



# Overseas Specialist Surgical Association of Australia

## Newsletter — June 2005 - Issue no. 6

Welcome to another edition of our newsletter. Much has happened since the previous newsletter was produced. The beginning of this year saw one of our Vice Presidents, Mr. Stephen Baker, moving overseas. He has been replaced by Mr. Bob Laws from the Unley Rotary Club. We also would like to welcome Ms. Susan Whitby and Mrs. Connie Granozio to the Committee. We hope that the new committee members will contribute towards the advancement of the organisation.

OSSAA now has 138 members and 29 corporate members. To the new members, welcome to the organisation, we hope to keep you informed of activities and events as best as we can and thank you for your support.

### ***SURGICAL TEAM NEWS***

Since the last newsletter, our surgical teams have undertaken visits to East Timor, West Timor and Flores, East Timor and West Timor have had one team visit each. Flores had a visit from the Orthopaedic and Plastic/Reconstructive teams. The Director, (Research & External Affairs) of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS), Ms. Daliah Moss, joined the team visits to West Timor (April) and Flores (May) to observe the work of the OSSAA surgical teams in the region and assess possible future support and a working relationship between OSSAA and RACS. RACS has been supporting the surgical team visits to East Timor since 2002. We hope that similar support could be provided for the surgical teams in Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT).

### ***REGIONAL NEWS***

#### **CANCAR, FLORES, NTT**



Outpatient Clinic

An Orthopaedic surgical team from Perth, led by Dr. John Kagi (Orthopaedic surgeon), visited Cancar from May 7<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>. They saw a total of 52 patients, mostly residents at St. Damian, and performed 25 surgical procedures most of which were club feet of varying degrees of severity.

The Plastic surgical team whose visit to Cancar was from May 14<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, briefly met with the Orthopaedic team at the airport in Labuan Bajo. The Plastic team had 5 personnel, led by Dr. Mark Moore (Plastic Surgeon). As in previous occasions, Dr. Harianto from Sitanala Hospital, Tangerang, Java, joined the team and it was a bonus to have Daliah Moss included in the team. The extra pair of hands with patients pre and post operatively and her language skills helped to calm the frightened children after surgery. As in previous visits, many patients were already waiting when the team arrived so that consultation and assessments of the waiting patients went into the night. Many more patients arrived for consultation and assessment the following day.

A new spacious, operating theatre in Cancar has been completed, the orthopaedic team followed by the plastic/reconstructive teams were the first to perform surgical procedures in it. The new operating theatre has been added to the two existing theatres, with the assistance of the NTT Provincial government, in recognition of the amount of surgical work undertaken in Cancar by visiting surgical teams.



New addition to the hospital including a new operating theatre.

The majority of plastic patients remain those with cleft lip and palate deformity. Since 2002, a total of 178 cleft procedures have been performed with 189 new cleft patients assessed.

#### A 20 year old girl with maxillary tumour



Before surgery



After removal of tumour



4 days after surgery

Patient with bilateral cleft lip & palate deformity



Previous surgery in Kupang  
June 2004



Complete revision  
May 2005

As in previous visits, the SSps nuns continue to provide an excellent service for the patients of St. Damian Rehabilitation Hospital in Cancar. The network of contacts through Sr. Franseline continues to bring in patients between West Timor, Sumba and Kalimantan. The SSps nuns in Sumba are planning to construct a hospital in Sumba to allow the surgical teams to travel to Sumba to provide the surgical service rather than sending patients to Cancar which is quite costly for them although cheaper than the cost of surgery per patient through the normal system. Although working full days everyday for the two weeks when the teams were there, the small operating theatre staff enjoyed working with both teams.



Orthopaedic Team

Orthopaedic Team Members:  
Surgeon: Dr. John Kagi  
Anaesthetist: Dr. Ross Boulter  
OT Nurse: Sr. Suzanne Wood

### Summary of clinical activities for May 07 – 14, 2005 (Orthopaedic Team)

Patient consultation: 52

Surgical procedures 25

Club feet 16

Other deformities 09



Plastic / Reconstructive Team members with counterpart staff,  
Cancar

Plastic/Reconstructive Team members:

Surgeon: Dr. Mark Moore (Team Leader)

Anaesthetist: Dr. David Sainsbury

OT Nurse: Sr. Margaret Maloney/ Sr. Helen Roberts

Interpreter: Ms. Ruth Boveington

Counterpart team:

Surgeon: Dr. Harianto (Leprosy surgeon)

Nurse in charge: Ibu Viktoria

Anaesthetic nurse: Ibu Sabina

Theatre nurse : Ibu Erna

### Summary of clinical activities for May 14 – 21, 2005 (Plastic / Reconstructive Team)

Patient consultation: 105

Surgical procedures: 56

Clefts 32

Burns 06

Other 18

Whilst the visit went efficiently, the unpredictability of flights remains a minor disadvantage. On the way to Flores, the flights were changed from afternoons to early mornings at no notice. On returning to Australia, the Adelaide personnel had flight delays from Denpasar, then at Melbourne the following morning which caused some disruptions to routines.

