

**Rotary**  
Districts  
of Oceania



**ROMAC**  
Rotary Oceania  
Medical Aid  
for Children

**Annual  
Review  
2014  
2015**



**Faelima**, pictured with mum Suzanna, suffered cardiac related problems due to having a large Patent Ductus Arteriosus together with mild hyperplasia of the aortic arch.

Following comprehensive examinations at Starship Children's Hospital Heart Clinic, she had a successful catheter procedure.

The recovery period was short with Faelima gaining weight and quickly displaying more vigour in crawling (12 months old) and attempting to stand.

Faelima has returned to her home in Vanuatu in a good state of health thanks to the in depth diagnosis of her heart condition and corrective treatment provided by paediatric cardiac specialists and their team in Starship Children's Hospital.



## Patron

**Margie Abbott** is the wife of former Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott. She is well known for her caring approach to children. As a former trained teacher and directly involved with childcare centres in

Sydney, she is well qualified to understand the challenges that are faced by babies and children who require life-saving and/or dignity restoring surgery. She made it very clear that her role as Patron was on condition she made a positive difference and that her involvement would ensure even more children would benefit. One of the first things she did was to visit baby Fitzpatrick Unga at Canberra Hospital, to be followed by a ROMAC function at Kirribilli House to raise awareness and support.

## Patron

**Bill Boyd** was President of Rotary International in 2006-7. A New Zealand Rotarian since 1971 he's currently a member of RC of Pakauranga. He served Rotary as a training leader, moderator of the International

Assembly, deputy chairman of the New Zealand Polio Plus committee and regional Rotary Foundation co-ordinator. He is a recipient of The Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service and of the Distinguished Service Award from *Rotary Down Under* as well as being on the management committee of Rotary Down Under.

## Ambassador

**Lydia Ko** is a New Zealand professional golfer who began playing golf as a five-year-old. She became the No. 1 ranked woman professional golfer in 2015 at age 17 and is the youngest player of

either gender to be ranked No. 1 in professional golf. In 2014, she was named as one of *Time* magazine's 100 most influential people. Lydia is our youngest ROMAC Ambassador, a terrific role model and a great supporter of ROMAC.

## Ambassador

**Emeritus Professor Di Yerbury AO**

was appointed Vice-Chancellor of Macquarie University in 1987 and became the first female VC in Australia. During her tenure, she achieved many exceptional outcomes through her entrepreneurship and was

awarded the Telstra NSW Businesswoman of the Year Award in 2001. She has served on numerous educational peak bodies, has held many directorships and chaired or served on over 20 major government reviews in Australia, Hong Kong and Zambia.

## Ambassador

**Gavin Fox-Smith** is currently on the board of the Medical Technology Association of Australia and has worked in the medical device industry for over 25 years. As Managing Director of Johnson and Johnson Medical he has continued their long-term support

of ROMAC, including the provision of orthopaedic essential devices and appliances that enable ROMAC patients to enjoy a fulfilling life. Gavin holds a Bachelor of Science, a Graduate Certificate of Marketing, an MBA and has experienced the Sydney Leadership program.

## Chairman's report

*"One's nativity is not of his own choosing, but whatever it may be, it is entitled to respect; and all nations have honourable place in the world's family."*

Paul Harris: My Road to Rotary.

When I read the quotes of Paul Harris I am amazed at how often they appear to have been written for Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC).

In 2014-2015 ROMAC has continued to meet the needs and challenges of many children from developing countries who have been diagnosed with life threatening conditions or syndromes which impact on their dignity. In Rotary we often speak about the Rotary Family, and in its basic form we mean Rotarians and their families.

If we expand our family to include everyone who comes in contact with ROMAC, I believe they become part of our Rotary family.

2014-2015 has been a particularly difficult year with many demands being put upon ROMAC. The board has faced the challenges with great courage and through sound management and commitment we have been able to reach some positive milestones.

ROMAC, like all charities, businesses and organisations around the world, has had to meet the challenges of the global financial crisis.

Although we are feeling the pinch our Treasurer Bruce Robinson, through prudent administration, has enabled us to continue with our great work. ROMAC also recognises that many individuals

have suffered financially through job losses or other reduction in incomes. Competition within the charity sector has been fierce but thanks to the generosity of Rotarians and the Rotary Foundation we have been able to continue our important work of improving the lives of children from developing countries.

When I speak to people about donating to ROMAC I go to great lengths to point out our difference from other charities.

The first difference I have already mentioned - sound financial management. ROMAC continues to maintain a healthy but modest bank balance. Most sponsors of a charity want value for money, they want charities to spend their hard earned cash wisely on the core business.

In the case of ROMAC all donated funds go directly to providing surgeries, associated care and welfare for the children while they are in Australia and New Zealand.

The second is minimizing expenses. ROMAC is blessed with highly committed supporters.

We pay no salaries nor do we maintain any offices. Each Rotarian on the board uses their own car and equipment, saving us thousands of dollars each year.

This empowers children like Edifizia from Timor Leste to travel to Australia to have a tumor removed from her left armpit or a young lady named Vicky from Fiji to have her burns successfully treated in New Zealand. It also permitted a young man named Philip from Vanuatu to travel to Melbourne to have his broken leg fixed. Philip suffered tremen-

dous pain from the age of 12 and this debilitated him to such a degree that he had to leave school and spent most of his time lying in bed. Now Philip, thanks to Rotarians and other humanitarians, has recuperated and is walking pain free.

The third difference is our ability to reduce surgical costs. In 2014/15 our average cost for a surgery was approximately \$25,000. This average is due to strong negotiation by members of the board with health authorities and their desire to help under privileged children,

This means that every dollar donated is worth much more than just one dollar.

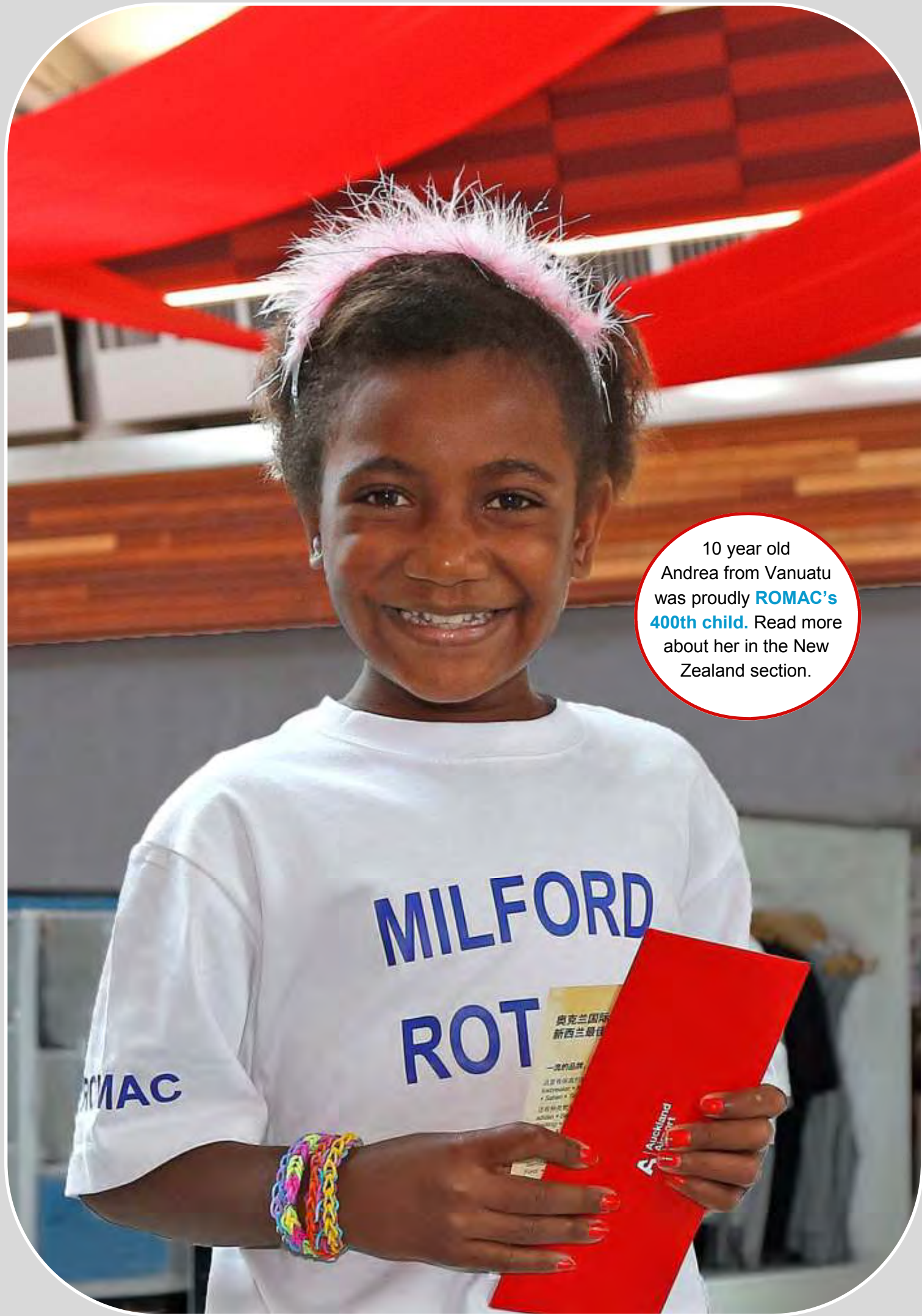
In some cases it can be up to 5 times more. Add a matching grant from The Rotary Foundation and your dollar is worth even more.

