



A Word from the President:

Firstly I must publicly record my gratitude to two long serving Committee members, namely John Russell and Sue Freeman who retired at the AGM in October. John was the inaugural President, and Sue managed the Medical Sub Committee for many years. Anaesthetist Dr Andrew Walker has joined the Committee to replace Dr Todd Maddock, another fine contributor.

Secondly, the Royal Australian College of Surgeons awards one International Medal each year to an outstanding surgeon involved in overseas work. Congratulations to Dr Mark Moore AM, the 2015 recipient. Also a big thank you to Dr Bob Sillar OAM who has now retired from overseas work with OSSAA after years of surgical excellence.

Turning to other matters, fundraising has delivered considerable joy. *The Second Best Marigold Hotel* was a winner on March 1 with 400 attendees and a profit of \$5,200another successful Doug Omond venture with sincere thanks to the Romeo Family and Vili's pies for all the edibles. Earlier in the year the indefatigable Connie Garozio raised \$4,900 from a screening of *Fifty Shades of Grey*. Plenty of smiles at both events! A number of large donations of \$500 or more have been received including from team members and their relatives, and some supporters who wish to remain anonymous.

Since our last newsletter there has been a plastic and reconstructive surgical trip led by Dr Yugesh Caplash to Baucau, Timor Leste in November, and there is one planned to Dili Hospital by Dr Mark Moore in July. We have consistently provided a minimum of two visits per year to Timor Leste under the now completed ATLASS program. In order to meet the needs of those requiring plastic and reconstructive surgery, the committee is considering 3-4 visits each year.

Our trips into eastern Indonesia have been curtailed. St Raphael Hospital in Cancar Flores cannot host overseas surgeons until it attains Level C status, and this has been delayed. The Marianum Hospital in Halilulik, West Timor has been accredited but compliance with new requirements from Jakarta is causing delays for trip approvals. We are working through this issue with the Indonesian Ministry of Health; we are also looking at other country options in the region.

Liz Dowling joined us for a short time to facilitate the organisation of the trips and we appreciate her efforts. We are looking for someone to fill this part-time position and have some candidates in mind – if any member knows of people who might be interested please let us know.

Thanks are due to Simon Perrin of Duografik who spent countless hours reinventing our website, and John Nowland and Kathy Timotheou for their assistance with new stationery and pamphlet design.

I applaud the continuing efforts of team members and supporters.

Patrick Markwick-Smith

Upcoming Events

Annual Luncheon

Glenelg Golf Club

21 June 2015

Guest Speaker:

His Excellency Hieu Van Le AO
Governor of South Australia

Quiz Night Extraordinaire

Colonel Light Gardens RSL Club

5 or 12 September 2015

TRIP

Timor Leste

Baucau

Dr Yugesh Caplash led a plastic and reconstructive surgical team to Baucau Dili Hospital from 15 – 23 November 2014. The team comprised anaesthetist Dr Pat Moran, theatre sister Liz Mazzei and RMO Dr Nick Smith. Local staff included plastic surgeon trainee Dr Joao Ximenes.

There were 35 patient consultations and 23 operations, comprising mainly cleft lip/palate repairs (21), a burn contracture and fistula repair.

The report from the team indicated a need for improvement in a number of areas at the Hospital, namely that:

- Operating theatre equipment had deteriorated since the previous visit, including sterilisation and suction units

- Cleanliness in the operating theatre was deficient
- Appropriate local staff had not been rostered for theatre duty nor for recovery.

Each of these problems has been noted and efforts will be made to correct them prior to the next visit. Importantly however they need to be addressed on a continuum for the benefit of the regional population. Nick Smith proved to be a real asset covering for staff shortages, particularly in recovery. Dr Joao continues to progress in performing incomplete cleft lip repairs.

Repaired Cleft Lip



Repaired Cleft Palate



Repaired Burn contracture



And another excellent result



Report from Dr Mark Moore - value

OSSAA has undertaken 40 visits to East Timor since 2000 and in that time, among other surgeries, teams have performed 736 cleft repairs on previously un-operated cases. In so doing we have reduced the disability for each of these cases by a measurable amount. Using international measurement standards, there has been 2263 disability adjusted life years (DALYs) averted by our surgery. If one applies accepted monetary values on these years of normal life restored - GNI (gross national income) and VSL (value of a statistical life) we arrive at a **financial return to Timor Leste of our work of between \$11.4 million (GNI based) and \$4 billion (VSL based).**

The cost of the cleft part of our visits over that 15 years is \$264,000, so the work appears to be very cost effective- indeed about \$116 per DALY averted. An initial report of our work was presented at the Asia Pacific Craniofacial Association meeting in Adelaide in October 2014 and updated report is being presented at the Asia Pacific Cleft Lip and Palate Association meeting in Penang, Malaysia in April 2015.

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