

A Word from the President

In our previous newsletter we were excited to report the return of OSSAA teams to Indonesia after an absence of nearly 4 years. Following the first trip back to Halilulik in West Timor in February, Dr Mark Moore AM led a plastic and reconstructive surgical team to Cancar, Flores in August. He also led a team to Dili, East Timor in April. Priority is being placed on: continued training of local medical staff, expanding the range of surgical services to NTT; attracting new surgical team volunteers; augmenting our range of post-surgery services in such areas as physio, dentistry and speech therapy; and more fundraising.

An application was submitted to the Department of Foreign Affairs to receive funds under a newly established Australian Aid: Friendship Grants scheme to operate for 3 years. The AAFG is designed to strengthen relationships with our neighbours through the good deeds of charities like ours which deliver humanitarian and other assistance to the most needy in our region. Successful applicants will be notified before November-end.

Two successful functions have been held, namely our annual luncheon at the Glenelg Golf Club on 17 June with Dr Andrew Wallace as guest speaker and the Mamma Mia 2 film event at Wallis Cinema Mitcham on 29 July. We continue to receive superb support from generous donors. Two of the largest recently were from the Carthew Foundation (\$10,000) and Johnson and Johnson (\$10,007 worth of sutures).



The AGM was held on 19 October. I was elected President after Stephen Baker's 3 year term finished. Many thanks to Stephen for his stewardship; the return to Indonesia was a highlight. Two new faces joined the committee namely Julie Harris and Anthony Rologas. Julie is bringing our communication mediums up to speed. Due to work pressures Helen van der Jeugd has resigned; we thank Helen for her contribution.

I look forward to working with everyone over the coming year.

Patrick Markwick-Smith

Dili, Timor Leste

From 21 -27 April 2018, Dr Mark Moore led a plastic and reconstructive surgical team comprising plastic surgeon Dr Vani Prasad Atluri, anaesthetist Dr Ruth Barbour, theatre nurse Sr Joy Booth, recovery nurse Sr Amy Elgar and speech therapist Celina Lai at the national hospital (HNGV) in Dili. Local plastics trainee Dr Joao Ximenes assisted the team.

The team was also accompanied by Dr Zameer Gill, surgical resident from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Adelaide and Professor Craig Dreyer from the University of Adelaide Dental School. Professor Dreyer spent 3-4 days with the team in the assessment clinic and at surgery, and was joined later in the week by three of his final year orthodontic students.

Soft toy balls brought from Australia by Dr Barbour, symbolising the team's main activities – taking a "broken" mouth and making a smile !



It was another hard working but fruitful visit with 135 consultations and 43 operations:

- | | |
|---------------------|----|
| • Cleft Lips | 27 |
| • Palates | 8 |
| • Burn Contractures | 4 |
| • Other | 4 |

Dr Joao will operate on a number of those with non-complex clefts who did not make the overly full surgery schedule.

There continues to be improvement in theatre management but cleaning still needs attention. The addition of recovery nurse Amy Elgar paid dividends with a number of areas identified and discussed with staff to lift post-operative care.



46 visits to East Timor and over 1000 cleft operations have been accomplished since inception...just like the above

Cancar, Flores NTT

From 4-11 August 2018, Dr Mark Moore led a team comprising plastic surgeon Dr Vani Prasad Atluri, anaesthetists Dr Andrew Wallace and Dr Todd Maddock, theatre nurse Sr Vanessa Dittmar, and recovery nurse Sr Lisa Alvino, interpreter Anastasia Stain and surgical resident Dr Jake Nowicki at St Damian and St Raphael Hospital, Cancar

During the week there were 106 consultations and 58 operations, of which there were 24 cleft lips/palates. *See below*



A number of longstanding and on occasions unhealed burn wounds and contractures once again presented...see lady awaiting an operation to correct for long-standing kerosene burns. There was also a variety of head and neck masses and tumours. These ranged from all manner of congenital dermoid cysts (which had enlarged far beyond what we see here in Australia due to lack of access to care) through lipomas, jaw tumours and tuberculous neck lymph nodes.



A pleasing advance is the use of phone apps like Whatsapp, which make it possible to communicate with our local counterparts after departure, to assist in advising about postoperative dressing and care.



The Cancar theatre team at end of surgery week

Future Trips

17 November 2018	Dr Yugesh Caplash to Buacau
8 March 2019	Dr Mark Moore to Cancar
Late April	Dr Mark Moore to Dili
June/July	Dr Mark Moore to Halilulik

A gentle reminder to those who are keen supporters but who have failed to renew their membership!

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