

ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

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 fiscal 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 Pacific island countries.
- 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 cots 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 website – www.romac.org.au 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 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 little kid.



Brendan Porter Chairman's Report

Reflecting with pride ...

Over my three-year period as Chairman, I have been fortunate to watch and support ROMAC as it has moved forward in delivering a unique service throughout Australia and New Zealand. I am truly inspired by the dedication of our Board of Directors and the Operations team and the generosity of our many volunteers. None ask for a benefit, none ask for recognition and none ask for recompense for the considerable personal outlay they expend.

This generosity enables us to continue with our mission to provide complex surgery in major New Zealand and Australian hospitals, for sick and injured children from neighbouring Pacific island countries. **We have witnessed the successful treatment of the 400th child in total and the 100th from Timor Leste** a great acknowledgement of all those involved with ROMAC. We are well on the way to achieving the 500th patient milestone.

The recent Rotary International Convention in Seoul, was a great opportunity to promote ROMAC and the humanitarian work we do. Our booth created a considerable amount of interest. With 'local' Ian Riseley now confirmed as RI President Elect, we hope to mount a booth at his Toronto, Canada convention to gain wider recognition and support for ROMAC.

During the past three years, ROMAC has partnered with the Rotary Foundation to help even more children. New Zealand has led the way with this initiative. Global Grants will enable us to continue our programs in spite of the decreased funding received from Rotary Clubs (a temporary glitch we attribute to the GFC). Good fiscal stewardship and judicious deployment of grant monies, will help us to not only build a financial corpus but assist more children in need.

We have dynamically upgraded our electronic reporting system to securely deal with past, present and future record keeping, patient privacy and the complex logistics of bringing children and carers into Australia and New Zealand. Importantly, it has provision for doctor-to-doctor reporting with a comprehensive account of all surgeries and treatments provided.

My time as Chairman is now at an end and I extend my thanks to the Board, the Operations Committee, our ROMAC regions, Rotary Districts and Clubs, the hospitals and surgeons who provide their skills and service either pro bono or at reduced cost and of course, our many volunteers and our corporate sponsors and individual donors. We couldn't do it without you.

With warmest best wishes to Incoming Chair Rob Wilkinson and his Board and Committees.

Yours in ROMAC and Rotary service

Brendan

Brendan Porter





Introducing the new ROMAC Chair 2016-19

The ROMAC Board of Directors announce with pleasure, the appointment of Rob Wilkinson to this important leadership role. ROMAC, as an official program of the Rotary Districts of Australia and New Zealand, is in a unique position to positively showcase the Rotary brand across the world, across time zones, cultures, socio-economic divides, generations and vocations. ROMAC truly is Rotary in action.

ROMAC continues to bring critically ill or injured children to leading hospitals in Australia and New Zealand for complex surgical procedures. Life-saving and transformative re-construction surgery and intensive post-operative care, is not available in the children's country of origin.

Rob says "ROMAC is a signature humanitarian Rotary program and one that many Rotary Clubs and individual Rotarians have supported financially and in-kind, since its inception. Through the leadership of the Rotary Foundation and the support of District Governors, the introduction of Global Grants has enabled ROMAC and its entirely volunteer 'work force' to continue assisting 40-50 young patients per annum. We value this support and hope that it will continue".

Rob Wilkinson has played a vital role in ROMAC's success over a twelve-year period, most recently as an extremely active Vice Chairman. An exemplary Rotarian, Past President (x3), Paul Harris Fellow, recipient of an RI Presidential Recognition for Service to Families and Communities and a Community Service Award, Rob is an extremely worthy choice to guide ROMAC through the next exciting stage of development.

During his Vice Chairmanship, Rob developed strategic corporate partnerships, attracted sponsorship dollars and expanded the scope of ROMAC's medical contacts with two additional major teaching hospitals agreeing to take ROMAC patients. Rob is eminently qualified, experienced and well suited to assume greater executive responsibilities.

The ROMAC Board would like to publicly acknowledge the significant contribution of out-going Chairman, Brendan Porter. We record our gratitude for his time, effort and input over a three-year term and look forward to his continuing contribution.

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With our thanks





Bruce Robinson

Treasurer's Report

I submit with pleasure, the financial results of ROMAC - Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children Ltd - for the year ending 30 June 2016. I'm pleased to advise that ROMAC had an operating surplus of \$215,744. The surplus has been added to the ROMAC investment corpus to yield a sufficient return for covering administration costs eg. the further development of the ROMAC eHealth Program.

