



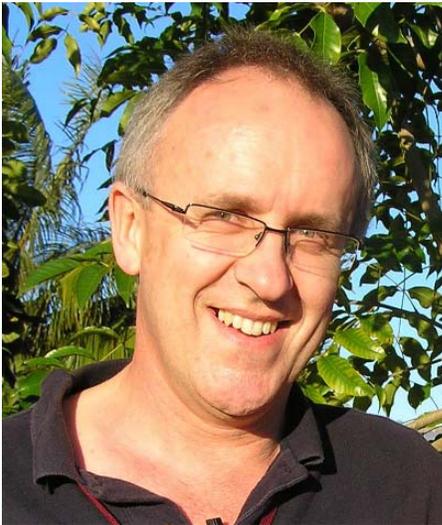
Overseas Specialist Surgical Association of Australia

Newsletter – June 2007 - Issue no.10

This edition makes the 10th issue of our Newsletters. It is also a very special edition for the organisation, its members and supporters as we proudly announce the accomplishment of our leaders.

Special Congratulations to the following for distinctive recognition:

Dr. Mark Moore



We would like to congratulate our long term surgical team leader and Vice President, Dr. Mark Moore, for his appointment as Member of the Order of Australia (AM) at the Queen's Birthday Honours, 2007, *"For services to medicine in the field of plastic, reconstructive and rehabilitation surgery, particularly through the provision of the humanitarian specialist surgical services in East Timor (Timor Lester) and Indonesia, and to professional development and education."*

Since his participation in the humanitarian and voluntary surgical programme in 1999, Dr Moore has led 21 surgical teams to East Timor, 11 teams to Cancar, Flores (Indonesia) and has participated in three initial surgical visits in the region under the leadership of Dr. John Hargrave.

Dr Moore continues to encourage the involvement of local Timorese and Indonesian counterpart doctors at team visits and teaches them skills that are applicable to their environment. Apart from the OSSAA surgical visits, Dr. Moore also travels to Malaysia and Singapore under the Royal Adelaide

Hospital to provide craniofacial surgery and teaches at the public hospitals in the regions.

He was, a member of the medical aid team commissioned by the South Australian Government to provide medical aid to tsunami victims in Aceh, Indonesia.

Dr. John Hargrave



Dr. John Hargrave, (founder of ASEA Rehab from which OSSAA was initiated), has this year, been awarded a Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) International Medal in recognition of his pioneering surgical work in East Timor and Nusa Tenggara Timur.

He has previously been decorated as an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO), Ordinary Member of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE), an ANZAC Peace Prize in 1996; the ESR Hughes Award from RACS for distinguished contributions to surgery in 1999 and in Indonesia (NTT) with the Cincin Emas Klas II in 1996 for his humanitarian work in Eastern Indonesia.

Dr Terry Yuen

Dr Terry received a City of Burnside Community award on Australia Day, 2007 for his services to providing a voluntary dental service to the East Timorese community.

SURGICAL TEAM NEWS



Plastic Surgeon, Dr. Tony Fernandes (left) – 1st visit to Soe

Since the last newsletter, three surgical visits have been undertaken to Cancar and (West) Timor and Timor Leste. Team visits to (West) Timor and Cancar had combined specialists, the team which visited Timor Leste was a smaller group with 4 personnel. The team to Cancar included 2 plastic surgeons, 2 anaesthetists, 2 nurses, a speech pathologist and a coordinator/interpreter.

As in previous visits, a young Indonesian plastic surgeon, (Dr Magda Hutagalung, from Surabaya) nominated by the Indonesian Society of Plastic Surgeons (PERAPI) joined the team.

This year, one craniofacial patient from Cancar was brought to Adelaide by ROMAC for surgery by our specialists. Thank you to all those involved in this project.

The team which visited (West) Timor included a general surgeon, a plastic surgeon, 2 anaesthetists, 2 nurses, 1 physiotherapist and an interpreter. The team was joined by Dr. Harianto Hendrikus, our long term counterpart.



