

# NEWS UPDATE

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2009

THE JOHN  
FAWCETT  
FOUNDATION



November/December brought a return to our usual busy activities with a field trip with the Adelaide Supporters Group; visits from Alan Crumlin to fit prosthetic legs, Dr Bill Ward to conduct a training session in children's cataract operations, Professor John

Crompton to provide training support for our new ophthalmologists, and Andrea Murphy to teach swimming to some of our staff and their children; the commencement of a new mobile eye clinic program in Lombok; a young Balinese patient travelling to Perth for a life-saving/

changing operation, and our senior medical technician, heading off to Melbourne and Adelaide for further training in the maintenance of ophthalmic equipment. In addition the final training session and closing ceremony was held for the Bali TB Training Project.

## ADELAIDE SUPPORTERS GROUP



In early November members of the Adelaide Supporters Group, lead by Dennis Sims, travelled with the YKI teams to Amed in the dry eastern part of Bali to attend village eye screenings and to see first-hand the miracle of

a sight-restoring cataract operation. The group also went to local primary schools where the teams were checking children's eyesight, and met up with the children they are sponsoring in our Education Assistance program.

## PROSTHETIC LEGS

O rthotics specialist from Perth, Alan Crumlin, brought newly made prosthetic legs for three patients, fitting them and helping the patients to take their first steps. Alan also took measurements for two previous young patients who had grown out of their leg sockets and needed new ones, an ongoing challenge with this program.



## CHILDREN'S CATARACT SURGERY

D r Bill Ward, volunteer ophthalmologist from Perth, conducted a training session with Dr Dharyata in the special techniques of children's cataract and other eye operations. During the training session 11 children were operated in the Puri Raharja Hospital in Denpasar. This was Dr Bill's second training visit to Bali this year.



## MOBILE CLINIC HEADS FOR LOMBOK



In early November one of our mobile clinics made its way by ferry to Lombok and the newly-trained Lombok team commenced operations, with our Bali ophthalmologists travelling to Lombok to work for several days each at a time.

Professor John Crompton, volunteer ophthalmologist from Adelaide, came to Bali to assist with our Project and,

while he was here, he and his wife Anne Marie travelled to Lombok with Dr Dini to provide support and further training for her first week of operating solo there.

At the end of December, in conjunction with the Army (Kodam IX/Udayana) our Bali screening team travelled again to Lombok to conduct a second mass field screening and mobile clinic

operating program, this time in the town of Praya in Central Lombok. The Lombok mobile clinic team joined them and together the teams screened 1400 eye patients and operated 20 cataract blind people.

By the end of December, the new team had done 72 sight restoring operations in Lombok, in a period of five weeks.

## TECHNICAL TRAINING IN MELBOURNE AND ADELAIDE



**D**ewa Putu, YKI's senior medical technician who has the huge responsibility of keeping our microscopes and electronic equipment in the mobile clinics in top working order, travelled to Melbourne in early December to spend a week with Norbert Hoegerl of MicroMed

International and his technicians, learning more about ophthalmic microscope maintenance.

He followed this with four days at Ellex Laser in Adelaide learning the intricacies of the workings and maintenance of Yag Lasers.

## TB TRAINING PROJECT WINDS UP AFTER SIX YEARS



**T**he Australian Consortium held its last training session and closing ceremony on Friday 20 November for the Bali TB Training Project. This marked the end of the six-year project which was funded by the Australian Red Cross. The Consortium's Australian specialists trained staff from the Bali Health Department in correct laboratory diagnosis of TB and procedures for DOTS management of patients with TB

and has been very successful and much appreciated by Health Department workers. The Consortium members spent their time in Bali on a voluntary basis, with travel expenses covered by the Project.

As a result of the drive and effort of these scientists, the program is seen as one of the most progressive health training programs in Indonesia.

## SWIMMING LESSONS



**S**wimming coach from Perth, Andrea Murphy, spent two weeks in Bali providing much-need swimming training for some of our staff and their children.

The participants worked hard, and had a great time, progressing well in their swimming skills.

## BALI STUDENTS RETURN FROM SCHOOL IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA



**I**luh Ariningsih and Gede Yasa, the two Balinese students selected for the Helena College program this year, returned to Bali in late December after spending three months learning English, computing and a little about Australia.

This program with Helena College has benefitted 21 Balinese students, many of whom now work with YKI.

ALWAYS AIM FOR THE MOON, AND IF YOU MISS IT, DON'T WORRY, YOU WILL FALL AMONG THE STARS.

## DEWA'S WEDDING



One of our senior nurses, Dewa Arjawa, married on 17 December in his village in Tampaksiring.



Photo above: with the YKI staff.

## THANK YOU EVERYONE

2009 has been a very productive year, and we would like to thank each and every one of our many supporters who have contributed to the success of our activities in so many ways – financial, donations in kind and volunteering time.

We look forward to even more success in 2010.



## PATIENT TO PERTH

Three-year-old Komang came to our Foundation with his parents early in the year. He was born with his bladder on the outside of his body and his parents were at a loss to know what to do, being unable to afford the cost of sending him out of Bali for an operation.

St John of God Hospital in Perth and a specialist medical team led by Australian paediatric urologist, Dr Andrew Barker, came to the rescue with an offer to operate Komang free of charge. We also received a very generous donation from an Adelaide businessman to cover the travel and accommodation costs for Komang, his mother, Rapini, and Artini from our Bali office to accompany them to Perth.

The operation was performed on 11 November and was a great success. Komang spent three weeks recuperating in St John of God

following the operation, and returned to Bali on 10 December.

What a difference this will make to Komang – he can now look forward to a normal, healthy life.