Whilst the surplus is very pleasing from a financial perspective, it is important to stress how the surplus was achieved. During this financial year, our New Zealand colleagues successfully applied for and received, two new Global Grants from Rotary International. These Grants were specifically tied to projects that allowed for the provision of medical services that either ROMAC Australia or New Zealand would have had to cover financially. As a direct consequence of these much appreciated Grants, ROMAC's medical expenses fell from \$613,598 in 2015 to \$477,421 in 2016. It cannot be over-stressed however, that this is a temporary benefit as we have no guarantee that ROMAC will be a future Grant recipient.

Prudent financial management also yielded a drop in other expenses. Our 'overheads' (excluding medical expenses) reduced from \$111,700 in 2015 to \$72,217 in 2016. ROMAC's eHealth Reporting and Recording program is almost fully developed and the set-up costs are behind us although there will be some expenses related to the ongoing maintenance of the system.

An area of considerable concern however, is the drop in donations from Rotary Clubs. In the 2016 year, donations from Australian Rotary Clubs fell to \$488,429 (compared to \$559,713 in 2015). This is a drop of nearly 13% on a year on year basis. Drilling further into this reduction, only 198 out of the possible 1,112 Rotary Clubs in Australia donated to ROMAC compared to the 260 Clubs who donated the previous year. Put simply, less than 18% of Australian Rotary Clubs donated to ROMAC compared to 22% in 2015 and 24% in 2014.

We certainly understand 'donor fatigue' (after all, the all-volunteer ROMAC team are Rotarians too) but we hope this worrying trend will be reversed as it significantly impacts ROMAC's ability to provide urgent surgical intervention for children from Pacific island countries.

On a brighter note, whilst there was a drop in donations from Rotary Clubs, there has been an increase in donations from individual Rotarians and ROMAC supporters and several Bequests from Estates during the year. We welcome enquiries regarding this donation channel.

We appreciate any donations, large or smaller. We value the trust placed in us by our donors and the ROMAC Operations Committee diligently endeavour to keep costs under control to maximise our expenditure. We urge District Governor's and Club Presidents to get behind ROMAC – an officially designated Rotary program. Lots of needy little people will thank you...

Yours in ROMAC and Rotary service,

Bruce

Bruce Robinson (Australia)

New Zealand Financials: see separate Report from Geoff Pownall (NZ Administrator)

NB: The compilation and Annual Audit of the 2016 Financial Statements for ROMAC, Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children Ltd and ROMAC Pty Ltd as Trustee for the ROMAC Gift Fund, has been completed and is published on the ROMAC website for public viewing. Please direct any enquiries to the Honorary Treasurer.



Barry Wilson

Operations Report

The Operations Director's role is to manage the logistics emanating from an overseas patient referral to ROMAC. Initially, in consultation with our Medical Director, patients are assessed and hospital admissions planned, according to the child's medical condition. Following this, we coordinate with our island ROMAC/Rotary representatives to obtain passports, prepare all documentation, arrange visas, collaborate with our Regional Chairs and coordinate transport to ensure the patient and their guardian arrive in time for surgery and return home safely after treatment. Essential, is the exceptional support provide by the Australian and New Zealand Immigration departments, through their staff, to ensure visas are granted to meet our arrival deadlines.

In 2015/2016 we coordinated movement of 43 patients. These are shown in the table and graphs. There has been an increase in outreach surgical programs by the medical profession and allied organisations, meaning many simpler operations are being performed in home country. As a result, ROMAC is frequently called upon to assist when more serious cases are identified - see our 'Success stories' and the Regional Chair reports. As such our hospitals and surgeons are requesting more current pre-admission data including scans and pathology. As part of my visit to Timor Leste and Darwin in May I was able to explain to local clinicians our need for accurate and current medical reports with Darwin being able to assess children if necessary.

Over the past three years, the Operations' role has included the integration of an entirely new database and case management system (eROMAC) to better serve our patients, their families, the medical clinicians, hospitals and of course our hundreds of ROMAC volunteers.

eROMAC links our patient medical records with detailed patient and family information. It integrates directly with our website (providing live upload of Referral Forms), email, web portal and social media. It provides seamless connectivity for our Board and the Regional and District chairs with embedded patient privacy and security as a priority. Our new ROMAC website was launched encompassing lodgement of referrals, easy secure access for donations, patient stories and many ROMAC guidelines for Rotarians.

This year ROMAC appointed an Assistant Operations Director, Carol Bourne from Wodonga, Victoria. Carol's role is to assist with patient logistics, to liaise with regional chairs and maintain the integrity of data on the eROMAC database. The role of the Medical Director is pivotal to our success and I would like to sincerely thank Dr Eric Horne for his untiring dedication, professional advice, empathy and support. ROMAC is also indebted to Lorraine Bartlett, who provides the essential NZ link for our international and immigration connectivity.

