

# HOPE!



The Newsletter of Operation Restore Hope Australia  
website: <http://www.operationrestorehope.org>

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## Forty Missions Completed! nearly 20 years of service in the Philippines



*Long standing Volunteer Professor McKellar with the morning line-up.*

**Operation Restore Hope has been operating in the Philippines since 1994 and has now completed forty surgical missions and well over 2000 operations.**

More than half of these operations and 24 missions have been carried out at our first community hospital that we adopted nearly 20 years ago and where we continue to operate today, Lapu Lapu Dis-

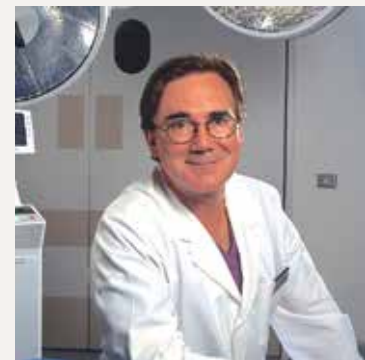
trict Hospital in Mactan. We have been fortunate to have the cooperation of our partner NGO, Rotary Club of Metro Cebu since day one.

### **A Conduit to the Community**

This Rotary club has been our conduit to the community, assisting us with our hospital relationships and licensure, as well as making sure that the children with cleft lip

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## *A Letter from Dr Hodgkinson*



### **What is different about Operation Restore Hope?**

Although there are many charities offering surgical services Operation Restore Hope operates at a community level integrating with local health care providers to identify and provide surgery for indigent children in that particular community. We work with local "barangay" baby health care and immunisation centres and birthing centres to assist in referring to a local hospital where the children can be registered and prepared for their free operations. The support of local NGOs assist in transport and logistics for the child's impending mission surgery.

At a community level we increase the medical surgical infrastructure of the local hospital providing as needed beds, operating equipment, recovery room monitors, sterilisers which we donate

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*Lapu-Lapu Hospital*



*Four operating tables hard at work!*

# Forty Missions Completed

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and palate in the communities we work in are cared for. They provide transportation, food and housing for children and their families during the mission enabling us to focus on the clinical side of things.

## Cooperation Important

With this type of cooperation on the ground, Operation Restore Hope has been able to create a continuity of care that is difficult for a surgical mission that flies in



*Before & After Repair of Unilateral Cleft Lip*

and out to develop. Of course, we never have enough, but we have always tried to improve the infrastructure of the community hospitals by donating needed supplies and equipment as well as refurbishing facilities as required.

Modern technology has made it possible for us to improve our continuity of care as our local partners are able to now email us updated images of our little patients' needs and progress. As a result, we are able to tap into the resources of local health professionals to assist us in follow-up care.



*Before & After Repair of Bilateral Cleft Lip*

## Supporting Local Surgeons

This also allows us to support talented local surgeons, especially in Manila, to provide surgical services and follow-up care to patients who are not suited to a mission environment as they will require multiple procedures and regular follow-up.

We are celebrating milestones in our development and history and looking forward to setting new standards in care for our very special patients.

Did you know?

## Cleft Lip and Palate



Unilateral cleft lip is much more common (4:1) than bilateral cleft lip and palate and if unrepaired is accompanied by severe



maldevelopment of the jaws and the teeth.

## Imperative To Repair Early

Cleft palate which is not visible is nonetheless imperative to repair as speech development is impossible without a functioning intact palate.

The social consequences of unrepaired facial clefts are devastating to the child limiting their socialisation and committing them to a life of shame and derision. This is why we need to do everything we can to help them at the earliest stage possible.





# Dealing With Difficult Cases

Operation Restore Hope is thrilled to be working in collaboration with a surgical team headed by Dr Taps Gurango at the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC) in Quezon City in Metro Manila.



*Dr Taps Gurango and Dr Darryl Hodgkinson in the Phillipines*



*Before surgery for Meningocele, and after the operation awaiting scar revision*

This relationship allows Operation Restore Hope to care for children with birth defects who are not suitable for a mission environment as they require multiple operations and long term ongoing follow up.



