

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE OVERSEAS SPECIALIST SURGICAL  
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.  
21st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**12 OCTOBER 2023**

I have pleasure in delivering this report for the year ended 30 June 2023

Happy days are here again! After 3 years of inability to travel to our locales due to Covid restrictions, we returned to Timor Leste National Hospital (HNGV) in Dili in November 2022.

### **Team Visits**

On **18-25 November 2022** Dr Mark Moore AM led a team comprising Dr Vani Atluri (plastic and craniofacial specialist), Dr Todd Maddock (anaesthetist), Sr Joy Booth (theatre nurse) and Sr Mary Martinaitis (anaesthetic/recovery nurse) to HNGV. There was a significant backlog of patients. Nearly 300 patients were registered to be seen by our team, 142 of which were assessed and 49 surgical procedures performed, including 34 unilateral and bilateral clefts, 14 cleft palates and 1 skin lesion graft. The expertise of Dr Joao Ximenes in unilateral cleft repair is of the highest order.

On **4-11 March 2023** Dr Mark Moore led a team comprising Dr Matthew Grill (anaesthetist), Sr Vanessa Dittmar (theatre nurse) and Sr Amanda McFall (anaesthetic/recovery nurse) to HNGV. This visit is the 50<sup>th</sup> volunteer surgical team to work in Timor Leste under the OSSAA banner. Over 140 patients were assessed and 59 surgical procedures performed, including 29 unilateral and bilateral clefts, 19 cleft palates and a further 11 operations comprising grafts, revisions and burn contractures. It was good news that Dr Joao Ximenes was selected to further his training in Cuba on a scholarship but at the time of writing this report it is still awaiting finalisation.

**Training** is a key component of OSSAA team visits. While the back log of patients reduced time available for special training sessions, much was achieved 'on the job'. It was pleasing to note the improvement in theatre management under the leadership of Mok Freitas who we kept in touch with during the 3 years of non-travel.

It has been 4 years since the last team visit to eastern Indonesia (Haliluluk, West Timor) in July 2019. An invitation was received for a plastics and reconstructive team to operate at St Damian and St Rafael Hospital in Cancar, Flores NTT in September 2023 and we are booked to go.

*Since OSSAA's establishment in March 2002 there have been 114 trips [50 to Timor Leste and 64, mainly to Indonesia], 13,314 consultations and 5,482 surgical procedures carried out by our volunteer teams.*

### **Event**

Another successful mid-year luncheon was held in July 2023 with guest speakers Dr Mark Moore outlining future OSSAA plans for Timor Leste and Dr Steve Cook providing details of clefts' research in South Australia.

## Donations and Finance

It was a bumper year for donations.....nearly \$103,000. Rosemary Miller donated \$50,000 from the estate of former OSSAA team leader Dr Brian Miller, while Amanda Northridge and Laurie Kennedy were again very generous in their support. We are most grateful to all who have helped in this way.

### Large Donors (\$1000 or more) included:

Rosemary Miller	\$50,000
Amanda Northridge and Lawrie Kennedy	\$39,500
Vickery Family	\$3,160
Dr Mark Moore	\$2,000
Clare Barnes	\$1,500
Zameer Gill	\$1,193
Christine Mossop	\$1,039
Carmel Browne	\$1,000

Donations in Kind were also strong with Johnson and Jonson donating sutures worth over \$53,000, sutures from Ethicon, gloves and anaesthetics from Calvary North Adelaide, gifts from the Hand Knitters Guild, and delivery of goods to Timor Leste by Babcock Helicopters.

The strong donor support enabled us to post a surplus of \$58,787.45 for the year after expending \$44,000 + on overseas team visits.

## Membership

At 30 June 2023 there were 13 corporate members and 55 ordinary members, plus a strong pool of team members. There is an imperative to broaden the support base of OSSAA.

## Committee of Management (COM)

OSSAA has been well served by the Committee which at 30 June 2023 included Vice President Dr Mark Moore AM, Treasurer Stephen Baker, Secretary Donna Fitzgerald, and committee members Patrick Markwick-Smith (Past President), Dr Andrew Wallace, Connie Granozio, Vanessa Dittmar, Mary Martinaitis and Dr Zameer Gill. The Committee of Management met on 4 occasions. Two editions of the OSSAA Newsletter were published during the year with the assistance of Joseph Moore, with printing thereof by the office of Jack Batty MP. Zameer Gill launched our refreshed website.

We maintain our commitment to providing plastic and reconstructive surgery and training in Timor Leste and eastern Indonesia. A request has been received to again provide other surgical disciplines such as orthopaedics in Cancar. This is being examined.

It has been an honour and pleasure to serve as your President over the past twelve months. I feel very privileged to be supported by such a dynamic and knowledgeable committee and thank everyone who has contributed to the well-being of OSSAA over this period.

Joy Booth  
President

12 October 2023