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I am pleased to report that as we come to the end of this Rotary year, club donations have increased by just over 10% on the previous twelve months. Many thanks to the clubs that have either continued or recommenced donating to ROMAC. Your support is greatly appreciated and very much needed as we look to treat over 30 children this calendar year.  I also mentioned previously that we were looking at establishing a new ROMAC Region for the **Northern Territory-Timor Leste** (NT-TL) area. I am pleased to report that the committee is now up and running and that [Judith McKay](https://romac.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=7a9b1e169038f8b992c5eafa6&id=f12024b0e7&e=0295924b3c) from the Litchfield-Palmerston Rotary Club in Darwin is the Chair of the new NT-TL ROMAC Regional Committee. The other members of the committee from the Darwin area are: **Valerie Wilkey, Belinda Jennings, Rod (Crusty) Meyers, James Smith, and Ray Fauntleroy.** From Dili are: **Mario De Jesus, Judite Martins and Ruth Hitchins**. We congratulate and thank Judith and her new committee members for taking on this role.  ROMAC has for many years had a District Governor (DG) and a District Governor Elect representative to liaise between ROMAC and the District Governor groups. While they have, with all the other DGs of the day, been members of ROMAC with full voting rights at the Annual and other Special General meetings, they have not been members of the ROMAC Board. To strengthen ROMAC’s compliance with Rotary International’s Code of Policy for Multi District Organisations (MDO) like ROMAC, we have recently added our current DG Representatives, Neta Kirby and Stephen O’Connell, to our Board as full voting members.  Also to reflect our compliance with RI’s MDO requirements, we are in the process of completely updating our Constitution which has undergone very little change since 2001. The draft of the new constitution is currently out for consultation with stakeholders. When feedback is received, considered and incorporated where needed, it will be presented for acceptance in November at the ROMAC Annual General Meeting to be held in Queenstown during the Zone 8 Conference.  Yours in Rotary A close-up of a signature  Description automatically generated Ian D'Arcy Walsh | | | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | |  | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Patient Updates** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Joy**  A group of people holding a sign  Description automatically generatedJoy, a returning patient from the Solomon Islands, and her father Namona, made their way to Cairns for an operation for a pacemaker implant and removal of pacemaker generator. Joy, who is 19 years old now, is a former ROMAC patient from as far back as 2008.  Joy and her father transited from Honiara through Brisbane to Cairns on Friday 21st June 2024. Solomon Airways provided great support to them on transit through customs. Cairns Rotary warmly grasped the opportunity to support and host Joy for surgery scheduled from 26th June 2024 at Coronary Care Unit of the Cairns Hospital.  Pictured: Acting Northern Region Chair Wayne Litherland with Joy and Namona at Brisbane International Airport. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Haggai**  A group of people sitting in a chair with a baby  Description automatically generatedHaggai and her mother Malina, from Mt Hagan in Papua New Guinea, arrived at Westmead Children's Hospital on 3 June 2024 for medical attention under the care of Prof. Christopher Forrest, Dr Gemma Olsson, and A/Prof. Damian Marucci.  One-year-old Haggai was born with an encephalocele, which is a sac of fluid that forms outside the skull. She received essential surgery and treatment from the Westmead team and ROMAC collaborated to assist Haggai, who had her major surgery on 14 June. Her mother, Malina, remained her strong support system throughout.  Post-discharge, mother and child will reside at Ronald McDonald House Westmead, a comfortable sanctuary. Rotarians will visit them, with notable help from Maggie Thorn and the Rotary Club of Parramatta. Their assistance during this challenging time has been invaluable.  Pictured: Haggai, Mum Malina, ROMAC Eastern Region Chair Anita Robinson & Craniofacial Surgeon Professor Christopher Forrest. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Habib**    A group of people standing in a room with a lift  Description automatically generatedSeventeen-year-old Habib, from Tanna Island in Vanuatu, had a total hip replacement operation at Calvary Bruce Private Hospital on 7 June.  Finally, after three years Habib is now walking well without pain.  After one week, he was walking with one crutch and then with no crutches this week. Our sincere thanks must go to the orthopaedic surgeon A/Prof Paul Miniter and to Calvary Private Hospital for Habib’s care. Habib and his father Bertrand will return home at the end of the month.   