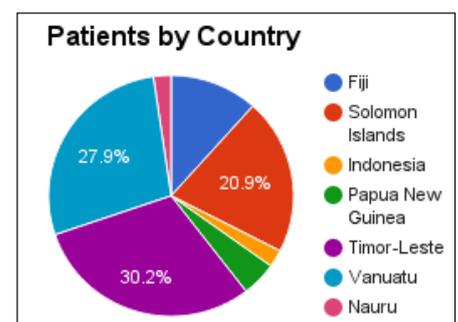
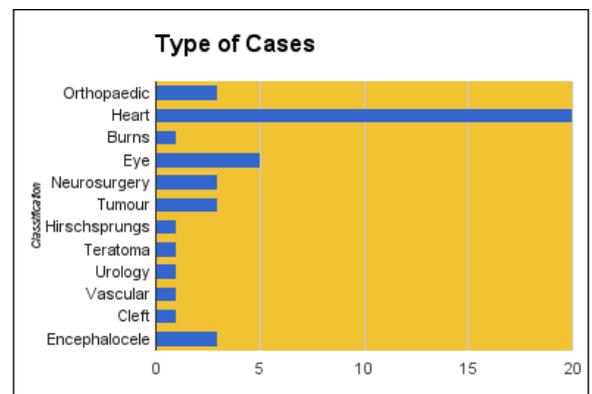
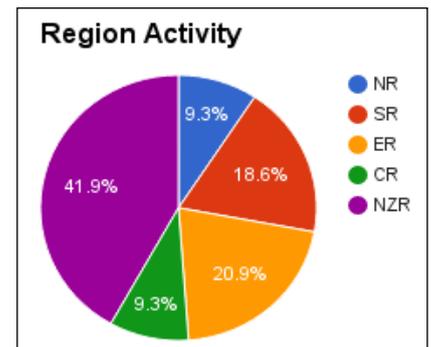
We are exceptionally proud and grateful to the many doctors and associated medical staff who support our children through pro bono surgeries, as well as the world-class hospitals and their staff who provide excellent lifesaving facilities. A number of commercial businesses actively support ROMAC. The generous in-kind donations of Johnson & Johnson Medical, ConocoPhillips, Regional Imaging Darwin and Solomon Airlines, directly support ROMAC's lifesaving efforts.

I wish to acknowledge the enthusiastic support in our source countries - especially by Rotarians, ROMAC medical consultants and many other individual volunteers and supporting organisations. Rotarians in Australian, New Zealand and Pacific Island Clubs, enable ROMAC to provide an entirely volunteer-run humanitarian service.

As ROMAC volunteers, we are buoyed by compelling outcomes - we give HOPE, restore functioning and positively transform young lives.