Pictured below is a baby and mother with a wide cleft and then baby thriving with the NAM in place; it moulds the lip and tissues into a more normal position as the baby grows to allow for successful cleft surgery during infancy.

Other cases that present besides cleft lip and palate, are facial clefts, meningoceles (protrusion *(continued on back page column 1)*)

patient. A financial plan is then drawn up and regular reports and images are provided to the charity in between visits to PCMC.

Since the relationship began with PCMC, Operation Restore Hope has sponsored more than 30 children, 10 of these in our NAM (nasal alveolar moulding)

project. The NAM project provides early orthodontic intervention that requires regular fittings for babies born with extremely wide clefts who would be difficult to operate on successfully without intervention.



*Lord Ian: before and after excision of a giant cyst*

Dr Hodgkinson and Dr Gurango discuss the cases, their appropriateness for mission versus the PCMC environment and the surgical and care plan for the



*Top: Baby with wide cleft  
Bottom: Baby thriving fitted with NAM*

## Dealing With Difficult Cases

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of brain tissue), large tumours or cysts and burns.

Formerly, the charity would have had to turn these cases away but with our relationship with PCMC these children do indeed have hope as we have the expertise and means now to provide surgical assistance so that they too can go to school and become functioning members of society.



### Check us out on Facebook!

Visit us on FB:  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Operation-Restore-Hope/127851487242137>

## Just a Reminder...

### Operation Restore Hope membership renewals are now due!

Please use the form below to renew and help us continue our work - many thanks.

### Not a member? Why not join!

Membership is only \$20 per year and Life Membership \$100.

## Letter from Dr Hodgkinson

(continued from front page)

allowing the local hospital to function more effectively when the mission is not in town.

Over the last three years Operation Restore Hope has identified highly qualified local surgeons who can provide surgery for the most complex of cases which are not suitable for one stage cleft missions. The cost of us supporting a local surgeon is approximately 25% of that which would be required to raise funds to send a patient to Australia to have the same surgery.

### ORH Complex Cases

Dr Taps Gurango, from the Philippine Children's Medical Centre in Quezon City (PCMC) operates on ORH complex cases with our financial support. These rare cases may need multiple procedures and multiple hospital stays.

Operation Restore Hope also supports the NAM (Nasoalveolar Moulding) Program at PCMC which helps to mould the deformed jaws and nose of a wide cleft child allowing for a better first stage surgical repair result.

Over the past 20 years I have maintained a positive relationship with the local Filipino plastic surgeons and so we are able to benefit from their support and

commitment. I was proud to be a special guest at the 50th anniversary of the Philippine Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons, and In March I also delivered eight papers on reconstructive and cosmetic surgery at the 16th ASEAN conference on plastic surgery in Boracay.

### Private Support Only

Operation Restore Hope is supported by private donations only. No funds come from the government. No funds are spent on infrastructure, all funds go directly towards the children's surgery. All surgeons, dentists and nurses are volunteers. Fundraising and membership is essential to continue this vital work. Your contribution will restore hope and give a child the chance to go to school whole with a normal face and the potential to achieve just like his or her own normal school mates.

### Our Sponsors:



The cost to Operation Restore Hope Australia to repair a facial cleft is approximately \$500 AUD per operation. The more donations we receive, the more children we can help.

No funds received are spent on administrative, accounting, advertising or infrastructure costs. All membership fees and donations are spent directly on surgeries performed.

You can also become a Life Member of Operation Restore Hope Australia or just join for a year. Your fee or donation will help fund the cost of a child's surgery.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Donations over \$2.00 are fully tax deductible and are payable to "Operation Restore Hope Philippines Relief Fund"

I wish to make a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Memberships are not tax deductible and are payable to 'Operation Restore Hope Australia'

Enclosed is my \$100 Lifetime Membership fee

Enclosed is my \$20 Annual Membership fee

TOTAL PAYMENT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Method of Payment:

Cheque enclosed  MasterCard  Visa

Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_