



Overseas Specialist Surgical Association of Australia

Newsletter – December 2006

ISSUE NO: 9

Welcome to the last edition of the newsletter for the year. This year came and went so fast with so much to report in so little time and space. We will try to summarise events and activities that occurred during this year in not too many words. This is the last issue for this year, we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe transition to the coming year.



President's Report

The President's report may be accessed from our website: www.ossaainc.org.au

SURGICAL TEAM NEWS

A total of 7 surgical team visits had been undertaken during this year, 3 to Cancar, Flores, 2 to West Timor and 2 to East Timor involving 29 personnel which included: 9 Surgeons, 9 Anaesthetists, 7 Nurses and 4 Coordinator / Interpreters. Several specialists joined the surgical teams for the first time this year. We hope that this involvement will be ongoing and that they can make themselves available when called upon.

Treatment of burn contractures and cleft lip and palate deformities are still prominent at the surgical visits. In cases where treatment or patient care is not regarded as priority, especially in burns cases, patients die whilst waiting for proper treatment.

Personnel involved in the team visits this year are:

Plastic Surgeons: Mark Moore, Tony Fernandes, Peter Riddell, Mike Klarson, **Orthopaedic Surgeons:** Tim Keenan, John Kagi; **General Surgeons:** Brian Miller, David Watson, Robert Linacre.

Anaesthetists: Brian Spain, Philip Blum, David McLeod, Stephen Kinnear, Peter Armstrong, Peter Malcolm, Jerome Wisniewski, Ross Boulter, Fiona Merritt

Nurses: Margaret Maloney, Elizabeth Mazzei, Penny Craig, Aaron Leinonen, Susan Randall, Sue Wager, Kerrie Nicholls

Coordinator/Interpreters: Dion Suyapto, Arto Kartika, Caroline Wuller, Ruth Boveington

Our long term Team Leaders for West Timor, Dr. Peter Riddell, has resigned from OSSAA. In the interim, General Surgeon, Dr. Brian Miller who has accompanied Dr. Riddell on several visits to Kefamenanu has been nominated as Team Leader to the region. We wish Dr. Riddell all the best in his future endeavours.

CANCAR, FLORES, NTT



Outpatient clinic

Two of the visits to Cancar were combined with other specialists. Earlier in the year, the Plastic/Reconstructive team included a General surgeon and a later visit was combined with an Orthopaedic team. At the earlier visit, two Indonesian trainee surgeons joined the team, a trainee general surgeon from Jogjakarta and a Plastic Surgeon from the Cancer Hospital in Jakarta. An Orthopaedic surgical team also visited Cancar in between the combined team visits.

Summary Clinical activities

February 2002 – October 2006:

Total patient consultation:	1587
Total surgical procedures:	736

May and October 2006:

Total patient consultations	452
Total Surgical Procedures	242
Clefts lip/palate:	65
Burns	15
Orthopaedic:	58
General	58
Others	46

Proposed next visit:

March 2007

The most recent visit consulted with patients from all around Flores and (West) Timor, Sumba and other nearby islands. Many of the patients from Maumere, Ende and Atambua were for cleft lip and palate repair and burn contracture release. At the end of the visit, the guardian of the patients from East Flores stated that if our teams don't go to their centres, they will go to where our teams provides the service despite the long road trips (12 hours drive from Maumere to Cancar).

Cancar remains the most highly developed in all categories. The community continues to exhibit high levels of support and motivation to acquire the maximum

outcome from the teams, not only clinically but also in friendship and community spirit.

Transport to Cancar is getting much easier, there are now daily flights to Ruteng and Labuan Bajo from Denpasar. The road between Labuan Bajo and Cancar (4 hours drive) has also been improved but the flights to Ruteng (30 minutes from Cancar) will alleviate the 4 hour road drive to and from Labuan Bajo which is a relief for some team members who are not used to long drives.



Plastic & Orthopaedic Surgical team with local staff October 2006

Young patient with bilateral lower limb burn contractures



Lower leg contractures



Contracture release Split skin grafting & staples



patient with Tessier cleft awaiting surgery at next visit.



Inseparable cleft patients from a remote village, Maumere

Residents of the Rehabilitation Community at Cancar partake in activities which returns some contribution to the community. These long term residents / patients are involved in craft work where the end product is sold and the proceed is returned to the community.



Below are some examples of the work produced by patients / residents.



A young child with bilateral club feet – post surgery



TIMOR LESTE

Team Timor Leste – November, 2006



Ruth Boveington, David McLeod, Margaret Maloney, Mark Moore

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) continues to support the surgical teams to Timor Leste. Two visits were undertaken this year and as previously, the teams utilised Baucau and Dili hospitals.

