



OVERSEAS
SPECIALIST
SURGICAL
ASSOCIATION
OF
AUSTRALIA INC

NEWSLETTER

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL LUNCHEON



GLENELG GOLF CLUB SUNDAY JUNE 19

(12 for 12.30pm)

Cost \$55 pp

Guest Speaker

Dr Brian Spain AM

Director of Surgery, Royal Darwin
Hospital and
OSSAA team member

Booking Options

www.trybooking.com/LEPZ

*If part of a group booking, please state
group leader surname followed by a
dash and your surname*

OR Contact Secretary Donna
Fitzgerald

0417 314 010 dfossa@adam.com.au

Scholarship Scheme

There has been meaningful discussion on how to facilitate higher levels of training for the healthcare staff we encounter on OSSAA trips. We would like to turn the tables and offer identified candidates from OSSAA trips the opportunity to come to Australia under a scholarship scheme. The scheme will aim to complement the training received by the staff and further foster mentoring relationships. Further announcements at the luncheon!



Dr Joao Ximenes and the surgical team after completing cleft lip repair

A Word or two from the President:

There is news and there is more news!

Anaesthetist, Dr Brian Spain, guest speaker for our June Luncheon was rewarded with a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Australia Day Honours for his dedication to medicine and humanitarian work.

In the December newsletter I reported that we had been officially advised that foreign medical practitioners/teams would no longer be able to operate in Indonesia due to a change in their laws which required local accreditation. There was considerable sadness expressed by the dedicated hospital staff in Nusa Tenggara Timur and patients in need of surgery.

These circumstances appear to be changing. We have received verbal notification that OSSAA surgical team visits would now be most welcome in Halilulik, which is really good news. Clarification is being sought on the status of Cancar which has previously hosted OSSAA plastics, orthopaedics and ENT teams. We are awaiting an official letter of invitation for a plastics trip being planned for October this year to Marianum Hospital in Halilulik. All fingers are crossed.

Over the past 9 months research had been undertaken into other countries where our teams could best provide help to those most in need. Discussions were being held with the Royal Australian College of Surgeons who coordinate surgical aid provided by the Australian Government through DFAT. This initiative is now on hold.

TRIP TO BAUCAU, TIMOR LESTE,

28NOV TO 5 DEC 2015

Dr Mark Moore led a plastic and reconstructive team comprising anaesthetist Dr Brian Spain, theatre sister Margaret Maloney and plastic surgical registrar Dr Patrick Coghlan to Baucau Hospital. The team also comprised locals Dr Joao Ximenes (plastic surgical trainee/counterpart surgeon) and Dr Angelo H da Silva Belo (doctor/anaesthetic trainee).



Dr Brian Spain teaching Dr Angelo anaesthetic techniques.

During the week there were 48 patient consultations and 34 surgical procedures comprising 30 cleft lip/palate and 4 burns/lesions.

With this visit, the 42nd mission to Timor Leste, the team has now collected data on almost one thousand patients with cleft lip and/or palate, and performed nearly 900 cleft procedures, including over 700 cleft lip repairs.

Past visits to Baucau have often been challenging, but team members reported that this was one of the most productive trips they had encountered due to the sound organisation that preceded their arrival.

Thanks are again due to Sarmiento Correia and Kate Moss of RACS and Dr Joao for their preparation and support.

OSSAA co-sponsored with Interplast, a Plastic Surgical mission to Bhutan in April. Two team members were from Adelaide, and more than 40 operations were performed. This is part of a programme focussed on establishing a Plastic Surgical service in Bhutan.

J Douglas Omond joined the OSSAA committee 13 years ago at the instigation of Mark Moore to organise our fundraising...and he has done a brilliant job. Vice President Doug submitted his resignation earlier this year as a result of a medical condition from which he is still recovering. We will share some magic moments at the forthcoming luncheon.

March 6 saw another smash hit at the cinema. Maggie Smith did us proud in the *Lady in the Van*, with a bumper crowd of supporters and a profit of \$2640. We are grateful once more for the support of the Wallis family and the Romeo family Foodland. For those who arrived early there was a modicum of panic as the cinema locked down with the storm that damaged some of the sensory equipment.....but it all turned out well.

We continue to receive generous donations from individuals and organisations. It came as a surprise to receive notification that Valerie Thompson had bequeathed \$15,000 in her will to OSSAA.....thank you Valerie.

Three plastics trips are being planned for the second half of 2016:

- Dili Hospital Timor Leste 16 -24 September
- Marianum Hospital, Halilulik NTT Indonesia 21 -29 October
- Baucau Timor Leste on 27 November

Thank you for your continuing support.

Stephen Baker



9 yr old with left incomplete cleft lip, at completion of repair by Dr Joao, and one day after surgery eating breakfast.

Contact us

President	Treasurer	Secretary/Admin Officer
Stephen Baker	Alex Jonson	Donna Fitzgerald
Tel (08) 83777156	Tel (08) 83310894	Tel 0417 314 010
(m) 0403 687 015	m 0412 993 737	dfossaa@adam.com.au
sandbbaker@internode.on.net	ajonson@adam.com.au	ABN 24 682 034 669
Facebook: Overseas Surgical Specialist association of Australia		