrasound machine put to use. Dr. Olivia (resident) showing visiting Health Department officials from Jakarta features of a goitre.

Cancar – Flores Plastic and reconstructive



Bilateral Cleft Pre and Post Surgery



Dr. Chris O'Neill and Dr Olivia reviewing their patient after a thyroid operation.



The hands of three sisters with a variety of expressions of syndactyly