



Overseas Specialist Surgical Association of Australia Newsletter

Second edition - June 2003

Welcome to our second edition. We hope to keep members, supporters and interested parties informed of events and activities within the organization every six months through our newsletter.

SURGICAL TEAM NEWS

OSSAA surgical teams have undertaken visits to Cancar (Flores) and East Timor in March 2003.

CANCAR, FLORES, NTT



Surgical team, Cancar – March 2003

A combined visit by the Plastic/Reconstructive and Orthopaedic teams undertook to visit St. Damian Rehabilitation Hospital in Cancar from March 15 – 22nd. The team comprised 6 personnel with an orthopaedic surgical team from Perth and the plastic surgical team from Adelaide and Darwin.

Summary of the clinical activities as follows:

Patient consultation:		155
Plastic	82	
Orthopaedic	73	
Surgical procedures:		58
Plastic	33	
Orthopaedic	18	

Other

07

A blind cleft lip patient will now be able to play his flute



Before cleft lip repair



After cleft lip repair

Young adult with giant facial naevus



July 2002



March 2003

Post burn contracture patient



February 2002



March 2003

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 from Atambua to Kalimantan. A local politician from Kupang brought his young child to Cancar for surgical treatment on hearing of our team's visit to Cancar.



The strength of the Cancar community, Sr. Virgula and SSpS Sisters of Cancar.



Patient providing a service to team member - Cancar



EAST TIMOR



Patient preparation – Dili

The visit to East Timor from March 22nd -29th included 2 plastic surgeons who performed surgical procedures in Dili and Baucau hospitals. A summary of clinical activities are:

Total patient consultation:	81
Dili	55
Baucau	26
Total surgical procedures:	36
Dili	19
Baucau	17

These surgical procedures were mainly of cleft lip and palate repair and burn scar contracture release.



Dr. Fernandes with post operative cleft lip patient

The Minister of Health, East Timor, Dr. Rui Araujo has requested OSSAA to have a press conference in Dili at the next visit. Dates and times for this conference will be provided soon.

Patient review

Patient with subcutaneous fungal infection who requires ongoing treatment



First assessed - June 2000



April 2001



March 2003

Burns patient who continues to receive surgical procedures from our surgical teams



March 2000



March 2003 prior to further surgery

WEST TIMOR

The Provincial Government Department of Health of Nusa Tenggara Timur, Kupang, (West Timor) has requested the service of OSSAA to assist patients in the region where the surgical team visits had previously been undertaken in Soe and Kefamenanu.

It is anticipated that a team from OSSAA will visit West Timor later in the year for a preliminary return visit, the first since 1999, subject to availability of funding.

The cost of visits to West Timor are much more expensive as there are no direct flights to Kupang. Flights are available from Denpasar at \$US437 return .

The Indonesian Consulate categorises the voluntary, humanitarian work undertaken by OSSAA to Indonesia under social visits therefore imposes a cost of \$125.00 per person for visas to Indonesia, this increases the costs of visits to Cancar, West Timor and Timika.

Timika, Papua (Irian Jaya) – Indonesia

The team has not visited RSMM since the last visit was undertaken in August 2002. This is due to the changes of personnel at RSMM which caused a shortage of doctors. The local general surgeon has taken on most other specialist tasks at the hospital. The break from the team visit is not unusual, we await further advice from our counterpart doctors in Mimika Hospital for future activities.

Personnel

The following personnel have been involved in the surgical teams in the 2 visits undertaken in March, 2003.

Surgeons:	Mark Moore	S.A.
	Tony Fernandes	NSW
	Tim Keenan	W.A.
	Bill Gilmour	W.A.

Anaesthetists:	Brian Spain	N.T.
	Bernard Cresswell	W.A.
	David Sainsbury	S.A.
	Peter Malcolm	NSW
Nurses	Margaret Maloney	S.A.
	Helen Roberts	S.A.
Coordinator/Interpreter:	Ruth Boveington	N.T.

A big thank you to all team members for their time and expertise, free of charge, in contributing to changing the lives of the less disadvantaged people.

Future visits

Proposed visits for the next 6 months are:

Cancar, Flores:	- September 19 th – 27 th
East Timor	- November 14 th – 22 nd
West Timor	- November (subject to availability of funds)
Timika	- to be advised

We shall keep you informed of these activities in the next issue of the newsletter.

