



Overseas Specialist Surgical Association of Australia

Newsletter – January 2006 - Issue no. 7

Welcome to another edition of our newsletter. We hope you had a safe transition to the New Year. So much has happened since the last newsletter, we shall try to inform you of events and activities as they happened during 2005, as best as possible. Sincere apologies for the delay in the production of this issue.

Message from the President – Mr. Bob Laws

It's a pleasure to have this opportunity to thank John Russell, our recently retired President. John's work in the establishment of OSSAA in 2002, and his dedicated oversight of the Association's subsequent successful growth has been invaluable.

OSSAA's Constitution provides that no person can continuously serve as President for more than 3 years, otherwise John would continue to be leading us. He continues to serve on OSSAA's Committee.

I must also thank the surgical teams for their selfless work under the leadership of Drs. Mark Moore, Peter Riddell, John Kagi, Tim Keenan and Brian Miller. They continue to bring relief from pain, suffering and disfigurement to many hundreds of people each year. A Sponsorship Package, including a Power Point presentation on the work of OSSAA has been prepared by our tireless Secretary, Sue Freeman, and is being circulated to service clubs and other interested organisations.

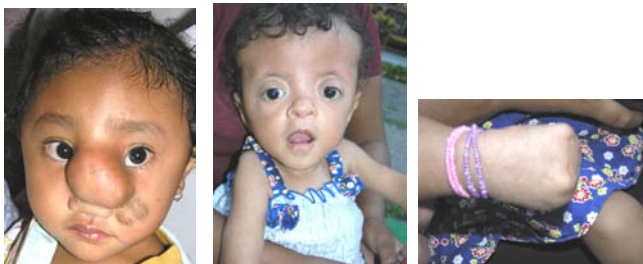
SURGICAL TEAM NEWS

A total of 8 clinical team visits had been undertaken during 2005, 3 to Cancar, Flores, 3 to West Timor and 2 to East Timor involving 28 personnel which included: 8 Surgeons, 9 Anaesthetists, 7 Nurses and 2 Coordinator / Interpreters. Several specialists joined the surgical teams for the first time this year. We hope that the involvement from these new personnel concerned will be ongoing.

From the 8 visits undertaken this year, more than 1000 patients were clinically assessed and over 400 surgical procedures performed. Of the surgical procedures, the common of cases have been patients with cleft lip and palate deformity and disabilities from burns.

Patients with the cleft lip and palate deformity still turn up for consultation. Parents are now aware of the availability of treatment therefore bring their new born babies with the deformity to be waitlisted for the follow up visits.

The waiting list for patients who cannot receive surgical treatment locally is still current. Two of such patients whose cases have been presented to ROMAC for assistance are:



This child with an encephalocele has been waiting for over 3 years for treatment in Australia

A 2 yr old child from East Timor with Apert syndrome.

WEST TIMOR (TIMOR)

Three surgical teams visited (West) Timor, Nusa Tenggara Timur last year comprising one plastic / reconstructive surgeon, two general surgeons, one laboratory scientist, three nurses and 2 interpreters. The teams have been based at the Kefamenanu general hospital. As at other times, patients of many categories of ailment turn up for assessment. Many of the cases assessed do not necessarily fit the requirements of service by our teams, however, the teams have an obligation to provide them with whatever available treatment. The presence (or lack) of a resident surgeon in the region continues to diffuse the surgical of our teams. The teams perform more general surgical cases in the region while plastic / reconstructive cases are sent to Flores for our team visits to Cancar.

Various Orders of the Catholic nuns provide assistance to the teams in Timor. Although mobile phones are available for use in the main regional centres, to overcome difficulties with communication in the remote areas, the Edwardstown Lions Club, Adelaide have provided the PRR Sisters with a fax machine and Dr. Mark Moore has provided one to Sr. Yasinta, SVD. The regional governments continue to provide assistance in transport, accommodation etc; for team members as part of their contribution in the bilateral programme.

