

Operation Smile Australia



Newsletter – Volume 1, 2012

An official publication of OSA



Lions announce two year extension of our joint project.

– read more on page 2.



A CRANIOFACIAL CENTRE FOR DAVAO!



Operation Smile Australia in conjunction with Operation Smile Philippines and OSP, Davao Chapter conducted a Craniofacial & Educational Mission in Davao in March. This is the first of a planned 5 missions to this new site.

Sponsorships of \$20,000 came from The Portland House Foundation and \$10,000 from the Lions Australia project and this enabled our team of 11 Australians and 2 New Zealand medical volunteers to participate in the ten day mission.

During this mission, our team screened 36 children and young adults with 9 being scheduled for surgery during this mission. Most of our patients had frontal encephaloceles, a condition where abnormal brain tissue herniates through into the face and occurs before birth.

Since 1999, under our World Care Program, OSA has brought 32 children and young adults to Brisbane for surgery – 15 of these have come from the Davao area.

During the screening, we were able to catch up with some of those patients. Jon, one of our very early patients was only 4 when he came to Brisbane in 2001, while Frits arrived in 2004 and Rubelyn came to Brisbane in 2006.



Upcoming Events

Saturday 14 July

**ANNUAL CHARITY RACE DAY
DOOMBEN RACE COURSE**

from 11.30am

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL!

September 30 - October 6

HANOI

CRANIOFACIAL MISSION

Tuesday 6 November

MELBOURNE CUP LUNCH

Proudly supported by

PULSE TRAVEL

Melbourne Hotel, West End

November 7-19

THE JOURNEY HOME

Cleft Lip & Cleft Palate Mission

the Philippines

For bookings or information

Please call: (07) 3163 2866

or email: events@operationsmile.com.au

OPERATION SMILE AUSTRALIA

Operation Smile Australia is now on Facebook!

Please 'like' our page Operation Smile Australia and share with your friends.

You can also follow us on twitter

<https://twitter.com/#!/OpSmileAust>

Via these pages we will keep you up to date with upcoming events, missions and share the most recent pictures.

Thank you for your continued support!



Message from the Founder

As the co-founder of OSA, nothing gives me more pleasure than to see one of our long term objectives come to fruition. The Craniofacial mission to Davao in March was exactly that. For over 15 years, I have been treating children from the Philippines with Encephaloceles. This is a condition where brain bulges through their faces. Needless to say, all of these children could not have had their deformities repaired in their home towns – that is until now. March saw the establishment of the first Craniofacial centre for the treatment of these severe deformities in Davao, the Philippines. Australian and New Zealand volunteers worked alongside their local counterparts to treat 9 children in one week. Not only did the locals screen these patients but they performed surgery, looked after them post-operatively and continued their follow-up well after we had left. Their devotion to see this project succeed has made all of us at OSA very proud indeed. My personal thanks goes out to everyone who has been a part of this long term relationship – especially JoJo Cembrano – the Davao mover and shaker. Without him and his energetic team, none of this would have been possible. We all look forward to seeing Davao blossom to self sufficiency over the next five years.

Richard Lewandowski

A CRANIOFACIAL CENTRE FOR DAVAO!

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Two of our most recent patients, Genford from 2010 and Neil in 2011 looked fantastic and were very happy to catch up with Dr Lewandowski.

Our team led by OSA Co-Founder and Brisbane Plastic Surgeon, Dr Richard Lewandowski was made up of fellow Australians, Anaesthetist Dr Jason Schoutrop, Paediatric Intensivist Dr Julie McEnery and nurses Sandy Achurch, Alexia Brook, Julie Franich, Peter Langbridge, Natalie Snide, Sue Pitman and Lydia Warner.

New Zealanders, Plastic Surgeon Dr Jonathan Wheeler and Neurosurgeon Dr Agadha Wickremesekera and OSA's Medical Project Officer, Anne Kelly completed the team.

OSA would like to thank all the volunteers who participated in this mission and to the team from Brokenshire Hospital in Davao – Dr Joselito Rosauo Cembrano and Ms Priscilla Custodio from the OSP Davao Chapter and Mr Roberto Manzano from OSP.

We were also fortunate to be joined on this mission by Photographer Peter Stuckings and Videographer Jason Eng – some of Peter's images appear with this story.

