

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

**Rotary**  
Districts  
of Oceania



**ROMAC**  
Rotary Oceania  
Medical Aid  
for Children



# 10 FAQ's about ROMAC

1

**Q. Does ROMAC receive Government funding?**

**A.** No. ROMAC relies entirely on the generosity of our individual and corporate donors, the support of Rotary Clubs and District Governors – and the very prudent management of our funds.

2

**Q. Does ROMAC have any paid employees**

**A.** No. ROMAC is 'staffed' entirely by volunteers who use their own office facilities, drive their own cars and pay their own miscellaneous expenses eg. telephone accounts.

3

**Q. Why does ROMAC bring children to Australia and New Zealand instead of operating on them in their own country?**

**A.** Because the necessarily complex surgery, paediatric intensive care and rehabilitation required to remedy disfiguring birth defects like encephalocele or life threatening cardiac problems, is simply not available in small nations in the South West Pacific, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste.

4

**Q. What is an encephalocele?**

**A.** An encephalocele is an extremely distressing congenital condition where part of the infant brain bulges out of the skull to form a sac-like protrusion in the middle of the face.

5

**Q. What other medical conditions do ROMAC children present with?**

**A.** Serious trauma eg burns, which require re-constructive surgery and skin grafting. It is a long, painful process often requiring multiple re-admissions.

6

**Q. Why do so many children present with burns?**

**A.** Because cooking over an open, ground-level fire pit is the norm in many villages. Sadly, toddlers often fall in, with disastrous and painful consequences.

7

**Q. Once a child in need has been identified how are they brought to Australia or NZ?**

**A.** It is logistically complex to bring a baby or indeed an adolescent, from a remote village to a leading teaching hospital for treatment. Visas and passports need to be obtained, international airfares booked and pre-paid, availability of hospital costs and surgeons ascertained, internal transport organised, home hosting arranged... it is incredibly time consuming... and all offered pro bono by volunteers.

8

**Q. Does ROMAC need more volunteers?**

**A.** Yes. There are many ways of supporting ROMAC. You might offer your vocational skills, home-host one of our little patients and their carer or be a volunteer driver.

9

**Q. How can I find out more about ROMAC?**

**A.** Visit our websites – [www.romac.org.au](http://www.romac.org.au) or [www.romac.org.nz](http://www.romac.org.nz) or check out our Facebook page for regular updates.

10

**Q. How can I donate?**

**A.** That's easy. Thank you for asking. Fill in the form at the back of this Annual Report. Donate securely on-line at [www.romac.org.au](http://www.romac.org.au) (OR [www.romac.org.nz](http://www.romac.org.nz)) OR mail a cheque to either our OZ or NZ address. Donations above \$2.00 are of course, tax deductible and, in return, we hope you get a nice warm fuzzy feeling for helping ROMAC to transform the life of a small child.



## Rob Wilkinson Chairman's Report

*This year we are celebrating 30 years of* **ROMAC**

**W**e are celebrating 500 plus children whose lives we've transformed. We are celebrating our 100% volunteer ROMAC workforce and the District Governors and Rotary Clubs who support ROMAC. We are celebrating our marvellous individual donors and corporate sponsors. We are celebrating the medical specialists who give their skills so generously. We are celebrating the Founders of ROMAC who had the vision and determination to bring this humanitarian initiative to fruition and those who have sustained it to this day.

We are celebrating our past and present ROMAC patients who continue to inspire us ... and let's not forget their families, often poor, vulnerable and geographically isolated, who, like all proud parents, want their children to survive and thrive ... and who are so grateful that ROMAC provides that opportunity.

To mention everyone by name is beyond the scope of this Annual Report. Ditto the how, what, where, when and whom but the WHY is paramount. WHY does ROMAC exist? Because there is a continuing need; tiny babies and young children with life threatening conditions or grossly disfiguring birth defects, unable to be treated in their country of origin, need our help. We are celebrating 30 successful years of fulfilling that need.

My warmest thanks to you all. Please continue to support us and please spread the word about ROMAC, a true Rotary success story which has, at its heart, a small child in need of surgical intervention.

In closing, I'd particularly like to record my thanks to the ROMAC Board and Operations Committee members (past, current and transitioning and their families) for their support and commitment.

*Rob*

Rob Wilkinson

*Edited version: from the Chairman's speech at the ROMAC 30th Anniversary Dinner held at NSW Parliament House in the presence of (then) RI President Ian Riseley and his wife Juliet and RI Director, John Matthews from Seattle, USA and his wife, Mary Ellen and Hosted by Mrs Leslie Williams, MP, NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Regional and Rural Health.*



NSW PARLIAMENT HOUSE DINNER: Rob Wilkinson ROMAC Chair, Ian Riseley - Rotary International President, Leslie Williams MP and Dr. Michael Brydon

## A very Special Mention and 'Thank you' to those retiring from the ROMAC fold this year:

Medical Director –

**Dr Eric Horne** (and Margaret)

IT/Operations Consultant and former Operations Director -

**Barry Wilson** (and Jill)

Eastern Region Chair –

**Richard Woodburn** (and Julie)

Operations Secretary –

**Peter Maitland** (and Helen)

Operations Director (ret'd. July '18)

**Garth Halliday** (and Kath)

Operations Consultant (ret'd March '18)

**Bryan Mason** (and Lyn)

## The Chairman and Board acknowledge the professional contributions of

**Maggie Alexander** and

**Glenys Parton** for ROMAC eNews and Facebook and

**Ann Burleigh** for editing this Annual Report.

## THANK YOU to all our wonderful

**MEDICAL SPECIALISTS** whose generosity and professionalism is recognised and appreciated by the ROMAC Board and Operations Committee, and of course, the young patients whose lives they transform.

## Very Special Thanks to ROMAC Ambassadors and corporate donors:

Gavin Fox-Smith (Johnson & Johnson),

Professor Emerita Dianne Yerbury AO, Rosie Lotawa

(former ROMAC patient), pianist Roger Woodward,

golfer Lydia Ko and the philanthropist Dr Jerry Schwartz

who helped ROMAC raise \$30,000 on the opening

night of his latest hotel, the Sofitel, Darling Harbour.