An initiative from the ROMAC board is to convince 20,000 people to donate \$5 per month, a nominal cost of \$60 per year which is totally tax deductible. If 20,000 people support us this will give us an annual income of \$1.2 million. For the price of a cup of coffee each month you can help to save a child's life.

In 2014-15, our 27th year, we achieved another major milestone when we treated our 400th child, 10 year old Andrea from Vanuatu (see her large photo on the next page).

Once again I would like to thank everyone for their support this includes the generosity of Rotarians, Surgeons, Hospital Staff, Hospital Management, Government Departments, the Department of Immigration, corporations and numerous other individual sponsors, with





10 year old  
Andrea from Vanuatu  
was proudly **ROMAC's**  
**400th child**. Read more  
about her in the New  
Zealand section.

your help we have continued to enable children to lead happy lives and given them an opportunity to realise their full potential.

#### Significance of Rotary.

Through its work ROMAC continues to embrace the Rotary Foundation's motto of "Doing Good in the World."

Last year, in partnership with the Rotary Foundation, we used global grants to provide opportunities in New Zealand for young international doctors and nurses to develop new skills which are transferable to care in their homeland. In 2015-2016 we will be seeking the support of our District Governors within Australia to secure our first Australian Matching Grant in partnership with South Korean Rotary Clubs.

**The Board** Apart from the natural attrition process in 2014-2015 the board had a few other changes. Rob Wilkinson moved from Eastern Region Chair and became Deputy Chair with Rotarian Ron Delezio becoming Eastern Region Chair.

Current vacancies include Marketing Manager, Fund Raising Manager and assistant Operations Director. Anticipated vacancies in the next 12 months include the Chair and Treasurer.

**Patrons and Ambassadors,** Rotary is fortunate to have a number of distinguished Patrons and Ambassadors. Past Rotary International President Bill Boyd is our Patron in New Zealand and Professional Golfer Lydia Ko is our New Zealand Ambassador.

Di Yerbury, AO, and Gavin Fox Smith are our two Australian Ambassadors. Di is now Professor Emerita at the University of New South

Wales and was Vice Chancellor of Macquarie University and the first female Vice Chancellor of any Australian University.

Gavin Fox Smith is the Managing Director of Johnson



Above a happy Edefizia and her mum.

and Johnson Medical (J&J) who have strong ethical values, including their responsibility to the community that drives Gavin to support ROMAC.

Through Gavin's intervention J&J have already supported ROMAC with tens of thousands of dollars' worth of equipment.

Throughout the years ROMAC have sourced Patrons and Ambassadors with strong ethical and humanitarian values.

Recently we were fortunate to have Mrs Margie Abbott join us as a Patron. Mrs. Abbott is a Director of a childcare centre in St. Ives, a mother of three daughters and her husband was our former Prime Minister. Mrs Abbott's strong commitment to children emphasized her suitability as a person who would be ideal as a Patron. ROMAC looks forward to working with all our Patrons and Ambassadors in 2015-2016.

**Supporters** ROMAC has many

supporters who donate, time, money, and resources.

Last year a number of the District Governors' wives nominated ROMAC as their project. Thank you to you all, once again you have raised funds to help children who may never know you but they will certainly have benefitted from your efforts.

Once again to all of our amazing supporters thank you because without YOU we could not have accomplished our mission.

In conclusion Bhichai Rattakul, Rotary International President 2002-2003 said *"I believe we can change the world one life at a time. No project is too small or insignificant especially to those who benefit. My hope is that these seeds of service will blossom and live on for generations to come."*

Many children have had their lives changed by ROMAC one life at a time.

Our work is not insignificant to the children and families who have benefitted from our care. Many of the children have been despised and hidden from the world. Now these children are the seeds that will blossom for generations to come.

In 2014-2015 ROMAC lit up Rotary by illuminating the faces of children whose faces were darkened with pain.

ROMAC in 2015-2016 will, under President K. R. 'Ravi' Ravindran proudly continue to "Be a Gift to the World".

Yours in Rotary Service,  
**Brendan Porter**





*ROMAC Patron Mrs Margie Abbott with baby Fitzpatrick Unga and mum Freda.*

## Patron

I was recently honoured to be able to accept a role as an Ambassador for ROMAC. We are very fortunate to live in this wonderful country with access to health services and medical expertise second to none.

Australians are known around the world for their generosity of spirit and their ability to see a problem and to want to solve it. So too these same qualities are readily on display at ROMAC. Rotarians supported by wonderful medical teams across our country are ensuring that children who, from birth, may have suffered

due to an illness or deformity or who may have experienced a childhood injury and face difficult and often uncertain futures, are given a second chance at life.

To come to Australia for life changing surgery would be beyond the hopes of many of those who are our Oceania neighbours. ROMAC's mission is to give hope to these children and their families. I am delighted to be able to help to create an awareness of this wonderful endeavour.

**Margie Abbott**

## Central Region

*South Australia, Southern Northern Territory, parts of New South Wales (Broken Hill and Wentworth), north-western Victoria including Mildura, Red Cliffs and Robinvale.*

During the 2014/15 year we had one patient in Adelaide. *A boy from Timor Leste, Mausesta, who had a Large Right Anterior Encephalocoele.* At the time he was just under two years of age and was accompanied by his mother. This medical care and treatment was undertaken by the Adelaide Women's and Children's Hospital Cranio-Facial Unit in early October.

As other accommodation options were not available for Mausesta and his mother, our committee medical officer Alan McKinnon arranged accommodation at Bradford Lodge, an international student hostel some distance from the hospital, after committee member Kathy housed and fed them during their arrival weekend. *As both Alan and Kathy were members of the Rotary Club of Burnside they arranged a roster of their club members to provide transportation throughout their stay in Adelaide.* We thank both them and their club for efforts in this regards. On completion of his treatment Mausesta and his mother returned home the first week of November 2014.

Grateful thanks and acknowledgement was given to the manager of the Student Accommodation, Hassan Salleh, who chose

not to charge ROMAC for the room and also arranged with his cook to provide suitable food for Mausesta and his mother until they returned home.

The year has again been disappointing when it comes to ROMAC being seen as the responsibility of individual clubs to support financially. Those clubs and families that have participated in the programme in the past have found it very rewarding.

