

# HOPE!

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



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## Work carries on, despite the pandemic



*Dr Taps Gurango and her team wearing the PPE required for a surgical team*

**While it has not been “business as usual” for ORHA or any organisation globally, we are proud to have found ways to continue to support both our partners and our patients who need us now more than ever.**

While many surgically focused overseas charities are throwing up their arms and throwing in the towel, ORHA has been able to draw on its diverse group of volunteers as well as its network of partners garnered through consistent collaboration with the Filipino medical system.

### **Surgery & care for kids with severe cleft & craniofacial deformities**

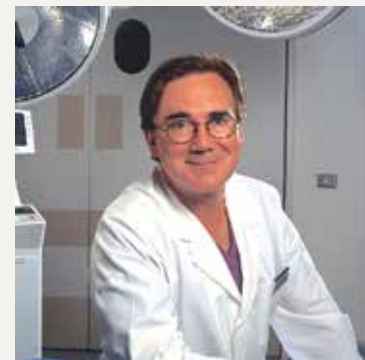
This past year ORHA has found ways to continue to care for the children with severe cleft and craniofacial deformities

due to the determination not only of ORHA but the courage and sense of duty of our partners The Mijares Gurango Craniofacial Foundation (MGCF) and the staff at the Philippine Children’s Medical Center (PCMC).

The risk to these medical practitioners operating during the pandemic remains very real. They have not only had many team members infected but have lost several colleagues to COVID.

*(continued page 2 column 1)*

### *A Letter from Dr Hodgkinson*



**From ORHA founder  
Dr Darryl Hodgkinson:**

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge all volunteers worldwide in healthcare who have continued to step up each day to face the challenges and real dangers of being a medical practitioner during a pandemic. Their courage and commitment only further demonstrates that the primary reason to be in medicine is to serve one’s fellow man.

Special thanks to our volunteers and partners in the Philippines who have continued to care and provide for Operation Restore Hope’s patients in any and every way that they can. We look forward to standing shoulder to shoulder with you all again.

Thanks also to our donors who have continued to support us during these difficult times. Your ongoing support is needed now as much as ever and is appreciated in more ways than my humble words can convey.

# Work carries on, despite the pandemic

*(continued from page 1 column 2)*

Loss and fear are with these doctors, nurses and hospital staff every day as they steel their resolve to carry on.

## Finding ways to keep operating during a pandemic.



*Surgical PPE*

In this environment, the first challenge was logistical, defining what personal protective equipment (PPE) was needed for all the players involved in paediatric surgery and sourcing that PPE. Operating rooms are especially virulent at-



*PPE for wards*

mospheres with the pressurized air-con systems required for sterility.

Add to this working in the mouths and around the airways of children coming from crowded and poor living circumstances makes the risk all the more real. ORHA had to provide PPE not only for the surgical team and clinical team pre and post operatively but also for our patients and their families. We would also have to provide COVID-19 testing for all involved.

## Zoom meetings and moving records to the Cloud

Logistically, ORHA like the rest of the world, has had to find ways to enhance communications. We have been “Zooming” and have begun to move all records to cloud based systems so that we can better share resources and data-bases real time. This has become more involved as previously surgery would be postponed due to fever or infection but now, patients are testing positive to COVID pre-operatively and being rescheduled until such time as both they and their parent or caregiver can return a negative test.



*PPE for caregivers*

## Filipino ORHA volunteer plastic surgeons step in

ORHA has not been able to hold a mission in 2020-2021 due to travel restrictions. This situation has been made worse by lockdowns in the Philippines and that cleft surgery is not classed as life threatening surgery. Plans were made for our Filipino ORHA volunteer plastic surgeons to carry out surgery on ORHA mission patients



*A few of our Filipino volunteers running our mission screenings and pre and post-operative clinics*

# Christmas “Hope Packages” for our Mission patients



## Another fallout of lockdown aside from surgeries not taking place for mission patients, was that there were no or inadequate social benefits for the poor.

Basically, many of our patients and their families were at risk of starvation. ORHA decided to provide “Hope Packages” to our families in need. Over 100 families were provided 20 kilos of rice, beans, tinned fish and meat, powdered milk and other food staples as well as cleaning materials, sanitizer, basic PPE and school supplies. One donor even gave each child a toy kangaroo.