## Acknowledgements: ROMAC Founder

**Barrie Cooper** and **\*Dr Bill Walker**, who, as a plastic surgeon, treated the first ROMAC patient at Newcastle Hospital in 1988 (\*Bill Walker OAM, now 90, is still an active member of the Rotary Club of Mosman) and **Trish O'Reilly** (who started ROMAC in NZ) plus many other 'unsung' but deeply appreciated volunteers.

**ROMAC stands on your shoulders...**

Our wonderful corporate sponsors'

**Johnson & Johnson**

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**ConocoPhillips**

**Eureka**  
REAL ASSETS

**flysolomons**

**CANBERRA HOSPITAL Foundation**

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**GILEAD**

**SYDNEY CLASSIC PRODUCTIONS**

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### Our Cover: Michal

(18 months) from Fiji, had a successful repair of a Ventricular Septal Defect and, having made a pleasing recovery and gaining weight, was discharged home.

### Photographers:

Bill Horne (NZ)  
Bill Forsyth + others.

The ROMAC Board and Operations Committee, would also like to publicly record our thanks to the many people who enable ROMAC to continue with our life transforming, humanitarian initiatives.

We could not continue without your support. On behalf of the children you sponsor - thank you so much.





## Dr Eric Horne Medical Director's Report

*It's been my privilege*

For the past eight years I have had the privilege of serving on the ROMAC Board, 4 years as NZ Regional Director and 4 years as the ROMAC Medical Director. In my 48 years as a Rotarian, and involvement with many worthwhile projects, I can say, without doubt, that involvement with ROMAC, and the dedicated ROMAC team, has been the most fulfilling and rewarding.

Determining which children to accept for ROMAC funding and support is difficult, and I am indebted to all the surgeons in Australia and New Zealand who have offered considered opinions, advice and professional services. These doctors have enabled ROMAC to save and change the lives of over 500 vulnerable children from the Oceania region.

Last year, ROMAC entered into a partnership with the Pacific Children's Cancer Project. No area of medicine is advancing more rapidly than the treatment of cancer and many children's cancers are eminently treatable with an 85% lifetime success rate (comparable to open heart surgery).

To date, our oncologists, Dr Jane Skeen in Auckland and Professor Michael Sullivan in Melbourne have treated 5 children with solid tumour cancers which required surgery; follow-up chemotherapy will be delivered in the children's homeland where local doctors and nurses have been trained to administer the necessary medication.

During my time as MD, I have been fortunate to have Barry Wilson as ROMAC's Operations Director. Barry's passion for ROMAC and dedication to the care of our precious children has been inspirational and I am grateful for his support and friendship. It has indeed, been a joy to work with the whole ROMAC team.

I believe ROMAC represents the very best of Rotary service, and as I retire from the role, I wish ROMAC continued success and my successor, Dr Laurence (Larry) Roddick, has my warmest best wishes as he undertakes this very privileged position.

*Eric*



MOHAMMED with his grandmother Zeenat and ROMAC Operations volunteer Lorraine Bartlett.







## **Michael Carrigan** Treasurer's Report

### *2017 – 2018 financial year*

It is with pleasure that I submit my first Report as Honorary Treasurer of ROMAC. I have found this year to be challenging, inspirational and educational as my knowledge of the incredible work carried out by ROMAC deepens. There was very little difference in donations from Rotary Clubs within Australia in this financial year with total receipts \$487,809 (2017 - \$486,687). 206 Clubs made financial contributions (in 2017-189, in 2016 -198) which is encouraging especially as some were 'first time' donors.

A significant fundraiser this year was the \$30,000 received from a unique 'Room' Raffle arranged by immediate past Treasurer, Bruce Robinson in conjunction with Sofitel Darling Harbour Hotel owner, Dr Jerry Schwartz.

Other donations and bequests totalled \$222,747, compared to \$269,274 in the preceding year. In summary, total donations etc were \$740,556, compared to \$755,961 in the 2016-17 year.

A significant decline in interest earned in the 2018 financial year, has resulted in a decline in income from investments (\$92,782 in 2017 to \$66,330). A contributing factor in the decline in investment income, has been the decision to reduce 'exposure' to one investment in particular, and to re-direct funds from that source to more liquid interest-bearing accounts.

Indirect costs for the year totalled \$93,548 (2017 - \$87,347). This figure includes costs associated with the acquisition of 10 Chrome Notepads for use by Operational personnel including Regional Chairs.

It is ROMAC's long term stated desire that income from investments should cover the organisation's indirect costs; this has not been achieved in the current financial year. Cost saving measures including more electronic meetings rather than face-to-face, have been implemented. The outlook in the current investment climate indicates that further modification may be required to achieve our stated indirect costs objective.

Medical expenses rose significantly (\$717,250) this year compared to (\$473,962) in 2017. As reported in previous years, a significant portion of medical and associated expenditure was funded through Global Grants (through the Rotary Clubs of Albert Park and Ross River). Whilst these Rotary Global Grants continue to operate they have not had the same 'impact' on expenditure as in the preceding twelve months.

The overall result for the current financial year was a deficit of \$3,912 as compared to a surplus in the preceding year of \$333,869 (due in part to the Rotary Global Grants referred to above).

Significant effort is put into assessing cases prior to their acceptance and many of the medical costs are discounted either by the treating hospital or the medical specialists providing their time pro bono. There is however, always a danger that complications or unforeseen circumstances can blow out costs which create a drain on ROMAC financial reserves. For this reason, the continued financial support of Rotary clubs and Rotarians is critical to the ongoing operation of ROMAC.

Yours in ROMAC service.

*Michael*

Michael Carrigan





## **Barry Wilson & Garth Halliday** Operations Directors

*2017/2018 Report*

A sterling year for **ROMAC**

In the 2017-18 year, under the auspices of ROMAC, 43 children have received life-saving or transformative surgery; a 20% increase on the previous year. Each case comes with its own challenges, some quite unique, but our ROMAC volunteer teams and medical partners, work collaboratively to find solutions.

