

# HOPE!



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

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## The Power of Collaboration Operation Restore Hope Increases Its Reach



*Armand before and after surgery for severe facial cleft by Dr Taps Gurango in collaboration with Operation Restore Hope*



It has always been the goal of Operation Restore Hope to commit to a community by working in the same hospital for a number of years, improve its infrastructure and resources and avoid any kind of medical imperialism as much as possible where doctors get off the plane, barge in, operate and then pack up every last "Bandaid" and then fly out, often without a commitment to return.

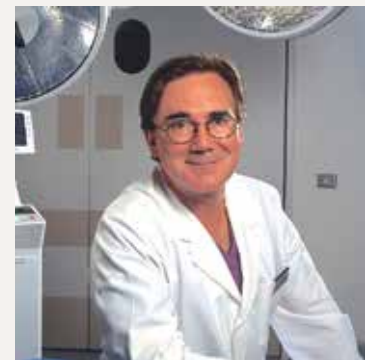
The key to servicing a community is to work in and with a community. Being in medicine, this requires cooperation on many levels: local NGO's, local government and the local medical community.

We have been blessed for over twenty years with our relationship with the Mayors of Lapu Lapu City in Cebu, our partner NGO the Rotary Club of Metro Cebu and partner hospital the Lapu Lapu District Hospital.

“ **Relationship was founded on mutual respect...** ”

In more recent years, we have added our affiliation with the Mijares-Gurango Craniofacial Foundation to the list of partners who allow us to make our little miracles happen. This relationship which was founded on the mutual respect and goals of our founder, *(continued on page 2 column 1)*

### *A Letter from Dr Hodgkinson*



#### **11th Australasian Cleft Lip and Palate Conference**

I recently attended the 11th Australasian Cleft Lip and Palate Association Conference in Brisbane May 1 – 2, 2016.



This prestigious meeting of Australian and International cleft lip and palate specialists; not only surgeons but speech pathologists, orthodontists, and epidemiologists discussed the multiple problems associated with a child being born with a cleft lip in the western world as well as in developing nations *(continued on page 3 column 3)*



# The Power of Collaboration

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plastic surgeon Dr Darryl Hodgkinson and the foundation's founder Dr Taps Gurango has allowed us to extend our reach far beyond what was possible in a purely mission environment and to reach out to and collaborate with our Filipino colleagues.

The types of cases now being performed regularly through this collaboration include severe facial



Darryl and Katherine Hodgkinson with Dr Taps Gurango and some of the PCMC Kids and their parents

clefts, wide cleft lips and palates (which we treat through our collaborative NAM - naso-alveolar moulding project) and encephaloceles (sac-like protrusions of the brain through openings in the skull).

## Managing Change

We have learned through the past that these relationships can be delicate, especially over time as there are changes in government and the leadership of organisations which may or may not share the vision of their predecessors. With this knowledge, Operation Restore Hope is aware that it must not only preserve existing relationships wherever possible but as it expands seek out partners who share our vision, mission and dedication.

## Transparency and Compliance

As an Australian deductible gift recipient (DGR - an entity that can receive tax deductible gifts) we have a responsibility not only to our donors and sponsors but to the Australian people to ensure that every dollar is used as carefully as possible and directed to aiding the children we serve. Our accounts are audited annually and submitted for scrutiny. We are not only held to the highest standards but pride ourselves on our record of compliance.

In this year of elections in Australia, the Philippines and many of the other countries from which our volunteers come we would be naive not to be prepared for change, but we believe managing change with growth will result in ever better outcomes for the charity, the volunteers and most importantly those we serve - the less fortunate children of the Philippines with cleft lip and palate.

## Maureen Edison



Maureen on mission in the Philippines

### It is with the heaviest of hearts that we share with you the news of the passing of Maureen Eddison.

Maureen has left our world all too soon and had much left to give. She was dedicated to and passionate about Operation Restore Hope and served for many years as a volunteer nurse then mission team leader and a Director.

In 2014, she was awarded a Medal in the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the international community with Operation Restore Hope.

Maureen collapsed on New Year's Day while on holiday in Bali and could not be revived. Her passing is a great loss to us all. Our thoughts remain with her husband and family. Heaven has one more angel. We will never forget you Maureen.

# Oro-Mandibular Limb Hypogenesis Syndrome



We hope to help these two little girls age 3 and 5 suffering from Oro-Mandibular Limb Hypogenesis Syndrome

### After 20 years working in areas of such profound poverty and need in the Philippines we keep thinking perhaps we have seen it all.