During the 2014/15 Rotary year we had displays and promotion booths at both district 9500 and 9520 conferences and made presentations at many Rotary clubs including the largest club in the region, the Rotary Club of Adelaide. Despite this effort in attending clubs and conferences by Oleh Bilyk and myself, there were exceptionally disappointing results in both interest and financial returns for ROMAC. One of the committee's concerns/observation is the competition and support by clubs that is going into other medical charities such as Australian Rotary Health, Interplast and Mission ships. All very worthwhile causes but it also highlights the issues that diversity has on limited resources.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank my committee and the clubs that have hosted and financially supported ROMAC in the year 2014-2015.

**PDG Alun Hughes**

# Southern Region

Victoria and Tasmania plus parts of Southern New South Wales.

We treated six children in Melbourne during this financial year. A highlight this year was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne. This will allow us to treat 5 children per year at cost-recovery prices.

OTTO below, was a 16 month old baby from Nauru. The cardiac surgery to correct his congenital abnormality is fairly routine in Australia but is not available in Nauru, so ROMAC brought Otto and his mum, Giannie, to Melbourne for treatment.

When they arrived the Rotary Club of Doncaster looked after them. Associate Professor Andrew Cochrane operated on Otto at Monash Medical Centre and everything went very well. He was soon in the ward and enjoying all the attention. This darling child stole the hearts of all who had contact with him and tearful goodbyes were said at Melbourne airport on the 2nd of August.

LINH DA was born in 2002 in a village about 10 hours drive from Ho Chi Minh City. At birth she had what appeared to be a birthmark on her face.

Her mother, Hanh, was concerned as the "birthmark" rapidly started to grow into a large tumour. She took Linh Da to various hospitals in Vietnam where

she learnt her daughter had a vascular malformation. This means that a tangle of abnormal blood vessels filled the tumour.

Eating, breathing and talking were getting progressively difficult so her prognosis was very poor.

Kim Thien Truong of Kim's Foundation of Hope Inc. in Melbourne met Linh Da when visiting Vietnam, and on her return to Australia she contacted ROMAC for help. Kim also set about raising \$20,000 to help with Linh Da's treatment. Gerry Phillips, the Chair of D9800, cared for her on a daily basis throughout her year's stay.

After numerous operations re tumour removal and facial reconstruction plus follow up appointments for

dental, surgery, physio, speech and, dietician Linh Da returned home in May accompanied by Kim Thien Truong who went all the way with them to their village and made sure Linh was enrolled back in school.

AZE DA CUNHA, arrived in Melbourne in September from Timor Leste, accompanied by his father, Ezequiel. Because Aze and Ezequiel speak no English Ana Noronha, from the Timor Leste Consulate, also came as the interpreter.

Aze was very small for a 7 year old as his cardiac disease meant his growth was stunted and he was unable to do much exercise



Top Otto and his chocolate face! Below in hospital with mum Giannie and bottom with Graham and friends at Healesville Sanctuary.



before becoming breathless.

Kathy and John Dunscombe's son, Jared, was tragically killed on a bike ride to Rotary conference and they established Jared's Fund to raise money to help other children. They donated \$20,000 to ROMAC to ensure Aze could receive life-saving surgery in Jared's name and became instantly famous the next day when Channel 9 news arrived.

Aze was admitted to Monash Medical Centre for tests and his cardiac surgery. Thanks go to Prof Andrew Cochrane and his team. Aze recovered quickly and enjoyed the long string of visitors.

We had great support from the Timor Leste community who helped translate and explain things to Aze and Ezequiel throughout the stay. Special thanks to the many volunteers, carers and the Rotary Club of Healesville for their support during Aze's stay.

BRADLEY was born in Papua New Guinea with Crouzon's Syndrome. The major problem with this condition is that some bones of the skull and face fuse and therefore do not grow normally during foetal development.

Bradley was first brought to Melbourne by ROMAC for treatment in 1998 and then again in 2007. During this second visit Professor Andrew Heggie performed major cranio-facial reconstruction at Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne, to enlarge and realign Bradley's skull and facial bones. This kind of



Top Aze with his friend and favourite red car.

Below Aze with his father Ezequiel and hosts, Kathy and John Dunscombe, District 9820 chair Di Double, and District 9820 Governor Charlie Spiers.



surgery cannot be performed in Papua New Guinea and without it, Bradley's face and brain would have been compressed as he grew.

Since Bradley has now matured he required further surgery and with mum Nellie, arrived in Melbourne in October 2014 where he underwent mid-facial advancement surgery which Prof Heggie kindly agreed to do free of charge at Epworth Hospital.

They were supported by the Rotary Clubs in District 9810 and the Papua New Guinea Australia Association, of which Teresa is secretary. Teresa was born in PNG and having a host who knows their culture was wonderful for Bradley and Nellie. In October a

nice story about Bradley went to air on SBS TV with a follow up story aired a few weeks later. Bradley returned home to Port Moresby in December.

GEOVANIO was born in Dili, Timor Leste. He had Rheumatic fever which led to rheumatic heart disease and damage to his mitral valve. Geovanio and his mother, Martinha, arrived with another patient from Dili, Celestina Dias and her Mum, Natalia.

These are the first two ROMAC children to be treated at the new Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne.

#### PHOTOS OPPOSITE >>>

Top left Geovanio after her operation with her mum, right Bradley thrilled at meeting the Melbourne Storm and below, left, with his mum. Right Otto helps mum Giannie celebrate her 30th. Bottom left Geovanio and right Tina.

Carla Chung, a member of the Melbourne East Timorese community, hosted Geovanio and Martinha. They speak no English so it was wonderful for them to be in a Tetum- speaking home.

Geovanio was very ill and frail when he arrived and weighed only 16 kg. His open heart surgery in February was long and difficult necessitating a long hospital stay until 2 March after which he attended the Australian-East Timorese Association Lunch at the end of March before his return home in April.

CELESTINA (TINA) was born in Dili, Timor Leste. Tina was diagnosed with an Atrial Septal Defect (ASD) and a problem with her mitral valve. She was referred to ROMAC for cardiac surgery and became the first ROMAC patient at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne since 2010.

She had her heart surgery in February 2015 where everything went very smoothly, and she was discharged into the care of Liz Olie (RC Doncaster). Lidia Soares spent time interpreting throughout the visit and did a great job.

Tina also had deformed lower legs and six fingers which was diagnosed as Ellis-van Creveld Syndrome while she was here.

We approached Children First Foundation to take her as they have excellent facilities for orthopaedic cases. CEO Margaret

Smith agreed immediately and Celestina and Mum Natalia moved in to the Kilmore Farm. ROMAC would like to thank Children First Foundation for sharing the sponsorship to give Tina a wonderful, healthy future.

My thanks to all our District Chairs: Graeme Chester, D9810; Gerry Phillips, D9800; Christine Dufty, D9780; Di Double, D9820; Jill Sward, D9830 and Peter Lee, D9790 District Chair and Southern Region's Relation Manager.

The districts have done a wonderful job this year and managed to increase donations by around 38% over last year.

Gerry Phillips has been with ROMAC since 2009 and Christine Dufty since 2010. They have both made excellent contributions and we are sorry to see them move on but we warmly welcome Jim Prokhovnik as the new District 9800 chair and Lesley Shedden, who will take on the role in District 9780 for 2015/16.

We also recently welcomed Dr Shidan Tosif as a Southern Region Medical Consultant. Shidan is a general paediatrician at Royal Children's Hospital with a special interest in International Child Health. He spends time working in the Solomon Islands each year so his special skills will be of great importance to ROMAC.

## Gaynor Schols



Left Otto and his dad and Aze, right, at home with the Dunscombe's and friends.



7 year old Aze  
has the biggest  
smiles when he's  
on a swing



## Eastern Region

*Victoria and Tasmania plus parts of Southern New South Wales.*

It has been a busy time in the Eastern Region of ROMAC. Starting my tenure in December after taking over from our now Deputy Chair Rob Wilkinson, it was always going to be a hard act to follow. To learn the many complexities of the organisation, the Rotary meetings to attend, supporting our District Chairs, organizing our Rotary friends that specialize in airport meeting and greeting and transfers, our Rotary host families that share their own home with a child and parent that speak the same language.