As Ginninderra is their sponsor club, it has been fantastic that our newest club member, Janeice, has been teaching Habib English. Habib had missed out on going to school since his accident three years ago and he is excited to start to learn again. Habib said he wants to be a doctor. His father Bertrand is a Nurse and midwife. We will be interested to follow Habib’s progress over the next few years.  Pictured: From left to right, Bertrand, ACT Region Chair Sandra Goldstraw, and Habib. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Stancia**  A group of people in medical gowns and masks  Description automatically generated  Delightful 8-year-old Stancia from Papua New Guinea has, since April, had 1 major operation and 8 minor surgeries at the Canberra Hospital. On 25 June, Stancia had her last operation to finally close her stoma having lived with one all her life. What a life transformation this will be for Stancia and her mother Hilda!  Pictured: Stancia being entertained while in hospital. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Krissy**  A person in a hospital room with a child  Description automatically generatedCheeky and happy 9-year-old Krissy had her first scoping operation in preparation for her major operation on 27 June. This surgery will take around 8 hours and Krissy will be in hospital for a week.  As her surgery will be complicated and rarely seen in Australia, the operating room may have many in attendance, who will be interested to observe the operation. It is exciting to see the amazing transformation of ROMAC children and their parents. This is what ROMAC is all about, children and families who need our help.  Pictured: Krissy with her mother, Sonia. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Elina**  A person holding a child  Description automatically generatedElina, a 5-year-old girl from Vanuatu, has struggled with a left clubfoot condition since birth. This has been a challenge, exacerbated by a lack of local orthopaedic specialists and visiting medical teams due to the COVID outbreak.  Her condition, causing difficulty in walking and unkind teasing from peers, led her to stop attending school despite encouragement from her teachers and family.  In 2023, Elina was referred to ROMAC and was offered treatment by Dr Leo Donnan, an orthopaedic surgeon at VicOrtho, Melbourne. Arriving in Melbourne with her Mum and Aunt in 2024, she began her treatment journey with a series of casts on her left foot. Shy from years of teasing, Elina fears the cast cutter but is comforted by her Mum's reminder of her dream to return to school and play freely with other children.  Pictured: Elina with her mother, left and Dr Leo Donnan, right. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Region Updates** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Eastern Region Report by Anita Robinson**    A group of women holding a check  Description automatically generated**The Hunt Family Community Foundation**  **Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**  The Hunt Family Community Foundation was formed in June 2023 in honour of the late Harry Hunt, a beloved figure in the community known for his unwavering commitment to helping others.  Harry Hunt OAM was a long-standing and dedicated member of the Rotary Club of Liverpool. Throughout his life, he worked tirelessly for his community, generously donating his time and financial resources to support those less fortunate. Harry's legacy is marked by his involvement in numerous charitable activities and his passion for making a difference in the lives of others.  Harry's family, inspired by his dedication, wanted to continue the work that he had initiated. They aimed to support a wide range of charities in the community, including Lifeline, the Salvation Army, and the domestic violence organisation Escabags, among many others. The establishment of The Hunt Family Community Foundation was a testament to their commitment to carrying forward Harry's mission of compassion and generosity.  Sue-Lei Hunt-Mingay, Harry's daughter and founder of The Hunt Family Community Foundation, attended a ROMAC fundraiser as a guest. Intrigued and deeply moved by the work that ROMAC undertakes, she quickly became interested in its mission.  Recognising the profound impact of ROMAC's work, Sue decided to offer financial assistance on behalf of her family and in memory of her father. She knew that this contribution would align perfectly with Harry's values and his lifelong dedication to helping those in need.  ROMAC is immensely grateful for the Foundation's generous $5,000 donation. This contribution will play a crucial role in funding medical treatments and surgeries for children who desperately need them. Furthermore, The Hunt Family Community Foundation has committed to providing additional financial support over the next two years, ensuring sustained assistance for ROMAC's invaluable work.  