



OVERSEAS  
SPECIALIST  
SURGICAL  
ASSOCIATION  
OF  
AUSTRALIA INC

# NEWSLETTER

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## A Word from the President:

*Top spot* – **Liz Mazzei** our intrepid theatre nurse was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2014 Australia Day honours for her overseas volunteering since the 1980s in Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia with the plastic and reconstructive surgical teams of Craniofacial Australia and OSSAA, and for other community contributions. We are delighted!



Elizabeth Mazzei AM

The December quarter 2013 was busy with 4 trips undertaken.

In October, **Yugesh Caplash** led a plastic and reconstructive team to *Baucau TL*.

In November, **Michael Switajewski** led an ENT team to *Cancar*.

Also in November, **Mark Moore AM** led a plastic and reconstructive team to *Halilulik* and then followed up with a visit to *Cancar*.

The fundraiser, featuring *The Butler* at Wallis Cinema Mitcham on 27 October, was again a success with \$3000 being raised. We are grateful once more for the support of the Wallis family, Romeo Foodland and Vilis.

Our next event is the Annual luncheon on Sunday 15 June at the Glenelg Golf Club – team leader Dr Brian Miller AM will be our guest speaker.

The rewrite of the OSSAA Operations Manual was completed in October.

Australian Government funding (through RACS) of plastic and reconstructive team visits to Timor Leste is due to cease. We are negotiating for resumption of funding to complete the training of surgeon Dr Joao and for treating the more needy cases.

Over the last 5 years there have been a number of changes to accreditation of team visits into NTT Indonesia with which OSSAA has successfully complied. A new round of changes which may require longer lead times is being worked through.

We welcome anaesthetists Dr Daniel Holmes and Dr Andrew Wallace to the OSSAA team.

**Patrick Markwick-Smith**

## Timor Leste

### Baucau

Under the 'Timor Leste Program of Assistance Specialist Services' (ATLASS) Dr Yugesh Caplash led a plastic and reconstructive surgical team to Baucau from 15 -23 November. The team comprised anaesthetist Dr Pat Moran, and theatre sister Liz Mazzei. The team survived Pat's driving.

There were 41 patient consultations (37 in Baucau and 4) in Dili and 25 operations (24 in Baucau and 1 burn contracture in Dili) – of the 24 in Baucau, there were 16 clefts, and a variety of repairs to lesions.



Assistant Surgeon Raakhi Mistry with thyroid patient



This little lady looking much better after cleft lip surgery

## Nusa Tenggara Timur (Flores)

### Cancar - October

Dr Michael Switajeski led his ENT surgical team to Cancar on 11 – 19 October. His team comprised ENT surgeon and interpreter Dr Desmond Wee, anaesthetist Dr Daniel Holmes, anaesthetic and recovery nurse Helen van der Jeugd, and theatre nurse Bronwyn Hindley-Cooke.

There were 122 consultations and 27 operations including one emergency. Six grade 2 and grade 3 hemithyroidectomies were successfully completed. Theatre operations at St Rafael are slowly adjusting after the departure of highly capable and well organised Sr. Reginatus, and the recruitment of new staff. Local GPs were appreciative of the opportunity to receive training in particular procedures, as were the theatre staff. Rumour has it that a poor eating choice had the team on the run. Cold showers provided something else to think about.



*Post removal of a large thyroid neck mass*



*1kg of offending thyroid*

### **Cancar - November**

Dr Mark Moore led his plastic and reconstructive surgical team to Cancar on 16-23 November. The team comprised anaesthetist Dr Phil Blum, recovery nurse Penny Craig and interpreter Anastasia Stain. There were 75 assessments and 53 operations comprising mainly cleft lip/palate and burns contractures. A 10 year old boy (below) came in with serious untreated burn contractures which led to a distortion in the lower jaw.



*Before surgery*



*After surgery with jaw unlocked*

Several of the severe burn contractures previously treated came back for further surgery, including Patrisiana (below) who had suffered horrific facial and trunk injuries and received multiple surgical procedures over the last 11 years – extraordinary courage



### **West Timor**

#### **Halilulik**

Dr Mark Moore led his plastic and reconstructive surgical team to Halilulik on 9-14 November. The team comprised anaesthetist Dr Andrew Wallace, theatre and recovery nurse Margaret Maloney and interpreter Anastasia Stain. This was the first return visit in 4 years. There were 40 consultations and 31 operations comprising mainly cleft lip/palate.



*Andrew Wallace teaching local doctors*



*Margie Maloney on soft toy patrol*

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