Patients currently requiring assistance



Post burn contracture patient



Young boy with sarcoma awaiting parental approval for surgery

PRESENTATIONS/FUNCTIONS

For OSSAA to become more widely known and to attract more members, several presentations on our work have been made.

- March - Rotary Club of Dili with 30 in attendance.
- April - Secretaries to the Medical Profession with 50 in attendance.
- April - OSSAA function geared mainly to health workers and medical supply people with 100 people in attendance
- May - Continuing Medical Education evening for GPs.

Our thanks to Mark Moore and Terry Yuen (dental surgeon) for these presentations.

If your group or organisation would like to have a speaker, please contact us and we may be able to oblige.

ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

Mark Moore and Peter Riddell have been nominated, and indeed have reached the semi-finals, in the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year Awards in the social category. This follows an article in The Advertiser some time ago on their work in East Timor. There are four semi-finalists, with the winner being announced in July. Congratulations and fingers crossed for the finals!

MORE EXCITING NEWS

Dr. Margaret King-Boyes, anthropologist and delightful grande dame, was very involved, and still is, in many years of research into the tribal and political cultures of the East Timorese people, amongst other peoples of the Pacific region.

Her PhD thesis 'The Gates of Memory' is a remarkable work on her research and resides not

only on the shelves in Adelaide, but also on the shelves of Oxford University in England.

In November 2002 Margaret returned to East Timor with one of our teams after an absence of 40 years.

Margaret has decided that another book should be forthcoming. This time to contain not only her impression of East Timor today, but also those of some of our team members.

With much gnashing of teeth our surgeons, anaesthetists, theatre sisters and others are putting pen to paper for she will not be denied!

It is hoped that the book, which may well raise a few eyebrows, will be available later in the year and all proceeds will go to OSSAA for our ongoing work.

We shall of course expect you all to purchase a copy and will keep you posted as to the release date.

ORGANISATIONAL SUPPORT

Again we must thank the following for their ongoing support.

Rotary Club of Unley
Rotary Club of Campbelltown
Lions Club of Edwardstown
O.P.A.L.
Johnson and Johnson
Calvary Hospital
Royal Adelaide Hospital
Memorial Hospital
Adelaide Pathology Partners
Thrifty Car Rental, Northern Territory
The Government of the Northern Territory.

ROMAC

ROMAC has agreed to sponsor a patient in East Timor who requires surgical treatment in Adelaide. The patient was identified in June 2000 has not been able to receive treatment due to lack of sponsorship. It is anticipated that the patient, who will be accompanied by a nurse from the Aileu Clinic, will travel to Australia to receive surgical treatment before the end of the year. The surgery performed by surgeons/specialists from OSSAA will be free of charge.

OSSAA surgical teams have treated patients identified by ROMAC and sent for treatment during the OSSAA surgical team visits in East Timor.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS

Honorary memberships have been awarded to two people who have greatly assisted OSSAA.

Dr John Hargrave whose initial work in East Timor and Eastern Indonesia founded and established Australia South East Asia Rehabilitation Foundation in the Northern Territory which subsequently led to the initiation of OSSAA.



Brian Measey receiving his certificate of honorary membership from Mark Moore

Mr Brian Measey, Manager of Thrifty Car Rental in Darwin, who kindly provides transportation for our teams, free of charge, which allows the team to travel to rural centres of East Timor.

AGM

Please make a note in your diary for the AGM of OSSAA which will be held on Friday, September 12th, 2003. Venue and time to be advised,

MEMBERSHIPS

Memberships are now due for the 2003/2004 financial year. At \$25 for ordinary membership and \$100 for corporate membership, this is a very small price to pay to help our closest neighbours.

Rest assured, costs are always kept to an absolute minimum and your monies are all put back into East Timor and the treatment of their people. All surgical team members and committee members are volunteers and whilst away on the visits, team members stay at basic accommodation including a hospital ward.

To become eligible as a tax deductible organisation and for possible assistance from AusAID, we require a minimum of 100 members in the organization. Please help us to help those who are more disadvantaged.

Further information can be obtained from: info@ossaa.org.au or write to us at : PO Box 138, UNLEY, SA 5061.