Unbelievably in 2015 within a week, we were confronted with two separate cases of a syndrome we did not even know existed: Oro-Mandibular Limb Hypogenesis Syndrome.

Infants with this condition are born without limbs but what is even worse is that they are incapable of opening their mouths which makes nutritional uptake and communication very difficult.

### How we hope to help

Our goal with these little girls (ages 3 & 5) is to be able to make their mouths functional to improve their eating and hopefully help their speech as well. Both these little girls are intelligent and able to communicate through drawing by clasp a pencil between their arms and also with their eyes and sounds.

They are being cared for under the Operation Restore Hope program in collaboration with the Mijares-Gurango Craniofacial Foundation.

# Letter from Dr Hodgkinson

(continued from front page)

like the Philippines. The discussions were not only limited to surgical technique and therapeutic pathways for these children but to how infrastructure or a lack thereof must be taken into account and efforts coordinated to maximise outcomes.

### "Mega missions" not welcome

Guest surgeons from Nepal, Myanmar and Indonesia were in attendance and their input into how missions can coordinate with local surgeons was of great importance.

One thing which was pointed out by these surgeons whose nations and hospitals regularly host surgical missions was missions that concern themselves with a high number of surgeries performed i.e. "mega missions" are not really welcome.

### More sensitivity to local problems

They noted that these missions can throw the whole infrastructure of a hospital into chaos and it can be six months before the hospital recovers from missions they classified as "fly in fly out", "do as many operations as you can" and "fund-raising opportunity/grand standing" missions. We need to be more sensitive to the local problems that exist in delivering surgical care in these environments in developing nations.

### Higher quality operative outcomes

A further finding obvious from the data collected from different major centres was that the more surgeries that an individual surgeon performs over a longer period of time results in higher quality operative outcomes for the patient.

It is logical that the greater the experience the greater the expertise. Whilst there are always exceptions to every rule, this would generally hold true not only for cleft surgery specifically but for all plastic surgery.

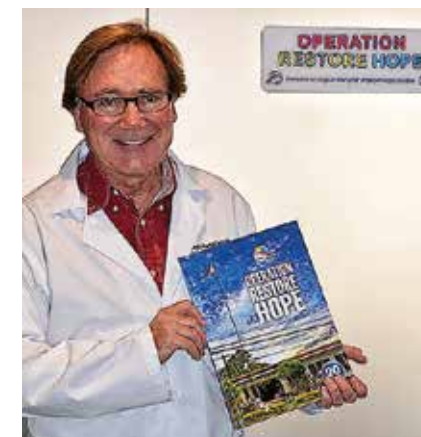
## Vale, Mario "Mr. Fixit" Cabasa



Mario, known to all as "Mr. Fixit" passed away on 14 September last year from heart disease. Mario, in his role at Lapu Lapu hospital was an integral part of the team for twenty years and never complained or missed a beat as he kept all the facilities and donated equipment up and running. A plaque was presented to his daughters in his memory by Operation Restore Hope (ORH) and Rotary Club Metro Cebu (RCMC) at Lapu Lapu District Hospital at the end of last year's October mission.

## New Book Features Operation Restore Hope 20 Year Reunion

Dr Hodgkinson proudly shows the new coffee table book "Operation Restore Hope 20 Year Reunion" with photography generously donated by internationally recognised photographer Andrea Francolini. All profits from the sale of the book go directly to the children.





# New ORH Website



## Operation Restore Hope now has a new website!

To keep us up to date, we have needed a new website for some time that is more visual, allows people to engage, find out how they can help, make online donations and more. In typical

Operation Restore Hope fashion and in keeping with our philosophy that all monies go to the children this had to be done by volunteers.

The team headed up by our Director Katherine Hodgkinson included the crew at The Web Showroom and medical school student volunteers Lauren Chong and Jack Mangos. Thank you all!

Please take a few minutes to check out our site and give us your feedback on [orha@operationrestorehope.org](mailto:orha@operationrestorehope.org)

## ORH Development Committee formed



Our new development committee, currently including Directors Darryl and Katherine Hodgkinson and volunteers Grant Brown and Lauren Licuanan, has been busy raising awareness online via social media (Facebook, Twitter, Linked In and now Instagram) as well as in the community through local papers, fundraisers, and radio.

If you are interested in holding a fundraiser, sharing our story in your business, church or community, please contact us on [admin@operationrestorehope.org](mailto:admin@operationrestorehope.org).

## Our Sponsors:



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## 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.



**Visit us on Facebook!**

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

com/pages/Operation-Restore-Hope/1480516958902839

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 \_\_\_\_\_