Our host family transports the child to hospital appointments and visit, sometimes daily, during their hospitalization. They need to understand the complexity of conditions that if they were Australian, would have been treated instantly by our doctors and nurses. They have to contend with the difficulties of children that have lived with a terrible condition, possibly for years. They have to adjust to strict procedures that must be adhered to, so that all goes to plan and overcome the complex challenges that face the child, the families and medical staff, from countries that cannot give these children a better life, or sometimes, any life at all.

I have learnt through my own medical experiences with my daughter Sophie, the difficulty it is to give your child to a complete stranger, and for the ROMAC children, a stranger in the form of one of our fantastic medical professionals that work tirelessly and allow them to operate on their child.

I am sure my feelings for my daughter are the same feelings of the parents of ROMAC children that we bring in to Australia and New Zealand. They are scared and even terrified, but, I am sure, understand that there is no option. Some of their stories are mentioned below.

Sadly for some, after a full checkup, the child's condition does not allow for the best result. In some cases we are unable to proceed with surgery such as on tiny 20-month-old Marcia who arrived in September to have cardiac surgery at the SCH Randwick.

Her cardiac condition was found to have deteriorated rapidly from diagnosis. Marcia was very underweight and on her return to Dili, Daryl Mills organized Marcia and her mum to a malnutrition clinic in Dili. Many thanks to the two medical registrars Dr Domingo and Dr Bretton from Royal Darwin Hospital who freely accompanied Marcia to Sydney and return.

3-year-old Antonio from Timor Leste won

the hearts of all he met. He was an urgent referral for cardiac surgery from paediatric cardiologist Dr Bo Remenyi's recent visit to Timor Leste. After some initial dental work, Antonio underwent successful cardiac surgery for a Tetralogy of Fallot at the SCH Randwick.

While in hospital Antonio was visited by the Consul-General of Timor Leste in Sydney, Mrs Armandina Maria GUSMAO and Rosie, who was ROMAC's 5<sup>th</sup> patient in 1991. ROMAC founder Barrie Cooper, originally brought Rosie from Fiji to Australia for several extensive surgeries. Now a 33-year-old Australian Citizen, Rosie wants to support ROMAC in gratitude for giving her life changing surgery.

Many thanks to Leonilde who regularly looks after families from Timor Leste and for home hosting Antonio and his mother Josefa. This little boy arrived very ill but went home full of energy, with a great life ahead.

We are very grateful to Dr Rob Kuru and Newcastle Private for providing surgery for 2 lovely girls from Timor Leste suffering severe scoliosis and the excellent coordination from my D9670 Chair Lyn Thorpe and her team for their supportive care. 12-year-old Dulcia and her aunt Dircea arrived in April. Her spine-correcting surgery was very successful. Many thanks to J&J Medical who provided the implants required for Dulcia's spine. Rosie,



Above 3 year old Antonio.

Right Esperanca, and far right Fitzpatrick with mum Eva.  
Below opposite Alma with mum Atna and friends, and far right Reedy with mum Julliette



who lives nearby, also visited Dulcia.

**16-year-old Esperanca** arrived with her guardian Teresa in June. At this time her surgery has been delayed for available ICU time to be organized.

**Reedly returned to The Canberra Hospital from Vanuatu to have final surgery for Hirschsprung disease.** When he arrived last year for his first operation he was very frail and had a very distorted stomach. A totally different boy returned home after this final surgery, able to freely play with his mates. District 9710 Chair Sandra Mahlberg hosted Reedly and his mum Juliette. **We are all very proud of the wonderful work Sandra does for ROMAC and congratulate her as the 2015 ACT Senior Australian.**

**Fitzpatrick was another urgent case** referred by Prof David Croaker after his visit to the Solomon Islands. Fitzpatrick was born with a large sacrococcygeal teratoma. **He and mum Freda arrived in June for tests and will be operated on by Prof Croaker at The Canberra Hospital in July.** We extend our sincere gratitude to Prof David Croaker for his exceptional support of ROMAC and our children.

**Almas (Mona) a burns case from Indonesia returned with her mother Ratna for assessment by Dr John Harvey.** Mona was first brought to Sydney late 2004 for life saving grafts to burns, as a result of scalding to over 75% of her body.

As she had grown, an assessment was due and she will return again in 2015/16 for further surgery.

In May, the Rotary Club of Orange arranged a Trivia Night to help benefit ROMAC. Several of our board and district chairs traveled west for the opportunity of visiting our supporters and thanking them for their fundraising efforts. An information session was held the next morning for the District 9700 ROMAC Committee.

As Sydney is an important entry point for flights from the Pacific Islands, our Eastern Region is often called upon to assist transiting patients to and from other ports in Australia and New Zealand. We greatly appreciate the assistance of Rotarian Garas Khilla in helping with these transfers as well as ROMAC District 9685 Chair Philip Smith and District 9675 Chair Maria Moran, together with their District committees, for their tireless coordination and hands-on work helping every child.

To ALL our volunteers, thank you for being an integral part of putting smiles on children's faces and giving them the 'Gift of Life'.

**Ron Delezio**



## Northern Region

Northern New South Wales, Queensland, Northern Territory, Nauru, Solomon Island and Papua New Guinea.

Five-year old Jimaro, from Nauru, had a new presentation of Hodgkin's Lymphoma that required investigations and treatment in the early stage for long term success. The operating Doctor was Dr Morag Whyte treating at the Royal Children's Hospital. Jimaro and his mother Vada stayed with their hosts on Bribie Island.

Tests indicated that the disease was confined to the right cervical region and the lymphoma was stage 1A. This was treated with a multi-agent chemotherapy by 3 cycles and a further cycle later all through a porta catheter. He required further treatment at the Caboolture Hospital when he was cleared to return home on 5 July.

On 22 August I met with Zin Zan and mother Hellen at the Mater Hospital. Thirteen

year old Zin Zan was diagnosed with congenital heart defects and his operation took place on 2 September. ROMAC organised for them to stay at both the Reg Leonard House and the Mater House during the operation and when the twice a day checks and injections were needed. He was finally cleared to return home on 24 September a much more cheerful young man and a very relieved and grateful Mum!

Bryan Mason and I met the Wesley CEO, Anne Maguire in September regarding Rocelyn's upcoming operation. It was arranged for Rocelyn to return in October, accompanied again by Dr Gay Ardanas. Rocelyn has been a ROMAC patient since 2007, and this was her third visit. On her return a synthetic cheek-bone implant was inserted and the overlying scar tissue revised. The implant was donated by Stryker Australia and Rocelyn received new dentures and glasses for free kindly arranged by Stones Corner and our Northern Region Treasurer David Ambrose. Rocelyn recovered quickly and she was cleared to return to the Philippines two days later.

On 24 October Junior flew in from Honiara (Solomon Islands) with his Mother Unity. Hosts were old friends Shirley Taylor, who flew in from New Zealand, and her daughter Dr Debra Smith. Junior was admitted to the Wesley Hospital on 26 October and operated on by Dr Peter Borzi. Junior's medical problem was that he had no control over his bowels. Junior and Unity returned 'home' to Toombal and on 6 November they moved to Caboolture to stay with Katie Fono, a member of the local Solomon Island Community. In Bill Benham's words 'Everyone involved in this enterprise were just delightful people which made this an enjoyable experience.' Junior and Unity returned home on 21st November.

Two year old Edward and his mother Melany arrived in Brisbane from Port Vila via Townsville, coordinated by Bill Benham. On assessment at the hospital it was confirmed that surgery was unnecessary and Edward was returned home.

Edwin and his mother Sonia arrived in Brisbane on 29 March from Vanuatu to stay with their previous hosts, Doug and Marion Strahan, in Rochedale. The sponsor Rotary club was Wishart.



Specialina with mother



Edwin had very bandy legs due to Blunt's disease. At the review appointment Dr Walsh stated that the last band in the right leg was having a reverse effect and should be removed as soon as possible at the Mater Children's Private Hospital. Margaret Benham attended and the operation only took half an hour. Edwin was cleared to return home on 2 May and once again Bill and Margaret Benham saw them off. Edwin needs to return in a year's time for a review.

