



**OVERSEAS
SPECIALIST
SURGICAL
ASSOCIATION
OF
AUSTRALIA INC**

NEWSLETTER

Volume 26: APRIL 2014

A Word from the President:

There is good news and there is good news.

Normally my column commences with a list of surgical team visits that have taken place over the previous quarter.

Due to changes in the regulatory environment in Indonesia, a large number of smaller hospitals have been precluded from hosting visiting surgeons or surgical teams unless they reach Level C status by having a local designated surgeon to take responsibility for operations at the hospital. Fortunately RSKM in Halilulik which has hosted many OSSAA general surgery and plastic and reconstructive surgery teams has now been granted Level C status. It is expected that by year end St Rafael in Cancar which has hosted our plastic and reconstructive, orthopaedic and ENT surgery teams will also achieve Level C status. My thanks goes to coordinator/interpreter Anastasia Stain and Ibu Nunuk a Lions member from Jakarta who have worked tirelessly to achieve the resumption of surgical team visits in May.



Ibu Nunuk & Anastasia

The plastic and reconstructive surgery part of the ATCLASS program in Timor Leste was due to finish but an invitation has been issued for a further visit to Dili Hospital in June. There is still much to be achieved.

We have many generous donors, without whom it would be impossible to achieve as much as we do. Johnson & Johnson, a long term supporter, recently provided sutures and other medical supplies worth more than \$25,000. Thank you J&J.

In the same vein, the pulse oximeter donated by the RAH Operating Room Service Education Fund is most welcome.

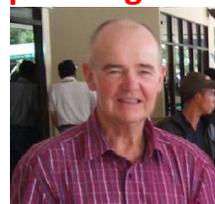
You will shortly see changes to our website with an e-commerce option.

On Sunday April 13, the Australian Indonesian Association of SA conducted its annual Festival of Arts, Food and Culture at Rymill Park, Adelaide. OSSAA again participated in this fun-filled day with a well patronised stall adorned with traditional Timorese woven cloths and OSSAA photos.

While the last few months have been a little frustrating, we are now better placed to meet the requirements of our host countries.

Patrick Markwick-Smith

Upcoming Events



Annual Luncheon at the Glenelg Golf Club
Sunday June 15

Guest Speaker – Team Leader **Dr Brian Miller AM**
Cost \$50pp

Film Afternoon at Wallis Cinemas Mitcham
Sunday August 17

Film – **The 100 foot journey**
Cost \$20pp

“Perioperative care in developing countries – the challenges of providing humanitarian aid.”

In December last year, a team led by Margaret Maloney OAM responded to an increasing demand for humanitarian aid information by providing a seminar on opportunities for perioperative nurses to be involved in developing countries. The seminar and its 70 participants were enthusiastically hosted by the Royal Adelaide Hospital Operating Room Service Education Fund committee.

A range of speakers provided their insights into volunteering in overseas countries and the key ingredients for successful humanitarian outcomes. Dr Mark Moore AM provided a team leader and surgical perspective, outlining the need to be clear about objectives, how to work effectively as a team and how to build good working relationships.

Dr Stephen Kinnear provided an anaesthetists perspective and emphasized the ability to work outside the comfort zone.

Team members Dr Matthew Grill, Amanda McFall and Cath Coombe dealt with many of the practical issues relating to proper preparation, sourcing of medical supplies and day-to-day challenges.

Dr Dion Suyapto emphasised the importance of cultural issues and the need to be respectful.

Marina Rakovskaia and Nihada Besic from the Cardio Thoracic Theatre spoke of their experiences with Open Heart surgery in Fiji.

Alexia Brook explained why she became a volunteer.

It was a successful venture culminating in new OSSAA members and the donation of a pulse oximeter by Sister Joy Booth, the Chair of the education Fund, to Mark Moore and Margaret Maloney.



Joy, Mark and Margaret with the oximeter

Operation - Manuel Martins Bartu from Maliana TL

Manuel is 24 years old, and was first seen by the visiting OSSAA / RACS team in Dili in 2012. He had a large benign soft tissue mass involving the left side of his head and neck present since early childhood, and slowly increasing in size. In light of its size and risk of bleeding, the best treatment option was in Australia and The Australian Cranio-maxillo-facial Foundation was asked to assist. The Memorial Hospital agreed to provide the facility for his treatment at a reduced fee – this cost being covered by the Rotary Club of Mount Barker. His transport to Australia was supported by Dr Matthew Wright, and whilst in Adelaide, Manuel and his mother Veronica were very well looked after by Allison Kelty and her family and friends.



Matt & Amanda

His surgery, involving a debulking excision of the masses, occurred on Feb 22 with surgeon Dr Mark Moore and anaesthetist Dr Andrew Fah. Perioperative assessment was also provided by Dr Maria Dellamelva.

Healing of his wounds took about 4 weeks, much of this time being spent out in the community in Adelaide supported by Allison and many of the Timorese students here in Adelaide.

This case presents an excellent example of the interlinking of all the various support networks available. He and his mother returned to Timor Leste on April 3, and will be seen in our next OSSAA team clinic in Dili in June.



Manuel with tuberous sclerosis



Looking and feeling much better without it

Future Trips

For the June quarter, the following trips are planned:

1. Dr Mark Moore's plastics team will visit Halilulik in May
2. Dr Mark Moore's plastics team will visit Timor Leste in June
3. Dr Bob Sillar's general surgery team will visit Halilulik in June

Contact Us:

Web site: www.ossaainc.org.au

Postal: PO Box 138, UNLEY SA 5061

President

Patrick Markwick-Smith

Tel (08) 83642340

alipat@internode.on.net

Secretary

Stephen Baker

Tel (08) 83797105

sandbbaker@optusnet.com.au

Fundraising

Doug Omond OAM

Tel (08) 82390203

dougaljd@optusnet.com.au

Trip coordinator

Lorraine Venables

Tel 0418 851 366

lorraineossaa@optusnet.com.au



Overseas Specialist Surgical Association of Australia