

NEWSLETTER

Vol 42: May 2022

FIELD UPDATE

Our Timor Leste partner, Dr Joao Ximenes, has over the past month been able to continue to perform cleft lip repairs.

He has been able to complete about six cases using sutures and other consumables which were provided by OSSAA.

RETURN CONFIRMED

We have been able to confirm our teams will be able to return to Dili in November.

We will resume in-person teaching and will assist with the backlog of new and more challenging cleft lip and palate cases which have built up over the past two years.

It's expected we will treat between 50 and 100 cases.

- OSSAA Team

OSSAA MID-YEAR LUNCHEON

The OSSAA Mid-Year Luncheon is once again upon us and, following a stirring and insightful presentation by Dr Richard 'Harry' Harris SC OAM at last year's event, this year we welcome Her Excellency, the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, as our guest speaker at the **17 July 2022** fundraiser.



Her Excellency, The Hon. Frances Adamson AC
36th Governor of South Australia

Her Excellency is a proud sixth-generation South Australian who studied economics at the University of Adelaide. While there, she became the first female captain of the rowing club in its 103 year history. She went on to join the Commonwealth Department of Foreign Affairs in 1985, working in Hong Kong during the early years of China's reform and opening, eventually becoming Australia's Ambassador to China from 2011-2015.

In 2016, Her Excellency was appointed Head of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, pursuing Australia's interests as world powers shifted and the Covid-19 pandemic took hold. She also led the department through a period of cultural change, encouraging more women into senior ranks.

She has been International Adviser to the Prime Minister and Chief of Staff to the Foreign Minister and the Defence Minister.

In June 2021, Her Excellency was made a Companion of the Order of Australia for eminent service to public administration through the advancement of Australia's diplomatic, trade and cultural interests – particularly with the People's Republic of China and the Indo-Pacific region – as well as innovative foreign policy development and high program delivery.

(Biography provided by Government House, South Australia)



TEAM PROFILE: DONNA FITZGERALD

Our secretary & admin officer Donna Fitzgerald lives with her family in the

Adelaide Hills on five acres of red stringybark using remote sensing techniques". Donna is proud to be associated with OSSAA, knowing that in some small way she is helping others less fortunate, to improve their futures and expand their horizons through education and support from our teams.

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OSSAA Secretary
Donna Fitzgerald

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is with great delight that I can announce that OSSAA has awarded the inaugural John Hargrave Scholarship to Cornelio Maria Mok Freitas.

The Hargrave scholarship has been awarded to Mok, who has worked with OSSAA Team Members for many years to improve the standards of surgical care in Dili, Timor-Leste. The Hargrave Scholarship will assist Mok in continuing to strive for excellence through example and in seeking future leadership roles within the surgical team environment.

As an interim measure, the award was sent electronically to Mok. However, I look forward to our first team travelling to Dili in the not too distant future so the award can be presented in person. Mok will utilise the scholarship to complete his Bachelor's degree in Nursing, which is the stepping-stone for nursing leadership positions. OSSAA is proud to be able to support Mok with his ongoing studies and we wish him every success in acquiring this valuable education and experience. Mok has been recognised as having the skills, drive and dedication to be a future nursing leader in East Timor and I have no doubt that on completing his degree he will move into leadership roles and continue to improve health outcomes for the people of East Timor.

Our annual luncheon at the Glenelg Golf club is fast approaching and the committee is delighted to announce that our guest speaker is the South Australian Governor, Her Excellency Frances Adamson AC. The luncheon is our major fundraiser for the year and the committee looks forward to sharing the day with OSSAA supporters.

Our new committee members have already made an impact and have been working on updating our online presence which we look forward to sharing with you all soon.

It is with sadness that three key friends of OSSAA have recently been farewelled, namely Dr Brian Miller, Dr Bill Gilmour and Bob Parr. All will be sadly missed and remembered for their contributions to OSSAA.



We are grateful for your support and your generous donations, which have enabled OSSAA to remain financially well equipped to provide ongoing support. Whether it be in person, through scholarships or through the purchase of much needed supplies, you have helped us continue to help our colleagues and patients in Timor-Leste and Indonesia. At this stage we anticipate that we should be recommencing surgical visits to Timor-Leste with a tentative date scheduled for November.

We're looking forward to seeing you on July 17th.

Cheers,

Joy Booth
OSSAA President

Obituaries

Dr William (Bill) Gilmour AM

Bill was a Perth based orthopaedic surgeon, colleague and friend of Dr Tim Keenan who joined OSSAA teams in Cancar, Flores on several occasions.

His prior experience and knowledge of treating patients with poliomyelitis in the 1950s gave him a wealth of knowledge and expertise when assessing and managing some of the complex limb deformities in patients we see at Cancar, which he readily shared with the younger doctors and physiotherapists there.

It was a pleasure to spend time in his company and absorb some of the pearls of wisdom he had to offer about these challenging clinical problems. He died in December 2021.

*Contributed by Dr Mark Moore AM
OSSAA Vice-President
& Team Leader*

Dr Brian Miller AM



Associate Professor Brian Miller from Queensland will be remembered for mentoring and inspiring countless medical trainees over decades of dedication to clinical training.

He led nine general surgery OSSAA teams into West Timor - locales included Kefamenanu, Soe, Larantuka, and Halilulik.

He and his teams accomplished more than 1600 consultations and 700 operations, often in challenging circumstances.

Dr Miller became a member of the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2012 for service to medicine and trauma education as a mentor and through his contributions to improved surgical techniques. He lost his battle with a medical illness on 1 October 2021.

Bob Parr OAM



Bob was a cinema legend in Adelaide.

He and former OSSAA Vice President, the late Doug Omond, combined their talents to provide great fundraising film events.

After a protracted battle with cancer, he died in March 2022.

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