

A Word from the President

Plastic and reconstructive surgery trips are continuing well. Dr Yugesh Caplash led his team to Baucau, Timor Leste in November 2018, while Dr Mark Moore led his team to Cancar, Flores NTT in March of this year.

Our **annual luncheon** is now to be held on **Sunday 25 August** at Glenelg Golf Club.....see attachment. **Excellent food and a great day guaranteed.**

Congratulations to Joy Booth and Marg Maloney who both received a Humanitarian Award presented by the Hon Stephen Wade MLC Minister for Health and Wellbeing and Ms Jenifer Hurley Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer SA Health at the 2019 South Australian Nursing and Midwifery Excellence awards. Joy and Marg. The award recognises nurses who give back to their local or global community, are inspirational, selfless, caring and compassionate in what they do.



In recognition of, and as a **memorial** to Doug and Terry Omond, a scholarship is being awarded each year to a worthy doctor, nurse or allied health worker. The scholarship will enable them to be part of an OSSAA team visit. This year speech therapist Celina Lai from Darwin is the recipient – congratulations Celina.

All our surgical team members make holiday sacrifices. They are not immune from catching gastro. Hospital equipment can be problematic. And some of the non-surgery circumstances faced can be confronting. Dr Yugesh Caplash swore after his last trip to Baucau that he would never travel that appalling excuse for a road (Dili – Baucau) again. In the recent visit to Cancar, parts of the road had been washed away....the trip there and back took much longer and was hairy: not for the faint hearted!

We are on the hunt for new members and the strengthening of our finances to enable more trips with a broader range of surgery, training of a new generation and a deepening of our patient support services. Hope you can help – we need your support!

Patrick Markwick-Smith

Baucau, Timor Leste

From 17 -23 November 2018 Dr Yugesh Caplash led a plastics surgical team comprising anaesthetists Dr David McLeod and Dr Brigid Brown, the nursing team of Liz Mazzei and Jacqueline Price, with accompanying medical student Gayatri Caplash. The counterpart surgeon was again plastic surgery trainee Joao Ximenes.

During the week there were 52 consultations and 33 operations, comprising 26 cleft and palate repairs, and 5 burns related treatments.



Baucau hospital continues to issue challenges in that the main road from Dili is invariably difficult to navigate, hospital staff have little English, there is insufficient staff allocated for assisting (and learning) in the theatre, and often zero staff for recovery. Having the second nurse and the medical student was a bonus as they were able to recover the patients post operatively as well as help with the packing of instrumentation and autoclaving.



A highlight of the trip was being able to successfully repair the cleft and palate of Anna aged 18 who suffers from a heart defect which was first diagnosed in 2004.



Anna with Liz

And who get the best of attention?



The Baucau team....rightly very pleased!



OSSAA thanks Calvary Hospital, RAH, Ethicon, and Surgical & Medical for donating medical supplies.

Cancar, Flores NTT

From 8 -16 March 2019, Dr Mark Moore led a plastics surgical team to St Damian and St Rafael hospital. The team comprised plastic surgeon Dr Vani Prasad Atluri, anaesthetists Dr Andrew Wallace and Dr Matthew Grill, theatre nurse Vanessa Dittmar, recovery nurse Amanda McFall and coordinator/interpreter Ms Anastasia Stain. Surgical registrar Dr Steve Cook attended as an observer.

The trip was hampered by serious road erosion from heavy rain which made the journey to and from Cancar more hazardous, longer and also prevented some patients from attending. Despite this, there were 68 consultations and 39 operations:



- clefts 16
- burns 6
- tumours and lesions 9
- hand and foot repairs 5
- other 3

Effort is being made to source an orthopaedic surgery team to meet the high demand there.



7 month old infant with bilateral cleft and palate

10 year old girl with haemangioma of the upper lip, treated by wedge excision



Happy OSSAA team, counterparts and theatre staff



Future Trips this Year

24 May – 1 June Dr Mark Moore to Dili
 26 July – 3 August Dr Mark Moore to Halilulik
 November Dr Yugesh Calpash to Baucau or Suai

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