

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE OVERSEAS SPECIALIST SURGICAL  
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.  
15th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**19 OCTOBER 2017**

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with pleasure that I present this report to the 15th Annual General Meeting of the Overseas Specialist Surgical Association of Australia.

**Locales and Team Visits**

**Indonesia** Following the team visit led by Mark Moore to Jayapura, Papua in April 2017 there has been further discussion with RACS about regaining OSSAA teams access to NTT (particularly Cancar and Halilulik) in Indonesia. There are positive signs and a proposal will be prepared to place before Indonesian authorities to 'test the water'.

**Timor Leste** remains our key focus area. During 2016/17 there was one visit, namely on 17 September 2016 Dr Mark Moore led a plastic and reconstructive team comprising anaesthetist Dr Phil Blum and theatre nurse Sr Joy Booth to Dili Hospital. They were joined by local plastic surgical trainee Dr Joao Ximenes. The team accomplished 68 consultations and 37 surgical procedures, comprising 31 cleft lip/palate, 5 burns contractures and one other.

The annual trip to Baucau was deferred.

We continue to be grateful for the support provided by RACS and the hospital staff.

**Papua, Indonesia**

Following negotiations between RACS and Indonesian health authorities, a multidisciplinary team comprising Dr Mark Moore AM, paediatric surgeon Dr Liz McLeod, anaesthetists Drs Andrew Fenton and Simon Roberts, and theatre nurses Srs Vanessa Dittmar and Catherine Devine visited the government hospital in Jayapura on 30 April 2017 on a surgical training and skills transfer mission. Much of the time was spent on orientation and training with only a handful of plastics operations performed by local surgeons/trainees under supervision. It is unknown whether there will be further trips.

**Tonga**

Following discussions with RACS, an ENT team led by Dr Suren Krishnan OAM, and including anaesthetist Alastair Browne and audiometry assistant Kirsty Kankanunen visited Vaiola Hospital in Nuku'alofa on 14 November. One of the main tasks was to continue to assist in the training of Dr Sepi Lopati (trainee ENT surgeon).

Dr Mark Moore enjoyed his visit in August 2016 to Cancar Flores for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the hospital.

*Since OSSAA's establishment in March 2002, 102 trips, 11,322 consultations and 4,988 surgical procedures have been carried out.*

**Events and Fundraising:**

The annual luncheon was held on 18 June 2017 and we were privileged to have Dr Steve Kinnear as our guest speaker.

Large Donors (\$1000 or more) included:

Valerie Thompson Estate	\$15,000
AK Vickery	\$1,800

Lions Club of Blackwood	\$1,000
Rotary Club of Unley	\$1,000

Others who have provided assistance to OSSAA include:

Air North  
Calvary Hospital  
Duografik (Simon Perrin)  
Office of Vickie Chapman MP  
Romeo – Foodland Family  
Royal Australian College of Surgeons (RACS)  
The Box Factory (and Adelaide City Council)  
QANTAS  
Wallis Theatre

Financially we remain in a very healthy position due to the support of members and generous donors. We have sufficient buffer, if needed, to enable at least 8 trips per annum over two years which was the target set some 6 years ago.

**Membership:**

At 30 June 2017 there were 24 financial corporate members, 69 ordinary members, and 50 team members (of which 5 were also ordinary members).

**Committee of Management (COM)**

OSSAA has again been well served by the Committee which at 30 June 2017 included Vice President Dr Mark Moore AM, Secretary Donna Fitzgerald, PP Patrick Markwick-Smith, Treasurer Alex Jonson, Margaret Maloney OAM, Helen van der Jeugd, Connie Granozio, and Dr Andrew Wallace. The committee met on 7 occasions during the year. We were saddened by the deaths of Terry and Doug Omond in 2016; Doug was a fiercely effective fundraiser for OSSAA since its inception.

Two editions of the OSSAA Newsletter were published during the year. Thanks are again due to the office of Vickie Chapman MP for printing them. Simon Perrin from Duografik also deserves our thanks for his website management.

The bureaucratic duplication between State and Federal Governments on regulation of charities is thankfully being resolved; ACNC will now prevail.

**Challenge**

It continues to be a pleasure to be at the helm of OSSAA, a wonderful organisation. We maintain our commitment to providing plastic and reconstructive surgery and training in Timor Leste. Another effort will be made to determine whether we can resume humanitarian assistance to West Timor and Flores. Other opportunities will continue to be pursued. We have space on our Management Committee for new blood and look for nominations from the floor.

**I thank everyone who has helped during the year.**

Stephen Baker  
President

19 October 2017