

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE OVERSEAS SPECIALIST SURGICAL  
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.  
13th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**15 OCTOBER 2015**

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with pleasure that I present this report to the 13th Annual General Meeting of the Overseas Specialist Surgical Association of Australia.

Before reviewing activities for the year I would like to look at notable developments arising from issues foreshadowed in last year's report.

### **Indonesia**

It is now clear that, for the time being at least, OSSAA will not continue to make surgical visits to Indonesia. The requirements that face non-Indonesian surgical organisations are such that continued activity is as good as impossible. Indeed, it seems that OSSAA and others have been in inadvertent breach of Indonesian requirements for the last few years. While all indications indicate that OSSAA is highly thought of and its activities deeply appreciated in those places of eastern Indonesia where OSSAA has been active, the Indonesian authorities have committed themselves to providing universal health care from within their own resources.

### **The Challenge Ahead**

OSSAA's expert and dedicated surgical teams have performed thousands of life changing/saving operations and trained hundreds of doctors and medical staff in Indonesia since the inception of OSSAA. New opportunities are being sought within developing countries in the region to help those most in need.

The RACS supported visits to Timor Leste have ceased but with less impact on OSSAA. This is because, as foreshadowed last year, we have taken over the funding previously covered by RACS. Although the significant reduction of expenditure from ceasing activities in eastern Indonesia has assisted OSSAA in this respect, it would be remiss of me not to mention the continuing generosity of those who make considerable donations to us; and acknowledge the work of our management committee – in particular the fund-raising activities of vice-president Doug Omond.

### **Administration**

There have been changes in administration arrangements. OSSAA welcomes Donna Fitzgerald as its part-time administration manager. Donna brings a background in nursing (cardiac and theatre) and experience in landscape design and the building industry to the task. She has already made considerable progress in tidying up OSSAA's records and paperwork.

Perhaps the main area of concern in OSSAA's administration remains the lack of a coordinated and IT driven membership and fund-raising data base. This is a task that the

new committee and the next president, Stephen Baker, should tackle – and I would hope with greater success than I have been able to achieve.

### **Re-invigoration**

This has been an ongoing process and has yielded some positive results. As well our refreshed public face, letterhead, brochure, the newsletter and website our attractive new design has been accompanied by developments in adopting Paypal as a payment option.

### **Recognition**

The Romeo family of Romeo's Foodland stores have been long-standing and generous supporters of OSSAA. Their support was recognised at the annual fund-raising luncheon at Glenelg Golf Club on 21<sup>st</sup> June at which His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AO was Guest Speaker. His Excellency gave a memorable address that included a most moving account of his arrival in Australia by boat as a refugee.

**Medical teams:** The dedication and commitment of our medical teams is what OSSAA's reputation is built on. The management committee and membership join me in appreciation and recognition of their work.

### **Team Visits:**

The Committee had determined that there should be two Plastics trips to East Timor each year, primarily to Dili and Baucau. For various reasons, only 1 trip was undertaken in 2014/15. Dr Yugesh Caplash led a team comprising anaesthetist Dr Pat Moran, Dr Nick Smith and Sister Liz Mazzei to Baucau in November 2014 and 35 consultations and 23 operations were performed.

Since OSSAA's establishment in March 2002, 97 trips, 11,199 consultations and 4,851 surgical procedures have been carried out.

### **Publicity:**

Two editions of the OSSAA Newsletter were published during the year. Thanks are again due to the office of Vickie Chapman MP for printing the newsletter.

### **Fundraising:**

Fundraising during the year netted \$17,460 which was a pleasing result. This fundraising together with the reduction of trips contributed to an overall surplus for the year of almost \$12,000. With the lower level of activity, donations and donations in kind were less than in previous years.

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

Clare Barnes	\$1,500
M Hill	\$1,000
Dr Todd Maddock	\$1,400
Richmond Lions Club	\$2,000
Rotary Club of Unley	\$1,000

Connie Granozio and The Operating Theatre Staff held special fundraising events from which OSSAA was richly rewarded.

Others who have provided assistance to OSSAA include:

Calvary Hospital  
Office of Vickie Chapman MP  
Romeo's Foodland  
Royal Australian College of Surgeons  
The Box Factory (and Adelaide City Council)  
Vilis  
Wallis Theatre (Bob Parr OAM)

**Membership:**

At 30 June there were 22 financial corporate members, 112 ordinary members, and 43 team members (of which 6 were also ordinary members).

**Successful Events**

The 2015 mid-year luncheon was held 21<sup>st</sup> June at the Glenelg Golf Club with His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AO as Guest Speaker. At the luncheon honorary life membership was awarded to the Romeo family in recognition of their long-standing and generous support to OSSAA.

In August 2014 we had the screening of 'The 100 Foot Journey' and in March 2015 'The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel' at Wallis Cinema Mitcham; both events were well attended.

**Committee of Management (COM)**

The COM met 8 times (on the third Thursday of the month) in 2014/15. The COM remains vigilant on compliance with Australian State and Federal Government rules and regulations relating to operation of charities. Inaugural President John Russell retired, and Sue Freeman, and Dr Todd Maddock left the Committee at the 2014 AGM due to pressures of work. Lorraine Venables resigned in July 2014. Donna Fitzgerald started as administration manager in July 2015.

**Thanks**

We thank everyone who has helped during a year which has been challenging. OSSAA has again been well served by the Committee of Management comprising Vice Presidents Dr Mark Moore AM and Doug Omond OAM, Secretary Stephen Baker, Treasurer Alex Jonson, Margaret Maloney, Barbara Flaum, Helen van der Jeugd, and Dr Andrew Wallace. Thank you one and all.

Patrick Markwick-Smith  
President