**PRESIDENT’S REPORT TO THE OVERSEAS SPECIALIST SURGICAL**

**ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.**

**22nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**17 OCTOBER 2024**

I have pleasure in delivering this report for the year ended 30 June 2024. It marks the third year as your President, and happily, another year of great achievements.

During the year we had 3 surgical team visits, 2 to Timor Leste (Dili’s national hospital HNGV) and one to Indonesia (St Damian and St Rafael Hospital in Cancar, Flores NTT). It was great to be back in Cancar after an absence of over 4 years.

**Team Visits**

On **1-9 September 2023** Dr Mark Moore AM led a plastic and reconstructive surgery team comprising Dr Andrew Wallace (anaesthetist), Srs Vanessa Dittmar and Josie Luke, Anastasia Stain (coordinator and interpreter) with observer Keagan Wallace to St Damian and St Rafael Hospital in Cancar. The team received an enthusiastic welcome after the absence. There were 193 consultations and 50 surgical procedures performed, comprising 34 clefts, 4 burns contractures, 4 congenital hand/foot and 8 tumours.

Planning was in progress for a larger team visit to Cancar in September 2024 until we were advised that the roof of the operating theatre had caved in. Trips to resume when it has been fixed.

On **2-10 December 2023** Dr Vani Atluri led a plastic and reconstructive surgery team comprising Dr Matthew Grill (anaesthetist) and Srs Joy Booth and Amanda McFall to HNGV, Dili. There were 71 consultations and 36 surgical procedures, comprising 35 clefts and palates, and one skin graft.

On **22-29 June 2024** Dr Mark Moore AM led a plastic and reconstructive surgery team comprising Dr Andrew Wallace (anaesthetist), and Srs Vanessa Dittmar and Lisa Alvino to HNGV, Dili. There were 100 consultations and 51 surgical procedures, comprising 47 clefts and palates, 1 burn contracture, 2 nasal reconstructs and 1 excision.

In September 2023, Dr Walter Flapper conducted a plastics and reconstructive surgery clinic in Manado Indonesia and OSSAA sponsored Sr Cathy Cross.

We remain indebted to the administrators and staff at the Dili and Cancar hospitals who make every effort to enable our visits to run smoothly and productively. Special thanks go to Dr Joao Ximenes, who has strongly progressed his surgical skills, and Mok Freitas, operating theatre nurse coordinator, for their continuing organisational support at HNGV. Our training of medical and hospital staff is dividend rich.

*Since OSSAA’s establishment in March 2002 there have been 117 trips [52 to Timor Leste and 65, mainly to Indonesia], 12,678 consultations and 5,624 surgical procedures carried out by our volunteer teams.*

**Event**

The annual luncheon in July 2023 featured Dr Mark Moore AM outlining future OSSAA plans for Timor Leste and Dr Steve Cook providing details of clefts’ research in South Australia. Alex Jonson and Stephen Baker were awarded Honorary Membership for their service since OSSAA’s inception in 2002. Alex has since died. He is remembered with great affection.

**Donations and Finance**

Over $66,000 was donated during the year, with Amanda Northridge and Laurie Kennedy again major contributors. The Order of St John Knights of Malta donated $5,000 to purchase anaesthetic monitoring equipment. We are most grateful to everyone who assisted.

Large Donors ($1000 or more) included:

Amanda Northridge and Lawrie Kennedy $43,000

Order of St John $5,000

Dr Zameer Gill $4,290

Vickery Family $3,000

Dr Mark Moore $1,500

Carmel Browne $1,000

Tony Lake $1,000

Donations in Kind were of considerable assistance. They included sterile gloves from Ansell, filters and circuits from Medtronic, sutures from Johnson and Johnson and Ethicon, and handwash from Ego Pharmaceutical. SA hospitals where our team members work were helpful and accommodating.

Donor support enabled us to post a surplus of $11,407.80 for the year after expending close to $60,000 on overseas surgical team visits.

**Membership**

At 30 June 2024 there were 13 corporate members and 44 ordinary members, plus a strong pool of team members. There remains 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 2024 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. A spring/summer edition (number 44) of the OSSAA Newsletter was published. I was pleased to present a podcast through the Central Adelaide Local Health Network about OSSAA’s work to mark International Nurses Day in May.

We maintain our commitment to provide plastic and reconstructive surgery and training in Timor Leste and eastern Indonesia.

It has been an honour and pleasure to serve as your President over the past three years, and a wonderful opportunity to gain insight into the background work that occurs to support our trips. I feel very privileged and grateful to have been supported and guided throughout my time as president by the committee. OSSAA is fortunate to have an engaged and dynamic committee that has the enthusiasm to take OSSAA onwards. I thank everyone who has contributed to the well-being of OSSAA over this period and I look forward to continuing to assist OSSAA and the new President.

Joy Booth

President 17 October 2024