Whilst here I took Edwin and mother Sonia to NSW to visit two supporting Rotary clubs in District 9640: Mt Warning AM and Murwillumbah Central and the members enjoyed seeing at first hand what ROMAC does.

Heldericky came in to Darwin from Timor Leste in May for an assessment and an MRI scan at Royal Darwin Hospital. He was hosted by a member of the Rotary Club of Darwin South. Heldericky has advanced atrophy of the quads and hams so walking was difficult.

The development of Brisbane's Lady Cilento Children's Hospital resulted in the closure of Brisbane's two other hospitals resulting in no beds available for overseas patients until *things settled down*. Consequently we have been very quiet patient-wise during the last 6 months.

I went down to the new Gold Coast University Hospital with Phil Rosenberg and ROMAC District 9640 Chair Jill Ellis to talk to Ian Langdon, the Chair of the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Board. We were well received resulting in Ian arranging a follow up meeting with Jane Hancock, their Executive Director of Operations with other staff members, plus our Operations Director Barry Wilson and Medical Director Dr Eric Horne as well as Phil, Jill and myself to progress the discussions. They confirmed that they are willing to accept our patients. We subsequently toured their impressive facilities. This hospital is now the third largest hospital in Australia.

I attended the launch of the Toowoomba Rotary Club 'Ride the Range' bike ride where this year ROMAC is one of the recipients of this fundraiser. Cheryl Kermond attended the actual ride and was very impressed.

I also attended the 'Opera in the Gardens' Organized by the Rotary

Club of Toowong, great supporters of ROMAC, and the Caloundra Pacific Rotary Club's ROMAC Trivia Night organised by Bryan Mason OAM and our guru Trivia Night specialist Phil Rosenberg. This was a very remunerative event for ROMAC and a fun night. Phil is a Rotarian from D9640 which has raised the most of all of our districts in the Northern Region. Congratulations.

For me, it has been a steep learning curve that has been both challenging and rewarding. I do wish to thank our District Chairs and executive for their support, hard work and dedication.

**PDG Margaret Hayes**



Above Jimaro with 'friend'. Centre Edwin's legs before, and far left after his operation.



Below Zin Zan and his two 'friends'



Zin Zan with new friends B1 and B2!

## Western Region

Western Australia

Both Grace and Pam, partners of District D9455 and D9465 Governors, supported ROMAC as their Partner Projects and talked to clubs they visited. Both worked extremely hard and not only raised awareness about ROMAC but also dollars to help with the care of children on the rim north of Australia, who could not have had life saving surgery in their own countries.

Throughout the year presentations were given in both districts at Rotary Clubs, events from fairs to the Rotary Climb for a Smile and at joint meetings. Schools were contacted to participate in all events particularly the Climb for a Smile from which we received a share of the profits. Rotary clubs were offered guest speakers, plus informative letters and flyers were sent to their new board members which certainly raised awareness. We also utilised the Rotary Out West Blog.

Committees met monthly planning strategies. We also included the Rotaract Club of Como, who have been very helpful and supportive of ROMAC. The opening of the new

Perth Children's Hospital was delayed, but once open and settled I am sure we will once again be able to receive children.

Last year we sent +/-150 pairs of gym shoes plus 1,000 Christmas presents for Timorese orphaned children with the help of Rotary clubs; we will do the same next year. Why? Because as we were unable to take any children we didn't want the Timorese to feel Western Australia had forgotten them.

The Chairs for 9455 District were Joan Varian, and for 9456 John Dodman. Our Secretary is Marielle Sloss, committee members are Lesley Els, Rob Russell, James House, Brian Vale, Greg Hunter and Esther Roadnight from Kalgoorlie.

This year we proudly raised about \$60,000. A very big thank you to all concerned.

This will be my last report as when you read this I will have moved to East Timor. This will enable me to physically visit many of our past patients and their families. I take this opportunity to welcome my replacement Robyn Jones. Congratulations Robyn, we are really looking forward to working with you.

**Peter Snell**



*A happy Bakita, top left, after her operation and before it below.*

*Top right Abilo with Joan, and below back home with his family.*



## New Zealand

During this Rotary year New Zealand treated 19 patients – 17 new cases plus two completions from the previous year.

Eleven of those patients came from Vanuatu, three from Timor-Leste, three from Fiji, one from Kiribati and one from the Solomon Islands.

17 patients were treated at the Starship Hospital (Starship) in Auckland, all of them for cardiac surgery. One child (Robert) received orthopaedic surgery at Waikato Hospital, and little Sheikh from Fiji received respiratory surgery at Braemar Hospital in the Waikato. Again we are very grateful to Ronald McDonald House (RMH) in Auckland where all of our Auckland patients stayed with their care-givers, and to the many Rotarians who supported and hosted them during their stay.

This was the third year that our work was supported by Rotary Global Grants, and six of these patients were funded from Global Grant 1415177, with two more to come in the current year. 22 Clubs in NZ District 9910 contributed towards this grant together with NZ District 9910 and two Rotary Districts in Korea became partners with ROMAC.

With so many beautiful children it is difficult to choose just a few to mention in detail. Christine came as a tiny baby from Port Vila, Vanuatu in March 2015, having suffered pneumonia in December 2014 and then been diagnosed with serious heart defects requiring urgent treatment.

Christine's state of health was such that she required a medical escort for the flight and Dr. Nicola Culliford-Semmens of the Starship Cardiological Team flew to Vanuatu to escort Christine and her mum on the flight to Auckland in March 2015.

This was just a day or two after cyclone Pam had hit Vanuatu and precluded local doctors leaving Vanuatu at the time.

Christine and her Mum stayed at RMH and members of the Rotary Club (RC) Remuera provided support to them. Whilst awaiting surgery Christine developed heart failure along with a suspected respiratory infection and was admitted to the intensive care unit of Starship Hospital. Open heart surgery was successfully undertaken three days later and because of her generally fragile condition, Christine was kept in the paediatric intensive care unit for a further 4 days after her operation.

As a guide patients usually require no more than 24 hours in intensive care. Christine did, however, recover well from her surgery, demonstrating an increase in appetite and weight, and a very contented, happy countenance. She returned to her home in May 2015.

Ten year old Andrea from Vanuatu is the youngest of four children whose father, a school-teacher, died three years ago.

They live in a remote rural area on Tanna island and medical help was a serious problem. Andrea was diagnosed with a heart condition in 2012 but was not picked up as a ROMAC patient

until this year. She came to Auckland in November 2014 with her mother Rosina and stayed at RMH.

Members of the RC Milford provided support and most helpful translation assistance was given by Maxine and Andrew Finlay to ensure Rosina fully understood the implications of Andrea's intended surgery. They also provided entertainment and hosting of Andrea and her mum during the Christmas/New Year period.

Comprehensive examinations of her condition in Starship confirmed the PDA heart condition and described it as 'huge'. Whilst some cases of PDA may be treated by catheter procedures Andrea's was such as to require open heart surgery which was successfully undertaken in January 2015.

Andrea recovered well from her surgery and returned to her home in Vanuatu in February 2015.

Another child with a huge PDA needing open heart surgery this year was two year old Brock, from Vanuatu. Like other ROMAC patients, Brock has now returned to his home able to lead a normal, active life with no exercise limitations, much improved general state of health, all thanks to the in depth diagnosis of his heart condition and corrective surgery provided by paediatric cardiac specialists and their team in Starship. In Auckland Brock and his parents were looked after by members of the RC Birkenhead and stayed at RMH.

There are so many others that we could mention: Tarabou from Kiribati who nearly died from heart failure at the airport in Fiji en route for India. She was resuscitated by Starship surgeons who were in Fiji at the time, and ROMAC took over responsibility for bringing her to New Zealand and providing the



*A very happy Andrea,*

life-saving surgery that she needed.