Surgical team – Kefamenanu, October 2005



Summary of Clinical visits – 2005 (3 visits):

Patient consultation: Approx. 500

Surgical procedures: Approx. 180

Personnel included in the Timor visits 2005:

Surgeons:

Dr. Peter Riddell

Plastic/Reconstructive surgeon

Dr. Brian Miller

General Surgeon

Dr. Robert Sillar

General Surgeon

Anaesthetists:

Dr. Simon Macklin

Dr. Ken Streatfield

Dr. Elizabeth Irwin

Dr. Elizabeth Frienhault

Nurses:

Sr. Sue Davis

Theatre nurse

Sr. Sue Wager

Theatre nurse

Sr. Annette Joyce

Ward nurse

Coordinator / Interpreter

Dr. Dion Suyapto

Mrs. Roswita Khyaiath

Counterpart team members

Dr. Hartono *Dir. Health, Kefamenanu*
Dr. Nining *GP Kefamenanu*
Dr. Farida *GP Kefamenanu*
Dr. Mervyn *GP Kefamenanu*
Sr. Jasinta, *(SVD, Kupang)*

Other members:

Dr. Richard Turnbull *Laboratory Scientist*
Ms. Daliah Moss *RACS Observer*



2 surgical procedures performed in one operating theatre

CANCAR, FLORES, NTT

Cancar: Since 2002, more than 200 cleft lip and palate patients have been assessed, 196 have had surgical treatment.



Plastic surgical patients at consultation — October 2005

2 Plastic / Reconstructive and 2 Orthopaedic surgical teams visited Cancar, Flores in 2005. The most recent visit was a combined with the Plastic/Reconstructive (led by Dr. Mark Moore) and Orthopaedic (led by Dr. Tim Keenan) team. This visit also included a senior Plastic Surgical Registrar, Dr. Kristaninta Bangun, from the Cipto Mangunkusumo Hospital in Jakarta, along with our long term counterpart surgeon, Dr. Harianto and theatre nurses from Sitanala Hospital, Java and two physiotherapists from Naob and Leowoleba Hospitals (East Flores). A total number of 15 personnel from Australia were involved in the Cancar visits in 2005.



Drs. Moore and Krista at surgery

The involvement of Dr. Kristaninta in our teams is a major advancement and considered to be the first of many situations where Indonesian senior Plastic Surgical trainees may utilise the teams' presence in Flores to further advance their knowledge and skills. Dr. Krista enjoyed the experience and has expressed interest in future involvement.

As previously, the orthopaedic surgical teams were from Perth, and the plastic surgical team members from Adelaide and Darwin.

Summary of clinical activities for Cancar, 2005 (3 visits)

Total Consultation: 344
Total Operations 183



Surgeons: Rob Coren, Tim Keenan, Krista Bangun, Hendrikus Harianto and Mark Moore – October 2005

Personnel included in the Cancar visits during 2005:

Surgeons:

Dr Mark Moore *Plastic/Reconstructive Surgeon*
Dr Rob Coren *Plastic/Reconstructive Surgeon*
Dr. Kristaninta Bangun *Plastic Surgeon – (Jakarta)*
Dr. John Kagi *Orthopaedic Surgeon*
Dr. Tim Keenan *Orthopaedic Surgeon*
Dr. Hendrikus Harianto *Leprosy Surgeon (Sitanala)*

Anaesthetists:

Dr. David Sainsbury
Dr. Brian Spain
Dr. Ross Boulter
Dr. Jerome Wisniewski

Nurses:

Sr. Margaret Maloney *Theatre nurse*
Sr. Helen Roberts *Paediatric Recovery nurse*
Sr. Susan Wood *Theatre nurse*
Sr. Janet Taylor *Ward nurse*

Coordinator/Interpreter:

Ms. Ruth Boveington
Ms. Daliah Moss *(RACS observer)*

Counterpart nursing Team

Mr. Kanis Nabur *Theatre nurse (St Damian)*
Mrs. Viktoria Sanggo *Senior Theatre nurse (St Rafael)*
Mrs. Ernavati Kabora *Theatre nurse (St Rafael)*
Mrs. Sabina Bavu *Theatre nurse (St Rafael)*
Mrs. Maria Santi Virgina *Theatre nurse (St Rafael)*
Ibu Yeni *Theatre nurse (Sitanala Hospital)*
Sr. Alexia (PRR) *Physiotherapist (Leowoleba)*
Sr. Krisanti (PRR) *Physiotherapist (Naob)*



Surgical team members with local theatre staff and helpers – October 2005

As in other visits, the majority of patients consulted by the orthopaedic teams were with children with club feet and talipes, bone fractures, flexion contractures of joints, joint fixation plus other bone and joint ailments. The plastic teams saw patients whose ailments range from cleft lip and palate, burn contractures, and at last visit, a number of patients with facial tumours presented. In situations where the cases were suspicious or unsuitable for surgery at the local hospital, biopsy specimens were taken to Australia for further analysis. Some patients of this category have been sent to Surabaya for surgical treatment.



