



NEWSLETTER

Volume 17: December 2010

A Word from the President:

The second half of 2010 has been busy!

In July **Colin Whitewood** led an orthopaedic team to Cancar
In August **Brian Miller** led a general surgical team to Halilulik
In October **Mark Moore AM** led a plastics team to Timor Leste
In November:

Tim Keenan led an orthopaedic team to Naob

Mark Moore AM led a plastics team to Cancar and Lela

Suren Krishnan OAM led an ENT team to Cancar

At the 2010 AGM, Helen van der Jeugd and Patrick Marwick-Smith, were elected to the management committee. Our thanks to outgoing members Bob Laws and Penny Craig. Bob was awarded Honorary Life Membership in July for his merit filled contribution to OSSAA

Latest recruits into the visiting OSSAA surgical teams included ENT surgeon Dr Desmond Wee, anaesthetists Dr Mary Brooker from NZ and Chris Higham, nurse Zara Wilkinson and coordinator/interpreter Chriswinda Luisanto; audiometrist Megan Winter added her talents to the ENT team.

In July our annual dinner was held at the Glenelg Golf Club with Gert Skipper as guest speaker. In September a film evening fundraiser featuring *Wall Street II* was held at the Chelsea Cinema. The AGM was held on 5

October 2010. Your Management Committee continues to meet monthly and the Medical Sub Committee quarterly.

Stephen Baker

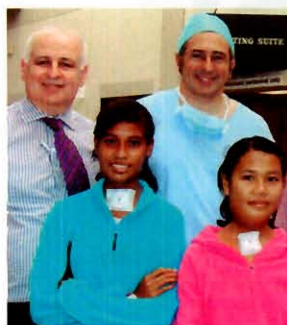
Special Moments

A. Dr Joao Ximenes who has been training to be a plastic surgeon under the guidance of Mark Moore *has now completed his first solo operation – successful of course. Congratulations!*



Doctors Ximenes, Mwauru, Moore and Sainsbury

B. With the assistance of ROMAC and Newcastle's John Hunter Hospital, Dr Bob Siller and the hospital team performed life-saving operations to remove jaw tumours from two West Timor girls in October.



Inosensia Abuk and Martin Martin looking great!

Timor Leste (East Timor)

Baucau and Maliana

Under the 'Timor Leste Program of Assistance Specialist Services' [ATLASS] a team visit was undertaken from October 23 – 30. At the Baucau Regional Hospital and Los Palos Clinic, plastic surgeon Dr Yugesh Caplash operated with anaesthetist Dr Pat Moran, theatre nurse Elizabeth Mazzei and local Dr Philip Mwaura. At Maliana Regional Hospital, plastic surgeon Dr Mark Moore operated with anaesthetist Dr Chris Higham, theatre nurse Margaret Maloney and local surgeon-in-training Dr Joao Ximenes. Dr Eric Vreede coordinated the in-country arrangements. Notification of the impending visit appears to have been less effective than previously.

There were 35 patient consultations, 22 in Baucau (inc Los Palos) and 13 in Maliana and 20 surgical procedures, 12 in Baucau and 8 in Maliana. Cleft lip and cleft palate comprised the majority of operations.



A sweet bedtime story

Nusa Tenggara Timur (West Timor)

Halilulik

Dr Brian Miller's surgical team visited Halilulik August 1- 15 at the request of the Director of the Rumah Sakit Marianum, Sr Helma Nahak SSpS. Team members included anaesthetist Dr Mary Brooker, Operating Theatre Sister Cath Coombe, Team Coordinator/Interpreter Dr Fifi Djatmiko and accompanying clinician Dr Harijanto.

Consultations and surgical procedures mainly comprised goitres, head and neck lesions, appendicitis, hernias, burn scar contractures and one large ovarian cyst (9kg). There were 215 consultations and 134 operations performed over the two weeks. Histology on some operative specimens are now being undertaken in Brisbane. The visit was highly productive, smoothly managed and appreciated by all. Excellent progress has been made. The hospital is in desperate need of X-Ray equipment.



The Halilulik surgical team

Naob

From 6 - 12 November, Dr Tim Keenan led an orthopaedic team to Naob. Members of the team included anaesthetist Dr Pat Moran, Dr Harijanto, theatre sister Josie Luke and organiser/interpreter Chriswinda Luisanto.

Some visa problems were experienced on the way into West Timor from Dili.

It was pleasant working in the new theatres. In total, there were

35 consultations and 12 operations. Main operations included foot, leg, arm and hand surgery. It is expected that the demand in the region will grow with the recent completion of the hospital.



You are never too old learn – Tim Keenan instructing Dr Hari

Flores

Cancar

From 3 – 9 July, orthopaedic surgeon Dr Colin Whitewood led a team to St Damian Hospital in Cancar. Team members included anaesthetist Jerome Wisniewski, perioperative nurse Paula Karra, coordinator/ interpreter Dr Olivia Santoso, and physiotherapist Rachele Quiggin.

