

HOPE!



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

Volume 4 Number 2

April 2015

ORH: A Unique Commitment to a Community



Alora before surgery in 2010 and after surgery and dental work in 2011.



From the beginning, 20 years ago, Dr Hodgkinson realized that fly in and fly out surgery was not the answer to effective medical care.



Alora with Dr Hodgkinson in October 2014 at the 20th Anniversary Mission

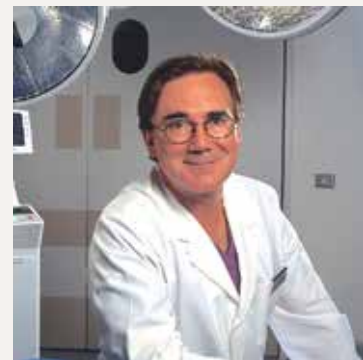
Having formerly been involved in other organizations' missions elsewhere, he realized that surgeons need to have follow-up to assess the success of their work and to plan for the ongoing care of their

“ **Babies' faces change and develop as they grow...** ”

patients. This is especially true in cleft surgery as the babies' faces continue to change and develop as they grow and they often require further surgery and or dental and other care to optimize their chances of normal development.

With this, a commitment was made to Lapu Lapu District
(continued on page 2 column 3)

A Letter from Dr Hodgkinson



20th Anniversary a Big Success

Dr Ann Collins, Dr Wyben Briones, Mr Graeme MacKinnon and myself (the big four) who began Operation Restore Hope in Lapu Lapu twenty years ago came together last October to achieve a milestone 20 year anniversary mission at Lapu Lapu District Hospital.



Great support from Rotary Metro Cebu and their members meant the mission ran very smoothly with over 50 children receiving their cleft operation free of charge. It is time to review our whole process of mission surgery and plan for the next twenty years beyond the founding members.

(continued on page 4 column 1)

ORH Now Able To Care for Rare Facial Clefts

Much more extensive procedure necessary

Over the last 20 years, we have treated over 2,500 children with cleft lip and palate in Cebu and Manila. Rare clefts are much more complicated cases and we usually encounter at least one case each mission.



Little Angel from Cebu before and after her first stage of repair

These rare clefts need a much more extensive procedure, far beyond that which a mission could safely provide.

Realizing the need to treat these children and now having the expertise of our ORH Craniofacial Surgeon Dr Taps Gurango at PCMC (Philippine Children's Medical Center), we can now



Helen with her grandma awaits repair

provide the funds to successfully treat these severely deformed children.

If treatment is delayed, the child can lose the vision of an eye as the clefts run through from the mouth to the head and through the eyelid exposing the normal eye

to possible damage and hence blindness.

Angel, a six month old baby, had her surgery performed immediately after being identified at our October mission.

Donors' generous support

With the generous support of our donors, specific funds are allocated for the complex surgery of these rare clefts. The operations only occur at PCMC so transport to Manila and accommodation has to be arranged. One of our directors, Tony Jalandoni has personally become involved in the support and logistics of one of these patients, little Helen Magayon.

Much more expensive

The operative procedure costs much more than regular cleft mission surgery and can be in the range of \$4,000 - \$8,000 per child as opposed to \$500 per operation in the mission environment for a single operation.

On a day to day basis, back at ORH headquarters in Sydney, Katherine & Darryl are in constant

Commitment to a Community

(continued from P.1)

Hospital in 1994 and to date we have carried out 46 missions over all 25 of which have been to Lapu Lapu and operating on more than 2500 patients, 1128 of these being at Lapu Lapu.

We have partnered from the beginning with Metro Rotary Cebu whose member, Dr Wyben Briones was a founder of and remains a Director of the charity. We also partnered with the hospital, providing infrastructure and equipment as well as staff training, even sending the former Director of Nursing to Singapore for education in the care of burns patients.

Second generation patients

What this has meant is that the people of this district have had a place to turn to not only for cleft lip and palate surgery but for general medical care as this has made the hospital more self sufficient.