The collaboration between The Hunt Family Community Foundation and ROMAC signifies a meaningful partnership aimed at continuing Harry Hunt's legacy of compassion, kindness, and community service. Through this ongoing support, Harry's spirit of generosity will continue to touch and transform lives for years to come.  Pictured:  Sue-Lei Hunt Mingay - The Hunt Family Community Foundation & Eastern Regional Chair Anita Robinson. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **ACT Region Report by Sandra Goldstraw**  Bungendore's local Bendigo bank provides community grants for organisations. When the President of the Rotary Club of Bungendore, Christine Allard sent them a letter, Bendigo Bank provided ROMAC with a cheque for $1,953.57. This money was from loose foreign change from the communities of Braidwood, Bungendore and Crookwell, who donated them to Bendigo Bank's charity collection box and in turn, to ROMAC.  A group of people holding a large check  Description automatically generatedIn 2023/2024, the Rotary Club of Bungendore sponsored and hosted ROMAC patient Stancia and her mother Hilda during their time in Australia, with Rotarians Anne and Colin Elder supporting them.  Post-surgery, Stancia joined grade 2 at Bungendore Public School, while Hilda fostered relationships at St. Mary’s Catholic Church. The Club is gratified by their contribution to Stancia's life-enhancing journey, which has broadened their awareness of regional necessities and the potential for impactful community action as Rotarians.  Pictured: Stancia and Hilda with Colin and Anne, and others. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Southern Region Report by Minh Nguyen**  A group of people posing for a photo  Description automatically generatedSouthern Region Chair, Minh Nguyen, accompanied by ROMAC patient [Elina](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#m_-3134906545788802670_Elina) and her mother, presented at the Rotary Club of Beaurmaris recently and answered questions about ROMAC. The Club kindly donated $2000 to ROMAC.  Pictured: From left to right, Minh, Jill, Enneth, Elina, Anne and President Denise | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **How you can help ROMAC** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Every day Rotarians and Friends are providing funds to cover travel, accommodation and treatment for children and their carers. But we could help more children if we had more donations. Donations all go directly to children and their care. ROMAC funds its administration costs through investment and other income. Volunteers run the organisation.  A yin yang symbol with a couple of faces and dollar signs  Description automatically generatedGive a little, care a lot.  Rotary Clubs: If every Rotarian in Australia and New Zealand donated $20 and every club matched with $20 for everyone of their members, we could cover the costs of all the children referred to us annually.  Friends of Rotary: If every Friend donated $20 we could help even more children.  [Australia - Donate now](https://romac.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=7a9b1e169038f8b992c5eafa6&id=c8a137c931&e=0295924b3c)  [New Zealand  - Donate now](https://romac.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=7a9b1e169038f8b992c5eafa6&id=7060b96ce9&e=0295924b3c)  [Forward this E-News to a friend](https://us17.forward-to-friend.com/forward?u=7a9b1e169038f8b992c5eafa6&id=c6fa5f7837&e=0295924b3c)  [Subscribe to our E-News](https://romac.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=7a9b1e169038f8b992c5eafa6&id=1db81ee06a&e=0295924b3c)  [Like us on Facebook](https://romac.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=7a9b1e169038f8b992c5eafa6&id=242eba369f&e=0295924b3c) | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [ROMAC Australia and New Zealand Facebook site](https://romac.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=7a9b1e169038f8b992c5eafa6&id=a9bc984ca2&e=0295924b3c) | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [ROMAC Website](https://romac.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=7a9b1e169038f8b992c5eafa6&id=7b18349367&e=0295924b3c) | | | | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | *Copyright © 2024 Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC), All rights reserved.* You are receiving this email because you are subscribed to ROMAC's E-News or opted in on our website.  **Our mailing address is:**  Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC)  PO Box 7044  Norwest, New South Wales 2153  Australia  [Add us to your address book](https://romac.us17.list-manage.com/vcard?u=7a9b1e169038f8b992c5eafa6&id=e34e42e864)  **Want to change how you receive these emails? 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