Two year old Steven from Port Vila in Vanuatu was born with a Ventricular Septal Defect heart condition. He was so weak when he arrived in Auckland for treatment that his strength had to be built up before his successful open heart surgery.

Eight year old Kartik, from Lautoka in Fiji, suffered a problem with his aortic heart valve as a result of Rheumatic Heart Disease. Open heart surgery for an aortic homograft (valve replacement) was most successfully undertaken at Starship and he recovered rapidly, returning home a more active and a happier child. Six of the children treated by ROMAC in New Zealand this year were funded by Global Grant 1415177 and all the others were paid for out of donations to ROMAC. The other major part of this Rotary grant was to provide training for health professionals from Vanuatu.

Training is important to achieving the sustainability requirement of Rotary Foundation grants. Six nurses from Vanuatu arrived in Auckland on 28th January and departed on Wednesday 11th February.

During their time in Auckland they received training in immunology; resistance microbiology; anti-infective medications; treatment of critically ill infants and children; and medications in Vanuatu. Training was also planned for two doctors from Vanuatu but this had to be postponed until the current year when cyclone Pam hit Vanuatu.

During the year three more Global Grant applications were submitted to Rotary Int'l for support of ROMAC children. Three Rotary districts in Korea

- 3730, 3720 and 3620 - contributed between them US\$105,000 to the new grant applications. Four Rotary districts in New Zealand - 9910, 9920, 9930 and 9940 - and several districts in Australia also contributed. Two of these applications have been accepted, namely GG 1525582 and GG 1525671 which between them will fund surgery for eight children from Vanuatu and other South Pacific Island countries plus supporting training for health professionals. A third application was submitted in May, GG1529680 but was delayed until the current Rotary year. This grant is for emergency surgery for five children from Pacific Island countries, and for the coming year a major grant application has been prepared (GG 1633674).

ROMAC in New Zealand receives a huge amount of support from Rotary Clubs whose members welcome and look after the welfare of our patients and their families. We are also very grateful for the financial contributions made by Rotarians and their Clubs and Districts to funding ROMAC.

Last year we introduced a Trophy and Certificates of Appreciation to be awarded annually, and this year the ROMAC Trophy was awarded to the Rotary Club of Milford, with Certificates of Appreciation going to the RC's New Lynn and Albany.

Thank you all for your support.

**Angela Bowey**

*Below Christina after her operation  
and right Brock enjoys his bike ride.*





## Operations

The Operations Director's role is to manage operations. This is a quantum leap forward for ROMAC, from the initial concept by our then Medical Director, Dr Ken Jureidini to evolve the logistics initiated from a referral to ROMAC, seek opinion and advice from our medical director, assess and place patients in regions and hospitals.

From here we work with our overseas ROMAC/Rotary representatives to obtain passports, prepare all documentation, arrange visas, coordinate with our Regional Chairs and arrange transport to ensure the patient and their guardian arrive and return home safely after treatment.

Our Regional Chairs work tirelessly, not only with our established doctor and hospital coordination, but also reviewing opportunities for new medical clinicians and access to new hospitals. They work closely with their District Chairs and committees to ensure a dedicated team for the hosting and other needs of our patients and their guardians during their stay in Australia or New Zealand, often for periods of many weeks and sometimes several months.



*Left, Dr Nasi from the Solomon Is with patient Kate and her father.*

*Below Carol amusing Francisco and mum Sara whilst waiting for post-op appointment at the Starship.*



Our District teams are made up of dozens of volunteer Rotarians who assist our patients with transportation to medical appointments, arrange interpreters, support and care for the guardian, liaise with host parents and generally provide the post-operative connectivity for our patients often including visits and social outings.

In the last two years, the operations role has expanded to also include the integration of a completely resigned and re-engineered database and case management system (eROMAC) to better serve our patients, their families, the medical clinicians, hospitals and of course all our ROMAC volunteers.

What began as a quite simple idea for interaction with medical records, has evolved into a ground-breaking system, integrating our patient medical records, with detailed patient and family information, live upload of Referral Forms, fully integrated email, web system and social media, plus connectivity for all our ROMAC board, regional chairs and district chairs – encompassing our patient privacy and security as a high priority.

By the time this report is presented to the Rotary Institute, it is anticipated that all our integrated systems will be operating live to many of our volunteers, from our new database, new ROMAC email system, new medical recording, cloud storage, new electronic referral and our new website into a complete communication system. This has been made possible through the total support of the ROMAC Board, Southern Region Chair Gaynor Schols and our technology team at AuraAccess.

2014/2015 saw 43 patients completed, including several very large and surgically complex cases. Included in these patients was Andrea from Vanuatu the 400th patient to be treated in Australia or New Zealand.

In addition ROMAC continues to provide assistance to referred children in many other ways - by providing links to medical clinicians in home-country, connection to specialist to assist with treatment of patients in home country, referring some patients to other organisations such as Children First Foundation which can better cater for long term conditions, and referring to one of the increasing number of outreach surgical programs.

The increase in outreach surgical programs means much simpler operations can be done in home country.

However ROMAC is often called upon to assist when a more serious case is identified - some of these cases you will find in the

Regional Chair reports.

Due to the respect for ROMAC by authorities we are able to transport children at short notice due to emergencies such as cyclone Pam in Vanuatu.

Surgeries this year were again dominated by cardiac conditions (23) then Orthopaedic (4) and interestingly 13 various other conditions, indicating the breadth of expertise in our surgical supporters.

Children came from Vanuatu (14), Timor Leste (12), Solomon Islands (4), Fiji (3) plus 7 from other Pacific Island Nations and one each from Philippines, Vietnam and Indonesia.

For many of our cases, especially cardiac, we require PICU and this is predominately only available at Children's Hospitals. Many of these hospitals faced their own challenges in the second half of the year, including the amalgamation of hospitals in Brisbane, which closed all beds, and Sydney Children's, which was under a restructuring process resulting in limited availability.

Fortunately this year there was great availability at the children's hospital Starship,

Auckland that was able to assist with many ROMAC cases. It was pleasing to welcome back both the Royal Children's and Monash hospitals in Melbourne who were also able to provide availability.

All children's hospitals however come under increased bed pressure in winter and this year it appeared demand was greater. This resulted in not as much availability of beds for ROMAC patients as we would have liked in the last quarter of the year.

As can be seen in the patients list over-leaf, there was an increase in the number of private hospitals who generously assisted ROMAC when they could and we are very grateful for their support.

This year saw our new Medical Director, Dr Eric Horne, taking over the position (after last year's Rotary Institute meeting in Wellington), with a very smooth transition, from Prof Andrew Rosenberg. My sincere gratitude to these two wonderful ROMAC supporters and excellent medical professionals for the selfless time and expert guidance they provide ROMAC.

Dr Eric Horne has been a great support, readily embracing our new eROMAC software system and benefitting through the availability of instant medical, family and patient information plus direct access to the referral forms, patient scans and photos without the need to request documentation. Additionally, the video conferencing facility enabled through our new eROMAC system, provided the opportunity for Operations and Medical personnel to view and discuss medical files, scans and photos providing an excellent collaboration facility.

Prior to the change over of medical directors, Andrew Rosenberg and I visited the Solomon Islands to better ascertain if we could improve the services offered by ROMAC and so increase the number of Solomon Island children receiving life-giving surgery.

From this visit it was clearly identified the most urgent need was for external diagnosis for the many paediatric cardiac patients, as the local doctors were not qualified to scan and assess these young patients.

With the generous support of paediatric cardiologist, Dr Bo Remenyi who travelled to Honiara in February to advise Dr Titus Nasi and the Solomon Island medical team as to the most suitable treatment for these children, to improve their quality of life. ROMAC was able to receive excellent diagnostic and medical recommendations about their children that provided a clearer assessment for ROMAC



*Left, Antonio is distracted while Dr Jones from SCH Rand performs an echo scan. Below, Dr Nasi and Solomon Island government officials with Barry Wilson and Prof Andrew Rosenberg.*





surgeons in determining patient acceptance and flow schedules.