Happy mothers with post-op cleft lip babies

CANCAR, FLORES, NTT

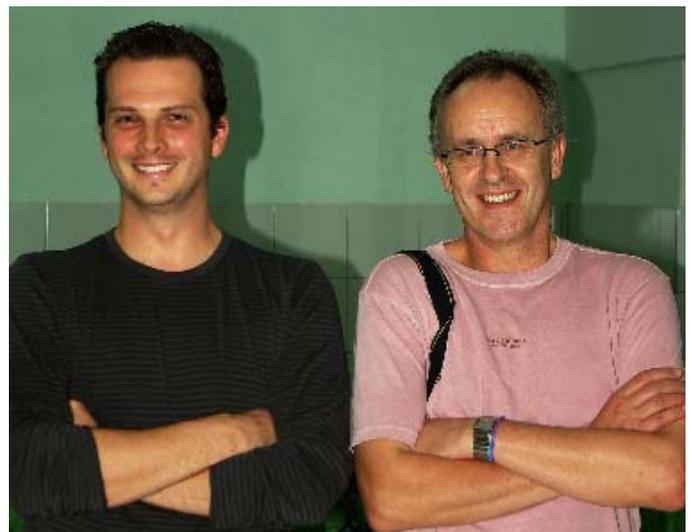


Patient consultation - Cancar



Patient waiting room, Cancar, Flores

Visits to Cancar, as always, have been the easiest to organise, the local provincial government has been supportive of the surgical team visits since Dr. Hargrave started the reconstructive surgical programme in 1993. The recognition of the capabilities of our teams is compelling, the number of patients requiring other specialist assessments apart from plastic/reconstructive increases at each visit. Requests for other specialists is ongoing, however, patients requiring treatment for our specialist teams still arrive in escalated numbers from all over the province (Nusa Tenggara Timur).



Plastic surgeons Dr. Markus Nikitins, Dr. Mark Moore

The local resident surgeon at the Ruteng Hospital has moved to Ende (12 hrs drive from Cancar) and only visits Ruteng every two months. This has prompted the number of patients requiring general surgical procedures to turn up at our visits.



Speech Therapist, Mrs Roslyn Sells with children, Cancar

The inclusion of a speech therapist has expanded the service in teaching of the management of cleft lip and palate. This service has a positive outcome in children with cleft palate deformity. Further inclusion of a speech therapist at future visits would be an advantage to these patients as the parents are very keen to implement and follow up on what they had learned during this visit.



Burn contracture of legs before and after release



Burns patient who requires series of operations for contracture release

**Summary of clinical activities:
March 17 -24, 2007**

Total Consultation:	128
Total Surgical Procedures	69
Cleft Lip / Palate	39
Burn Contractures	10
Others	15
Local Anaesthetic	5

Team Members:

Plastic Surgeons:

Dr Mark Moore (OSSAA)
Dr Markus Nikitins (OSSAA)
Dr Magda Hutangalung (Surabaya)

Anaesthetists:

Dr David McLeod
Dr Tony Pearce

OT Nurses:

Sr Margaret Maloney

Speech Therapist:

Mrs. Roslyn Sells

Coordinator/interpreter:

Ms Ruth Boveington



Team members with Dr. Magda and resident GP, Dr Michael (seated left).

Proposed next visit:

October/November 2007 – dates to be confirmed.

TIMOR LESTE



Outpatient clinic – Baucau

Due to the uncertainty about security and stability in the area, leading up to the elections, the first team visit for the year was undertaken later than usual. The visit was undertaken during June-July and only worked at Baucau Hospital where the operating theatre staff have been known to be better organised. This was the 21st clinical visit to Timor Leste undertaken by our surgical teams since June 2000.

Dr. Terry Yuen and his dental colleagues also had their planned visit delayed due to the local instability.



