

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE OVERSEAS SPECIALIST SURGICAL
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.
19th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

21 OCTOBER 2021

I present this brief report to the 19th Annual General Meeting of the Overseas Specialist Surgical Association of Australia (OSSAA).

Covid has prevented any surgical team visits this year. Our last trip before border closures was in November 2019 when Dr Mark Moore led a plastic and reconstructive team to Timor Leste National Hospital in Dili. Trips will resume as soon as it is safe to do so!

Contact is being maintained with hospitals in Halilulik and Cancar, NTT Indonesia and in Dili. Each are eager to see us return. On-line training and interchange of ideas continue productively with a senior nursing staff member at the Dili Hospital through Joy Booth, a team participant for many visits to Timor and an OSSAA committee member.

Since OSSAA's establishment in March 2002 there have been 112 trips, 12,032 consultations and 5,379 surgical procedures carried out by our volunteer teams.

Earlier this year team members gathered together a large parcel of vital medical supplies to assist Dr Joao Ximenes and his colleagues in Dili provide outreach services. This was at a time when floods were devastating the country. In April 2021 Babcock Helicopters International volunteered their services and delivered the parcel which was gratefully received.

Dr John Hargrave AO MBE

On 6 August 2021, Dr John Hargrave passed away in Hobart, where he had retired following his mammoth lifetime of commitment to surgically improving the conditions of some of the most disadvantaged and disabled people in the Northern Territory. He was the inspiration behind the formation of OSSAA

In the early 1990s, Dr Hargrave led small volunteer teams of specialist doctors and nurses into Timor under Northmed, providing reconstructive surgical programs in rural areas. In 1995, Dr Hargrave incorporated a surgical group as ASEA Rehab [Australia South-East Asia Rehabilitation Foundation], a Northern Territory based organisation comprising mainly local specialists and supporters. Over time the team composition expanded to include more interstate specialists and nurses, particularly from South Australia. When retiring in 2000, Dr Hargrave supported the re-forming of ASEA Rehab as a South Australian registered organisation (with national membership) to maintain and expand the highly valued reconstructive programs undertaken in East Timor, West Timor and West Papua. The transition from ASEA Rehab to OSSAA was completed by 2002.

Event

Our annual luncheon was held at Glenelg Golf Club on 6 June 2021, with South Australian hero and 2019 Australian of the Year Dr. Richard "Harry" Harris SC OAM as guest speaker. Harry gave an enthralling and memorable speech to a 'full house'.

Donations and Finance

OSSAA continues to receive generous support from donors. The Lions Club of Richmond deserves special mention for its assistance over the past two decades in funding much needed surgical and

related equipment for our teams. This year it has followed up with a fine donation. We are most grateful to all who have helped in this way.

Large Donors (\$1000 or more) included:

Lions Club of Richmond	\$25,000
C Browne	\$1,950
Flinders University Surgical Students Charity	\$1,500
AK Vickery	\$1,200
C Barnes	\$1,000
Dr A Lake	\$1,000

The surplus for 2020-21 was \$47,810. We are in a financially robust position to field teams when restrictions are lifted.

Membership:

At 30 June 2021 there were 14 financial corporate members and 44 ordinary members, plus a strong pool of team members.

The drive to broaden the support base of OSSAA will gather pace when surgical trips can again be launched.

Committee of Management (COM)

OSSAA has been well served by the Committee which at 30 June 2021 included Vice Presidents Dr Mark Moore AM and Stephen Baker, Secretary Donna Fitzgerald, Treasurer Alex Jonson, and committee members Dr Andrew Wallace, Joy Booth, Connie Granozio, Sandy Gixti and Joseph Moore. At this AGM I will have served the maximum 3 year term as President. Two of our committee members will be retiring, namely Treasurer Alex Jonson and Sandy Gixti. We are most grateful for their contributions. Alex Jonson deserves a special bouquet/gold star in that he has been our Treasurer since inception of OSSAA in 2002 and has done a magnificent job. Both will be sorely missed.

The Committee of Management met on 4 occasions. For many years Margaret Maloney has been our quartermaster providing equipment and consumables to departing teams: a much appreciated effort. These materials have now been placed in accessible storage. Two editions of the OSSAA Newsletter were published in theyear. Thanks are again due to the office of Vickie Chapman MP for printing them and to Simon Perrin from Version for his continuing website assistance. I have been delighted with the strength of support for OSSAA during this testing period....well done all!

It has been my pleasure and honour to serve as your President. May the clouds clear, the international borders reopen and our humanitarian trips resume.

Patrick Markwick-Smith
President

21 October 2021