Already there is an increase in cases from the Solomon Islands. Much gratitude is extended to Solomon Airlines and The Heritage Resort in Honiara, for their generous support of this trip.

New Zealand Paediatric Cardiologist, Dr John Stirling has regularly visited Vanuatu to do similar and successful assessments and we are very grateful for his support.

This year we have successfully implemented many surgeries for Vanuatu children as a result of Dr Stirling's reports and Rotary Global Grants – one grant that also provided funds for ROMAC to bring six nurses from Vanuatu to Auckland for broader up-skilling and training in modern nursing techniques.

Many thanks to New Zealand Chair Angela Bowey in organising the global grants.

I wish to acknowledge the enthusiastic support in our source countries of Rotarians, ROMAC medical consultants and many other volunteers and supporting organisations. These special people are paramount to ROMAC identifying and vetting potential patients, and then assisting with organising passports, medical assessments, visas and travel arrangements for these children, many of whom live in incredibly remote locations.

Without dedicated caring people like Daryl Mills OAM, Dr Ingrid Bucens and Prof David Brewster in Timor Leste; Craig Brouggy and Prof John Vince from PNG; PDG Wayne Morris, Dr Nathan Kere and Dr Titus Nasi from the Solomon Islands; Janet Kalpukai and Dr Richard Tatwin in Vanuatu (including Don MacRaild OAM); Dr Ram Raju from Fiji and dozens more from the other countries ROMAC serves, many children would miss out on life-saving or dignity restoring surgery.

Thanks to the amazing ROMAC team for all their dedication and support. Board members, Chair Brendan Porter, Deputy Rob Wilkinson, Treasurer Bruce Robinson and Medical Director Dr Eric Horne; Secretary Peter Maitland, Operation consultant Bryan Mason and Marketing consultant Phil Rosenberg; Regional chairs and our Regional medical consultants, Angela Bowey in New Zealand Region plus Prof Ed Mitchell; Margaret Hayes in Northern Region plus Dr Rob Justo; Ron Delezio in Eastern Region plus Dr Michael Plaister and Dr Has Gunasekera; Gaynor Schols in Southern Region plus Dr Shidan Tosif; Alun Hughes in Central Region plus Dr Alan McKinnon and Peter Snell in Western Region as well as their

district chairs and their tireless committees.

A special mention to Rod Meyers and his group in Darwin who tirelessly transit may patients between Darwin and Dili at any time night or day.

Peter Snell who has done an exceptional role for ROMAC as Western Region Chair has advised he can no longer continue his role due to relocating overseas. We wish Peter well and I'm sure he will continue his fine Rotary service into the future.

ROMAC is exceptionally proud of the hundreds of doctors and associated medical staff that freely support our children through pro bono surgeries, as well as the world-class hospitals and staff who provide excellent life-saving facilities – thank you one and all.

The Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection, through their staff, go to extremes to assist ROMAC and ensure visas are granted to meet many of our demanding lifesaving surgery arrival deadlines. Likewise, Immigration New Zealand now often issue urgent visas within hours while our Pacific Island Nation Governments support ROMAC by ensuring passports are issued promptly.

Thank you, we could not be as effective without your support.

A number of commercial businesses actively support ROMAC in their own unique way and include businesses such as Johnson & Johnson Medical, ConocoPhillips, Regional Imaging in Darwin and Solomon Airlines.

Your generous in-kind donations directly support our life saving efforts, thank you.

Finally, but not least, thank you Rotarians and Clubs from every District throughout Rotary Oceania (without whom ROMAC would not exist).

I am thankful to everyone for your support, grateful how positively you respond to my urgent calls for help and relieved by your tolerance of any human imperfections.

As volunteers, we are all here for only one reason – to GIVE LIFE to those who have no hope!

Thank you.

**Barry Wilson**

# Patients treated 2014/15

Case	ROMAC Region	Country	Classification	Hospital	Status	Sponsor Rotary Club
Almas	Eastern	Indonesia	Burns	Children's Westmead	Completed	North Ryde
Anastacio	Central	Timor-Leste	Urology	Memorial Hospital SA	Completed	Hallet Cove
Andrea	New Zealand	Vanuatu	Heart	Starship Auckland	Completed	Milford
Antonio	Eastern	Timor-Leste	Heart	Children's Randwick	Completed	Cronulla
Bradley	Southern	Papua New Guinea	Neurosurgery	Epworth Private	Completed	Healesville
Brock John	New Zealand	Vanuatu	Heart	Starship Auckland	Completed	Birkenhead
Celestina	Southern	Timor-Leste	Heart	RCH Melbourne	Completed	Healesville
Christine	New Zealand	Vanuatu	Heart	Starship Auckland	Completed	Remuera
Danilson	Southern	Timor-Leste	Heart	Monash Medical Centre	Completed	Cranbourne
Dulcia	Eastern	Timor-Leste	Orthopaedic	Newcastle Private	Completed	Adamstown/New Lambton
Edward	Northern	Vanuatu	Respiratory	Mater Townsville	Completed	Mundingburra
Edwin	Northern	Vanuatu	Orthopaedic	Mater Redlands	Completed	Wishart
Enilokeli	Eastern	Tonga	Vascular	Children's Westmead	Completed	Liverpool
Esmael	New Zealand	Timor-Leste	Heart	Starship Auckland	Completed	Brown's Bay
Esperanca	Eastern	Timor-Leste	Orthopaedic	Newcastle Private	Current	Adamstown/New Lambton
Faelima	New Zealand	Vanuatu	Heart	Starship Auckland	Completed	Milford
Fitzpatrick	Eastern	Solomon Islands	Teratoma	The Canberra	Current	Jerrabomberra
Francisco	New Zealand	Timor-Leste	Heart	Starship Auckland	Completed	East Coast Bay
Geovanio	Southern	Timor-Leste	Heart	RCH Melbourne	Completed	Healesville
Heldericky	Northern	Timor Leste	Vascular	Darwin Private	Completed	Darwin Sth
Jayden	New Zealand	Vanuatu	Ear	Starship Auckland	Completed	Auckland East
Jayden	New Zealand	Vanuatu	Heart	Starship Auckland	Completed	Auckland East
Jimaro	Northern	Nauru	Tumour	Royal Children's Brisbane	Completed	Bribie Is
Joe	New Zealand	Vanuatu	Heart	Starship Auckland	Completed	New Lynn
Kartik	New Zealand	Fiji	Heart	Starship Auckland	Completed	New Lynn
Kate	New Zealand	Solomon Islands	Heart	Starship Auckland	Completed	Albany
Kenneth	Northern	Solomon Islands	Anus	Wesley Private	Completed	Stones Corner
Linh Da	Southern	Vietnam	Craniofacial	Monash Medical Centre	Completed	Albert Park
Marcia	Eastern	Timor-Leste	Heart	Children's Randwick	Completed	Cronulla
Mausesta	Central	Timor-Leste	Encephalocele	Women's & Children's SA	Completed	Burnside
Natalizio	New Zealand	Timor-Leste	Heart	Starship Auckland	Completed	Brown's Bay
Otto	Southern	Nauru	Heart	Monash Medical Centre	Completed	Healesville
Rachel	New Zealand	Vanuatu	Heart	Starship Auckland	Died	North Harbour
Reedly	Eastern	Vanuatu	Gastrointestinal	The Canberra	Completed	Gungahlin
Renauld	New Zealand	Vanuatu	Heart	Starship Auckland	Completed	Birkenhead
Robert	New Zealand	Vanuatu	Orthopaedic	Waikato Hospital	Completed	Waikato Sunrise
Rocelyn	Northern	Philippines	Faciomaxillary	Wesley Private	Completed	Stones Corner
Roslinda	New Zealand	Vanuatu	Heart	Starship Auckland	Completed	Milford
Sheik	New Zealand	Fiji	Respiratory	Braemer Private	Completed	Hamilton East
Shrdha	New Zealand	Fiji	Heart	Starship Auckland	Completed	New Lynn
Steven	New Zealand	Vanuatu	Heart	Starship Auckland	Completed	Nth Harbour
Tarabou	New Zealand	Kiribati	Heart	Starship Auckland	Completed	New Lynn
Zinzan	Northern	Solomon Islands	Heart	The Mater Brisbane	Completed	Cleveland



# Treasurer's report

The following report relates to the 2014 – 2015 Financial Statements for the Australian Operations of ROMAC. Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children Limited and the ROMAC Gift Fund ("ROMAC")

I am pleased to say that my 2<sup>nd</sup> report as Treasurer for ROMAC shows considerably better results than was the case for the previous financial year.