There were 78 consultations and 26 operations for CTEV (club foot related), fractures, tumours, osteomyelitis and the like. Communication was of a high order through the bilingual talents of Olivia, Rachele and post grad Dr Mario Suwandi, and the organisation by the hospital nuns could not be faulted. Training was a feature of the trip.



Colin Whitewood being suitably rewarded by a grateful father

Cancar and Lela

From 20-27 November. Dr Mark Moore led a plastics surgical team to St Damian and St Rafael

Hospitals in Cancar, and from 28 November – 2 December to Rumah Sakit St Elisabeth in Lela. Members of the team included newly qualified Indonesian plastic surgeon Dr Made Adnyana, anaesthetist Dr Philip Blum, leprosy specialist and coordinator Dr Harijanto, theatre sister Penny Craig and surgeon-in-training Dr Joao Ximenes. There were 183 consultations (115 plastic and 68 general) in Cancar and 14 consultations in Lela. Cleft lip/palate, burns and contractures, excisions and reconstructions dominated the surgery list; 119 operations were conducted in Cancar and 12 in Lela.



Good signalling!

Cancar

From 27 November – 3 December, ENT (ear nose & throat) surgeon Dr Suren Krishnan led a team to St Raphael Hospital in Cancar. Team members included ENT surgeon Michael Switajewski, ENT surgeon and interpreter Mr Desmond Wee, anaesthetist Dr Simon Macklin, nurse Zara Wilkinson and audiometrist Megan Winter.

There were 240 consultations and 43 operations, of which thyroidectomy surgery comprised almost half. Audiometrist Megan Winter and Dr Switajewski conducted hearing tests on a local school for the deaf and identified cases which would benefit from hearing rehabilitation. The visit was well received and there is now a growing waiting list of patients with needs for tonsilectomies, ear surgery, sino-

nasal surgery and head and neck surgery.



Megan Winter with children from the local school for the deaf

Emerging issues requiring attention

Although our surgical teams travel very light with personal luggage the charging by the airlines for excess baggage associated with equipment and consumables is becoming a growing problem.

There were examples of inadequate notification/advertising of impending team visits.

Next Visits

Plans are well advanced for the first half of 2011.

The year kicks off early with a general surgery visit to Halilulik by a team led by Bob Siller. In March, Mark Moore intends to lead a plastics team to East Timor.

Also in March there will be a visit to Cancar by a plastics team led by Rob Coren.

And last but not least, an ENT team visit is planned for Cancar in June.

Acknowledgments

As always we thank the hospitals, service clubs and medical supply companies (including TYCO, Johnson and Johnson, Ultimate Medical and Atlas Healthcare) in Australia for their ongoing support of the teams.

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

To our Indonesian friends – particularly Dr Hari – and officers in the Indonesian Embassy in Darwin.

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.

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

Finally, to you our members who make OSSAA what it is.

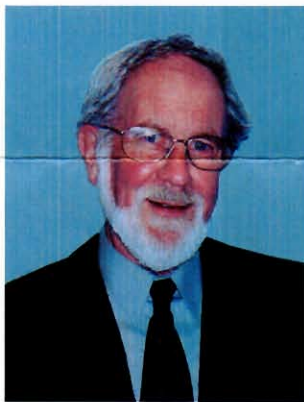
THANK YOU ALL

Coming Events/Fundraising

Planning has commenced for a film fund raiser in the next few months. The Chelsea Cinema has been saved!

Personnel Profile

JOHN RUSSELL
(Past President)



John Russell was born and raised in Adelaide. On completion of his schooling he studied Architecture at Adelaide University, graduating in 1960 with B.Arch(Hons) He worked at the Adelaide office of Commonwealth Dept. Works for 3 years and then left to seek overseas experience in London, travelling with his wife Barbara

for 3 months through India, Pakistan, Iran, the Arab Countries, Israel, and Europe. For most of the time in London, he worked for Architects Co-Partnership on new buildings for the University of Essex.

John and Barbara returned to Adelaide in early 1966, and John joined Russell & Yelland Architecture, a firm started by his father many years earlier. The firm worked mainly in the fields of facilities for Education and Aged Care.

His observations on his trip through the “Third World Countries” en route to London, made him very receptive to the idea of supporting Australian Surgeons offering their services to the very needy peoples immediately north of our very fortunate country.

In Feb. 2002, John became the inaugural President of OSSAA, and has served on the management committee since then.

He is a member of the Rotary Club of Unley, which assisted in the formation and funding of OSSAA.

xx

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Photographic Gallery

TIMOR LESTE

PLASTICS



Another neat job!



A surgical diagnosis of a punctured tyre



MMMMMM!

CANCAR FLORES

PLASTICS



Sweet dreams



An effective means of escaping surgery

ORTHOPAEDIC



A chronic osteomyelitis of the tibia about to be removed



The problem



The solution = i can now walk well!

ENT



Troublesome 1kg thyroid goitre before surgery

HALILULIK WEST TIMOR

GENERAL SURGERY



Teaching hand ventilation technique

NAOB WEST TIMOR

ORTHOPAEDIC



Beautiful!