The visit in November marks the twentieth clinical visit by our surgical teams. Due to the civil unrest in Timor Leste, only a small team of four personnel participated in the visit. The team continued to consult with patients at Aileu and Bairopite clinics as well as Dili National Hospital. Although not many patients were expected, the team was surprised at the turn out of patients under the circumstances. 77 patients were consulted at this visit and 33 surgical procedures performed. Although the visit was beneficial, the lack of leadership with the local operating theatre staff was disappointing. The local theatre staff were very unsupportive and unconstructive. On both visits (April and November), a small number of very keen anaesthetic nurses attended and assisted at every surgical procedure. In April, 2 scrub nurses assisted, no one was made available to assist in November.



Dr. David McLeod, Mr. Nicolai, Dr. Moore, Dr. Joao & Dr. Ivan
The team who operated all week in Dili without assistance from local theatre nurses

A typical attitude of the local theatre staff was evidenced in the theft of the team leader's mobile phone from his brief case, left in the operating theatre for fifteen minutes. The nurse in charge in the operating theatre blamed the team for trusting the local staff by leaving items in the operating theatre.



Sisters from Emmera with cleft lip deformity

Bilateral cleft lip & palate patient



Cleft lip repair 2001

Palate repair 2006

Since June 2000 to November 2006, 20 clinical visits have been undertaken in Timor Leste.

Summary of clinical activities

June 2000 – November 2006:

Total patients consultation:	1937
Total surgical procedures:	684
Clefts	355
Burns	121

April and November 2006:

Total patient consultation:	199
(including 57 new cleft patients)	
Total surgical procedures:	90
Cleft lip/palate:	55
Burns	11
Others	24

Proposed next visit:

April 2007



Treating an in-patient with no assistance from local nursing staff

WEST TIMOR



Team West Timor – June 2006

Two visits have been undertaken to Kefamenanu under OSSAA. Other surgical visits with various specialisations have been undertaken under the ANTARA project. General surgical and eye specialists have visited Atambua, Soe has had visits by an orthopaedic team. Maumere, Ende and Larantuka (Flores) have had General surgical teams.

The SSpS Hospital in Halilulik, near Atambua, has requested for OSSAA surgical teams to provide the service in Halilulik so that they could reduce the number of patients referred to Cancar.

A young neck burn contracture patient from West Timor receiving treatment at Cancar.



Neck burn contractures Contracture release, split skin grafted

Summary clinical activities for West Timor:

2004-2006

Total patient consultation: 837
Total surgical procedures: 346

2006:

Total patient consultation: 337
Total surgical procedures: 138

Proposed next visit:
April 2007.

Other news

The Lions Clubs of Brighton and Edwardstown fulfilled their mission in helping two craniofacial patients from Flores, Eastern Indonesia in August. The patients, Dovianus Agung, 26 yrs old from Ruteng and Maria Delviana, 7yrs old from Bajawa were identified by the OSSAA Plastic and

Craniofacial Surgeon, Dr. Mark Moore, during team visits to Flores, to send to Australia for surgery.

The Lions Clubs raised funds, in conjunction with a grant from the Australian Lions Foundation to cover costs to send the two patients to Adelaide for surgical treatment.



Members of Lions Clubs meeting patients on arrival, Adelaide airport

A number of specialists who were involved in the project provided their time and service at no cost. They include: Dr. Mark Moore (Plastic and Craniofacial Surgeon), Dr Cindy Molloy (Neurosurgeon), Dr David Zoanetti and Dr Toby Branson (Anaesthetists), Dr. Terry Yuen (Dentist), Radiology SA, Gribbles and the Calvary Hospital Board also provided hospitalisation and care for the two patients free of charge.



Executive of Calvary Hospital with patients – (post-surgery) with Ruth Boveington

Our coordinator/interpreter, Ruth Boveington, who had met the patients with Dr. Moore, organised travel arrangements and accompanied the patients from Darwin to Adelaide (return) as guardian, carer and interpreter.



Members of Lions Clubs saying goodbye to the patients, Adelaide airport

The generosity of Foodland North Adelaide the Adelaide Meridien Motel, Bakery on O'Connell and Front-line Promotional Products to support this project also needs special mention. The two patients have fully recovered and are back to their respective communities. Dr Mark Moore and Ruth Boveington caught up with them in Cancar for a follow up review in October, 2006.



Follow up with patients at Cancar – October 2006

ROMAC

ROMAC has commenced the paperwork in getting Valeria Cundawan from Flores to Adelaide for surgery early next year. Ruth Boveington is assisting ROMAC with paperwork for the patient and her father who will escort her to Australia for surgery, early next year.

Another young patient seen by our surgical team in Dili, Timor Leste, is also being assisted by ROMAC for surgery in Australia. There are other patients currently awaiting for assistance outside Indonesia.