This patient was scheduled to be brought to Australia for treatment but had to be sent to Surabaya, Indonesia due to the rapid advancement of her tumour



A young patient with vascular Tumour, biopsied by our team then sent to Surabaya for Surgical treatment

The SSps sisters under the guidance of Sr. Virgula and Sr. Franseline continue to provide an excellent service and care for patients. Patients from all over Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT), Sumba and Kalimantan continue to arrive to be seen by our teams. Sr. Reginaldis returned from leave in Europe to maintain the efficiency of the operating theatres.

A newly completed two-storey building was first used by the teams in October 2005. The building accommodates up to 10 guests upstairs and has two rooms for immediate post-op patients with 4 beds (cots) in a room plus a larger room where local anaesthetic procedures are performed.

The flight schedules with Meparti Airlines, are still as unpredictable as ever. In previous circumstances, the teams have been stranded at Labuan Bajo due to the plane being 'full' although the bookings had been confirmed in advance. There was also an incident where the flight the teams were on lost one of the engines in mid-flight.

At the last visit, the flight times had been changed again, then cancelled without notice. The delay from departure from Denpasar by a few hours caused the plane to arrive late at Labuan Bajo (Flores). After arrival, the plane took off before offloading all the baggage, leaving 3 team members without any personal effects for 2 days. At the end of the visit, the team travelled to Labuan Bajo to discover that their Meparti flight had been cancelled and that the only available flight, GT Airline was powering up its engines, ready to depart. Led by Dr. Krista, team members rushed to the 'closed' check-in counter whilst airport staff rushed out on to the tarmac to stop the plane from leaving. Fortunately, the plane stopped to allow the 9 team members on board. Nearly all team members had onward flights out of Denpasar later that same day.

EAST TIMOR (TIMOR LESTE)

Timor Leste: Over the last five years, more than 400 cleft lip and palate cases have been assessed, 300 of these patients have had surgical treatment.

Two surgical team visits were undertaken to Timor Leste in 2005. As in the two years previously, both visits were funded by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS). The visits to Timor Leste have always included 2 surgeons, 2 anaesthetists, 2 theatre nurses and 1 coordinator, utilising RACS resident staff at the Dili Hospital as well as the Baucau.

The Ministry of Health in Timor Leste has expressed ongoing support for the programme through RACS therefore, our involvement in Timor Leste may continue beyond June 2006.

At both visits, the team had the opportunity to visit some remote centres where patients had not received correct information about our team visits. Earlier in the year, the team visited Laclubar with the assistance of the Brazilian priests from St. John of God. At a later visit, the team visited the island of Atauro, where a fair number of untreated cleft patients were wondering around the village. The journey to Atauro took nearly 3 hours by ferry, which stopped for 1 hour then returned to Dili. Although the health facilities on the island would have been adequate to perform a patient consultation clinic, there would not have been enough time to undertake this task in 1 hour.

Summary of clinical activities for Timor Leste, 2005 (2 visits)

Total Consultation:	161
Total Operations	56



Dr. Joao Pedro assisting Dr. Moore in Theatre – Baucau hospital



A previously repaired (left patient returned for revision by our team)



Surgical team and local theatre staff - Baucau hospital



Surgical team members - Dili

Personnel involved in the visit to Timor Leste, 2005 are:

Surgeons

Dr. Mark Moore *Plastic / Reconstructive Surgeon*
 Dr. Antonio Fernandes *Plastic/Reconstructive Surgeon*

Anaesthetists

Dr. Peter Malcolm
 Dr. Steven Kinnear
 Dr. Philip Blum

Nurses

Sr. Elizabeth Mazzei *Theatre nurse*
 Sr. Penelope Craig *Theatre nurse*

Coordinator / Interpreter

Ms Ruth Boveington

Counterparts

Dr. Eric Vreede *Anaesthetist (Dili)*
 Dr. Philip Mwaura *GP (Baucau)*
 Dr. Joao Pedro *Surgical Trainee -Baucau*
 Sarmento Correia *RACS Coordinator*
 Operating Theatre staff *Dili & Baucau Hospitals*

The hospital staff of Baucau hospital, as in previous visits have been very keen to be involved. At the end of the first training course for anaesthetic nurses, a fellow anaesthetic nurse from Baucau topped the group. Another anaesthetic nurse from Baucau is showing better knowledge and skills in his current group of trainees.