Our special thanks to the following medical companies who donated supplies for the mission – 3M, Abbott, Ansell, Astrazeneca, B Braun, Becton Dickenson, Conva Tec, Cook Medical, Covidien, EBOS, Elite Medical, GE Healthcare, Hemocue, Hoyland Medical, Johnson & Johnson Medical, Kimberley Clark, Medical & Optical, Multigate, Smith & Nephew, Stryker and Synthes.



LIONS UPDATE

NATIONAL CONVENTION

At our National Convention, which was held in Perth in early May this year, Lions, Lioness and Leo Clubs throughout Australia, approved the proposed two year extension of this wonderful Lions Project.

This means that Lions Club International here in Australia, recognise and understand the ongoing need and importance of helping as many children as possible afflicted by either a cleft lip, cleft palate and/or a craniofacial disfigurement.

It is proposed to conduct a new nationwide Lions Australia Operation Smile Appeal in the very near future to seek more funds to support the work of Operation Smile Australia over the next two years.

If we, as members of the Lions family throughout Australia can improve the quality of life of any child afflicted by either a cleft lip; cleft palate; or , craniofacial disfigurement it must surely be rewarding in the sense that we, as Lions, have improved the quality of life of that child.

Could I please ask you all, as members the Lions family, to encourage your Clubs to continue to support the great work of Operation Smile Australia.

Yours in Lionism and Community Service ,

David Floyd

Chairman.

Lions Australia Operation Smile Project.

A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES!

Supporters of OSA again gathered at the Dendy Portside for a charming night out! After another fabulous supper organised by OSA's Norma Caton, our guests enjoyed a laugh or two while watching *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* starring Maggie Smith, Judy Dench and Bill Nighy

The story is about British retirees who travel to India to take up residence in what they believe is a newly restored hotel. Less luxurious than its advertisements, the Marigold Hotel nevertheless slowly begins to charm in unexpected ways.

A huge thank you to our sponsors – Bevco, Boardroom Café, Cakes by Judy C, Ki Bar Café, Swiss Gourmet Café and Wine 'M & Dine 'M.

Thank you also to our volunteers, Danni and Rebecca – your help is always appreciated.

Miss Universe Australia



Operation Smile Australia is delighted to announce that their first official charity Ambassador will be the upcoming winner of the 2012 Miss Universe Australia.

OSA's Heather Howard was invited onto the judging panel for the Queensland Finals at Jupiters in May, where 7 finalists were chosen to go through to the Australian final in June.

The Australian Final and Crowning Ceremony will be held at Sofitel Melbourne on Collins in Melbourne on 8 June. Shortly after the crowning, Miss Universe Australia will travel to a mission site in the Asia region to see first-hand, the work done by Operation Smile Australia medical volunteers.

For more information on Miss Universe Australia, visit their website - <http://www.missuniverseaustralia.com.au>

SUPPORT FROM THE LUCRF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP TRUST

In December 2011, OSA was invited to submit an application for funding under the LUCRF Community Partnership Trust Grant initiative.

We are now very pleased to announce that funding under this scheme has been approved for a team of 10 Australian medical volunteers to participate in an international cleft lip and cleft palate mission to the Philippines in November 2012. This mission, 'The Journey Home' celebrates the 30th anniversary of Operation Smile which first started in Naga City in 1982.

The Labour Union Co-operative Retirement Fund (LUCRF) was established in 1978 as Australia's first industry super fund, to provide a benefit to working people. LUCRF's main focus has traditionally been blue collar employees, however over time, has attracted a broad range of members and grown into a diverse fund.

The LUCRF Community Partnership Trust serves as a unique opportunity for LUCRF to engage with the communities in which members live and work. The Trust forms a partnership with employers, employees and members who pledge their support through a Workplace Giving Program or a one-off contribution. These contributions are then given back to the community through support for a range of different programs, such as our Philippines trip later this year. Through these initiatives, the fund aims to further develop positive and sustainable relationships that extend beyond a transactional nature. It is evident that LUCRF's core values of integrity, respect for people, innovation, transparency and accountability are forefront of any partnership arrangement.

OSA is very grateful to secure this grant of \$20,000 and is proud to be partnering with LUCRF Community Partnership Trust in the sponsorship of the Australian team for this Philippines mission.

Volunteers are currently being confirmed and an update will appear in our next newsletter.





