

All the latest

With board chair

Ingrid Svendsen

First, sincere thanks to everyone who supported our most recent patient, Immaculada, by volunteering, donating or just sending encouraging messages. Your care really counts.

There is more news about Immaculada in Dr Noel Bayley's column opposite.

Immaculada and Dr Noel also a star in a new video series, made by our principal sponsor, Macquarie Telecom. There are links to the videos on our [Facebook page](#); we hope you will share them with family and friends and help let more people know about our work.

In other partner news, congratulations to our pro bono legal adviser, law firm Russell Kennedy, which was recently ranked number five in a national pro bono survey. We're keeping our friends at RK busy and helping them get a even higher ranking this year.

Congratulations also to East Timor Hearts Fund supporter, surgeon Andrew Cochrane, on his much deserved Australia Day award.

And finally, we are pleased to welcome our newest supporter, gorgeous baby Zara, born to our company secretary and finance director, Naida Beltrame, just before Christmas.

Thanks again for your support.

– **Ingrid Svendsen, chair**

Medical roundup

With medical adviser

Dr Noel Bayley

This is the first of what I hope will be many medical adviser reports to the East Timor Hearts Fund community.

Last year was a very successful one, with four patients treated in Australia. As most of you will know, before Christmas surgeon Marco Larobina and the team at the Royal Melbourne Hospital performed a successful mitral valve replacement on ETHF patient Immaculada da Conceicao Gusmao. I look forward to seeing Immaculada for a checkup in Dili late this month, when I will be doing clinics at Bairo Pite clinic. I will also see 14 year old Lucas Soares, who we hope will soon have surgery to repair a "hole in the heart".

In addition to seeing our patients who have previously had procedures, I expect to identify future candidates for life saving intervention. I'll be accompanied by two medical students from Deakin University medical school.

The March visit is the first of two planned trips to Dili for 2013. Although the funding climate in our public hospitals is difficult, and this is likely to make it challenging to get cases done, I'm optimistic that we'll have another fruitful year.

– **Dr Noel Bayley, medical adviser**

Bridging the health gap

An 'eye opening' Timor trip for MacTel's CEO

Last December **David Tudehope**, CEO of our new principal sponsor, Macquarie Telecom, travelled to East Timor to see our work first-hand. He visited our partner in Dili, Bairo Pite community clinic, and met Immaculada da Conceicao Gusmao, 22, whose surgery the company sponsored. Just days after David's visit we flew Immaculada to Australia for treatment. (She returned to her family with a new heart just before Christmas.)

“ I thought it was important to visit Dil to see for myself the reality of life in East Timor; and the reality of the gap in medical care between Australia and East Timor. I wanted to know how that translates to real people and their lives. I also wanted to gain a deeper understanding of how Macquarie Telecom could help bridge that need.

Macquarie has always been involved in the community. But this is especially significant as it is about our nearest neighbour; it's about people who supported Australians in WWII; people who have been a big part of our history. It's about understanding what we can do to help them as they rebuild their country after so many years of troubles.

What I saw during my visit was truly eye opening. We all appreciate that there is a big difference between medical health services in Australia and those in East Timor, but the gap is even bigger than I expected. So much that we take for granted is simply not available there.

East Timor Hearts Fund is playing an important role in bridging the gap, and I am delighted that Macquarie Telecom can be involved. ”

Three minutes with...

Ana Saldanha

ETHF volunteer coordinator

How did you become involved?

The patients that come to Melbourne for surgery don't have any family or relatives. They also don't speak English; the only way they can communicate is through the interpreter. So it is a culture shock. As a Timorese, I know how important it is to have your loved ones and friends by your side when you are in these difficult circumstances. It's a privilege to work with ETHF and to help others in need.

What does your role entail?

I manage the relationships with ETHF's volunteers and ensure that patients and the Timorese support people who come with them receive social support while they are in Australia.

What do you do in your spare time?

Family and friends; exploring new places; photography; reading and watching good documentaries.

A taxing issue

Previously, donations to East Timor Hearts Fund have been tax deductible via an arrangement with another organisation. Now, we are applying to the Australian Tax Office for DGR (Donor Gift Recipient) status in our own right. In the meantime, donations are no longer tax deductible. We hope supporters are still able to assist; and we'll update you as soon as we can.



To receive this newsletter by email, go to the home page at www.easttimorheartsfund.org.au and use the "subscribe to our mailing list" link.