Our long term counterpart from Timor Leste, Sr. Maria Dias continues to be our most reliable supporter. She continues to assist the teams at all visits, often putting her own affairs aside to meet the teams' responsibilities. She had organised the visits to Laclubar and Atauro, and even accompanied the team to Atauro informing the Health director at the clinic about our programme. Given that the boat only goes over to the island once a week,

arrangements are being made through Sr. Maria, for patients to be identified and sent to Dili for surgical treatment.

Burn contractures

Wrist contracture of a 2 month old patient burnt at 2 wks old



Before surgery

After release

A 16 yr old patient, burnt at 2 months of age.



Before surgery

After contracture release

Patrisiana, our burn patient who has been having ongoing surgical treatment from our team since 2002 is progressing well. Her family and the Cancar community are forever grateful on how the skills and dedication of our team has changed her life. Here are her update photos.



2002



2004



October 2005

A number of patients with facial tumours have been assessed this year, some of whom have been biopsied by our team, most of whom cannot have surgical treatment locally





Dr. Ross Sutton inspecting new unused equipment at Atambua Hospital

In the duration of one week, the team visited hospitals and met with health staff from Kupang, Soe, Naob Rehabilitation Centre, Halilulik (SSpS Hospital), Kefamenanu, Atambua, Ruteng, Cancar and Bajawa. It is anticipated that out of this visit, AusAID will provide some funding for our team visits. Apart from Plastic/Reconstructive and Orthopaedic surgical visits, the project will include other specialist sectors such as; general surgery, eye surgery, paediatric surgery, ENT (Ear Nose & Throat) etc. Training will be also be provided for local doctors. It is hoped that OSSAA will have another opportunity to working together with RACS on this project.

Throughout the visit, the team was taken care of by various orders of Catholic Sisters (SSpS, PRR, ALMA, SVD etc).

Cleft lip / palate patients

Before and after surgical treatment



Before treatment



After surgical treatment



Team members with Hospital Admin staff and Nuns at Atambua hospital

Special Project.

Following the most recent visit to Flores, the Committee was, again advised about patients whose surgical treatment cannot be performed in Cancar. Two of our corporate members, the Lions Club of Edwardstown and the Lions Club of Brighton were approached to see if they would be interested in the project. Both Clubs agreed to sponsor one of the patients, at a cost estimated at between \$7500.00 and \$8000.00 each. We are delighted that these two Clubs have accepted our invitation to be involved. Two patients with facial tumours have been selected for the project.

OTHER NEWS

In August 2005, an AusAID design team visited Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT) to assess a program of support that would build upon, and expand, the current activities of the OSSAA to provide specialist tertiary medical services. The team was led by Dr. Ross Sutton from AusAID, Dr. Mark Moore, Dr. Harianto Hendrikus (Dr. Hari) and Ruth Boveington from OSSAA. At Kupang the team met with Dr. Stefan Bria, Director of Health and Professor Ahmed Djojogugito from the University of Sebelas Maret (USM), Solo, Jogjakarta.



Dorfianus has been waiting for surgical treatment for 3 yrs. Thanks to the Lions Clubs of Edwardstown and Brighton, he is looking forward to receiving treatment in Adelaide later this year.

Channel 7 is interested in covering the project for their "Today Tonight" programme and are suggesting, that after their cover of Bertha, who was brought to Adelaide 2 years ago, they may consider sending a film crew to Flores to cover the two patients

from their current place of resident (Cancar) to Adelaide and return.

Fundraising

A Lunch is being arranged with a special Guest Speaker on Sunday, 25th June 2006 at Glenelg Golf Club. This year we also had a Sunday Lunch at this venue which raised \$2270.00 with Dr Mark Moore as the Guest Speaker.

Details including the name of the Guest Speaker will be forwarded to all members in March 2006.

Several fund raising events have been planned over the next few months. Doug Omond is organising another film night at the Chelsea Cinema for Saturday 2nd April. The film evening in 2005 was most successful, raising over \$6000, a magnificent result. Connie Graziano, one of our two new Committee Members (the other being Susan Whittington) is organising a dinner dance, further information will be circulated shortly.

Generous donations from organisations since last June have been from the Rotary Club of Croydon (Victoria), the Lions Club of Darwin & Nightcliff (N.T.), Breif Inc., the Woodpeckers Club, Dynek, Johnson & Johnson, Medical Vision Australia, Xanadu Homewares and Soroptimist International (Southern District of Adelaide). The Rotary Club of Hyde Park organised an Art Exhibition with OSSAA one of the three beneficiaries of the money raised.