Former patient mother with daughter

In fact, we have now found ourselves serving a second generation of patients. It was particularly touching at our recent mission to have former patients return to share their victories with us as well as a young mother whom we had treated as a girl with a cleft, confidently bring us her cleft daughter knowing from birth that with a charity in their area that her daughter had a bright future and a chance at happiness.

contact with Taps and her team to provide the funds and infrastructure to repair these most severely afflicted infants and children.

The NAM Project – Naso-Aveolar Moulding



Infant at birth with wide cleft and the same infant fitted with a "NAM" bringing the tissues into a more 'normal' position making surgical repair possible.

The Naso-Aveolar Moulding (NAM) project has continued for children born with very wide clefts who could not be properly treated in a mission environment and without orthodontic intervention.

It is imperative to begin this treatment within the first few months of birth when the structures of the face and head are still soft and forming. If repair were carried out without orthodontia, the gap would be difficult to close and even if closed would likely not result in a functional palate and or an optimal aesthetic result.

Continuity of care needed

These children require continuity of care as the orthodontic device must be continuously adjusted

as the infant grows to bring the structures of the mouth into a more



The end result: a dramatic improvement in appearance and function.

Encephaloceles Rare in developed countries, but we see them regularly

As in years past, *encephaloceles* (protrusions of the brain tissue through the frontal area of the skull) which are quite rare in developed countries



Before and after initial repair of encephalocele

present consistently at our screenings in Manila and Cebu.

This year was no different and Operation Restore Hope had three of these cases.

Our treatment in Manila is very economical

We are very proud of our economy in dealing with these cases in Manila with our partner at the

normal position prior to surgery. Once this has taken place, the lip and the palate can be surgically closed without excess tension being placed on the suture lines, allowing for healing and a better result.

No longer overlooked

We are extremely pleased with the surgical results for these children who would formerly have been overlooked or had operations fail due to the complexity of their cases.

On the left you can see three images showing the progress of NAM surgical treatment, and below the dramatic improvement in appearance resulting.

Philippines Children's Medical Centre. We heard of another Australian group bringing one of these cases back to Brisbane for treatment from Davao in the southern Filipino province of Mindanao at a cost of \$30,000 AUD.

Cost per case is around \$4,400.00 AUD

Our cost per case is approximately \$4,400 AUD and the child is able to stay in their home country with familiar language, surroundings and of course family support. This is a major advantage and we believe appreciably speeds recovery.



Become a Donor

After reading this newsletter and seeing the images of some of our patients, you might ask "How can I help?"

Any help is welcome but in reality to perform charity surgery, even if provided by volunteer surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses, requires considerable funds.

Operation Restore Hope has to make difficult decisions so that its funds only go the children's operations. Hence equipment has to be donated not purchased and loaned not leased to reduce costs.

No money spent on admin

No money is spent on administration, legal fees or accounting, which are all provided pro bono by our unsung heroes who are hard at work throughout the entire year, generally without the thanks or praise they deserve.

Any event can raise funds

A dinner party, charity night, bike ride, team for the City 2 Surf or any event can be used to raise both awareness and funds which will allow us to continue our commitments and into our third decade.

It is easy to do by registering with **Everyday Hero** (<http://www.everydayhero.com.au/charity/view?charity=2823>)



The truth is, only funding will allow Operation Restore Hope to survive and give these children the future that they deserve. We can all do something to lend them a hand, because every dollar helps. And as an added incentive, all donations over \$2.00 are fully tax deductible!

Letter from Dr Hodgkinson

(continued from front page)

Fortunately a new generation of surgeons and anaesthetists are enthusiastically supporting Operation Restore Hope, not only by raising funds and sourcing donations of medical equipment which will secure our current commitment, but also are actively involved in expansion into other areas of need in the Philippines.

Most gratifying is the participation of talented Filipino plastic surgeons with whom we plan to coordinate and collaborate on future missions.

Thank you all for caring.

Darryl Hodgkinson

 Visit us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Operation-Restore-Hope/1480516958902839>

Our Sponsors:



HOPE! printed by 

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.

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 _____