Barry

Barry Wilson





ROMAC success stories

Our patients

| ROMAC CASES YEAR 2015/2016 | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------|--------|-------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Name | DOB | Region | Country | Surgery | Status | Hospital | RC sponsoring |
| Ajnesh | 18/7/2000 | NR | Fiji | Orthopaedic | Completed | GCUH Gold Coast | Gold Coast |
| Alina | 12/12/2005 | SR | Solomon Is | Heart | Completed | RCH Melb | Mount Eliza |
| Almas | 24/6/2002 | ER | Indonesia | Burns | Completed | SCH Westmead | North Ryde |
| Bradley | 17/12/1996 | SR | PNG | Eye | Current | St Vincent's Private Melb | Nunawading |
| Bradley | 17/12/1996 | SR | PNG | Neurosurgery | Completed | Epworth Private Melb | Nunawading |
| Carmelita | 13/3/2001 | CR | Timor Leste | Tumour | Completed | Memorial Hospital Adelaide | Salisbury SA |
| Charles | 4/9/2014 | ER | Solomon Is | Hirschsprungs | Current | TCH Canberra | Western Creek |
| Clara | 20/6/2003 | NZR | Fiji | Heart | Completed | Starship | Birkenhead |
| Crisma | 26/12/2006 | SR | Solomon Is | Heart | Completed | RCH Melb | Glenferrie |
| David | 31/1/2015 | NZR | Vanuatu | Heart | Completed | Starship | Western Springs |
| Davina | 23/6/2012 | NZR | Vanuatu | Heart | Completed | Starship | Albany NZ |
| Deolindo | 19/8/2012 | NZR | Timor Leste | Tumour | Completed | Southern Cross Christchurch | Riccarton |
| Edwin | 20/1/2006 | NR | Vanuatu | Orthopaedic | Completed | Mater Redlands Brisbane | Wishart |
| Esperanca | 8/9/1997 | ER | Timor Leste | Orthopaedic | Completed | Newcastle Private | Adamstown New Lambton |
| Faustino | 24/10/2015 | NZR | Fiji | Heart | Completed | Starship | New Lynn |
| Fitzpatrick | 11/4/2015 | ER | Solomon Is | Teratoma | Completed | TCH Canberra | Jerrabomberra |
| Frankyvano | 14/4/2015 | NZR | Vanuatu | Heart | Completed | Starship | Manurewa Takinini |
| Frinaliya | 14/6/2007 | ER | Timor Leste | Heart | Completed | SCH Randwick | Sydney |
| Gialdred | 5/5/2014 | NZR | Timor Leste | Urology | Completed | Wellington Children's Hopsital | Port Nicholson |
| Heldericky | 28/1/1997 | SR | Timor Leste | Vascular | Completed | St Vincent's Private Melb | Moorleigh |
| Isac | 29/12/2001 | CR | Timor Leste | Neurosurgery | Completed | Women's & Children's Adelaide | Salisbury SA |
| Jacky | 6/4/2015 | NZR | Vanuatu | Heart | Completed | Starship | North Harbour |
| Jesuina | 22/7/2001 | SR | Timor Leste | Heart | Completed | Monash Medical Melb | Seaford Carrum Downs |
| John | 8/10/2013 | ER | Solomon Is | Heart | Completed | SCH Randwick | Cronulla |
| Junitalia | 18/6/2014 | ER | Timor Leste | Heart | Current | SCH Randwick | Cronulla |
| Kachico | 20/8/2008 | NR | Solomon Is | Neurosurgery | Completed | LCCH Brisbane | Brisbane Highrise |
| Linda | 22/3/2013 | NZR | Vanuatu | Heart | Completed | Starship | Takapuna North |
| Lisa-Maree | 10/11/2012 | NR | Nauru | Cleft | Completed | LCCH Brisbane | Redlands Sunrise |
| Lolita | 9/11/1999 | ER | Solomon Is | Heart | Completed | Macquarie Sydney | Crowes Nest |
| Lusiana | 14/7/2015 | NZR | Fiji | Heart | Completed | Starship | Takapuna |
| Manuel | 13/8/2013 | CR | Timor Leste | Encephalocele | Completed | Women's & Children's Adelaide | Burnside |
| Nidia | 7/8/2001 | CR | Timor Leste | Eye | Completed | Memorial Hospital Adelaide | Kidman park |
| Perla | 19/9/2011 | NZR | Vanuatu | Heart | Completed | Starship | Henderson |
| Priscilla | 22/8/2001 | NZR | Vanuatu | Heart | Completed | Starship | Auckland Harbourside |
| Rivaldino | 9/8/2003 | NZR | Timor Leste | Heart | Completed | Starship | Milford |
| Roselyn | 16/2/1998 | ER | Solomon Is | Heart | Completed | The SAN Sydney | Crows Nest |
| Shania | 21/2/2013 | SR | Solomon Is | Eye | Completed | Melbourne Eye Hospital | Bundoora |
| Teretoriano | 20/2/2014 | SR | Timor Leste | Tumour | Current | Monash Medical | Clayton |
| Unise | 4/6/2010 | NZR | Fiji | Heart | Completed | Starship | Brown's Bay |
| Viniana | 13/6/2004 | NZR | Vanuatu | Encephalocele | Completed | Ascot Private Auckland | Auckland East Inner Wheel |
| Viniana | 13/6/2004 | NZR | Vanuatu | Eye | Completed | Eye Clinic Auckland | Auckland East Inner Wheel |
| Viniana | 13/6/2004 | NZR | Vanuatu | Eye | Completed | Eye Clinic Auckland | Auckland East Inner Wheel |
| Zoe | 31/7/2015 | NZR | Vanuatu | Encephalocele | Completed | Starship | New Lynn |

'We warmly acknowledge the marvellous, on-going support of the Rotary Club of Sydney'