Interestingly, our caseload is changing. Cardiac is now the most often referred, at almost 50%, but this year tumour referrals made up 16% of our total. There are many reasons for this, especially with Vanuatu and Timor-Leste now able to administer pre and post-operative treatment locally. This results in much shorter treatment times in Australia and New Zealand.

We are also observing an increase in aid organisations and visiting surgical teams who can treat children in their home country. This considerably reduces the demands placed on ROMAC. We must always remember that ROMAC was established to help children whose life-threatening conditions could not be remedied in their country of origin.

In recent years, ROMAC has benefitted greatly from the financial support of Rotary Clubs' Global Grants. Two were completed this year and included in-island training components for clinicians. One was unique in that ROMAC partnered with the Menzies Institute for training and research modules in Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD). Over 2,000 school children in Timor-Leste were tested. A significant number were identified needing penicillin injections to prevent RHD progressing and the program also identified possible ways to deliver preventative RHD education in schools.

After 6 years in the Operational role, Barry passed the baton mid-year to Garth Halliday. In doing so, Barry took on a new temporary ROMAC position of IT and Operations Consultant to ensure continuity and further support the development of the eROMAC platform.

Garth began his transition in February and was a fast learner due to his significant prior NGO experience. Unfortunately, he was unable to continue in the Director's role beyond July 2018. I want to record the huge input by Garth over this short time; he will be greatly missed. Our Operations Manager, Carol Bourne, rose gallantly to her increased patient support demands during this transitional time, and to Carol, a very sincere thank you.

ROMAC relies significantly on our Medical Director, Dr Eric Home, for guidance and medical advice. Eric works collaboratively with the Operations Team and discusses case management with surgeons and hospitals, often alerting us to potential challenges, prior to a child's admission. For many years, Eric has been a huge supporter of ROMAC and we wish to record our thanks for his professionalism and stoic dedication to ROMAC children.

Dr Laurence (Larry) Roddick who will succeed Eric following our September AGM, has been assisting Eric and learning the ropes for the last 6 months and we offer him our warmest congratulations as he assumes the role.

Finally, we wish to thank the entire ROMAC volunteer family, both locally and overseas, who provide dedicated and loving care to our patients and families prior to departure, on arrival, during surgery, recovery and return home.

Barry: *"I'd like to thank the ROMAC Board for the trust and support shown to me during my six-year honorary tenure as Operations Director and Consultant. Supported by a wonderful team, in my term, the lives of over 250 children have been saved. Thank you for this privilege."*

*Barry & Garth*

Barry Wilson and Garth Halliday  
Operations Directors 2017-2018





## Carol Bourne Operations Manager

**ROMAC** *a collaborative effort*

The Operations Manager's role is multi-faceted. To bring a baby/child/adolescent from a remote island location to a leading teaching hospital in Australia or New Zealand requires meticulous and often urgent attention to immigration, health and legal issues and adherence to ROMAC's own stringent guidelines.

Surgeries this year continued to be dominated by cardiac conditions followed by tumours, encephalocele, teratoma, urology and maxillofacial. (See conditions and country of origin in separate report).

Our cardiac cases require Paediatric Intensive Care which is only available at Children's Hospitals. Always, and unfortunately, they have limited capacity during the winter months to accept ROMAC children due to local demand. These beds are also expensive, which puts a strain on ROMAC costs. Auckland's Starship Children's Hospital accepted 50% of ROMAC cases this year, sometimes three at a time! We gratefully acknowledge their partnership with ROMAC. We are fortunate that Royal Darwin Hospital is now also accepting ROMAC children. A special thanks to Rod Meyers and his team in Darwin for their tireless support of patients and carers travelling between Darwin and Dili.

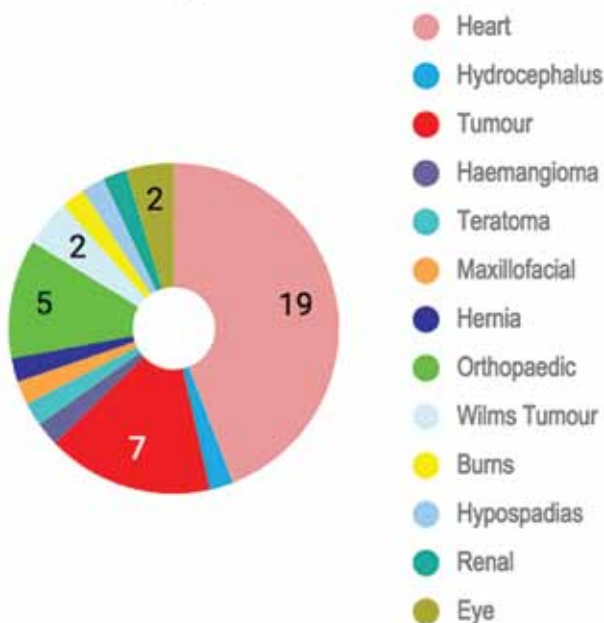
We appreciate the assistance provided by Australia's Department of Immigration and Border Protection staff and Immigration New Zealand, for their prompt attention to often urgent requests for Visas and Passports.

The Operations Manager's role is rewarding but very time consuming. It is made somewhat easier with the willing assistance of Regional Chairs, individual Rotarians and Rotary clubs throughout Oceania, so, in conclusion, my warmest thanks for your support.

