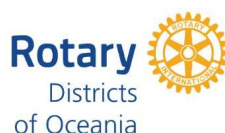


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CREATING NETWORKS | IDENTIFYING NEED | TAKING ACTION

Chair Rob Wilkinson's Message



Dear Friends of ROMAC and Rotarians

We continue to celebrate ROMAC's achievements over the past 30 years with special events planned in South Australia later in August and in Victoria in October. We not only raise our profile through these occasions but also much needed funds to help more children receive life-saving or dignity-restoring surgery. My thanks to all who have participated.

In July the ROMAC Board and Operations Committee met electronically via Google Hangouts to review progress and look ahead at plans for our new financial year.

Some members of our Team will be completing their terms of office shortly. I want to thank Medical Director Eric Horne, IT & Operations Consultant Barry Wilson, Operations Secretary Peter Maitland, Deputy Chair Brian Eddy and Eastern Region Chair Richard Woodburn for their significant contributions. I would also like to thank Garth Halliday, who has resigned for personal

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New Zealand Story

Vinna is an eight-year-old girl from Tanna Island in Vanuatu who developed problems with her thigh in November 2015. She was treated in Vanuatu during 2016 but her leg did not heal and she was unable to walk. She and her mother Korina were brought to New Zealand by ROMAC in April 2017 with additional assistance from the charity Fruit of the Pacific.

Under orthopaedic surgeon, Dr Richard Willoughby, in Hamilton, New Zealand, tests showed two breaks in her right femur.

Treating the leg infection and restoring good health was the first stage, followed by two rounds of surgery. The final stage in September 2017 was a bone graft to replace a piece of broken bone that was removed. The graft was held in place by a Taylor Spatial Frame while the bone knitted and grew stronger.



Australian Story

Six-year-old Joana, from Dili in Timor-Leste, had a congenital heart defect which meant she had abnormal blood flow between two of the major arteries connected to her heart. She was very weak and thin as a result.

In 2016 she was referred to ROMAC by Dr David Brewster at the National Hospital in Timor-Leste and her condition was diagnosed by Dr Bo Remenyi in Darwin. Joana needed heart surgery and flew to Melbourne with her mother Alice in early March 2018.

Joana was assessed at the Royal Children's Hospital and scheduled for a Patent Ductus Arteriosus operation on 20 March with heart surgeon Dr Lucas Eastaugh. The surgery went well and a few days later, she was released to her mother and hosts, Gavin and Dianne McIntyre, to recuperate and to put on some weight.

Thanks to the McIntyres, they

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<p>X-rays in July showed that the graft had knitted and the frame was removed. Vinna could walk without her crutches for the first time in many years.</p> <p>Vinna is now undergoing physiotherapy to strengthen and align her hip and foot. Plans are to have her home with the rest of her family in October, 18 months after she first arrived for treatment.</p> <p>Vinna and her mother have been accommodated by the very generous Ni-Van family and embraced by the members of the host Rotary Club of Hamilton East. Colin and Rosalie Sanderson liaised for the family and members of D9930 have been very supportive. A job well done!</p>		<p>experiences that they will remember and cherish.</p> <p>During Joana's convalescence, she visited the Healesville Sanctuary, the Rotary Club of Healesville's Dogs Day Out and other local events.</p> <p>She attended the Ashwood High School Interact Club, which ran a school dance to raise funds for ROMAC, resulting in a donation of \$610.</p> <p>In early April she was cleared to go home to Timor-Leste and she and Alice left for Dili on 11 April. Joana returned home healthy and happy with a full life ahead of her. Mission accomplished!</p>

Feature Story

Health Practitioner Training in Santo, Vanuatu, April 2018

Through a global grant, ROMAC New Zealand organised a series of training sessions in Port Villa and Santo in April 2018. The training covered the theory behind an approach to children with physical trauma or who have a condition that may require surgery. Lectures, discussions and small group paper case discussions took place amongst the 31 attendees in the first week. In the second week of training, 17 attendees stayed on to participate in clinical assessments that covered basic suturing skills and plastering.

The training was delivered by Dr Olwen Gilbert, Paediatric Emergency Specialist and Mohini Kumari, Clinical Nurse Specialist from Waitakere Hospital, who generously shared their knowledge and skills.

The group work was well received and generated a fair amount of class discussion and learning. However, some participants were reluctant to ask

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clarification during breaks. Often the questions were relevant for the rest of the class so these were discussed at the beginning of each new session for the benefit of all participants.