ROMAC is creating
real and meaningful change



Linda with Doctor and mum Talia



Zoe before her operation



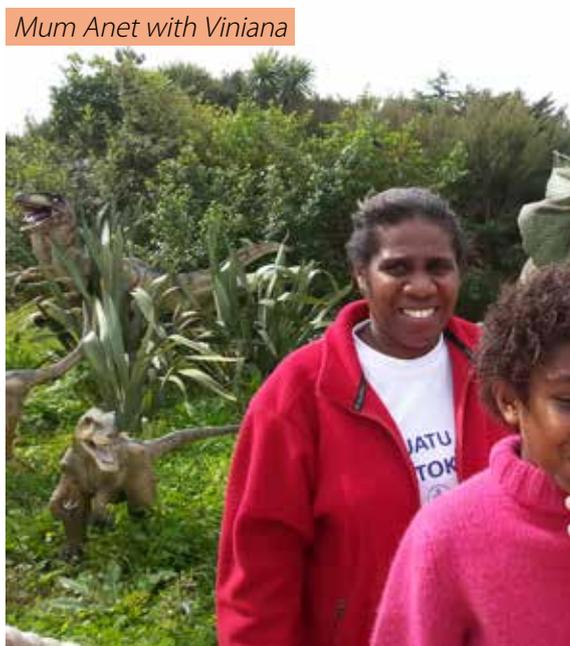
Mum Maire & Jacky and Perla with dad Alexis



Zoe post-operation



Steven



Mum Anet with Viniana



Angela Bowey *NZ Region Chair*

During the Rotary year 2015-16, ROMAC brought 16 child emergency patients from their Pacific island homes for treatment in New Zealand; three from Timor Leste, four from Fiji and nine from Vanuatu. Fourteen children were treated at Starship Hospital in Auckland, one at Wellington Children's Hospital and one at Southern Cross Hospital in Christchurch. Involvement with ROMAC has now spread across the country with every one of New Zealand's Rotary Districts contributing District Designated Funds to ROMAC projects along with donations from individual Clubs.

Over the past four years, ROMAC in New Zealand has been involved with seven major Rotary Grants, to save the lives of children needing emergency surgery. These Grants have saved the lives of thirty-five children who, without skilled surgical intervention, would have died. In addition, these Grants have paid for training for health professionals in the children's home countries with the aim of identifying and treating children successfully at an earlier stage. Some of the ROMAC children who came to New Zealand this year ...



David from Vanuatu



Lusiana from Fiji



and Jacky from Vanuatu

... all underwent successful open heart surgery this year.

In support of this surgery, ROMAC organised training for health professionals in Port Vila, Vanuatu. Ten nurses from Santo, Tanna and Port Vila were introduced to relevant case studies and instructed in Pharmacology, Medication Management and Immunology by a senior lecturer from the University of Auckland. Some much needed small items of medical equipment were also supplied.

Thanks for your support everyone.

Angela

Angela Bowey

NEW ZEALAND FINANCIAL REPORT

The two new Global Grants received (plus completion of the 2014-15 Grant) have enabled an expansion of ROMAC admissions and training programs. Donations for the year totalled \$NZ43,000 compared to \$130,000 the previous year although \$80,000 of this was tied to sponsorship of one specific child. Expenditure = \$451,000 (direct patient costs = \$410,000). The net result for the year was a deficit of \$NZ41,000, funded by the previous year's surplus. ROMAC NZ - net assets \$NZ66,000 which include \$NZ56,000 in contributions held for the 2016-17 Global Grant. This Grant - number GG1529680 - has a net value of approximately \$NZ200,000 which will fund another 4-5 children and an additional medical training program. Special thanks to our 13-member Committee, our donors and supporters and the wonderful Timorese students who support the children from Timor Leste.

Geoff Pownall, Administrator, New Zealand



Robyn Jones

Western Region Chair

All quiet on the Western front ... we are however, looking forward to an upswing in patient activity with the opening of the new Children's Hospital in October. We enjoyed a 'fly through' with Rivaldino (12) and his mother Isobel, en-route to New Zealand from Timor Leste. As usual, interpreters saved the day and Aussie hamburgers were a hit.

Rotary Youth Exchange students worked hard at fundraising throughout the year, various fundraising events were held, several Clubs contributed to ROMAC coffers and D9465 donated a welcome \$2344.

The ROMAC booth at the Rotary International Convention in Seoul, Korea, was well patronised and gave us the opportunity to thank our Korean Rotary friends for partnering with us for Global Grants. It also afforded the chance to introduce ROMAC to Rotarians from all corners of the world.

We're looking forward to reporting that the splendid, new \$1.2 billion Perth Children's Hospital (Nedlands) has admitted their first ROMAC patient – and we're looking forward to welcoming our young visitor/s.