The logistics of putting these packages together and distributing them to our children was no mean feat. Because of COVID safety restrictions we could not bring the people to a distribution center but had to deliver the packages one at a time. Kudos to all our on-the-ground volunteers for their hard work in making this happen.



# Vale Gary Johnston



**Operation Restore Hope is mourning the loss of a great man without whom the charity would not be what it is today. Gary Johnston, Renaissance man: entrepreneur, philanthropist, sports fan, art lover, family man and friend recently lost his short battle with mesothelioma. His passing has left a void in the many people who knew and loved him and in the innumerable institutions he built and supported.**

Gary was a self-made man. It was his endless curiosity and desire to understand, explore and create coupled with a huge energy and work ethic that made him into the success story he was. Gary was best known as the Founder and Managing Director of Jaycar Electronics but was the creator or a pivotal part of many other organisations and ventures.

Throughout his life, no amount of success or accolades made Gary lose his humility, work ethic, love of life or inherent generosity. Gary was as thrilled for the achievements of others as he was of his own and

equally as sympathetic to the needs of others. Gary was also fiercely loyal and never forgot a true friend.

“...his humility, work ethic, love of life and inherent generosity”

In the early days of Operation Restore Hope when donations were not tax deductible it was very difficult to raise

the sums of money needed for the missions. Gary and his soon to be wife and love of his life Kerry were always there with a cheque that was more than enough to realise our needs for the missions planned that year.

## Selfless belief and support

Their selfless belief in and support of the charity’s work spurred us not only to carry on but to continue to grow and reach out to more children and create programs that would not have been possible without their ongoing support over more than twenty years. As our programs grew, so too did their commitment; their overwhelming generosity always keeping in step or one step ahead of our vision and capacity.

## An honour that ORHA has never taken for granted

Gary and Kerry have supported and continue to support many other great charities and institutions both as individuals and through the Bayard Foundation, their private family fund. That Operation Restore Hope Australia stands among these wonderful causes is an honour that ORHA never will take for granted.

## An immeasurable loss

Gary’s passing is an immeasurable loss not only to so many institutions and people but to our nation. He was that once in a generation person who enabled great things to happen. Our deepest sympathies go to Gary’s wife and love of his life Kerry and their son Robbie as well as Gary’s other children Chris, Tim and Jeni and their families.



*Patient Jharon Sky Vargas before & after surgery for bilateral cleft lip*

# Donation of Medical Equipment and Supplies



ORHA sent medical equipment to help during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## This past financial year we have been active in sourcing and providing not just PPE but medical equipment and supplies.

We have sent two large boxes filled with surgical instruments donated by INKA Medical in Western Australia, several boxes of medical supplies donated by several hospitals including our own and 5 anaesthetic machines are currently on their way donated by the Mater Hospital and our own Double Bay Day Surgery.

We are also donating dental instruments and have received a donation from Kogarah Private Hospital of 2 cataract machines, 5

monitors for vital signs, 5 air heating machines for use in recovery, 1 ultrasound machine and 4 stainless steel trolleys as well as more disposables.

### A whole range of equipment

The equipment and supplies which are not specific to cleft and craniofacial surgery and patient care are directed through the Ugnayan ng Pahinungod charity to medical charities and public health facilities in areas of need.

For example, one anaesthetic machine which was surplus to our requirements was donated to a large city hospital's burns unit which did not have anaesthesia for the excruciatingly painful changing of extensive burns dressings for their paediatric patients.

### Used in areas of profound need

This program not only keeps these supplies and equipment out of Australian landfill but puts them to use in areas of



Some equipment making its way to the Philippines for use in charity surgery

profound need. This is also "bread on the water" for ORHA and its patients in building the partnerships and collaborations that have allowed us to keep working during the pandemic.

Our partners in the Philippines lack the resources to do the good works that are basic to our mutual vision. Without the trust we have developed over the past 27 years in always acknowledging both their talents and morality, we would not be able in these times to provide for our patients who without charity would not have medical care.

## A Special Thanks to Our Sponsors



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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. \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Expiry Date