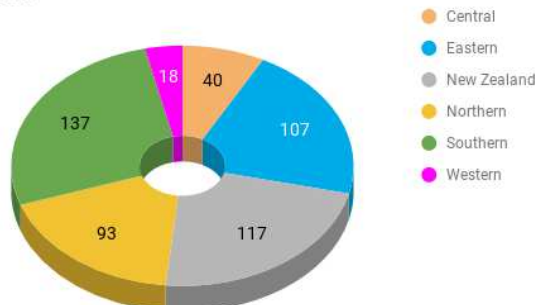
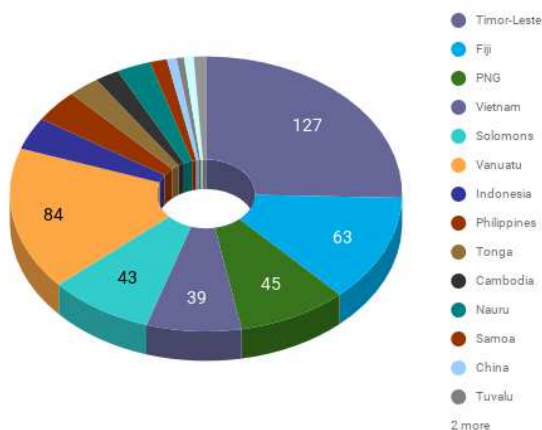
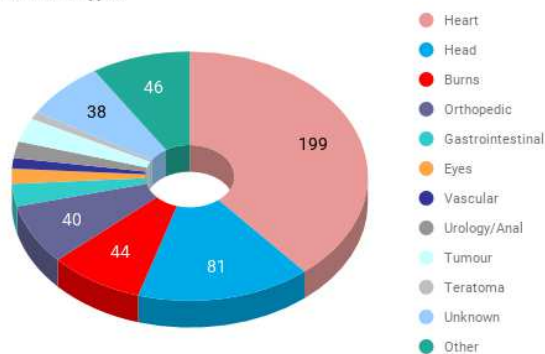


By Day 3 and 4 participants were showing more confidence and increased knowledge. They were very involved with the group work and interactive during presentations, seeking more information and discussing some of the cases they had dealt with previously in their own work area.

Feedback from the participants has been inspiring. The common theme was that participants found the practical skills session very useful. They also commented on the effectiveness of group work and presentations to help them apply the theory into case management. The clinical sessions of week 2 built on both the skill level and the confidence of the health practitioners. They gave a big thank you to Marie France who organised great food for morning tea and lunch for Week 2.

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To date, ROMAC has treated 512 children over the past 30 years. Here are the latest patient statistics about the ROMAC regions, countries and treatments to 30 June 2018.

Regions**Countries****Treatment Types**

Rotarians and Friends in Action

The Rotary Club of Emerald in Queensland has raised \$10,000 for ROMAC. For more information, see Facebook link

<https://www.facebook.com/259826240710362/posts/2631104423582520>

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ROMAC. For a full report see Facebook link <https://www.facebook.com/242579212841112/posts/477771412655223/>

The Rotary Club of Tea Tree Gully is running a series of events in South Australia starring well-known performer Mark Holden - see Facebook link <https://www.facebook.com/events/219753448749k837/?ti=icl> for more information.



Some will know of the good work Dr Bill Walker, retired plastic surgeon, has done for ROMAC patients. Bill is 89-years-old and a current member of the Rotary Club of Mosman (pictured here with Rob Wilkinson, ROMAC chair). Bill was a key figure, along with Barrie Cooper, in the establishment of ROMAC following a visit to Fiji in 1988 as part of an Interplast team.

He managed the treatment of the very first two ROMAC patients at Newcastle Hospital in 1988. You may be interested in his recent exploits. See <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/mosman-daily/retired-mosman-plastic-surgeon-bill-walker-oam-aims-to-reach-90-and-add-to-his-20-international-swimming-gold-medals/news-story/617ef9cc5bb3567d839d001faa11b130>.

To contribute what you or your Club are doing to help ROMAC, please email the Communications Coordinator at editor@romac.org.au.

New Zealand photos kindly provided by Bill Horne.

How you can help ROMAC

Every day Rotarians and Friends are raising funds to cover travel, accommodation and treatment for children and their carers.



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.

If every Friend donated \$20 we could help even more

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