

A Word from the President

Great News!

Dr Mark Moore AM led a plastics team to Halilulik, West Timor in February and a new MOU has been signed with the Marianum hospital. Nearly 4 years have elapsed since our last trip to Indonesia. It is pleasing that the Bupati (head of sub-provincial local government) is now responsible for the letters of invitation to OSSAA and that the procedures for entry have been simplified. We are grateful for the assistance of the Royal Australian College of Surgeons, particularly Daliah Moss.

With this break-through, the accreditation of St Damian hospital in Cancar (Flores) as a regional hospital and the widespread enthusiasm, discussions will commence with the nuns and local authorities about visitation of a wider range of volunteer OSSAA surgical teams to help those most in need.

Prior to this trip, Dr Yugesh Caplash led a plastics team to Baucau, East Timor in November.

We are again planning an entertaining luncheon in June at the Glenelg Golf Club, and a film evening later in the year.

Stephen Baker

OSSAA Annual Luncheon

Sunday 17 June 2018

Glenelg Golf Club

Guest Speaker:

Dr Andrew Wallace

Anaesthetist and OSSAA Team Member

Join us once again for an afternoon of enlightenment, fun and fellowship.



Cost \$55pp

Baucau Timor Leste

From 17 -25 November 2017, plastic and craniofacial surgeon Dr Yugesh Caplash led a team comprising anaesthetist Dr David McLeod, self-funded plastic surgery trainee Dr Michael Rooke, theatre sister Margaret Maloney OAM and local surgeon Dr Joao Ximenes to Baucau Hospital.

It was another successful visit with 40 consultations and 31 operations:

- Cleft Lips 22
- Palates 6
- Burn Contractures 2
- Electric Burn 1

The youngest patient was 5 months old and the oldest 59 years:



Dr Joao has become expert in cleft lip repairs.

The main road to Baucau was under reconstruction. Normally the 125km dirt stretch is difficult and the trip takes 4 hours by car, but this time it was much worse. Our team members are hoping that this extra pain/discomfort will be repaid with a new highway which dramatically reduces travel time and bruising of the buttocks.



During recent visits to Dili Hospital, the training of staff by our teams has been producing dividends, but the same has not been evident at Baucau. In the planning of trips we may well need to emphasise key aspects of instrument sterilisation, consistency of theatre personnel and recovery procedures with the hospital administrator.

Haliluluk, West Timor NTT

From 3-10 February 2018 plastic and craniofacial surgeon Dr Mark Moore led a team comprising anaesthetist Dr Andrew Wallace, theatre nurse Sr Vanessa Dittmar, recovery nurse Sr Josie Luke, coordinator / interpreter Anastasia Stain and Jason Wagner (fitness instructor/coach) to RSK Marianum.

The return of our plastic and reconstructive surgical team to Indonesia represents the culmination of much background negotiation on the part of Ms Daliah Moss from RACS with the higher echelons of Indonesian, as well as the maintenance of close communications between Ms Anastasia Stain our OSSAA coordinator and our long term counterparts at various centres in NTT.

The expansion of air services in NTT since the last visit is quite dramatic, with access daily to many locations to and from Kupang daily. It was a considerable relief to have a 45 minute flight rather than a 6-7 hour drive....and the problematic East Timor border crossing.

The welcome was heart-warming....see below Andrew Wallace receiving the special treatment.



During the week there were 54 consultations and 33 operations:

Cleft lip:	12
Cleft palate:	11
Burns/ contractures:	5 (see below....pre-op)
Lesions/ others:	5



On each trip OSSAA has endeavoured to provide training to doctors, nurses and hospital staff across a range of surgical, sterilising and recovery procedures. The importance of training to enable longer term self-sufficiency cannot be understated, and is a focus of all our teams. Greater attention is now also being given to a more holistic approach incorporating cleft and palate surgery/orthodontics and speech therapy.

Future Trips

20 - 28 April Dr Mark Moore to Dili
Early August Dr Mark Moore to Cancar
October/ November Dr Yugesh Caplash to Baucau
Mid November Dr Mark Moore to Haliluluk and Kupang

More trips may be added to this list after consultation with hospital administrators in NTT and other team leaders.

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