

Our new patron

Vice-Regal seal of approval

We are enormously proud to welcome the Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency General, the Honorable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Rt'd), to our organisation.

Sir Peter, who headed the Australian peacekeeping force in Timor-Leste, joins His Excellency Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao, as a patron. It is incredibly gratifying to have support of this calibre, and we thank both Excellencies sincerely. We are thrilled that Eastern Heart Clinic and Prince of Wales Private Hospital have joined us as partners, marking our expansion into Sydney.

We are also thoroughly delighted with a new agreement that will see our foundation partner, Toll Remote Logistics, support

us by flying more patients than ever before to Australia for life-saving heart surgery.

More details about all of this news is on our website.

Look out also for our 2015 annual report, which will be published very soon, and our just-complete 2017-20 strategic plan, about which you'll be hearing a lot more in the very near future.

Finally, huge thanks to all who supported our New Heart for Paulo appeal. Young Paulo is now back at school, and working toward his dream of becoming an engineer. Our new, bigger challenge is raising \$20,000 in 20 days to give 15-year-old Alia life-saving heart surgery (full details enclosed). I hope you can support the appeal, which launches on 27 September, and help us Mend Alia's Broken Heart.

– **Ingrid Svendsen,**
board chair

Many firsts

Medical roundup with Dr Noel

Recently my Timorese and Australian colleagues and I became the first cardiologists to visit Timor's most remote district, Oecusse. We saw patients ranging from infants to a surprisingly healthy war veteran in his 80s, and identified some new surgical candidates.

We're now preparing for another trip to Timor and another first. With our partners we will screen 1000 school children for rheumatic heart disease. This prevalence study is enormously important. I hope the results will help us to mobilise the will and resources to tackle this terrible, preventable disease.

Our partnerships have also borne fruit, with some wonderful donations of specialised equipment from Peninsula Cardiology, GE Healthcare and Cardioscan, and a donation of life-saving penicillin from Pfizer.

I am delighted to see so many patients successfully treated: Paulo, with his cardiac ablation at University Hospital Geelong and Olga with her mitral balloon at Royal Melbourne Hospital, both in July; in August Nelson (our first Sydney patient) with a mitral balloon at Eastern Heart Clinic; and this month Eufrasia, with her double valve repair at Royal Melbourne Hospital. My sincere thanks to all of the medical teams involved for their outstanding work, and to you for your support.

– **Dr Noel Bayley,**
honorary medical adviser

Farmer Nelson, a Sydney success story



Farmer Nelson's simple wish was to be well enough to play with his children and grow food for his family. After life-saving heart surgery at Eastern Heart Clinic in Sydney last month Nelson is now back at home in his village in Venilale, in the east of Timor-Leste, with his wife Santina and children Nádio, Neny and Nísia, and feeling great. Sincere thanks to Eastern Heart Clinic and Prince of Wales Private Hospital for their wonderful work.



We were thrilled to have a special visitor at **Run Melbourne** – AFL player Lin Jong. See our website for news stories and more photos!

Three minutes with... Su-Lin Kwa

Board support officer/patient support volunteer



How did you become involved in ETHF?

I had the privilege of spending a year in East Timor. I was a volunteer organisational development adviser with a local NGO which worked with local communities within the district. I loved my time in Maliana and since my return to Australia have been looking for an opportunity to remain connected with East Timor and its people. Volunteering with ETHF enables me to make a small contribution to an organisation that's making a real difference.

What does your role entail?

I'm responsible for administrative functions of the board activities. I also assist as a patient support volunteer, where I do things like hospital visits. It's great to get a chance to use my Tetun (though it's now somewhat rusty!)

What do you do in your spare time?

Catching up with family and friends, travelling, exploring Melbourne and, most recently, preparing to tackle the Overland Track...so lots of walking.