Apart from the hard work, members of both teams took advantage of the spare time available to visit the caves at Liang Bua where the remains of the 'hobbit' like Homo floresiensis – a 3 foot tall human like species was discovered in 2004.

**EAST TIMOR**

Burn management, Baucau Hospital



A young patient with severe burns



Nursed on banana leaves, mother applies silverzine cream to burnt area of body

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) continues to fund the surgical visits to East Timor this year. There has been some uncertainty about when the funding from RACS will cease but at this stage, OSSAA surgical teams will continue to maintain two visits a year with funding from RACS.

The visit to East Timor fell over the Easter week which meant that there were two days of public holidays in the week. In addition to the Easter holidays, a day was set aside for the compulsory election of the head of the region, which resulted in a short working week. The Baucau team only had two and a half days of surgery but returned to Dili for further surgical procedures.

With the help of Maria Dias and the priests from St. John of God, Laclubar, part of the team had the opportunity to visit Laclubar for the first time at this visit. As at a previous visit when the team visited Viqueque, the message relayed to the area was unclear as many patients turned up with skin rashes etc. However, photos of previous patients were shown to clarify the specialisation of the team's work. A waiting list was obtained and dates for the next visit will be sent to the priests so that patients could be sent to Baucau for surgical treatment. A couple of patients with advanced breast cancer were seen in the area but no treatment could be given to the patients as they were seen at the end of the visit.

The team also met with Dr. Peter Carey and Mr. Cornelis Visser of ASSERT and visited their newly completed facility

for physiotherapy, occupational therapy, prosthetic and orthotic services in Becora. Patients who have been assessed and/or surgically treated by our surgical teams, especially burn patients, may be referred to ASSERT for follow up physiotherapy and rehabilitation.

**Summary of clinical activities: March 18 – 29, 2005**

**Total patient consultation: 111**

**Total surgical procedures: 34**

Cleft lip/palate	17
Burns	04
Other	13

Patient with bilateral cleft lip & palate



2001 – before cleft lip repair



2005 – returned for palate repair



Team members with counterpart staff – Baucau Hospital



Team members and counterpart staff – Dili Hospital

Team members:

Plastic & Reconstructive Surgeons:

Dr. Mark Moore ( Team Leader)

Dr. Antonio Fernandes

Anaesthetists: Dr. Peter Malcolm / Dr. Stephen Kinnear

Theatre Nurses: Sr. Elisabeth Mazzei/ Sr. Penny Craig

Interpreter: Ms. Ruth Boveington

Counterpart team:

- Dr. Taco (Surgeon)
- Dr. Eric Vreede (Anaesthetist)
- Dr. Philip Mwuara (Surgeon, Baucau)
- Dr. Joao Pedro

Anaesthetic nurses: Antonio Correia / Graciano / Alcino  
 Nurses: Carmina / Regina / Fransiskus / Valerio

WEST TIMOR



Team members with Bpk Piet Tallo, Governor of NTT, Catholic nuns and a representative of the dept of Social welfare

The provincial government departments of Health and Social Welfare of NTT continue to encourage the OSSAA surgical teams to provide the surgical service in the region on a regular basis. Due to the limited numbers of local surgical visits outside Kupang, the majority of the population in remote areas do not have access to surgical treatment of any kind.

The surgical team visited from April 4 – 14, and mainly worked at the Kefamenanu hospital, although part of the team went to Naob (Leprosy Rehabilitation centre) for a few days. Due to distances between communities and hospitals, and restricted access to doctors let alone surgeons, the majority of patients presented required general surgical treatment.

Type of cases presented for assessment and possible treatment



Parotid tumour



Basal cell carcinoma



Eye tumour



Massive thyroid mass

The Catholic nuns at the Puskesmas Merdeka in Kupang continue to organise appropriate patients around Kupang for the teams. They are also responsible for sending patients to Flores from around West Timor when the team visits Cancar.

Ms. Daliah Moss from the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons also went with the team to Kupang and Kefamenanu. She recognised the need for the surgical service in the whole province of NTT, not only plastic/reconstructive and orthopaedic surgical services as OSSAA requires its teams to provide but other specialist services. The ongoing support for the OSSAA surgical teams and relationships built with the local people in the regions was also evident. We are hopeful that through Daliah's help and support, that we may have a chance in working together with RACS to provide a much needed and expanded surgical service throughout Nusa Tenggara Timur.



Team members at Kefamenanu with Bpk Bupati, Daliah Moss, Sr. Yasinta, Dr. Hartono and Dr. Nining

Team Members:

- Surgeon: Dr. Peter Riddell (Team Leader)
- General Surgeon: Dr. Brian Miller
- Anaesthetists: Dr. Simon Macklin / Dr. Elizabeth Irwin
- Nurses: Sr. Sue Wager
- Interpreter: Dr. Dion Suyapto
- Medical Scientist: Mr. Dick Turnbull

Summary of activities April 4 – 14, 2005 :

**Total patient consultation: 250**

**Total surgical procedures: 58**

A patient with large thyroid mass



Before surgery



after surgery

**PATIENTS UPDATE:**

The two patients who were referred to Surabaya for surgery have returned to Cancar. They are currently residents at the St. Damian Hospital for further rehabilitation



October 2004



May 2005 - 6 months after surgery in Surabaya



Assistance is still required for these patients for surgical assistance in Australia.