Robyn

Robyn Jones



ROMAC group at Perth air transit, for Rivaldino and mum



Rivaldino in hospital post-op

Through the operation at St Vincent's hospital, I feel my life will become normal again. Before the operation I was disabled from the age of 3 years old. With my disability I always felt I was different from other people. I felt shy and ashamed to be with other people. The operation meant so much to me as it almost could fix my foot to 90 degrees. I can be strong and live my life with happiness and without pain. Everything will be okay if I have good health and am without disability and pain. I will then be satisfied with my life and not ashamed of myself.

I am grateful to ROTARY and ROMAC which sponsored me to get medical treatment. Also to my host family in Melbourne who were looking after me and treating me like their son. Then to all the people who supported me with prayer and everything else.

I love you all, Ricky (Timor Leste)





Gaynor Schols *Southern Region Chair*

The Southern Region (VIC/TAS) welcomed 7 ROMAC patients to Melbourne in 2015-16 for complex surgical procedures not available in the children's home country. Jesuina de Costa Belo had her mitral valve repaired by Professor Andrew Cochrane at Monash Medical Centre. She was cared for by D9820.

Shania Kaisiua had pro bono eye surgery performed by Dr Jon Rundle at the Victoria Parade Surgical Centre and pro bono cardiac tests with Dr Peter Squire. Shania was hosted by D9790. Heldericky de Cruz Tolentino, hosted by D9810, had pro bono surgery at St Vincent's Private Hospital to correct a vascular malformation in his leg. Thank you Professor Tony Penington. Two girls from the Solomon Islands, Crisma Lohu and Alina Parefea had corrective heart surgery at the Royal Children's Hospital. They were hosted respectively by D9800 and D9820.

'Our Christmas miracle' Teretoriano (Anton) da Silva arrived close to death. Five surgeons operated at Monash to remove a massive kidney tumour. Unfortunately, it was malignant and nearly 7 months of chemotherapy was required. ROMAC does not treat cancer patients so we were grateful for the assistance provided by Monash Health and wonderful Rotarian hosts, Bill and Dianne Sides who absolutely epitomise 'Service Above Self'.

Bradley Bola re-visited - for the fourth time - for final surgeries to his nose and eye. Professor Andrew Heggie and his Epworth team, Dr Lionel Kowal and his St Vincent's Private team and Bridge Rd Imaging all provided their professional services free of charge to help Bradley who was again hosted by D9810.

Celestina Dias has finally returned home to Timor Leste after more than a year in Melbourne. ROMAC sponsored her cardiac surgery in February 2015 and Children First Foundation sponsored her long-term orthopaedic treatment. This compassionate partnership has transformed the future for a formerly compromised little girl.

Regional news: Gaynor visited Tasmania to boost support for ROMAC amongst Districts, Clubs and hospitals and D9830 Chair Jill Sward, is keen to build up a local ROMAC committee. Two successful ROMAC Southern meetings were held and we say goodbye and thank you to retiring D9820 Chair, Di Double who will be succeeded by Colin Byron.

Fundraising, through Rotary and non-Rotary channels has been fruitful. Several Districts and Clubs held successful events and significant donations were received from individuals, Foundations and Bequests. ROMAC Certificates of Appreciation were presented to many amazing people. Thanks everyone.

Gaynor

Gaynor Schols



Crisma



Teretoriano and nana Claudina



Jesuina and mum Teresa



Alun Hughes

Central Region Chair

Manuel Da Conceicao Dos Santos, a youngster from Timor Leste, arrived with his aunt for preliminary assessment. This caused some legal issues regarding parental authority that had to be overcome (just another day at the office for ROMAC volunteers!)

This resolved, Manuel underwent complex cranio-facial surgery at the Adelaide Women's and Children's Hospital. The cost to ROMAC was minimised through a South Australian Government Grant, given annually to the Cranio-Facial Unit. ROMAC donated \$5,000 to their Foundation. Manuel and his carer were hosted by the Rotary Club of Burnside.



Manuel with Virgin Air crew



Isac on way home with Rtn Jan

Isac Do Santos Lemos, an extremely ill child, arrived on the same flight from Timor Leste as Manuel. He had a suspected brain tumour. He was accepted for treatment by specialist neuro-surgeon Cindy Molloy and the Adelaide Women's and Children's Hospital. Immediate tests confirmed that he had lost all sight in his left eye and partial sight in the right eye. Scans revealed a tumour that was fully excised in a 5 ½ hour operation and Pathology results confirmed the cause to be tuberculosis (TB). Once cleared of infection, Isac was discharged from hospital and hosted with his carer, by members of the Rotary Club of Salisbury. He had a one day stop-over in Darwin on the way home, to meet the doctors who were scheduled to conduct his follow-up treatment in Timor Leste.

