

NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer 2023 Vol. 44

In March and September,
we have achieved...

333+

consultations

109

surgical procedures

Since March 2002,
we have achieved...

115

trips

13,507

consultations

5532

surgical procedures

TIMOR-LESTE

On 4-11 March 2023, Dr Mark Moore AM led a team comprising anaesthetist Dr Matthew Grill, theatre nurse Vanessa Dittmar and anaesthetic/recovery nurse Amanda McFall to the Guide Valadares National Hospital (HGNV).

This visit was the 50th volunteer surgical team to work in Timor-Leste under the OSSAA banner – a golden moment. 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.



FLORES, INDONESIA

It was great to be invited to return to Cancar. Four years had elapsed since our last plastic and reconstructive team visit to St Rafael & St Damian Hospital. Dr Mark Moore again led the team comprising anaesthetist Dr Andrew Wallace, theatre nurse Vanessa Dittmar, anaesthetic and recovery nurse Josephine Luke and co-ordinator/interpreter Ms Anastasia Stain.

There were 193 consultations and 50 operations, including 34 clefts, four burn

contractures, four congenital hand/foot repairs and eight tumours/masses.

OTHER NEWS

At our AGM on 12 October, the OSSAA committee of President Joy Booth, 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 were re-elected. The 2022/23 financial year saw a further strengthening of the organisation's finances with large donations from Rosemary Miller out of the estate of former OSSAA team leader Dr Brian Miller and from long term benefactors Amanda Northridge and Lawrie Kennedy.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Since our last newsletter there have been two surgical team visits – the first to Dili, Timor-Leste in March 2023 and the second to Cancar, Flores (eastern Indonesia) in September 2023. Both were an outstanding success and a third trip for the year is planned for December. I would encourage our supporters to look at our updated website to see our team reports at ossaainc.org.au. Following every trip, a team report is posted on the website providing a comprehensive overview of team activities. Looking back at previous reports highlights how much progress has been made by our teams in regard to providing education and training that has been adopted and sustained locally. It is wonderful to see that patient care and clinical practice is continuing to improve with every visit and that our local nursing and medical counterparts are enthusiastic and engaged with practice improvement. Training continues to underpin all OSSAA trips as a key focus.



Alex Jonson & Dr Mark Moore



Dr Steve Cook & Joy Booth

Our annual luncheon in July was another great success, with speakers Dr Mark Moore and Dr Steve Cook. It was a privilege to acknowledge long-standing committee members Alex Jonson and Stephen Baker for their many years of outstanding contribution to the management of OSSAA. Stephen and Alex have worked tirelessly to place OSSAA in a strong financial position with well-managed business processes firmly in place.

The committee is already planning for next year; we have a great mix of experience, corporate knowledge and enthusiasm within the committee so stay tuned for upcoming events.

We are grateful for your ongoing support and generous donations that enable OSSAA to remain financially equipped to continue sending teams and much needed supplies to Timor-Leste. Our focus for the coming year is to increase our membership – looking to the future, it is imperative that we broaden the support base of OSSAA, so please share our fundraising events with friends.

I hope you all have an enjoyable holiday period and are able to find some time for rest and recovery in preparation for the year ahead. Please have a safe and enjoyable festive season. Ho ho ho!

Joy Booth
OSSAA President

CONTACT

Website: ossaainc.org.au
Post: PO Box 138, UNLEY SA 5061
ABN: 24 682 034 669

Secretary/Admin Officer:
Donna Fitzgerald
Tel: 0417 314 010
Email: dfossaa@adam.com.au