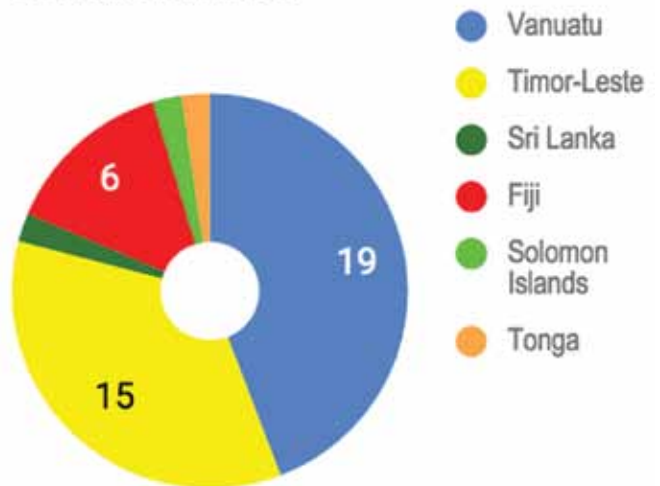
*Carol*

Carol Bourne

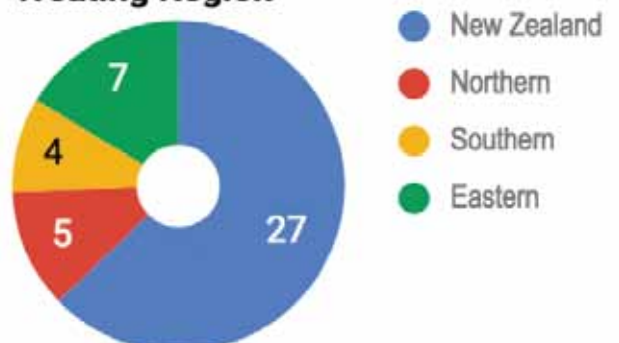
### Treatment Types



### Source Countries



### Treating Region



# ROMAC *success stories - Our patients*

## ROMAC Cases for Year 2017/2018

Name	DOB	Country	Region	Surgery	Status	Hospital	Rotary Club
Abelnardo	2017	Vanuatu	New Zealand	Heart	CURRENT	Starship Auckland	New Market
Ana	2013	Timor-Leste	New Zealand	Heart	COMPLETED	Starship Auckland	East Coast Bays
Annisha	2014	Vanuatu	New Zealand	Heart	CURRENT	Starship Auckland	New Market
Calnizio	2017	Timor-Leste	Northern	Hydrocephalus	COMPLETED	Royal Darwin Hospital	Darwin South
Delia	2004	Timor-Leste	Northern	Tumour	COMPLETED	Royal Darwin Hospital	Parkwood
Elody	2017	Vanuatu	New Zealand	Heart	COMPLETED	Starship Auckland	Remuera
Fathima	1999	Sri Lanka	Southern	Haemangioma	COMPLETED	St Vincent's Private	Ashgrove/The Gap
Febriana	2015	Timor-Leste	New Zealand	Heart	COMPLETED	Starship Auckland	East Coast Bays
Febriani	2010	Timor-Leste	New Zealand	Heart	COMPLETED	Starship Auckland	East Coast Bays
Gael	2005	Vanuatu	New Zealand	Tumour	COMPLETED	Starship Auckland	Downtown Auckland
Ilandia	2018	Timor-Leste	Eastern	Teratoma	CURRENT	The Canberra Hospital	Belconnen
Jalica	2010	Vanuatu	New Zealand	Heart	COMPLETED	Starship Auckland	Downtown Auckland
Jessino	2005	Vanuatu	New Zealand	Heart	COMPLETED	Starship Auckland	Downtown Auckland
Jesuinha	2005	Timor-Leste	Eastern	Heart	COMPLETED	SCHN Randwick	Sutherland
Jimmy	2009	Vanuatu	New Zealand	Maxillofacial	COMPLETED	Quay Park Surgical Centre	Takapuna
Joana	2011	Timor-Leste	Southern	Heart	COMPLETED	Royal Children's hospital	Wandin
Justino	2017	Timor-Leste	Northern	Hernia	COMPLETED	Royal Darwin Hospital	Darwin Sunrise
Leisamoa	2007	Vanuatu	New Zealand	Tumour	COMPLETED	Starship Auckland	Milford
Lisa	2002	Vanuatu	Eastern	Orthopaedic	COMPLETED	SCHN Westmead	Norwest Sunrise
Lucilia	2009	Timor-Leste	Southern	Tumour	COMPLETED	Peter McCallum Clinic	Healesville
Lucilia	2009	Timor-Leste	Northern	Tumour	COMPLETED	Royal Darwin Hospital	Rockhampton South
Meto	2015	Vanuatu	New Zealand	Wilms Tumour	COMPLETED	Starship Auckland	Remuera
Michal	2017	Fiji	New Zealand	Heart	COMPLETED	Starship Auckland	Milford
Mohammed	2015	Fiji	New Zealand	Burns	COMPLETED	Ascot Private	Auckland Harbourside
Mourine	2003	Solomon Islands	Eastern	Tumour	CURRENT	SCHN Randwick	Five Dock
Noa	2007	Fiji	Eastern	Hypospadias	COMPLETED	The Canberra Hospital	Jerrabomberra
Noel	2010	Vanuatu	New Zealand	Heart	COMPLETED	Starship Auckland	Northcote/Glenfield
Patricio	2008	Timor-Leste	Southern	Tumour	COMPLETED	Royal Children's hospital	Albert Park
Rachel	2013	Vanuatu	New Zealand	Renal	COMPLETED	Starship Auckland	Birkenhead
Ricardo	2006	Timor-Leste	Northern	Heart	COMPLETED	Royal Darwin Hospital	Darwin South
Rosalia	2017	Fiji	New Zealand	Eye	COMPLETED	Christchurch Hospital	Cashmere
Rosalia	2017	Fiji	New Zealand	Eye	COMPLETED	Christchurch Hospital	Cashmere
Rui	2004	Timor-Leste	Eastern	Heart	COMPLETED	SCHN Randwick	Cronulla
Sandra	2006	Vanuatu	New Zealand	Heart	COMPLETED	Starship Auckland	Milford
Senikaili	2003	Fiji	New Zealand	Heart	COMPLETED	Starship Auckland	North Harbour
Sethrack	2014	Vanuatu	New Zealand	Heart	COMPLETED	Starship Auckland	Browns Bay
Sioeli	2009	Tonga	Eastern	Orthopaedic	COMPLETED	John Hunter Hospital	Warners Bay
Sunela	2016	Vanuatu	New Zealand	Wilms Tumour	COMPLETED	Starship Auckland	New Lynn
Tania	2015	Timor-Leste	New Zealand	Heart	COMPLETED	Starship Auckland	East Coast Bays
Thomas	2002	Vanuatu	New Zealand	Orthopaedic	COMPLETED	Auckland Surgical Centre	Remuera
Thomas	2002	Vanuatu	New Zealand	Orthopaedic	CURRENT	Auckland Surgical Centre	Remuera
Vinna	2012	Vanuatu	New Zealand	Orthopaedic	CURRENT	Braemar Hospital Hamilton	Hamilton East
William	2017	Vanuatu	New Zealand	Heart	COMPLETED	Starship Auckland	North Harbour