Alun

Alun Hughes



Bradley at 2yrs



Bradley at 19yrs



Ron Delezio

Eastern Region Chair

I am fortunate in the Eastern Region to work with very supportive Regional Chairs - Maria Moran D9675, Philip Smith D9685, Sandra Mahlberg D9710, Lyn Thorpe D9670 and Graeme Tupper D9700. ROMAC (Eastern) is also very fortunate to partner with some of Australia's leading hospitals such as The Children's Hospitals at Westmead and Randwick, Macquarie University Hospital, The Canberra Hospital, John Hunter Hospital and the Sydney Adventist Hospital (SAN).



Roselyn with mum Anna and Rtn Liane

We have received patients ranging in age from two years to eighteen, with a variety of complex medical issues requiring surgical intervention. Roselyn Jatobatu, from the Solomon Islands, was the first ROMAC patient to be operated on at the Sydney Adventist Hospital. Roselyn had severe heart disease.

In another first this year, Macquarie University Hospital admitted Lolita Tesakian Tekopo, also from the Solomon Islands. Lolita's cardiac problems were treated by Dr/s Jason Kaplan, Andy Yong and Dr Roberts from The Children's Hospital, Westmead.

John Junior Kali (Solomon Islands) had recurrent chest infections from 2 months of age and was treated in Sydney for pneumonia and congenital heart defects.



Lolita with mum Francisca



Mona and D9685 Chair Philip

Fourteen-year-old Almas Firosmona (Mona) Yuniar arrived from Indonesia for a second follow-up treatment after severe burns to 75% of her body. She underwent a series of successful operations at Westmead Children's Hospital.

The Canberra Children's Hospital admitted Fitzpatrick Unga and Charles Rao from the Solomon Islands. Fitzpatrick had surgery to remove a huge Teratoma covering his coccyx and Charles, who has Hirschsprungs disease, was operated on by Professor David Croaker, a long-time supporter of ROMAC.

Another very ill two-year-old, Junitalia Fernandes Salsinha arrived from East Timor with Tetralogy of Fallot, a cardiac condition that included a hole in her heart and a torn Aorta. Dr Peter Grant performed corrective surgery and Junitalia spent thirteen days in the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) before being transferred to a ward and ultimately discharged into the care of District Chair, Maria Moran.

Esperanca dos Santos was assessed over an 8-week period, for Scoliosis at Newcastle Private Hospital. Esperanca will need a two-stage operation to correct her severe spinal curvature.

Ron

Ron Delezio



Junitalia eating well



Margaret Hayes *Northern Region Chair*

This year in Brisbane, we saw the closure of both the old Children's Hospital and the Mater Children's Hospital but we're delighted to report the opening of the fantastic Lady Cilento Children's Hospital (LCCH) and the admission of the first ROMAC patient.

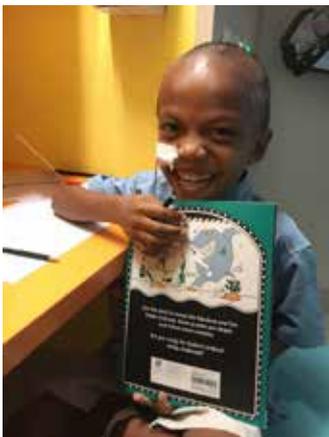
Lisa-Maree Aremwa had a disfiguring harelip and cleft palate and at 2 ½ was well aware of people's stares. Dr Stuart Bade donated his time and expertise to repair her little face and it was a very smiley girl who returned to the Solomon Islands. Redland Sunrise was the host Rotary Club and the Assistant Nauruan Consul helped to secure a local host family.

Our second patient into LCCH was the dearest 7 year old boy, Kachico Umiko, also from the Solomon Islands, accompanied by his Grandfather, Amon Redley. An accidental, deep penetrating nail injury to his head as a three year old, had, in spite of treatment, failed to heal. The wound wept constantly and Kachico had chronic headaches and epileptic episodes which prevented him from attending school. Operating surgeon, Dr Gert Tolleson removed residual fragments of metal from the wound plus an abscess with three different strains of bacteria not found in Australia. Kachico recovered well with post-op care from great staff at LCCH, intensive antibiotic therapy, a six week stay in Oz hosted by the generous Rence family from West End and the Rotary Club of Brisbane High Rise, with assistance from Rotarians David Ambrose and Margaret and Bill Benham. It was a mighty team effort and happily, we can report that on return home, Kachico has now started school!