Annual Film Evening

Following the successful Film Evening held in February 2005, which with the raffle raised \$6458.50 another one is being arranged for Sunday, 2nd April 2006 at the Chelsea Theatre on Kensington Road at Kensington. The film will be "Kinky Boots", an English comedy made by the same company who made that fabulous film "Calendar Girls".

The film stars Chiwetel Ejiofor, Linda Bassett, Josh Cole, Joel Edgerton and Sarah Jane Potts.

In conjunction with the Film Evening another major raffle will be held. First prize again this year thanks to Mr & Mrs Ken Loveday will be 2 night's accommodation at Walnut Cottage, Angaston, second prize will be a framed print by Hayslette 750 x 850 donated by the Southern District of Adelaide Soroptimist Club.

Film and raffle tickets will be forwarded to all members soon.

Presentations:

Sr. Margaret Maloney gave an excellent presentation at the AGM in Adelaide on the work of OSSAA in Timor Leste and Cancar. Thank you Marg for the very informative and pictorial presentation. It is always easier to relate to information with picture. Representatives from OSSAA have given presentations to:

- PERAPI (Indonesian Plastic Surgical Association) – Bandung
- Malaysian Society of Plastic Surgery – Penang
- RACS Conference – Perth
- Various Lions Clubs - Adelaide,
- Nightcliff Lions club – Darwin
- Various Rotary Clubs - Adelaide
- Anaesthetic Staff – RAH
- Theatre Nursing Staff – RAH
- Mercedes school - Adelaide
- Soroptimist Club - Adelaide

COMMITTEE

Following the last Annual General Meeting, the new committee has been nominated as follows:

President:	Mr. Bob Laws
Vice Presidents:	Mr. Doug Omond Dr. Mark Moore
Treasurer:	Mr. Alex Johnson
Secretary:	Ms. Sue Freeman
Members:	Dr. Peter Riddell Dr. Dion Suyapto Mrs Connie Graziano

Co-Opted members: Mrs Sue Whittington
Ms Ruth Boveington
Mr. John Russell

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The organisation is significantly grateful to the Department of Health and offices of the Bupati, throughout NTT, the various Catholic orders, SSpS, PRR, SVD, ALMA sisters throughout NTT and Flores for their ongoing assistance and bilateral support. The Sisters dedication and commitment in the caring for patients after the teams leave is a major responsibility.

Special mention goes to the Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia in Darwin for their ongoing support with visas and supporting documentation.

The following organisations and individuals are acknowledged for their ongoing support:

- Adelaide Pathology Partners
- Calvary Hospital
- Indonesian Christian Community - Darwin
- Indonesian Consulate and staff - Darwin
- Lions Club of Edwardstown Inc.
- Mary-Lou Bishop – Linvatec
- O.P.A.L.
- Royal Adelaide Hospital
- Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS)
- Rotary Club of Campbelltown
- Rotary Club of Unley
- Thrifty Car Rental, (Mr. Brian Measey) NT / East Timor
- Women's and Children's Hospital, Adelaide
- Grant Brett, GARUDA INDONESIA for allowing us to take our luggage on board despite the excess weight.
- JOAN WEBB and her knitting group for the teddy bears for young patients each visit.
- Alison Kelty, XANADU for all the bracelets she has again donated to our young patients. A special mention to Alison who again has had to deal with the devastation of another fire to her new shop in Goodwood, our thoughts are with her during this difficult time.
- Vikki from ANAEQUIP for the loan of their pulse Oximeter (or rather permanent loan).
- Marilyn Parkes, ORION for the paraffin
- Jim Kiley, ATLAS HEALTHCARE, syringes and needles.
- Greg Smith, HELICON TECHNOLOGY, for servicing Pulse Oximeter prior to the visit to Cancar
- Paul Neary, JOHNSON & JOHNSON, Box of sterile marking pens

Not mentioned are many other organisations and individuals who have made donations to OSSAA. You know that you have contributed to improve the livelihood of those who would otherwise be still hiding away from the rest of their community.

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 for your help and support. We trust that you will continue to support us in helping those who do not have the chance to help themselves.

Further information can be obtained by writing to us at : PO Box 138, UNLEY, SA 5061 or to: Ruth Boveington, PO Box 795, Darwin, NT 0801 or, visit our website at: www.ossaainc.org.au