Thomas



Abelardo



Sunela



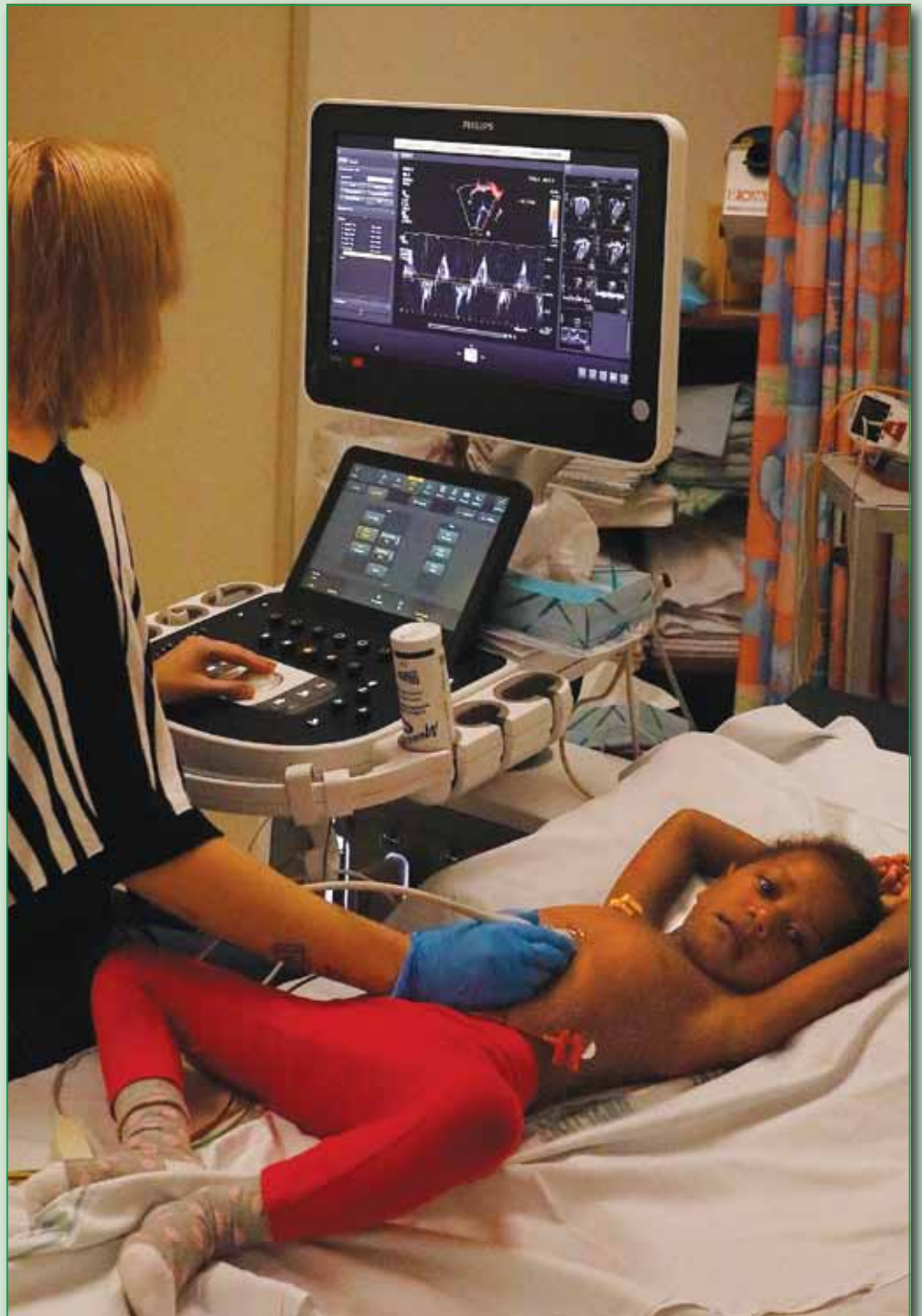
Rachel



Meto



Patricio



Annisha





## Glenys Parton

### *New Zealand Region Chair*

The New Zealand Region team have organised and facilitated the logistics, treatment, care and support for 27 ROMAC children during the 2017-18 Rotary year; 18 from Vanuatu, 4 from Timor-Leste and 5 from Fiji. Children were treated in Starship and Mercy Ascot Hospitals in Auckland, Braemar Hospital in Hamilton and Christchurch Hospital in Christchurch.

Treatments covered the spectrum of orthopaedic, cardiac, maxillofacial and ophthalmic conditions with a number also, of treatable non-malignant tumours.

Prior to Christmas, we were logistically challenged with the simultaneous arrival of three children from Timor-Leste for cardiac treatment. This required transit through Australia and some meticulous teamwork. On arrival in New Zealand, critical translation services were provided by Timor-Leste students residing at the time in Auckland.

East Coast Bays Rotary Club provided phenomenal support to the patients and their families ensuring smooth integration and assistance through treatment. With three families in New Zealand at the same time, we faced some challenging moments but the 'can do' attitude and problem-solving skill of Rotarians was always in evidence.

Vinna, our longest patient stay to date, has been with us for 17 months undergoing complex orthopaedic treatment on her leg. When the Taylor Spatial Frame (sponsored by Smith and Nephew) was removed recently, Vinna was able to walk unaided for the first time. It was a very special moment ...

The New Zealand Region has again successfully delivered two further series of training for 47 health practitioners in Vanuatu, as part of a Global Grant requirement and an on-going commitment to increase local skills. Training, based on modules of the WHO Health Pocket Book, was delivered by Dr Olwen Gilbert, Paediatric Emergency Specialist and Nurse Practitioners Jane Key and Mohini Kumari.

The New Zealand Rotary Host Clubs play a critical role in supporting our young patients and their families, especially the Clubs in D9910 and D9920. Murray Pearce (D9970) responded swiftly to a last minute call to action when a wee babe from Fiji required ophthalmological surgery. Clubs who have hosted this year are:-

Auckland Harbourside	Birkenhead	Browns Bay	Cashmere
Downtown Auckland	East Coast Bays	Hamilton East	Milford
New Lynn	Northcote/Glenfield	New Market	North Harbour
Remuera			

We are again grateful to the dedicated medical teams at our supporting hospitals who go out of their way to assist and change the lives of the children ROMAC brings to them.

Members of the New Zealand Regional Committee feel a sense of pride in being part of such a great Rotary programme especially in this hugely successful record-breaking year.

*I roto I te mahi o nga tamariki*

*Glenys*

Glenys Parton  
New Zealand Regional Chair



## Jim Prokhovnik

### *Southern Region Chair*

This year, Southern Region successfully hosted four patients due in no small part to the commitment of our District Chairs - Lesley Shedden, Katherine Baverstock, Alan Samuel, Graeme Chester, Colin Byron and Madeline Logan.

**Fathima** (Rifada) from Sri Lanka (originally brought to Melbourne for surgery in 2002) returned in May for two follow-up facial surgeries and further surgery to her leg. Supervised by D9800 Chair Alan Samuel, Fathima stayed with relatives and returned home in August. Professor Tony Penington (who performed the initial surgery in 2002) and St Vincent's Public Hospital, provided their services pro bono. Sponsor - Rotary Club of Wyndham

**Patricio** from Timor-Leste, arrived in September with a large tumour in his chest. After a dramatic trip via Royal Darwin and Monash Children's Hospitals, he was treated at the Royal Children's Hospital and, despite some worrying moments, he progressed very well. Patricio returned home in November to complete his treatment of chemotherapy in Dili. Sponsor - Rotary Club of Clayton. Hosts - Dianne & Bill Sides (Clayton), Kay & Phil Leck (Boronia), Gavin & Wanda McIntyre (Wandin)

**Lucilia** from Timor-Leste, arrived in February for a course of radiotherapy at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. She had previously undergone a course of chemotherapy under the guidance of Professor Michael Sullivan from the RCH and with the combined treatments, Lucilia returned home in May with a great prognosis. Sponsor - Rotary Club of Healesville. Hosts - Robyn & Ken Dusting.

**Joana** from Timor-Leste had cardiac surgery at the Royal Children's Hospital and returned home after five weeks to a normal, healthy life. Sponsor - Rotary Club of Wandin. Hosts - Diane & Gavan McIntyre.

Congratulations to Alan Samuels on receiving an Order of Australia, Madeline Logan and her team in Tasmania for their fantastic events and fundraising and Graeme Chester who, after six years is stepping down, leaving a significant legacy. His successor is Gavan McIntyre.

*Jim*

Jim Prokhovnik





## **Brett Dalton** *Central Region Chair*

**A**lthough our Region did not directly receive a patient for admission, a child bound for Adelaide had a complex procedure in Royal Darwin Hospital with the help, via Skype, of Dr Cindy Molloy.

Dr Cindy Molloy, who has had regular involvement with ROMAC through our Craniofacial patients, was also a Guest Speaker at the District D9520/9500 Conference. I presented at the D9520 Assembly at Murray Bridge and the ROMAC stand was visited by many attendees which gave us a chance to 'spread the word' and lots of ROMAC collateral.

We held a 'Wear Red for ROMAC' celebration in June and raised over \$14k through raffles, an Auction and a very generous gift of \$10,000 from the wife of a former Burnside Rotarian. The Mark Holden ROMAC Touchdown Shows provide another effective fundraiser and ROMAC is appreciative of Mark's generosity.

Central is seriously committed to fundraising as The Women and Children's Cardiology Department, headed by Dr Gavin Wheaton, has identified six children in need of attention and a young girl from Timor-Leste is scheduled for craniofacial surgery. Our current ROMAC medical officer, Dr Allan McKinnon is due to retire and is assisting us in appointing a successor to the role. We offer Allan our thanks for his service.

*Brett*



## **Wayne Litherland** *Northern Region Chair*

**T**here was an increased focus on activity through Darwin, with Royal Darwin Hospital receiving four patients from Timor-Leste for treatment and a further three for diagnosis and assessment before either returning home or transferring to another treatment destination.

Royal Darwin Hospital also saw further training provided to regional health practitioners from Timor-Leste in relation to an ongoing Rotary Global Grant. Darwin continues as a transit hub, both domestically and internationally, with Rotarians providing greeting, transfer and translation assistance, often working magic on tight timelines.

Brisbane has been less active, and we were saddened when a scheduled child passed away before commencement of treatment. Another case stalled due to lack of parental consent. We continue to build ties with Lady Cilento Hospital, and the local ethnic communities who are always happy to assist with language and cultural support.

The ongoing requirement for fundraising remains crucial. PDG Margaret Hayes asked Clubs to 'Wear Red for ROMAC' during our 30th Anniversary year and the District raised over \$30,000 through this campaign. ROMAC was chosen as charity of choice by the D9640 District Governor's Partner, Kerrie Brown, and ongoing Trivia Nights on the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast plus the Emerald cycling events continue to support ROMAC.

Special thanks are extended to Dr Joshua Francis who not only supported ROMAC with medical and training assistance but presented at two District Conferences in SE Queensland on the same week-end. This resulted in contributions to ROMAC from both conference organising committees and helped to spread the ROMAC message.

My heartfelt thanks to all on our committee and also those who assist ROMAC in our Region.