In another first, we partnered with the Gold Coast University Hospital (GCUH) to admit Ajnesh Kumar (15) from Fiji. A painful congenital deformity prevented Ajnesh from holding his head and torso upright. Following four days in hospital, four weeks of super-intensive physiotherapy and TLC from the Scott family at Runaway Bay, a much more comfortable and cheerful teenager is looking forward to a brighter future, thanks to ROMAC.

Margaret

Margaret Hayes



Happy Kachico, post-op



Kachico back home with g'father Amon



Lisa-Maree with cleft pre-op



Rob Wilkinson Incoming Chairman

Looking forward... in his own words...

It is a great privilege to be appointed to the role of Chairman, Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children (ROMAC) effective 1 September 2016. I am delighted that I will be working with a team of highly motivated and deeply committed Rotarians.

My twelve-year history with ROMAC, most recently as Deputy Chair, has confirmed my belief that few rewards are more personally satisfying, than enabling a seriously ill or injured child, to have a better quality of life. I'm gratified to know so many of you share my belief. So much that we take for granted or expect for our children and grandchildren, is unavailable to young children with complex health needs, in neighbouring Pacific island countries. ROMAC seeks to address that inequity by covering the costs to bring 40-50 children per annum, for treatment in Australia or New Zealand.

ROMAC is able to do this because of generous support from District Governors, Rotary Clubs, individual and corporate donors, first class surgeons and medical teams, leading hospitals, an amazing number of volunteers and a fantastic and talented Board and Operations committee.

I am looking forward to taking ROMAC to the next level, with their help. I hope to lead by example, maintain and build on our current strengths, increase awareness of ROMAC in the public and corporate domains, increase support for ROMAC in other countries and, make sure that every Rotary Club in Australia and New Zealand knows about, promotes and supports the vital, humanitarian work that ROMAC does so well.

ROMAC will celebrate our 30th Anniversary in 2018. We are proud of this history but ROMAC is a 'work in progress' and our management practices and budgets are constantly evaluated to get best value for our expenditure. The ROMAC team value the trust that our donors place in us to spend their contributions wisely; all donations go to children's medical expenses.

I'm looking forward to the next three years and offer my thanks to those who have gone before and a warm welcome to those who have just come on board. Hold onto your hats everyone, we're in for a great ride. Please join us, as ROMAC continues to offer children in need a truly transformative gift.

Yours in ROMAC and Rotary service

Rob

Rob Wilkinson

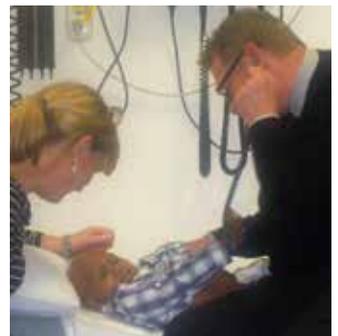
“Thank you to all our wonderful doctors”



Prof David Croaker, Medical Director Dr Eric Horne and Dr John Harvey



Roselyn and Dr Ian Nicholson



Teretoriano and Dr Peter Downie

Who's who at ROMAC

| 2015-16 ROMAC BOARD AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE | | |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | Member's Rotary Club |
| CHAIRMAN Brendan Porter | chair@romac.org.au | Townsville Central |
| DEPUTY CHAIRMAN Rob Wilkinson | deputychair@romac.org.au | North Ryde |
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| TREASURER Bruce Robinson | treasurer@romac.org.au | Norwest Sunrise (Bella Vista) |
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| MEDICAL DIRECTOR Dr Eric Horne | medical@romac.org.au | New Lynn (NZ) |
| ASSISTANT OPERATIONS DIRECTOR Carol Bourne | assistoperations@romac.org.au | Wodonga West |
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| COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR AND EDITOR Ann Burleigh | communications@romac.org.au | Rotary eClub One |

Some beautiful

ROMAC children



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 online at www.romac.org.au OR
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 \$.....
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Children **VOLUNTEERS**
Love

HOPE for Pacific Island babies

TRANSFORMATION

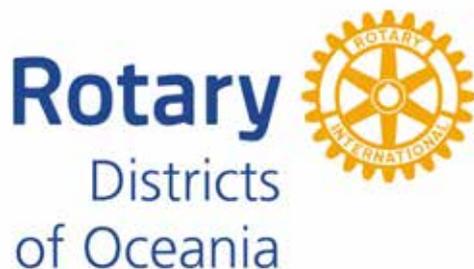
Faith **TRUST**

Caring & Sharing

hope **DONORS**

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SKILLS**

Humanity



AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND