

Vol 45  
Summer 2024/25

*Since our last newsletter we have undertaken, across three trips:*

**225**  
consultations

**111**  
surgical  
procedures

*Since March 2002 we have achieved...*

**118**  
trips

**12,729**  
consultations

**5648**  
surgical  
procedures

## Timor-Leste

### Dili

On **2-10 December 2023** Dr Vani Atluri led a plastic and reconstructive surgery team comprising Dr Matthew Grill (anaesthetist) and Srs Joy Booth (OSSAA President) 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.

### Baucau

On **31 August – 7 September 2024** Dr Vani Atluri led a plastic and reconstructive surgery team comprising anaesthetists Dr Matthew Grill and Dr Ryan Breslin with Srs Joy Booth and Amanda McFall to Baucau Regional Hospital. There were 54 consultations and 24 cleft and palate surgical procedures.



*During all these trips there has been a strong focus on training and capacity building of local clinical and hospital staff.*

## Other news

Dr Joao Ximenes, an East Timorese trainee plastic and reconstructive surgeon who has been mentored by Dr Mark Moore for some years, is now in Cuba for his final years of study with OSSAA's support through the John Hargrave scholarship.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At our Annual General Meeting in October 2024, I was honoured to be elected President of OSSAA for the 2024/25 term, succeeding Joy Booth, who served with dedication and excellence over the past three years.

A bit about me: I've been an anaesthetist for 12 years, working primarily at the Women's and Children's Hospital, the Royal Adelaide Hospital (until 2021), and various private hospitals in Adelaide. I joined OSSAA in 2013 and have since been part of nine OSSAA surgical teams, with missions to Halilulik and Cancar in Indonesia and Dili in Timor-Leste.

The pandemic created a backlog of reconstructive surgeries, especially for cleft lips and palates, and we are committed to increasing our visits to address this need. Since we last wrote, OSSAA teams have completed three trips to Timor-Leste: two to the national hospital in Dili (December 2023 and June 2024) and one to the regional hospital in Baucau in September 2024, with plans to return to Baucau in 2025. Unfortunately, a planned visit to St. Rafael and St. Damian Hospital in Cancar had to be postponed when the operating theatre roof collapsed shortly before our July visit. The roof has since been repaired, and we're on track to be back there in early February 2025.

Beyond our trips, we've seen significant progress thanks to generous donations and new surgical and anaesthesia equipment acquisitions. We're grateful for the support of companies namely Ansel, Medtronic, Johnson & Johnson, Ethicon, and Ego Pharmaceutical, all of which have helped provide consumables and equipment. Financially, OSSAA is on solid footing, thanks in large part to the continued support of our major sponsors, Amanda and Lawrie Kennedy, and several other generous donors. The mid-year luncheon in August was a great success, with South Australian of the Year Tim Jarvis as our featured speaker.

The 2024/25 OSSAA committee elected in October 2024 includes Dr Mark Moore (Vice President), newly appointed Vice President Connie Granozio, Donna Fitzgerald (Secretary), Stephen Baker (Treasurer), Joy Booth (Immediate Past President), and members Patrick Markwick-Smith, Vanessa Dittmar, Dr Zameer Gill, and Mary Martinaitis.

Looking ahead, my goal is to build on OSSAA's mission by expanding our base of supporters and team members to enable additional impactful trips.

Best wishes for a successful 2025. Warm Regards.

**Dr Andrew Wallace**  
OSSAA President



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