



NEWS UPDATE

August - September 2007

AUSTRALIA BALI MEMORIAL EYE CENTRE

Commissioning of the ABMEC, delivery of equipment and training of the staff in the use of the new equipment is well underway, and the ABMEC was due to open to patients with basic services on 1 October. Forty-six of the medical staff from Indera Hospital relocated in the latter part of September, as well as six YKI project staff – our project officer, three medical technicians, an optometry technician and a low vision assistant.

CATARACT HUNTING TEAM - TRAINING



Dr Peter Graham, volunteer ophthalmologist from Perth, Western Australia, conducted two weeks of training for our new Cataract Hunting Team in identification of cataracts and basic eye care. The new team also spent two weeks with the North Bali Mobile Eye Clinic team in Gerogak continuing their training.



This Team, comprising three nurses, will work under the auspices of Rumah Sakit Indera/ABMEC and will travel from village to village in the area within about one hour from Denpasar, screening eye patients and identifying those blind with cataracts, and referring them to the ABMEC or mobile clinics for an operation.

Hunting Team members, Desak, Dewa and Ari undergoing training in September.

FIELD EYE SCREENING TRIPS



In this two-month period, 15 field screening trips were conducted in Bali by the Foundation's teams. The September trips were used as training for the new Cataract Hunting Team. The team checked 4,967 adults with eye problems and 1,725 primary school children were given visual acuity tests.

The team issued 3,459 free pairs of glasses to adults and 26 to children, and identified 173 patients with blinding cataracts. These patients were referred to the North Bali Mobile Eye Clinic or the Eye Centre in Denpasar.



NORTH BALI MOBILE EYE CLINIC (NBMEC)

The NBMEC team screened 4,717 patients with eye problems and operated 231 cataract blind patients in the districts of Jembrana and Gerogak during August and September. The activities in Jembrana were cut short because of an outbreak of avian flu amongst poultry in that district, and the team moved to Gerogak on the north coast.

LOMBOK EYE CLINIC



Dr Alessandro Pezzola and a team of ophthalmologists and assistants from Una Sola Vita in Italy worked in the Lombok Eye Clinic for a two week period in August/September, checking 187 patients and performing 14 cataract operations on poor, blind people in the southern part of Central Lombok. One of the nurses from the North Bali Mobile Eye Clinic, Komang Ariada, assisted with the operations.

CHILDREN'S CORRECTIVE SURGERY

One child with a cleft lip and one with a cleft palate were operated by Dr Anom in the Puri Raharja Hospital in Denpasar during August and September.



ASSISTANCE TO DESPERATELY ILL CHILDREN

During this two-month period, we were able to assist three young people suffering from serious medical conditions. These three patients were treated in the Puri Raharja Hospital in Denpasar:

- Dwipayana, a 5-year-old boy with a colostomy reconnection
- Ketut, a 5-year-old boy with a Phymonia pospaedia
- Wayan, a 30-year old woman suffering from a severe diabetic condition including blinding cataracts received hospital treatment to stabilize her blood sugar levels which were at a life-threatening level. Wayan was found in a village in the east of Bali by a Canadian visit to Bali, Professor Hans Bakker who applied to our Foundation to assist her. Wayan also underwent a cataract operation on one of her eyes while in hospital. Dr Bakker is contributing to her medical treatment.



Dr Dharyata conducting the post-operative check for Wayan after her cataract operation

DOCUMENTARY



Richard Todd and his film team spent three weeks in Bali taking the final footage for the documentary on the work of John Fawcett in Bali. The documentary has been bought by the Australian Broadcasting Commission and will be screened on Australian television's Compass program in 2008, with overseas rights yet to be determined.

August-September 2007

ENGLISH LESSONS – YKI STAFF



Kate Hind, volunteer ESL teacher from Australia (third from left in photo), spent two weeks with the YKI project staff, teaching English at three levels. The staff's English has come on very well, and everyone enjoyed and really appreciated the lessons.

EDUCATION ASSISTANCE



At the end of September, 551 children were being assisted in our Education Assistance program, with 181 on the waiting list.

Recent Bali visitors, Jill and Dean Bowker from Perth, meeting the two children they are sponsoring in the Foundation's Education Assistance Program.

FITNESS TRAINING FOR STAFF

The Bali staff have enthusiastically taken on the challenge of fitness training out of work hours at a local gymnasium in a bid, for some, to lose weight, and for others to increase their fitness level and strength.

DONATIONS TO THE FOUNDATION'S HUMANITARIAN WORK

ONLINE DONATIONS

We are happy to announce that our online credit card facilities for donations are now available via our website, www.balieye.org, which makes donating easier. Single or regular donations can be made using this facility.

TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

Tax deductible donations to the Foundation's humanitarian work can be made in Australia, the United Kingdom and the USA. Please refer to our website at www.balieye.org for information on how to donate.

Donations from other countries can be made by direct transfer to the Foundation's bank accounts or online via our website.

For further information, please email us at yki@indo.net.id.