With the exclusion of investment revaluations, ROMAC has gone from a loss of \$149,418 in 2014 to a surplus of \$99,490 in 2015. After taking into account revaluation of investments the results indicate that the position has improved from a loss of \$113,337 in 2014 to a profit of \$64,512 in 2015.

It was pleasing to see that during the 2015 financial year donations from Rotary Clubs and Rotary Districts increased from \$519,354 to \$559,713, an overall increase of 7.8%. What is more pleasing to note however is that the number of Clubs that donated to ROMAC in 2015 totalled 260 as against 210 in 2014. This increase in Club donations has stopped a 3 year falling trend, however when it is considered that there are 1,111 Clubs in Australia, ROMAC is getting less than 25 percentage of Clubs donating to the cause. This is an area which again will require more active management going forward.

Unfortunately falls in revenue from grants and bequests and investment income were severe during the year. Grants and bequests were down from \$170,588 in 2014 to only \$98,034 in 2015. Investment revenue also fell during the year which is a reflection of what is happening on a national basis for all investors.

The main area where we have excelled in 2015 is the reduction in direct medical

costs paid by the organisation. In 2014 these medical costs totalled \$878,755 however in 2015 they fell to \$609,368. Whilst the reduction is pleasing it must be realised that this reduction came as a direct result of a number of successful Global Grants that were applied for by our New Zealand colleagues.

The effect of these Grants has been very pleasing as in previous years the Australian operations has paid for a significant amount of medical procedures carried out in New Zealand.

Before closing this report it would be unfair of me if I did not acknowledge some of the Districts and the contributions they have made to ROMAC during the last financial year. 5 Districts in particular have increased their level of contributions remarkably.

Increases in donations were:

> District 9455 increased their contributions from \$385 in 2014 to \$30,598 in 2015.

> District 9570 went from \$7,200 in 2014 to \$31,239 in 2015.

> District 9800 went from \$7,470 in 2014 to \$21,024 in 2015

> District 9685 went from \$38,130 in 2014 to \$48,055 in 2015 and finally

> District 9710 went from \$20,435 in 2014 to \$30,900 in 2015.

As I am sure you will agree these increases are remarkable and worthy of acclaim.

Last year in my first Treasurers Report I urged all Rotarians and Rotary Clubs to get behind ROMAC and encourage both Rotarians and Clubs to support us. Again I make this same plea as we try to change and improve the lives of children in our immediate area.

**Bruce Robinson**

## Income

\$824,788

\$98,034 12% Grants and Bequests

\$559,713 68% Rotary Districts and Clubs



## Expenditure

\$725,298 100%

\$14,688 2% Administration  
\$48,028 7% Meeting Costs  
\$53,214 7% Promotion and Development Costs

\$150,451 17% Investment Income and Sundry (Net of Fees and Revaluation)

\$609,368 84% Medical Costs



# ROMAC Board and District Chairs

## Chairman

### PDG Brendan Porter

*Townsville Central Rotary Club*

[chair@romac.org.au](mailto:chair@romac.org.au)

## Deputy Chair

### PP Rob Wilkinson

*Rotary Club of North Ryde*  
[deputychair@romac.org.au](mailto:deputychair@romac.org.au)

## Treasurer

### Bruce A Robinson

*Rotary Club of Norwest  
Sunrise (Bella Vista) Inc*  
[treasurer@romac.org.au](mailto:treasurer@romac.org.au)

## Secretary

### Peter J Maitland JP

*Rotary Club of Kiama*  
[secretary@romac.org.au](mailto:secretary@romac.org.au)

## Medical Director

### Dr Eric Horne

*Rotary Club of New Lynn*  
[medical@romac.org.au](mailto:medical@romac.org.au)

## Operations Director

### Barry Wilson

*Rotary Club of Kiama*  
[operations@romac.org.au](mailto:operations@romac.org.au)



*Top Robyn Jones, Margaret Hayes, Dr Eric Horne, Alun Hughes, Bryan Mason, Phil Rosenberg, Ron Delezio, Brendan Porter, Bruce Robinson, Barry Wilson, Peter Maitland and Rob Wilkinson.  
Photo District 9685 photographer Bill Forsyth, taken at Johnson & Johnson.*

## New Zealand Chair

### Angela Bowey

*Rotary Club of Bay of Islands*  
[newzealand@romac.org.au](mailto:newzealand@romac.org.au)

## District Chairs

**9910** Maxine Neighbour

**9920** Gill Cossey

**9930** Colin Sanderson

*2015+ replaced with  
Michele Rees-Williams*

**9940** Bill Day

**9970** Murray Pearce

**9980** Murray Pfeiffer

*2015+ replaced with  
Helen McCurdy*

## Central Region Chair

*South Australia, Southern  
Northern Territory, parts of  
New South Wales (Broken  
Hill and Wentworth), north-  
western Victoria including  
Mildura, Red Cliffs and  
Robinvale.*

### Alun Hughes

*Rotary Club of Elizabeth*  
[central@romac.org.au](mailto:central@romac.org.au)

## District Chairs

**9500** Alun Hughes

**9520** Oleh Bilyk  
(Acting Chair Alun Hughes)



**Eastern Region Chair**  
*Central, Eastern and Southern  
New South Wales and ACT.*

**Ron Delezio**

*Rotary Club of Manly*  
eastern@romac.org.au

**District Chairs**

**9670** Lyn Thorpe  
**9675** Maria Moran  
**9685** Philip Smith  
**9700** Graeme Tupper  
**9710** Sandra Mahlberg

**Northern Region Chair**  
*Northern New South Wales,  
Queensland, Northern  
Territory, Nauru, Solomon  
Island and Papua New Guinea.*

**Margaret Hayes**

*Rotary Club of Cleveland*  
northern@romac.org.au

**District Chairs**

**9550** Rod Meyers  
**9570** Wayne Litherland  
**9600** Stephen Murphy  
*2015+ replaced with  
John Lee*  
**9630** Cheryl Kermond  
**9650** Rob Anderson  
**9640** Jill Ellis

**Southern Region Chair**  
*Victoria, Tasmania plus parts  
of Southern New South  
Wales*

**Gaynor Schols**

*Rotary Club of Torquay*  
southern@romac.org.au

**District Chairs**

**9780** Christine Duffy  
*2015+ replaced with  
Lesley Shedden*  
**9790** Peter Lee

**9800** Gerry Phillips  
*2015+ replaced with Jim  
Prokhovnik*

**9810** Graeme Chester

**9820** Di Double

**9830** Jill Sward

**Western Region Chair**

*Western Australia*

**Peter Snell**

*Rotary Club of Bentley Curtin*  
*Replaced with*

**Robyn Jones**

*Rotary Club Canning Bridge*  
western@romac.org.au

**District Chairs**

**9455** Greg Hunter  
**9465** Brian Vale

**Consultants**

**Operations Consultant**

**Bryan Mason OAM**

*Rotary Club of Caloundra  
Pacific*  
opsconsultant@romac.org.au

**Marketing Consultant**

**Phil Rosenberg**

*Rotary Gold Coast*



**Back cover.**

*Saky and dad Benjamin arrived from Vanuatu unable to walk even a few steps as he was blue, breathless and in severe heart failure! He had a very unusual congenital heart problem and required several weeks of medical treatment before he was well enough for surgery. This proved quite a challenge for our cardiac surgical team led by Dr Kirsten Funicane. Within a very few days Saky was running around the wards. They went home to meet Saky's new baby sister.*