This lady has been turned away wherever she went to seek treatment. She is hoping for support to have surgery in Australia



The Lions Club of Noarlunga-Morphett Vale, a corporate member of OSSAA was requested to donate a fax machine to the Leprosy Rehabilitation Foundation in Cancar.

To date, communication with the SSpS Sisters at Cancar remains a challenge. Whilst mobile phone coverage is now available in the area, landline telephones are still not available. Currently, most messages are relayed by mobile phone and fax via Telkom in Ruteng, where faxes can be left without being picked up for weeks. The SSpS Sisters have facilities in Labuan Bajo where landline phone access is available. The fax machine when connected will save time and cost in organising the OSSAA visits and relaying messages regarding patient follow up etc. Many thanks to the Lions Club of Noarlunga-Morphett Vale.



Sr. Virgula SSpS, founder of the Leprosy Rehabilitation Foundation, Cancar, receiving the fax machine from Ruth Boveington, OSSAA's Coordinator / Interpreter

At the end of the visit to Timor Leste, Dr. Mark Moore and Ruth Boveington extended the visit to Jakarta to meet with representatives of PT Arutmin Indonesia, who have requested the assistance of OSSAA to provide the same surgical service to the community of South Kalimantan. The representatives from PT Arutmin Indonesia were vastly interested in utilising the services of OSSAA and are following up on the next stage in getting the support from the Governor of the province prior to commencing surgical visits.



Dr. Moore and Ruth Boveington with Dr. Budiarto - previous counterpart, Dr. Harianto, current counterpart, Mr. Delma Azrin and Mr. Basyori – PT Arutmin Indonesia

FUNDRAISING

The Fund Raising sub-committee, led by Mr. Doug Omond, continues to work very hard throughout this year to raise funds to support the activities of the surgical teams. T

The Southern Districts of Adelaide Soroptimists Club are holding an Art Exhibition and Sale of Works by Vondee at her Studio at Tennyson on Friday PM, 23rd March 2007.

There is no admission charge and light refreshments will be served. For further information please contact our Fundraising Chairman Doug Omond. Phone 82390203 E-mail dougaljd@bigpond.net.au Personal invitations will be forwarded in February 2007.

Committee

The Annual General Meeting took place at the Calvary Hospital on November 16th where the following have been selected to the new committee.

President:	Mr Bob Laws
Vice Presidents:	Dr. Mark Moore Mr. Douglas Omond
Treasurer:	Mr. Alex Johnson
Secretary:	Ms. Margaret Maloney
Members:	Dr. Dion Suyapto Dr. David McLeod Mrs. Sue Freeman Mrs. Connie Granozio

We welcome Dr. David McLeod and Ms. Margaret Maloney into the committee. We are confident that as current team members and with privileged knowledge of the areas you have worked in, your contribution and input to the committee will be most valuable.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank all members (individual and corporate), service clubs, businesses and individuals who have continued to support the organisation to make this year worthwhile for the patients who had the service and treatment provided to them. Mention goes to the following for their ongoing support.

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS)
Rotary Club of Unley,
Rotary Club of Campbelltown
Lions Club of Edwardstown,
O.P.A.L.,
Johnson and Johnson,
Calvary Hospital,
Royal Adelaide Hospital
Womens and Childrens Hospital – Adelaide,
Adelaide Pathology Partners,
Mr. Wiweko and staff of the Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia (Darwin)
Mr. Brian Measey - Thrifty Car Rental, N.T.,
Ms Mandy Bluett - Qantas,
Mrs. Joan Webb - Kalyra Knitting Group & friends,
Mr. Mel Reynolds - Melsa Medics,
Mr. Jim Kiely – Smith & Nephew
Mr. Mark Clear – Ansell,
Ms. Patricia Mann-Davis & Mr. Terry Mill – Tyco Health Care,
Karen Halbert – Astra Zeneca,
Mr. Barry Bratchford,
Mr. Greg Smith - Helican,
Mr. Tim Drysdale – Defries Industries,
Mr. Gary Rintoule – Densly,
Mr. Peter James – International Linen,
Marinella Auri – Dynek Plastic Surgical sutures, Ms. Vikki Denny – Anaequip;
ASEA Rehab, Northern Territory.
Mary-Lou Bishop – Medtel

Sincere apologies to those who are not mentioned, we continue to value your contribution and support.

Memberships

Memberships remain \$25 per year for ordinary membership and \$100 for corporate membership. Remember, the organisation is dependent on your support to improve the lives of those who are much more disadvantaged.

The Committee of Management would like to thank all members (corporate and ordinary) for your help and support throughout this year and the previous years. We trust that you will continue to provide your support to helping those who do not have the chance to help themselves.

Further information can be obtained by visiting our website: www.ossaqing.org.au or write to us at : PO Box 138, UNLEY, SA 5061 or to: Ruth Boveington, PO Box 795, Darwin, NT 0801, email:ruthbov@ozemail.com.au