*Wayne*



## **Susan Bruse** *Western Region Chair*

**T**he much-anticipated opening of the Perth Children's Hospital occurred in May. We continue to pursue negotiations with the Health Department and Administration of the Perth Children's Hospital to determine their position on Charitable Surgeries. We remain hopeful for a successful outcome for admission of ROMAC patients in the future.

Our only ROMAC activity this year was a patient in transit through Perth, enroute to Auckland for medical attention. This went smoothly thanks to Brian Eddy, Joan Varian and an interpreter. We were pleased to receive feedback on the success of her treatment and safe return to Timor-Leste.

Our Bi-District group has met regularly to re-establish a ROMAC presence in WA. We are committed to disseminating information about the wonderful work that is done by ROMAC.

*Susan*





## Richard Woodburn

### *Eastern Region Chair*

It has been another busy year for Eastern Region with seven children treated across all major Paediatric Hospitals in the area. ROMAC is appreciative of the support provided by our local hospital Management Committees who accommodate ROMAC patients without compromising local Australian children.

Eastern Region is fortunate to have a dedicated team of District Chairs – Lyn Thorpe, Maria Moran, Russ Evans, Ken Engsmyr and Sandra Mahlberg who, in turn, are supported by their wonderful District teams and professionally assisted by Regional Medical Advisor, Dr Dan Sachdev OAM.

The year started on a high note with **Rui** from Timor-Leste having life-saving cardiac surgery at Sydney Children's Hospital.

**Sioeli**, from Tonga, arrived with a broken leg which had been untreated for 18 months. She received urgently necessary treatment at John Hunter Hospital in Newcastle.

**Jesuinha**, from Timor-Leste, underwent cardiac surgery at The Children's Hospital, Randwick.

**Mourine**, arrived from the Solomon Islands for treatment of a large but benign neck tumour which required chemotherapy and surgery at the Sydney Children's Hospital. During her long stay in Sydney, Mourine was able to resume her education after a 3 year gap. This had been interrupted by an earthquake in her village, and her own embarrassment with the growth on her neck. Districts 9675 and 9685 were magnificent in support of Mourine and her mother Ekila during this time.

**Lisa**, from Vanuatu, came for clinical assessment of her Scoliosis and will return to The Children's Hospital, Westmead later in the year for major surgery.

Baby **Ilandra**, from sunny Timor-Leste, arrived on a bitterly cold mid-winter day for treatment of a sacrococcygeal teratoma at The Canberra Hospital.

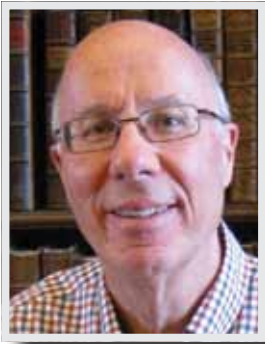
The Canberra Gala Ball was a great success, thanks to the tireless efforts of D9710 Chair Sandra and her team. The ROMAC 30th Anniversary Dinner at NSW Parliament House was well supported by the Eastern region.

In closing we acknowledge with gratitude the staff and volunteers at Ronald McDonald Houses (Randwick and Westmead) where several of our children stayed with daily support provided by ROMAC volunteers.

### *Richard*

Richard Woodburn





## Chris Joscelyne Marketing Communications Chair

### *Marketing Report*

The Marketing Committee consists of a small group of media and marketing specialists who contribute their experience and skills to ROMAC. Ann Burleigh and Maggie Alexander have ensured our public image campaign is maintained with interesting news articles and inspirational success stories that engage and inform our target audience. The quality of their writing is outstanding. We also appreciate the high quality photographs that are submitted for our use by ROMAC supporters in Australia and New Zealand.

ROMAC's 30th Anniversary Dinner, organised by this Committee, was celebrated at NSW Parliament House. We were delighted that it was fully subscribed and well received. It was a great PR and marketing exercise and gave us the perfect opportunity to showcase the work of ROMAC and to publicly thank all our wonderful volunteers, medical and allied professionals, individual and corporate donors and Friends of ROMAC who support us in so many ways.

Our goal is to have all Regions host a 'Thank you' event to mark ROMAC's 30th Anniversary and so far, NSW, ACT, QLD and SA have done so. The videos screened at these events, particularly the 'Greetings' video from supporters and past patients, are always well received (just ask if you'd like to screen one any time).

The image of Rexly on our ROMAC signage has become instantly recognisable. His happy face and healing body tells our ROMAC story perfectly. A significant number of the 'Rexly' pull-up banners have been distributed throughout Australia and Glenys Parton has produced a New Zealand version.

We have plenty of bi-fold brochures featuring Rexly's image, in stock for distribution. Rexly will continue to be the face of ROMAC at least until the brochure stock runs out! Sydney Classic productions will produce a new promotional video for ROMAC in March 2019.

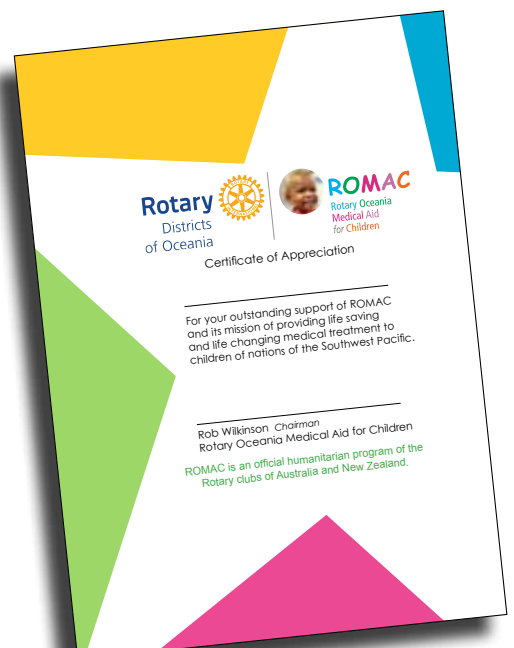
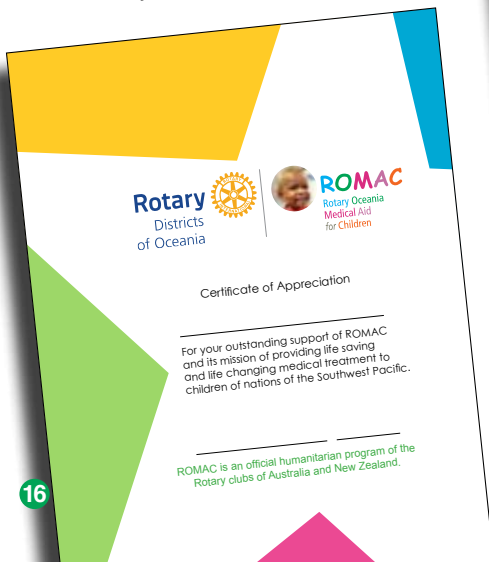
A new fundraising initiative has been undertaken. Small groups of people take up the challenge to walk, run, swim, cycle for ROMAC. It's a hybrid mix of team activity and crowd funding. A proof-of-concept trial in Adelaide has led to a planned national event.