Anaesthetic team – Baucau

The parliamentary election at the beginning of the visit caused some slight disadvantages to both team and patients. The team's bookings for accommodation were given away to the 'election monitors' both at Dili and Baucau so that the team had had to 'camp' for 2 nights at an incomplete 'guest house' with no proper facilities. Also the team did not expect to see many patients as public transport had been stopped for a few days due to the elections. However, patients still arrived for assessment as planned.

Team members:

Plastic Surgeon: Dr Mark Moore
 Anaesthetist: Dr Tim Semple
 Theatre nurse: Ms Penny Craig
 Coordinator: Ruth Boveington



Team members with local operating theatre staff

TIMOR - Nusa Tenggara Timur



Patient consultation clinic – Soe – NTT

Similar to the Cancar team, a combination of a general and plastic/reconstructive teams visited Soe during March. The initial plans for the two teams to work at separate locations during the visit were foiled by obstructive circumstances.



A young child with facial mass before and after surgery.



Dr Fernandes with burn patient, Bupati and staff of RSUD Soe

Summary of clinical activities:

June 30 – July 06, 2007

Total Consultation:	52
Total Surgical procedures:	26
Cleft Lip/palate	18
Burn contracture	02
Others	06

Since Dr Hargrave started the surgical visits to Cancar, the SSpS nuns from the Puskesmas Merdeka at Kupang have been referring patients to Cancar. Since Dr. Mark Moore joined the team visits to Cancar, (March 2000), cleft and burns patients from between Kupang and Atambua have been referred to Cancar. During the visit to Cancar in

October 2006, the sister in charge of the operating theatre at the RS Katolik, Halilulik (Sr. Angela SSpS) accompanied 22 patients from Kupang and Halilulik (Atambua) for surgical treatment at Cancar. Sr. Angela noticed the large number of patients, predominantly with clefts and burn contracture from all over Flores, Sumba, including those that she had brought. Further discussions with team members determined that if the facilities at the Halilulik Hospital were adequate and acceptable, the organisation could commence the cleft programme there and not to obstruct other surgical programmes in the region.

Range of cases presented at Soe – NTT



The proposition to commence this programme was to be implemented in March this year when a plastic surgical team was included in the team for the first time. However, due obstructive circumstances, the plastic team did not operate at Halilulik but remained at Soe for the duration of the visit.



A teenager from Atambua, burnt at age 2yrs is being referred to receive treatment by our team at Cancar.



Nursing staff and counterparts – Soe

Summary of Clinical activities:

Total Patient consultation:	104
Total surgical procedures:	84

Team Members:

Dr. Bob Sillar	- General Surgeon
Dr. Tony Fernandes	- Plastic Surgeon
Dr. Peter Armstrong	- Anaesthetist
Dr. Peter Malcolm	- Anaesthetist
Sr. Penny Craig	- OT Nurse
Sr. Kerri Nicholls	- OT Nurse
Mrs. Angela Annabel	- Physiotherapist
Mrs. Roswita Kyathia	- Interpreter



Team with Director of Health and staff - Kupang

The proposed next visit is planned for another combined specialist teams. Due to the previous team not operating at Halilulik hospital, the SSpS nuns from Halilulik have purchased an anaesthetic machine, operating theatre lights and other equipment to facilitate the team visiting in August. It is anticipated that the Plastic surgical team will operate at Halilulik while the General Surgical team will work at Soe Hospital.

Team members for July 29th to August 10th, 2007:

Dr Brian Miller	- General Surgeon
Dr. Bill Walker	- Plastic Surgeon
Dr. Keith Stratfield	- Anaesthetist
Dr. Fiona Merrit	- Anaesthetist
Sr. Margaret Maloney	- OT Nurse
Sr. Cath Coombe	- OT Nurse
Mrs. Doris Walker	- (Retired) OT Nurse.