KangaNews Awards Night

eye in the ballroom after Jeff Brunton, Vice Chairman of Operation Smile Australia, spoke about Operation Smile and how \$300 can change a child's life. The humour turned competitive between the tables, until in the end there was an unprecedented total of \$70,037 raised or 234 smiles.

KangaNews (www.kanganews.com) holds an awards ceremony each year which honours businesses and individuals in the Australasian debt markets based purely on peer votes. Because of the broad input from genuine market participants, KangaNews believes that their annual awards are the best and fairest

recognition of excellence that exists in the Australasian debt markets.

Each year KangaNews selects one charitable organisation to sponsor during the awards ceremony. This year, Operation Smile Australia (www.australia.operationsmile.org) was delighted to be selected for the nomination. After the tremendous success of the night's fundraising, KangaNews requested that Operation Smile Australia be the nominated charity for the 2013 awards night. Operation Smile Australia will be able to fund an entire mission from the one night's charitable contributions and will dedicate the mission to KangaNews.

They say that money does not buy happiness, but on the night of 21 March 2012 at the KangaNews Awards ceremony in Sydney, it was all smiles. The evening was fun from the get go, with Jean Kittson presenting the evening, but there was not a dry

2013 CYCLE FOR A SMILE

Change lives one smile at a time: join the 2013 Cycle for a Smile.

Calling all cyclists! How would you like to test your fitness cycling the rural back-roads of Cambodia – all while raising funds for Operation Smile? Sound like your sort of challenge?

Departing in February 2013, Cycle for a Smile is a 12-day cycling challenge that will take you from Phnom Penh, to Cambodia's secluded south coast and on to the temples of Angkor.

Cycling really is the best way to discover Cambodia. When you travel on two wheels, you get the chance to meet local people and see the little things that many tourists miss – undiscovered

temples, rice paddies dotted with sugar palms, local markets filled with everything you could imagine and many things you couldn't!

You'll also have the opportunity to see first-hand the kind of work your fundraising will support, when you visit an Operation Smile medical mission in Phnom Penh.

You won't be doing it alone. Inspired Adventures will provide the guidance and support to raise the funds to cover your costs, to help meet your fundraising goal and prepare you mentally and physically for your journey. You'll make a bunch of new friends and a lifetime of memories.

Contact Sophie to find out more

Phone: 1300 905 188

Email: sophie@inspiredadventures.com.au

Visit: www.inspiredadventures.com.au/cycleforasmile

Fast Facts

Dates:	23 February – 5 March 2013
Registration fee:	\$700.
Fundraising target:	\$3,250 (doesn't include travel)
Travel cost:	\$3,550 + approx. \$440 in taxes (can be fundraised)
Trip duration:	12 days
Physical activity:	7 days cycling
Challenge grade:	3/5
Accommodation:	3 star hotels

Highlights

Cycling through friendly villages and towns on the rural back-roads of Cambodia.

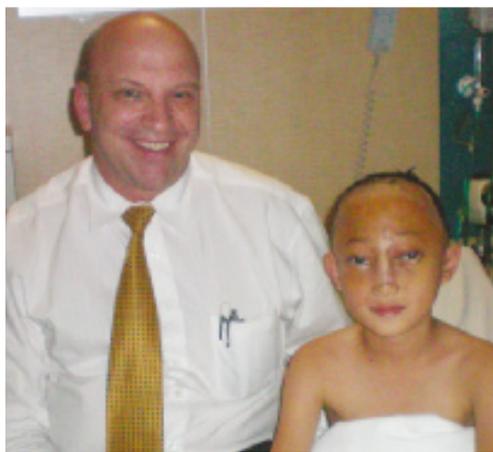
Witnessing sunrise at Angkor Wat and cycling to atmospheric temples hidden deep in the Cambodian jungle.

Visiting an Operation Smile medical mission to see first-hand how you are making a difference to the lives of the children.

Raising funds for Operation Smile's 2013 medical mission to Cambodia, to treat children with severe, yet rectifiable facial deformities.