Facebook provides a public platform to reach a wide audience. Maggie Alexander edits and posts stories submitted from the Regions. A significant challenge is the need to increase our Facebook followers. We ask that you 'like' us and 'follow' us to boost our numbers.

Ann Burleigh manages our print advertising and our relationship with Rotary Down Under magazine. The advertising on the RDU mailer is changed monthly, always with a fresh, carefully crafted message. This is critically important because Rotarians are exposed to many worthy causes and we need this exposure to maintain share of mind for ROMAC. Ann is also the editor and production supervisor of the ROMAC Annual Report. Ann and Maggie join me in thanking everyone who has supported our work.

*Chris*

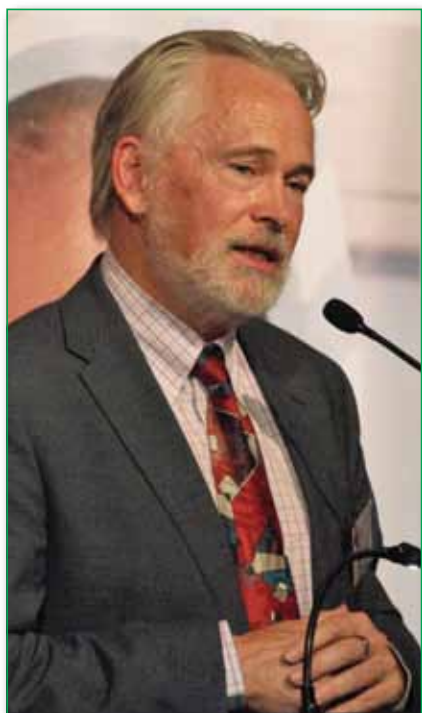
Chris Joscelyne





# Some memorable ROMAC moments

*Celebrating 30 years of humanitarian assistance to the children of Oceania*





# Who's Who at ROMAC

## 2017-2018 ROMAC BOARD AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

		<b>Member's Rotary Club</b>
<b>CHAIRMAN</b> Rob Wilkinson	chair@romac.org.au	North Ryde
<b>DEPUTY CHAIRMAN</b> Brian Eddy	deputychair@romac.org.au	Rossmoyne
<b>SECRETARY</b> Peter Maitland JP	secretary@romac.org.au	Kiama
<b>TREASURER</b> Michael Carrigan	treasurer@romac.org.au	Buderim
<b>OPERATIONS DIRECTOR</b> Barry Wilson (July '17 – March '18) Garth Halliday (March '18 – June '18)	operations@romac.org.au	Kiama
<b>MEDICAL DIRECTOR</b> Dr Eric Horne Medical Director elect Dr Larry Roddick	medical@romac.org.au	New Lynn
<b>OPERATIONS MANAGER</b> Carol Bourne	opsmanager@romac.or.au	Belvoir-Wodonga
<b>OPERATIONS CONSULTANT</b> Bryan Mason OAM (to March '18)	opsconsultant@romac.org.au	Caloundra Pacific
<b>OPERATIONS-IT CONSULTANT</b> Barry Wilson (from March '18)	it-ops@romac.org.au	Kiama
<b>REGIONAL CHAIRS</b>		
New Zealand: Glenys Parton	newzealand@romac.org.au	Tauranga Sunrise
Northern: Wayne Litherland	northern@romac.org.au	Rockhampton Sth
Southern: Jim Prokhovnik	southern@romac.org.au	Albert Park
Eastern: Richard Woodburn	eastern@romac.org.au	Randwick
Western: Susan Bruse	western@romac.org.au	Wyalkatchem
Central: Brett Dalton	central@romac.org.au	Burnside
<b>MARKETING</b> Chris Joscelyne	marketing@romac.org.au	Rotary eClub One
<b>COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR AND EDITOR</b> Ann Burleigh	communications@romac.org.au	Honorary Member
<b>COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR</b> Maggie Alexander	editor@romac.org.au	Honorary Member

# Some beautiful ROMAC children



Sethrack



Febriana



Vinna



Febriani



Jessino



Noel



Jalica



Ana



## DONATION FORM

*With warmest thanks from* **ROMAC**

I'm proud to support #ROMAC an official program of the Rotary Clubs of Australia and New Zealand

Donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible. Donate safely at [www.romac.org.au](http://www.romac.org.au) OR [www.romac.org.nz](http://www.romac.org.nz)  
 Enclose a cheque for \$.....and **post to ROMAC** at either address below:  
 PO Box 779, Parramatta NSW 2124 Australia **OR** PO Box 5179, Wellesley Street, Auckland 1141 New Zealand

**Please debit my:**  Visa  MasterCard for a  one off **or**  a monthly payment of \$.....  
 which I can cancel at any time.

Card number: ..... Exp Date: .....

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*Celebrating 30 years of*

**ROMAC**

*A truly transformative project  
of Australian and  
New Zealand Rotary Clubs.*

A gift to ROMAC is  
an enduring gift of life and love.

**Rotary**  
Districts  
of Oceania



**ROMAC**  
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