

From the Chair



With the continued support of our donors, we aim to conduct four speech therapy camps this year and complete around 1,200 operations.

In a land where there are few speech therapists, the camps are an effective and innovative way to educate families and healthcare workers. Clear

speech is a wonderful asset and by following up cleft repair surgery with appropriate therapy, the children get the maximum benefit of the remedial surgery we provide. By training families and local healthcare workers, we are empowering communities at the grass roots. This is an important step towards sustainability, which is one of our long-term goals.

There are many superstitions about clefts and their cause in developing nations. In Bangladesh there is also a general lack of knowledge about caring for a baby with a cleft to ensure the child is well nourished and the risk of ear and respiratory infection is minimised.

Comprehensive care (something we take for granted in Australia) needs to be better understood by doctors, healthcare workers and families. In consultation with our surgeons, we have designed a simple brochure that explains the basics of good cleft care.



Meet Araf - Before and a few weeks after surgery. Thanks to your generosity and the skills of our surgical team, Araf's future is now much brighter. There are many more children like Araf and we need your help to give them an opportunity to reach their full potential.

It also advises the ideal age and weight for a baby to be brought to us for surgery. We are optimistic that by encouraging early intervention we will maximise the ultimate outcome of the surgery.

Operation Cleft has made some wonderful friends in Bangladesh and through these channels we can reach thousands of families to reassure and inform them. We will be watching with interest to see if the distribution of this brochure makes a difference to the ages, weights and wellbeing of children presenting for surgery.



In Bangladesh there are still only about 41 qualified Plastic Surgeons servicing a population in excess of 160 million. Training of more surgeons is vital and integral to our mission. Not only are Plastic Surgeons needed to undertake cleft surgery but also to provide surgery for the many burns victims who are horribly disfigured by accidents with domestic cooking fires. While our job is to take care of clefts, our work with the College of Plastic Surgeons in Bangladesh will also help to address other health problems. In the last 12 months Operation Cleft provided comprehensive cleft care training at several medical colleges in country areas of Bangladesh. We now plan to incorporate these sessions into all future surgical camps.

Your support is vital and valued. You can be sure that we strive to make the dollars you contribute have a positive and sustainable impact on the lives of underprivileged children born with a cleft lip or palate in Bangladesh.

Thank you to each and every one of you who help to transform the lives of these children. Your support means that they can participate successfully in school, develop friendships, be accepted in their communities, play team sports and.... Smile.

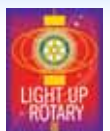
Vici Funnell

Chair, Operation Cleft Management Committee

Operation Cleft Australia Inc; a public ancillary fund has DGR (item 2) status. It is corporate trustee for the Operation Cleft Australia Foundation Trust. All donations of \$2.00 or more are fully tax deductible in Australia. ABN # 36 063 471 446



*Operation Cleft is an international project of the Rotary Club of Box Hill Central Inc.
District 9810 Australia*



Give speech a chance

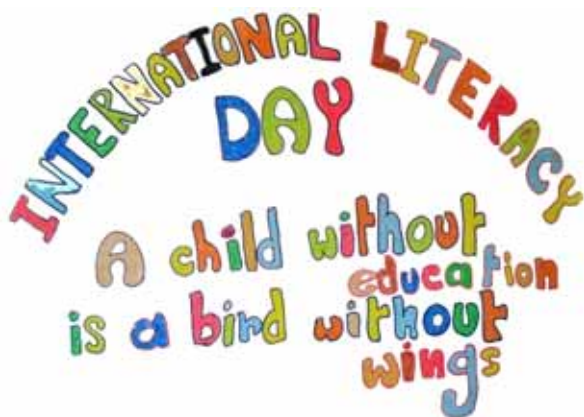


Central Queensland University (Rockhampton) Speech Pathology students are pictured (left to right) - Jessica Farne-Sang, Madison Portch, Amy Herley and Chloe McGuire.

These students raised money and awareness for Operation Cleft, using Speech Pathology Week (Aug 24-30) as a springboard for their efforts. Speech Pathology Week aims to raise awareness about the vital importance of communication to all aspects of our lives and the critical difference that communication professionals can make.

Operation Cleft's next Speech camp will be held from December 7 to 11 in Jessore. Fifteen children and their parents, along with five community health workers and two speech pathologists will move into the venue for the duration of the camp. Each child (who has had either their cleft plate or lip repaired in the past 12 months) will be individually assessed and a speech therapy program designed for them. Parents and Community Health Worker will be given instruction on how to work through the program with the children when they return to their village.

Communication and education are vitally important and whilst speech therapy is in its infancy in Bangladesh, the small steps we take now may mean the difference between a child getting an education and subsequently a job.



Poster made by students at the JAAGO's school Bangladesh which focuses on educating children from disadvantaged backgrounds within the Korail slums. The schools mission is to combat poverty by creating educated future generations.

From the children and their families, and our friends and colleagues in Bangladesh, a big thank you and Shubho BoroDin.



In Bengali there is no actual word for Christmas. It is known as *Borodin* which literally translated means, *boro* - big and *din* - day.

