

## A word from the President

Since our last communication we have had two plastic and reconstructive surgery trips led by Dr Mark Moore. In May his team went to Dili, Timor Leste and in July to Halilulik, West Timor.

Our annual luncheon held at Glenelg Golf Club on 25 August had a record attendance.....wonderful support. The main attraction was of course our guest speakers Dr Mark Moore AM and Margaret Maloney OAM who together reflected on 20 years of delivering life changing/saving surgery into East Timor and eastern Indonesia. Speech therapist Celina Lai from Darwin was presented with the Doug and Terry Omond Memorial Scholarship certificate for 2019.



Margaret, Celina and Mark

Another highlight was the extensive OSSAA coverage in the INSIGHT section of the Sunday Mail on 23 June 2019



OSSAA was also delighted with the ABC Catalyst program on 14 October 2019 about the Australian Craniofacial Unit at the Women's and Children's Hospital. Several of our surgical team members were shown performing delicate tasks with their craniofacial teams.

As at 30 June 2019, there had been 110 trips, 11,929 consultations and 5,309 surgical procedures carried out by our marvellous teams. *Check out the OSSAA website for further details.*

Priorities continue to be the broadening of our range of surgery in Indonesia, deepening our patient support services, expanding our teams' talent pool, increasing membership and raising money. We have a number of people who generously donate each year, most of whom ask not to be recognised. One stand-out contribution of \$25,000 came from Laurie Kennedy and Amanda Northbridge of Oxford UK.

Thank you all for your continuing support...we cannot do what we do without you.

## Patrick Markwick-Smith

### AGM

The AGM was held on 10 October and Patrick was re-elected as President. Dr Mark Moore continues as first Vice President while Stephen Baker has taken on the role of second Vice President. Donna Fitzgerald continues as Secretary as does Alex Jonson as Treasurer. Committee members Dr Andrew Wallace, Joy Booth, Sandy Grixti and Anthony Rologas have happily committed for another year. We thank Connie Gronozio and Julie Harris (who have resigned from the committee to meet other commitments) for their contributions to OSSAA.

Our AGM guest speaker Joy Booth presented a fascinating account of her experiences – insightful, knowledgeable and empathetic. We are fortunate to have people of such calibre donating their time and skills to better the lives of the poorest of people in our region. Joy recently received the Judith Berry Perioperative Nurse Excellence Award for care, vision and excellence.

## Dili, Timor Leste

From 25 May – 1 June 2019 Dr Mark Moore led a plastic and reconstructive surgical team comprising anaesthetist Dr Brian Spain, nursing sisters Joy Booth and Sandy Grixti, and speech pathologist Celina Lai to the national hospital (HNGV) in Dili. Dr Zameer Gill, a plastic surgeon registrar accompanied. Local counterpart trainee plastic surgeon Dr Joao Ximenes was again a vital component.

This was the 20<sup>th</sup> year since Dr John Hargrave's initiative to provide reconstructive surgery to people in East Timor. Mark and Brian were part of that first team visit. Long serving RACS in-country coordinator Sarmiento Correia was at that time working in Baucau.

During the week there were 78 consultations and 41 operations, comprising 27 cleft lip/palate, 7 burns contractures and 7 others. The surgical team, patients and parents are shown below outside the hospital.



Here we have Brian linking with anaesthetic nurse George with whom he worked 20 years ago. Dr Joao is shown next with his repaired cleft patient.



Teaching and training of doctors and hospital staff is progressing well. Among key staff there is a growing desire to adopt best practice procedures within and outside the operating theatres. Time and again the value of consistent teaching and trusting partnerships are exemplified.



### Halilulik, NTT

From 28 July to 3 August 2019, Dr Mark Moore led a plastic and reconstructive surgical team to RSK Marianum hospital. The team comprised anaesthetist Dr Todd Maddock, theatre sister Josephine Luke and recovery nurse Lisa Alvino and coordinator/interpreter Ms Anastasia Stain.

There were 51 consultations and 38 operations comprising 20 cleft lip/palate, 5 burns contractures and 13 others, mostly lesions. Below is a set of photos showing the success of a 2018 operation.



One of the pleasures of this trip was patient Elvis meeting with Richie (theatre nurse) and Valens (anaesthetic nurse).....Elvis and Richie Valens in one room is a bit hard to swallow....see photo below.



Serious burns continue to be a major issue for the poor. Greater awareness is needed of the hazards of open fires and kerosene appliances. Below is a photo of a long term burn contracture which was released and reconstructed.



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