

NEWSLETTER

December 2016

A Message from the Chair

On Friday I met a young Australian mother who has a six-year-old son born with a bilateral cleft lip and cleft palate. She was advised this was the case when she was scanned during pregnancy. Surgery was scheduled to take place soon after the birth of her baby, firstly for the cleft lip and then the palate.

At six years old, this young lad has started school and is speaking clearly, has good health and a bright future. Yet I could see tears in that mothers' eyes as she recounted their journey.

How much more suffering must the Bangladeshi parents of children who are born with clefts, go through. They have no notice that their child will be born with a cleft. No time to plan. No prospect of a health care system that will automatically plan a program of care for their child. Without Operation Cleft what hope can they have of their child ever having good health and a bright future?

Your support for this program is a gift to the future of a child and brings untold comfort to the loving parents of a child born with a cleft in Bangladesh. Please give generously at this Christmas/ holiday time and spread the word so that others can feel the joy of reaching out to give the gift of a smile for life.

Thank you so much

Vici Funnell Chair
Operation Cleft Australia Foundation

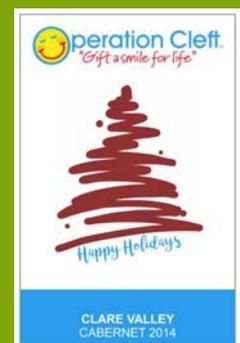


Christmas / Holiday Wine Promotion

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas – and Chanukah too! Let's face it, the holiday season is upon us, and while many eager consumers have begun, if not finished their holiday shopping, there are always a few left wondering what to give that particular friend, family member, work colleague or loved one. Well, look no further because Prospect Wines have got the perfect gift solution and, best of all, you'll be helping Operation Cleft bring the *Gift of a Smile for Life* to the lives of the poor and underprivileged in Bangladesh – after all, it is the season for giving!

Everyone knows what a major role wine plays in the holidays. Whether you're enjoying a nice glass of red or white around the table with the people that you love, celebrating a holiday, birthday or special event or giving a bottle or two as a gift. Prospect Wines have some great gift ideas – you can choose from reds, whites and sparkling, a half dozen or a dozen – all this delivered to your door anywhere in Australia.

Order online at www.prospectwines.com.au and go to the Fundraiser Groups tab and then click on the Operation Cleft logo. Or call Tania at Prospect Wines on 03 9877 1099 and place your order.



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Reflections from the Secretary

It has been just over two years since taking up the role of Secretary /Public Officer for Operation Cleft Australia. My enthusiasm for the work and achievements of this amazing project though goes back much further to the inception of the project in 2005. I, along with other members of the Rotary Club of Box Hill Central embraced the idea of taking up this visionary project to bring support, surgical help and hope to children inflicted with Cleft Lip and Cleft Palate disorders in poorer developing countries where minimal medical support for Cleft issues existed.

After just three years we decided for lots of good reasons that the populous country of Bangladesh would be the place where we could make our best contribution. The outcomes have been most significant with nearly 10,300 operations now completed, all made possible through excellent partnerships with exceptional in-country talented and experienced surgeons, and the dedicated support and skills of our NGO In-country partner and management team at Glencoe Foundation.

As Secretary, I see lots of correspondence and reports detailing the success of the various surgical missions as they take place across all regions of Bangladesh. The impressions that most Impact me are the children's before and after op pictures depicting those post-op, life changing beautiful faces and smiles. What also never ceases to amaze me is the change in the faces of the children's mothers from one of pre-operation anxiety, worry, and pain to the one of amazing relief, joy and hope for the new future for their loved child following the operation.

What I like most about this project is that it centers on relationships; transformed children, deeply appreciative families, skilled surgeons, capable In-country management, then in Australia our Administration and Fundraising Executive, Volunteer Committee members, OCA Ambassadors, Volunteers and most important of all our many generous donors. We all play our important part, but we never forget that the life and growth of this unique project happens because of your regular and generous support, I/we thank you so much for that support.

Bruce McEwen
Secretary
Operation Cleft Australia Inc.