On behalf of the Committee of Management, staff and volunteers at Operation Cleft, we thank you for your continued support throughout the year and wish you and yours a very safe and happy festive season.

Spellathon

Bentleigh Secondary College Spellathon has gained momentum over the five years it has been running. This year all the students and staff that participated again did so with great enthusiasm.

Winners will receive a personalised engraved medal at an awards night (sponsored by Moorleigh Moorabbin Rotary Club) to be held in December.



Bentleigh Secondary College students and staff pictured above after another successful Spellathon.

“Our partnership with Rotary affords us a window into how our school community can serve those less fortunate than ourselves”, said Dr. Intha Chetty. “We are very proud to announce that over five years, the college has raised more than \$12,000 for this valuable project”.

Funds raised by students, staff and parents will help us provide children in Bangladesh with an opportunity to have the surgery they so desperately need.

Thank you, Bentleigh Secondary College for giving children the gift of a smile for life.



Our friends from Hong Kong again visited Bangladesh to see the funds they worked hard to raise in action.

All about the babies

For Jessica (pictured left), it really is all about the children. She and her sister Joyce, both Operation Cleft Junior Ambassadors, organised bake sales, mini swimathons and gift wrapping within their school and local community in Hong Kong.

In just six months, together they raised enough to pay for more than thirty babies to have the cleft repair surgery that will change their life.

Jessica and her mother Lisa were thrilled to catch up again with our Ambassador in Bangladesh, Faiyaz Khan and to meet His Excellency, the Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Mr. Greg Wilcock who also attended the surgical camp sponsored by Jessica and Joyce.



Operation Cleft Patron, Asif Moyeen pictured above with HE the Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Greg Wilcock.

Mr. Wilcock said, "I have two small sons so I feel for the parents. Operation Cleft is doing a great job which is essential for these children."



- ◆ **Donations** may be made by completing the form on the back page or via our website using PayPal.
- ◆ **Schools** - Run a fundraising event. For some great ideas go to our web site at <http://operationcleft.org.au/want-to-help/schools/> and download "Fundraising for schools"
- ◆ **Rotary, Rotaract, Interact Clubs** - as part of your commitment to international service, consider making a club contribution to Operation Cleft.
- ◆ **Businesses** - Make a donation and/or encourage your staff to give a donation and match their contribution. All donations of \$2.00 or more are fully tax deductible in Australia.
- ◆ **District Governors** - Suggest your spouse nominate Operation Cleft as their project of choice in your year or consider nominating an Ambassador in your district if you don't already have one.
- ◆ **Accountants /Solicitors** - Suggest Operation Cleft to your clients as a worthy and reputable charity.
- ◆ **Private Family Foundations (DGR item 1)** wishing to contribute to Operation Cleft may do so via the RAWCS website at www.rawcs.com.au project #64/2007-08

No-one can do everything, but everyone can do something.



Here's a great way to support Operation Cleft whilst enjoying some excellent wine. We have selected a range of six different wines for this promotion and every dozen bottles sold will contribute a significant profit to Operation Cleft.

Placing your order online is easy - to order your specially labelled promotional wines, just go to the wine promotion page on our website <http://operationcleft.org.au/want-to-help/wine-promotion/> and follow the links

Prospect Wines generously support Operation Cleft by providing our office space FOC. We encourage you to support both Prospect Wines and Operation Cleft by taking orders from your family and friends and ordering on line

This is a great opportunity to stock up for the festive season or to give away as gifts.

Free delivery to your door any where in Australia. (Orders by the dozen only)





Operation Cleft™

"Gift a smile for life"



You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you

John Bunyan circa 1660

With the support of our plastic surgeons, Operation Cleft keeps the cost of surgery to a minimum.

\$250 will give an underprivileged child in Bangladesh a **"a smile for life"**

(All figures quoted in Australian dollars).



To make a donation, please complete the form below

For more details go to www.operationcleft.org.au



I/we would like to make a donation *monthly *quarterly *Please tick your preferred donation method

** If ticked, the amount indicated below will be charged to your credit card each month or quarter until you terminate the request.*

Credit card donations may also be made via PayPal, (our secure online payment facility) - visit www.operationcleft.org.au

\$250 for cleft repair surgery for one child *or* \$..... for operations

I would like to make a donation of \$

My cheque is enclosed *(Cheques should be made payable to Operation Cleft)*

Please charge my credit card - MasterCard Visa
Please print name above (as it appears on your credit card)

Number on card _ _ _ _ _ Expiry date ____ / ____

Signature of cardholder

Name
First name Last name Please print the name of your club, business, school or group if applicable

Address State P/code

Telephone H: .../..... B: .../..... Mob: Email:.....

* For donations in lieu of - I would like a certificate in the name of
as this donation has been given in lieu of a Christmas gift: (please tick if applicable)

Please send this completed coupon with your donation to: **Operation Cleft, PO Box 631, Box Hill Vic. 3128**

For further information - Tel: 0414 246851 Email: info@operationcleft.org.au Web: www.operationcleft.org.au

Operation Cleft Australia is a Public Ancillary Fund with DGR (item 2) status. ABN - 36 063 471 446

Donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible in Australia

