



# NEWSLETTER

Volume 18: June 2011



**Martinho Ronaldo from Balibo in Timor Leste with a serious problem (frontoethmoidal encephalocele)**



**Martinho looks and feels great**

## **A Word from the President:**

These are the images which received great coverage in the Advertiser, The Age and on the Channel 10 news. Well done Mark Moore working with a craniofacial team at the Women's and Children's Hospital in Adelaide and funded by the Children First Foundation of Victoria.

Visits continue apace – there were four during the first six months of 2011:

In January, **Bob Sillar** led a general surgical team to Halilulik

In March, **Rob Coren** led a plastic and reconstructive surgical team to Cancar

In April, **Mark Moore** led a plastic and reconstructive surgical team to Dili

In May, **Colin Whitewood** led an orthopaedic surgical team to Cancar

Lorraine Venables took over from Sue Freeman organising the trips and Joan Reed joined the Committee of Management in June. It was pleasing to note that Bob Parr who generously assists our fundraising through the Chelsea Cinema was

awarded an OAM in the Queen's Birthday Honours List

Latest recruits into the OSSAA surgical teams included general surgeon Dr Ralph Gourlay, plastic surgeon Dr Roger Woods, anaesthetists Dr Tom Walker and Dr Rashmi Patel, and theatre sister Lyn Thorpe.

**NEWSFLASH** Congratulations Matt Grill and Amanda McFall on your recent wedding – another successful OSSAA operation.

In June our annual luncheon was again held at the Glenelg Golf Club. We were honoured to have HE Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR, Governor of South Australia, address us on defence issues. The event was well attended and raised nearly \$2000.

## **Stephen Baker**

### **Timor Leste (East Timor)**

#### **Dili**

Under the 'Timor Leste Program of Assistance Specialist Services' [ATLASS] a team visit was

undertaken from April 2-9. The team comprised Dr Mark Moore, anaesthetist Dr Andy Beinssen and theatre sister Vanessa Dittmar. Local participants included RACS Team Leader Dr Eric Vreede; surgeons Dr Joao Ximenes, Dr Joao Pedra, and Dr Raj Singh; and about 20 nurse anaesthetists and instrument nurses. While the visit was focused on the national hospital in Dili, outreach visits were also made to Aileu Health Centre and Bairo Pite Clinic. The week was 'full on' and much was achieved. A long waiting list remains. This will be tackled by Dr Ximenes who has been trained by Dr Moore and by a planned visit later in the year.

There were 126 patient consultations, and 42 operations, mainly for cleft lip (30) but included cleft palate, burn contractures and tumours.



**Drs Joao Ximenes, Mark Moore, Joao Pedro**

### **Nusa Tenggara Timur (West Timor) Halilulik**

Dr Robert Sillar's surgical team visited Halilulik 27 January – 5 February at the request of the Director of the Rumah Sakit Marianum, Sr Helma Nahak SSpS. Team members included general surgeon Dr Ralph Gourlay, anaesthetist Dr Tom Walker, theatre and recovery sisters Kerrie Nicholls and Lyn Thorpe, Team coordinator/interpreter and dentist Dr Leny Raiyon (who had studied in Brisbane), and accompanying clinician Dr Harijanto.

There were 136 consultations and 51 operations, comprising mainly inguino-scrotal (21), head and neck (10), and skin and soft tissue (13) performed over the period. The value of the trip was enhanced by the 62 minor procedures under local anaesthetic by Dr Hari and local staff.

Some delays were experienced with obtaining the visas. The ongoing commitment to Halilulik has enabled genuine capacity building and there is an increasing ability by staff to perform well without instruction.

The visit was again highly productive, smoothly managed and appreciated by all. Excellent progress

has been made. Much needed X-Ray equipment will soon be installed.

Overtures have been made to include public hospitals in Atambua and Betun in future visits.



**Bob whiteboarding with nurse trainees**

### **Flores Cancar**

From 5 – 11 March 2011 Dr Rob Coren led a plastic and reconstructive surgical team to St Damian's Hospital in Cancar. Included in the team were plastic surgeon Dr Roger Woods, anaesthetists Drs Matthew Grill and Todd Maddock, theatre and recovery sisters Margaret Maloney and Amanda McFall, and interpreter Anastasia Stain.

Someone made a bad choice on fine dining and the team was on the run for much of the trip. But that did not stop them!!

On this occasion there was less emphasis on repair of cleft lips and palates and more attention paid to burns and tumours. In all there were 87 consultations and 53 operations comprising 14 cleft lip and palate, 4 facial reconstructions and 35 burn/keloid/cyst treatments.

One of the pluses of the trip was being able to provide more successful instruction on post-op analgesia.



**The bald and beautiful team receiving special instruction**

## Cancar

Dr Colin Whitewood's orthopaedic team visited Cancar on 28 May – 4 June: include in the team were anaesthetist Dr Rashmi Patel, theatre sister Melanie Richards and interpreter/coordinator Olivia Santoso. They were joined by physiotherapist Rachelle Quiggin.

Over the week there were 66 consultations and 18 operations, mainly comprising correction of feet deformities and repairing of fractures to arms, legs, knees and feet. The age range of the patients was from 0-69; two youths involved in motor cycle accidents were treated immediately.....how lucky were they!



**Colin in action**

## Next Visits

The second half of 2011 will be busier. Brian Miller intends to take his general surgical team back to Halilulik in July. Mark Moore is heading back to East Timor in August. This will be followed by a visit to Cancar and thence to Halilulik in September. Tim Keenan will be heading with his orthopaedic team to Naob in November. More plastic and general surgery visits are planned in October to East Timor and Halilulik respectively.

## Acknowledgments

We were delighted to again receive a generous donation from the Kennedy family. A number of Lions Clubs and individuals also helped out.

Our thanks:

To the hospitals, and medical supply companies (including TYCO, Johnson and Johnson, Ultimate Medical and Atlas Healthcare) in Australia for their ongoing support of the teams. DSS staff at the Royal Adelaide Hospital continue to sterilize the trip instruments. The Rotary Club of Unley assisted with the purchase of a capnograph machine.

To RACS for their support of Timor Leste and our teams.

To our Indonesian friends – particularly Dr Hari – officers in the Indonesian Embassy in Darwin and the wonderful staff of the visited hospitals and clinics.

To the knitters of children's hats including Natalie Chapman, Nuriootpa Uniting Church ladies, Edwardstown Lions ladies Lois Goss and Rita Hunter, and Joan Webb and her team

To the air and ground transport companies for their assistance. A special thanks to Lesley Brown of Harvey World Travel for her expertise and to Pak Hendrik Tawur in Bali for his. Hayley Wilson from Jetstar recently relieved one of our teams of the cost of excess baggage.

None of these missions would occur without the support of our surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses and local counterparts.

THANK YOU ALL

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## Coming Events/Fundraising

International organist Tony Fenelon will be performing at the Chelsea Cinema on 24 July with part proceeds to OSSAA.

# Photographic Gallery

## EAST TIMOR



Twins before surgery in 2002

## EAST TIMOR



The new school at Balilbo TL built by good friend Alison Kelty from Xanadu

## CANCAR



This should help the golf swing

## HALILULIK



This pain in the neck is about to be removed



My foot is now straight!