This young girl has passed away November 2004, from breathing difficulties. We were unable to find assistance for treatment in Australia



2002

2004

2005

Patrisiana had a baby boy at the end of last year and named her son Markus, (called Mark after Mark Moore). She had further release on her neck and forehead and is now able to close her eyes when she sleeps for the first time since she got burned (1999).



October 2000



March 2005

This lady has not had any recurrence of the infection since she was treated with Voriconazole, donated by Pfizer Australia. She has found employment and is grateful for being given another chance in life.

Sincere gratitude and appreciation goes to all these team members for contributing their time and expertise to the success of these visits. To know that you have contributed to changing the lives of those who have resigned to living in hopelessness is most satisfying.

**Proposed upcoming surgical team visits – 2005**

West Timor	July 25 - August 7th
East Timor	September 23 – 30 <sup>th</sup>
Flores	October 14 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup>

***OTHER NEWS***

Four members from our surgical teams were involved in the medical teams in Banda Aceh soon after the Tsunami tragedy. They included surgeons; Mark Moore and Peter Riddell, anaesthetist; Tim Semple and theatre nurse; Margaret Maloney. The organisation is proud of its team members being involved in the humanitarian assistance in Aceh and wishes to congratulate these team members for their input to saving lives in Aceh.

The Royal Adelaide Hospital presented Star Awards to Mark Moore and Margaret Maloney for their work in Aceh. The Lions Clubs Interhational Foundation awarded the Melvin Jones Fellowship to Mark Moore for the teams work in East Timor and Indonesia

Mr. Douglas Omond OAM, was elected President of the Lions Club of Edwardstown, Adelaide.

Presentations by our clinical team members have been given as follows:

- Penang, Malaysia - May 2005.
- PERAPI meeting Bandung 24 May. Banda Aceh experience
- BREIF Club of Adelaide 30 June
- Fundraising Luncheon at Glenelg Golf club. 19 June

## FUNDRAISING

A fundraising lunch organised by Mr. Doug Omond was held on June 19<sup>th</sup> at the Glenelg Golf Club, Mark Moore gave an excellent presentation on the work of OSSAA. Approximately 135 members and guests attended the lunch. An estimated profit of \$2270.00 was raised.

The Soroptimist International Club of Southern Districts of Adelaide is sponsoring a Fashion Parade at Glenelg Golf Club on August 17<sup>th</sup> with the proceeds to be given to OSSAA. Margaret Maloney will be a guest speaker at their club meeting on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

## AGM

The AGM for 2005 is coming up in September, further information will be sent out soon. Guest Speaker will be Sr Margaret Maloney.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mr. Zacharias Manogga, the previous Consul of the Consulate of Republic of Indonesia, Darwin has been of great help to the organisation. Through his recognition of OSSAA's humanitarian work in West Timor, the teams have been exempt from paying for visas to Indonesia. The Vice Consul and staff of the Consulate are still providing this assistance, but are uncertain if this assistance will continue with the incoming Consul.

The Indonesian Christian Community in Darwin through Mr. Yulius Eah have made a donation of \$1400 to OSSAA to contribute towards the work in Nusa Tenggara Timur.



Mark Moore and Ruth Boveington met with Mr. Manogga before he returned to Indonesia and presented him with a small gift to thank him for his support.

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

Adelaide Pathology Partners  
Calvary Hospital  
Indonesian Christian Community - Darwin  
Indonesian Consulate - Darwin  
Johnson and Johnson  
Kalyra Knitting Group and friends  
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, Northern Territory / East Timor  
Women's and Children's Hospital, Adelaide

## CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

To date, the following have joined the organisation as Corporate members are:

Adelaide Italian Lions  
Adelaide Pathology Partners P/L  
Blackwood Lions Club  
Brighton Lions Club  
Calvary Hospital  
Celtic Equit. Man. P/L  
City of Adelaide Lions  
Darwin Nightcliff Lions Club  
Dynek Pty Ltd  
Edwardstown Lions Club  
Florentino  
Granzio  
Hahndorf Lions Club  
Helicon Technology P/L  
Kaylene Kranz & Associates  
Marino  
Marion Lions Club  
Mazzone (Mr)  
Mazzone (Mrs)  
Medtronic Sofamor Danek  
Mobilong Rotary Club  
R.G. von Renen  
Residential Projects P/L  
Richmond Lions Club  
S & C Trading P/L  
South Australian Olive Oil P/L  
Saffienddin  
Surg. & Med. Sup. P/L  
Technology For Life P/L  
Xanadu Homewares  
Zolio

Memberships remain at \$25 per year for ordinary membership and \$100 for corporate membership. Remember, the organisation is dependent on your support to give the more disadvantaged a chance to improve their lives.

The Committee of Management would like to thank you all for your ongoing help and support. We trust that we can rely on your ongoing support in helping those who do not have the chance to help themselves.

For further information write to us at : PO Box 138, UNLEY, SA 5061 or to: Ruth Boveington, PO Box 795, Darwin, NT 0801