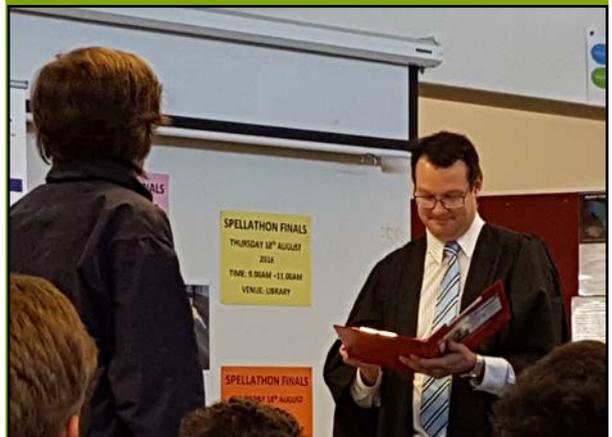
Bentleigh Secondary College Spell-a-thon

After weeks of preparation, study and inner-class heats, it all came down to the Bentleigh Secondary College Spell-a-thon Finals held on Thursday 18th August.

Students were put through their paces in the competition by teachers Suzy Watt and "Professor Thesaurus" Marc Koenig (no doubt influenced by Channel TEN's Spelling Bee program).

Starting with a warm-up round of relatively easy to spell words to settle the nerves, students from a variety of classes tackled a plethora of words until each class produced clear first, second and third place winners.

Operation Cleft would like to thank teachers Dr. Intha Chetty, a member of the Rotary Club of Moorleigh Moorabbin, for organizing this event, along with Suzy Watt and Marc Koenig for their excellent hosting and the students of Bentleigh Secondary College for their participation and wonderful fundraising efforts.



Professor Thesaurus" (teacher Marc Koenig) setting the spelling challenges to students.

Footnote: On behalf of Operation Cleft Australia Foundation, we send our most heartfelt condolences to Dr. Intha Chetty and family on the passing of her husband, Jason Chetty on the 10th September 2016.

Jason, a member the Moreleigh Moorabbin Rotary Club, was a dedicated and tireless fundraiser and supporter of Operation Cleft.

This progress report from the Operation Cleft In-Country Manager, Moinul Islam, is an infographic reflection of Operation Cleft activities in Bangladesh during the last three months (July-September 2016).



Patient Operated in This Quarter

MALE - FEMALE RATIO



PROJECT PROGRESS IN 2016

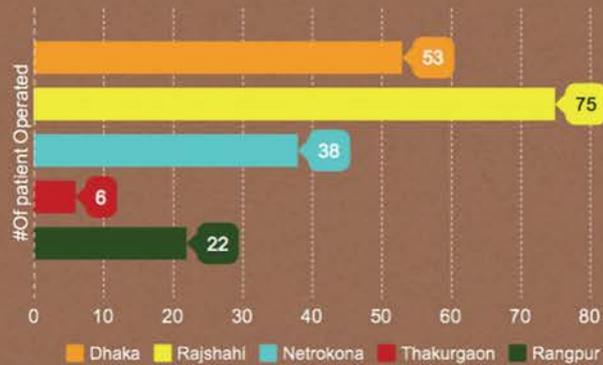


5 Surgical Camps

Successfully Completed in last 3 months



District Basis Patient Enrolment



TOTAL PROJECT PROGRESS

SCHEDULED SURGICAL CAMPS

Surgical Camp No: 29 2nd November, 2016 City Hospital, Dhaka	Surgical Camp No: 32 16th November, 2016 City Hospital, Dhaka	Surgical Camp No: 35 23rd November, 2016 Health Care Hospital, Hobigonj	Surgical Camp No: 38 1st December, 2016 Nova Hospital, Jessore
Surgical Camp No: 30 4th November, 2016 Islami Bank Hospital, Rajshahi	Surgical Camp No: 33 18th November, 2016 Kuwait Probashi Hospital, Barguna	Surgical Camp No: 36 24th November, 2016 Maa O Shishu Hospital, Bhairav	Surgical Camp No: 39 24th November, 2016 City Hospital, Kurigram
Surgical Camp No: 31 10th November, 2016 Abiseena Hospital, Sirajgonj	Surgical Camp No: 34 19th November, 2016 Netrokona Ideal Hospital, Barguna	Surgical Camp No: 37 28th November, 2016 Prime Hospital, Thakurgaon	Surgical Camp No: 40 22nd December, 2016 Rajshahi Cancer Hospital, Rajshahi

