



OVERSEAS
SPECIALIST
SURGICAL
ASSOCIATION
OF
AUSTRALIA INC

NEWSLETTER

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A Word from the President:

Dr Mark Moore AM attended the 50 year anniversary celebrations of the Cancar Hospital (St Damian) in Flores, where he was warmly received and asked to return with our teams.

In our last bulletin I mentioned feedback from Cancar and Halilulik hospitals that OSSAA teams would again be welcome. However on further research it was found that registration is still restricted to locally accredited doctors and surgeons...foreigners excluded. We will maintain a watching brief.

The annual luncheon on June 19 at the Glenelg Golf club was again a winner with Dr Brian Spain AM, Director of Surgery at Royal Darwin Hospital, as our guest speaker. Thanks to all those who attended and contributed to the profit.

On a sad note, Terry and then Doug Omond died in the last few months. Doug was a tower of fund raising strength, always helped by Terry. Both were recognised during the funeral services for their outstanding community service.



At the AGM in October, the committee was returned unchanged with Mark Moore as Vice President, Donna Fitzgerald as Secretary, Alex Jonson as Treasurer, PP Patrick Markwick-Smith, and committee members Margaret Maloney, Helen van der Jeugd, Connie Granozio and Dr Andrew Wallace.



Mark Moore led another successful plastics team to Dili Hospital in September.

We have been having ongoing discussions with the Royal Australian College of Surgeons about surgical and training gaps among our neighbouring island countries. The array of OSSAA teams include plastic and reconstructive, orthopaedic, ENT and general surgery, all skilled in assisting emerging countries. As this newsletter is being written Dr Suren Krishnan is leading an ENT team to Tonga to help fill such a gap.

Thank you for your continued support as we work through the challenges.

Stephen Baker

Cancar Celebrations

In August Mark Moore had the pleasure of sharing in the 50 year celebrations of the St Damian Hospital at Cancar in Flores, Indonesia. Sister Virgula was the intrepid founder of the hospital in 1966.



And today



From 2002 to 2013 there have been 4720 consultations and 2120 surgical interventions including: Cleft 800, Burn contractures 172, Orthopaedic 297, ENT 233 and a range of minor surgery.

St Damian has been pursuing registration as a regional hospital for several years.

Timor Leste

Dili

From 17 to 24 September 2016 Dr Mark Moore led a plastic and reconstructive team comprising anaesthetist Dr Phil Blum, and theatre sister/educator Joy Booth to Dili Hospital and the Aileu Clinic. They were joined by Dr Joao Ximenes (plastic surgical trainee/counterpart surgeon). During the week there were 68 patient consultations and 37 surgical procedures comprising 31 cleft lip/palate, 5 burns contractures and 1 scar revision.

The team bid farewell to a 25 year counterpart Maryknoll Sister Susan Gubbins of the Aileu clinic who worked with Dr John Hargrave way back when and helped to establish the OSSAA teams in the emerging nation.

Highlights of the trip included:

- . continuing progress of Dr Joao who provides incomplete unilateral cleft lip repairs of the highest order; he treats all acute burns in the national hospital
- . training of local anaesthesia personnel
- . two dedicated nursing staff for the whole visit rather than rotation of personnel
- . continuing support by the RACS staff of Kate Moss, Sarmiento Correia and Dr Eric Vreede.

Theatre cleaning and sterilisation remain works in progress.



Dr Joao think he needs more light



Dedicated theatre nurses Mok & Kei



Long standing burn contracture of the anterior chest and bilateral axillae



Bilateral cleft lip and palate child with early postoperative result



Brother (unrepaired) and older sister (repaired) with bilateral cleft lip and palate

THIS TRIP BROUGHT THE TOTAL TEAM VISITS TO THE REGION SINCE OSSAA WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2002 TO 100 WITH 11,269 CONSULTATIONS, AND 4968 LIFE SAVING/CHANGING OPERATIONS!

In the first six months of next year it is planned to send: a plastics team to Baucau in Timor Leste, a follow up visit of an ENT team to Tonga and perhaps an ENT team into Dili.

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 **Overseas Specialist Surgical Association of Australia**