ANTARA

The ANTARA surgical visits managed by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) continue to undertake visits throughout the province of Nusa Tenggara Timur. It is anticipated that funding for this project will continue on a longer term. The desperate need for other specialist surgical services to other parts of NTT has been evidenced in the wide range of cases presented at the OSSAA team visits.

PATIENT NEWS UPDATE



A young girl from a remote village near Maumere with Tessier cleft deformity received surgical treatment at Cancar at the last visit. She arrived late at the previous visit and remained in Cancar for the team's next visit.



Patrisiana (with daughters) had further release to her neck at the last visit to Cancar.



Dorfianus Agung, one of the patients being brought by the Lions Clubs for surgery at Adelaide last August, is now married.

Fundraising

A film evening held at Chelsea Theatre, Kensington, on May 27 raised a profit of \$4438.82. The film, "Pirates of the Caribbean 3: At World's End" was the third in the series, with Johnny Depp, Kiera Knightly, Geoffrey Rush and Orlando Bloom in the cast.

A raffle was again held in conjunction with the evening the results of which are as follows:-

1st No. 2170, 2nd No. 863, 3rd No. 349, 4th No. 2213, 5th No. 1667, 6th No. 1686, 7th No. 1913, 8th No. 1245, 9th No. 110 and 10th No. 217.

The raffle results were published in the Advertiser on Tuesday, 29th May.

In addition to the film night, the following organisations made donations in support of the work of OSSAA:

The Southern Districts Soroptimist Club \$1800.00, Zanadu Homewares \$1000.00 and the Rotary Club of Eastwood \$500.00.

Other news

The tsunami that struck the Solomon Islands in April this year has completely destroyed the village of our long term coordinator and interpreter, Ruth Boveington. Ruth would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have contributed to help her village. Special thank you to our President, Bob Laws, Mark Moore, and the PNG Church community in Darwin.

From a positive viewpoint, Ruth's younger brother, Dr Rooney Jagilly, a general surgeon from Honiara, is visiting Melbourne for 6 months as the recipient of a RACS Rowan Nicks Scholarship. He is developing his paediatric surgical skills working with Professor Paddy Dewan at the Sunshine hospital in Melbourne.

The book, "Healing Timor Leste" has had a successful launch in Queensland, to follow previous similar events in A.C.T and S.A. Copies of the book are available from OSSAA for \$40.00.

An article entitled, 'Nasofacial Phycomycosis - Persistence Pays' has been published in the Journal of Craniofacial Surgery, March 2007. The article specifies details of the successful treatment of a young lady in East Timor with a facial fungal infection, by our teams over a period of 3-4 years.

This article follows another article on our cleft surgical work in East Timor, published in the Australia and New Zealand Journal of Surgery in 2006.

Acknowledgements:

The organisation would like to express very special gratitude to the Jubilee Charitable organisation in the UK for a very generous donation. The donation will no doubt enable a surgical team visit to the region in the near future.

The committee of management would also like to thank all members, (individuals and corporate), service clubs, hospitals, businesses and individuals who have continued to support the our surgical teams to helping those who would not otherwise receive the surgical 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
Rotary Club of Edwardstown
OPAL
Calvary Hospital
Royal Adelaide Hospital
Adelaide Pathology Partners
Mr Wiweko and the staff of the Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia (Darwin)
Kalyra Knitting Group & Friends
Melsa Medics
Smith & Nephew
Tyco Health Care
Johnson & Johnson
Asea Rehab - Darwin
Astra Zeneca
Anaequip
Medtel
Defries Industries

to support to improve the lives of those who are much more disadvantaged.

The Committee o Management would like to thank all those 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.ossaainc.org.au or write to us at: PO Box 138, UNLEY, SA 5061 or to: Ruth Boveington, GPO Box 795, Darwin, NT 0801, email: ruthbov@ozemail.com.au

Memberships

Membership remains at \$25 a year for ordinary membership and \$100 for corporate membership. Remember, the organisation is dependent on your