Help change the life of a child



Name:

Address:

Email:

Please accept my donation of
\$20 \$50 \$100

other amount \$ _____

Please find my cheque to Operation Smile Australia enclosed or my debit card
Visa Mastercard

Name:

Card Number:

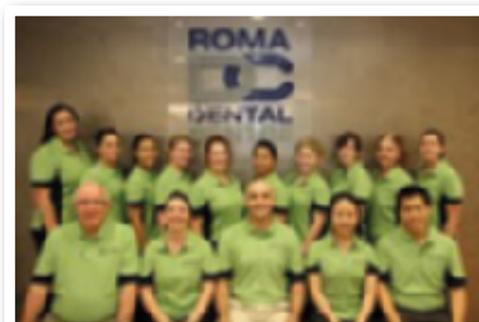
Expiry: ____

Signature

Or visit:
www.ourcommunity.com.au/operationsmile

BITS AND BITES

A big thank you to the wonderful staff at Roma Dental – staff are encouraged to participate in their 'free dress Fridays' – \$2.00 is paid for the privilege, with donations coming to OSA.

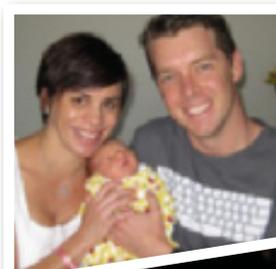


And a big welcome to –

OSA volunteers, Courtney & Dan Allan (now based in Darwin) welcomed their first child, Audrey Francis into the world on 26 November.

Kate Cogill & Geoff Bianchi followed on 2 May with their first child, Charlie George.

Both babies and parents are all well and we send them our congratulations.



Easter Treat

Rachel McKenzie from Babee Blocks made these 2 beautiful bunnies and held a mini auction on her facebook page www.facebook.com/babeeblocks. Sally Weston was the eventual winner and raised \$106 for OSA. Thank you Rachel and Sally – a really lovely gesture!



2012/2013 BOOK ORDER FORM

entertainment™ Books are here!

Please call 3163 2866 or email events@operationsmile.com.au to order yours.

More Smiles from Cambodia



9 Australian medical volunteers joined the international cleft lip and cleft palate mission to Phnom Penh, Cambodia in February this year. This was a particularly exciting mission, as it celebrated Operation Smile Cambodia's Tenth Anniversary. The team screened a total of 148 patients and went on to successfully provide 107 procedures for 81 patients.

Alongside the youthful and energetic Cambodia medical and dental students were our 46 international volunteers, hailing from China, Peru, USA, UK, Ireland, Russia, The Bahamas and Australia.

A particularly touching patient story is one of a ten year old boy with a cleft lip. Dy Yuen came to Phnom Penh's Khmer - Soviet Friendship Hospital on our third day of surgery. He and his Mum left his 6 brothers and sisters at home and set out on their 260 kilometer journey in the hope of receiving a free, life-changing surgery. Dy had heard about Operation Smile when he was in school and he asked his Mum to take him. "I know it costs a lot of money to travel to Phnom Penh, but this surgery is very important to me." Dy wanted this surgery so badly that he even told his mum that if he could borrow the transportation money to get to Phnom Penh, he would promise to repay her when he was older.

The transformation was literally tangible, you could feel the promise restored to this young boy's life. After surgery, Dy's Mum said "I know this surgery has changed Dy's life, but it has also changed our entire family's life as well."

Thank you to our Australian team – Karen Baker, Clare Bourke, Jonathan Christie, Melissa Hozjan, Kelly Ince, Louise Spooner-Jackson, Susan O'Mahony, Sue Pitman and Paula Rebgetz.

$2 \times 2 = \$$
(success)

This was the winning formula for Adelaide's Movie Afternoon when our two primary corporate supporters, Charlesworth Nuts and Fifth Avenue Jewellery came together with another two, McLarenvale's Shingleback Wines & Hairmachine, to provide gifts for Operation Smile's monster raffle. Our 95 guests munched on Charlesworth nibbles as we imbibed the humour and pathos of The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel which was set in the fascinating streets of India.

The Adelaide Events Team also had the winning formula as it raised over \$2,000 for Operation Smile Australia. Vanessa Edwards and Mary McDonald supported Alexia Brooks and me organizing the day. It was an exceptional effort from Alexia who arrived back from her Op Smile Cranio-Facial mission to The Philippines only hours before the event.

Some of the work that our local volunteers have done in places such as Guwahati, India and Dili, Timor-Leste was also on view in our displays. A very big thank you to all who attended!

Paula Rebgetz

