

A Word from the President: more like a quick newsflash!

With the restrictions placed on foreign doctors operating in NTT in Indonesia, there has been a range of initiatives taken to chart future activities. A January visit to the Royal Australian College of Surgeons (RACS) in Melbourne was helpful in strengthening the partnership enjoyed since our inception.

RACS has been instrumental in enabling the forthcoming OSSAA team trips:

- April 28 – May 6: Dr Mark Moore leading a plastics and reconstructive team comprising anaesthetist Andrew Fenton, theatre nurse Vanessa Dittmar, and a paediatric surgeon from Melbourne to Jayapura in Papua, Indonesia
- July: Dr Michael Switajewski leading an ENT team to Tonga for surgery and training of a local ENT specialist.
- August 4 -12: Dr Mark Moore leading a plastics team to Dili, Timor Leste
- November: Dr Yugesh Caplash leading a plastics team to Baucau, Timor Leste

There is continuing dialogue on surgical gaps which are emerging due to changes in circumstance/aid delivery in neighbouring countries. We are looking into providing an ENT team for Timor Leste to meet the growing demand.

OSSAA's annual luncheon is again being held at the marvellous **Glenelg Golf Club** which recently won an award as Australia's top reception venue.

12 for 12.30pm

Sunday 18 June 2017

Guest speaker:

Dr Steve Kinnear

Anaesthetist, team member,
Pacific Islands trainer and
volunteer



Cost - \$55pp

A fundraising film event with bubbly and the keenly sought-after pastries is being planned for July.

Stephen Baker

Tonga

From 14 – 19 September 2016, ENT surgeon Dr Suren Krishnan lead a team comprising anaesthetist Alistair Browne and audiometry assistant (and neuropsychologist) Kirsty Kankanunen to Tonga. The team visit to the Vaiola Hospital, Nuku'alofa was organised on the background of previous visits to build capacity in ENT, Head and Neck surgery in Tonga. The primary aim of Dr Krishnan's team visits over the last 4 years has been to support the training of Dr. Sepi Lopati and the ENT, Head & Neck Services provided by the retiring Dr. Lei Saafi.

45 patients were examined and 15 surgical procedures performed. Half of the operations involved grommets and incisions to relieve ear pressure. There was one thyroid cancer case, and a number of cysts, thyroids and tumours were removed. Training of Dr Sepi and staff was a feature of the visit.



The Krishnan and hospital staff team



Parotid tumour removed



Dr Krishnan teaching neck surgery to Dr Sepi



A large removed thyroid tumour

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Overseas Specialist Surgical Association of Australia

