



NEWSLETTER

Volume 22: April 2013

OUR NEWSLETTER WILL NOW HAPPEN QUARTERLY

....tis a communication experiment

A Word from the President:

For the first quarter of 2013, two trips were undertaken.

In February Brian Miller AM led a general surgery team to Halilulik.

In March, Mark Moore AM led a plastic and reconstructive team to Dili.

We welcome the formation of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC) and have filed our registration. Currently our Committee of Management is knee deep in strategic planning. Having a stall at the INDOfest celebrations in Adelaide was again rewarding as was liaising with the East Timor Alola Association.

We are fortunate to have people and organisations generous to the cause of improving the lives of those living in Timor Leste and Nusa Tenggara Timur. Medical supply firms such as Johnson and Johnson and Smith and Nephew continue with their significant support as do the hospitals from which our teams come. The Histotechnology Group of Qld provided an excellent donation. Service clubs continue with their terrific support. And we should not forget all the knitters. We were saddened to hear that Joan Webb from the Kalyra knitting group, providers of many teddy bears, died late last year.

Top of the pops are our selfless surgical team members.

Patrick Markwick-Smith

Coming Events

Annual Luncheon on 28 July 2013 at the Glenelg Golf Club with Guest Speaker Michael Angelakis.

Cost \$50

Film afternoon/evening on 25 August 2013 at Wallis Cinema Mitcham

The film is 'Now You See Me'.

Cost \$20

Invitations to each will be despatched a few weeks prior to the event.

News from Timor Leste (East Timor) Dili

Under the 'Timor Leste Program of Assistance Specialist Services' (ATLASS) a team visit was undertaken from 9 – 16 March to the national Dili hospital and Aileu clinic. The team comprised plastic surgeon Dr Mark Moore, anaesthetist Dr Brian Spain, and theatre sister Vanessa Dittmar. Surgical registrar and trainee plastic surgeon Dr Joao Ximenes attended and operated as did general surgeon Dr Joao Pedro.

There were 91 patient consultations and 37 operations, comprising 21 cleft and cleft palate, 4 burns/contractures and 12 others of excisions, keloids etc.



A congenital demoid cyst about to be removed after 23 years



2-3 year follow up of twins with bilateral cleft

This was the 36th plastics team visit – more than 750 cleft repairs have been performed since 2000.

With these patients, attention is now turning to provision of orthodontic treatment and speech pathology to assist with infant feeding and speech therapy. An extensive research-rich data base has been developed over this period.

Much progress has been made but more remains particularly in enhancing staff capacity. The RACS team in Dili now includes an experienced anaesthetist to train local doctors.....a positive development.

News from Nusa Tenggara Timur (West Timor)

Halilulik

Dr Brian Miller led his general surgery team to the Halilulik Hospital on 25 February – 7 March. His team comprised Dr Andy Beinssen, theatre and recovery nurse Cath Coombe, and interpreter/coordinator Dr Fifi Djatmiko.

There were 120 consultations, resulting in 64 operations....34 of a major nature, including thyroidectomies, laparotomies, ovarian cyst removal, fistula anastomosis, axillary burn-scar release and skin grafting, orchidectomy, rigid sigmoidoscopy, and numerous hernia operations for children and adults.

Brian brought with him a handheld V-Scan U/S, lent to him by the Emergency Department doctors in the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane, which was very helpful in the assessment of patients with abdominal masses. Histological specimens were taken for analysis in Brisbane and feedback to the Halilulik Hospital and to Dr Bob Sillar, who will be leading the next team.



Dr Joao operating and being watched by Timorese doctors and trainees



Laparotomy and removal of 19cm ovarian cyst



Brian giving a tutorial in one-hand knot tying to junior doctors



V-scan handheld rechargeable U/S device



Andy and Brian with Sister Angela, head sister at Halilulik Hospital

Future trips

For the next six months the following trips are planned:

- Dr Rob Coren's plastics team will visit Cancar in May.
- Dr Mark Moore's plastics team will visit East Timor in June
- Dr Bob Sillar's general surgery team will visit Halilulik in July
- Dr Colin Whitewood's orthopaedic team is likely to visit Cancar in July
- Dr Michael Switajewski's ENT team is planning to visit Cancar in August.



19yo girl suffering from osteosarcoma, pending amputation in 2011.....



.....highly mobile with a prosthesis donated by the team

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We are now on Facebook under Overseas Specialist Surgical Association of Australia