

## The Marsh Foundation – Background:

On October 12<sup>th</sup> 2002, Bali was rocked by terrorist bombs that killed 202 people and left hundreds of others injured. At the time, Dr. David Marsh and his wife Clair were there holidaying and amongst the first Australian medics on the scene.

Working closely with local emergency crews and hospitals to save lives and identify victims, they witnessed firsthand the issues facing Balinese health services, specifically a lack of medical equipment and supplies.

Upon their return to Australia they had the vision of collecting any leftover medical supplies and unwanted serviceable equipment, with the idea of sending them overseas where they would be gratefully received and was urgently required.

This is a very pragmatic course of action as under Australian law, medical equipment is often considered obsolete and surplus after upgrades occur and many useful supplies cannot be used once opened or when close to their expiry date.

Since 2003, the Marsh Foundation has sent 38 forty foot containers of medical equipment with an estimated value of over \$10 million, to help stock and upgrade Indonesian hospitals, community health centres and orphanages. Containers are filled to capacity with a variety of much needed goods including hospital beds, radiology equipment, wheelchairs, walking frames, new non-perishable medical supplies and much more including two fully fitted ambulances. They have also overseen the provision of training and instructional support to the recipients to ultimately make them self-sufficient and sustainable.

### Recycling Surplus Medical Equipment Saves on Landfill

Apart from the practical benefits of medical equipment going to needy recipients, there is also a strong 'green' element in the collection and redistribution of these supplies. Through donation by the Marsh Foundation, the amount of goods saved from landfill to date is over 2,500 cubic metres, or enough to fill the entire MCG.

## Marsh Foundation Efforts/Achievements

### Tsunami, Medan, Indonesia, December 2004

After the Tsunami, David and Clair Marsh headed a team that went to Medan, Indonesia and in 8 days did health checks on over 2,000 children and adults including vaccinating against measles and chicken pox (with donated triple antigen vaccine). They also ran a medical clinic for the victims of the Aceh disaster.

### 2007 - Indonesia

In conjunction with the Victorian Ambulance Service, two new fully fitted out ambulances were donated to Bali with accredited ambulance officers sent over to train the locals. If further education was needed, the ambulance service also offered their ongoing assistance and made themselves available for further training.

### Black Saturday, Victoria – February 2009

After the Black Saturday bushfires, the Marsh Foundation sent a rapid response team to assist those who had lost everything. The foundation brought pallets of drinking water to the region with David Marsh acting as an emergency GP, giving general health checks and replacing prescriptions for those who had lost them.

### Chile, April 2010

Following the Chilean earthquake the Marsh Foundation was approached by the Consul General of Chile and in April 2010 sent 2 forty foot containers containing 200 beds and other much needed medical supplies.

### October 2010

As a direct response to a huge Indonesian volcanic eruption and the subsequent dust and ash cloud, in October 2010, 30,000 surgical masks donated by the Epworth Hospital, were sent to affected areas. The Marsh Foundation's wonderful Sragen connections also managed to source the air freight at no cost from Garuda Airlines.

### UBUD ORPHANAGE

Identifying and targeting needs of impoverished children, particularly in education, is an ongoing focus of the Marsh Foundation. We continue to support an orphanage in Ubud helping 30 children attend school and providing accommodation for 40 handicapped children.

### Recognition

For their efforts and work in Bali, in 2003 the Marsh's were each awarded with an O.A.M and named Victorians of the Year by the Herald-Sun. The Indonesian Government also awarded them the Ksatria Aditya Medal in gratitude for rendering outstanding services in the health field.

In 2010 they were acknowledged by Australian Ambassador to Chile with for their assistance in providing Chile with medical supplies following the devastating 2010 earthquake and also given the honor of being appointed Ambassadors to the Indonesian region of Sragen.

### Future Activity

In order to increase the amount of discarded medical supplies we can send, there are plans to establish branches of the Marsh Foundation in each Australia state. If you have contacts or thoughts on how to assist with this, please get in touch with Clair Marsh.

With donations coming in consistently, we currently have 3 forty foot containers packed with medical goods and almost ready for donation. We are looking for suitable locations to send them to with potential destinations that include New Guinea, Philippines, Vietnam, Fiji, East Timor or Afghanistan.

We also intend to set up depots in these countries to store goods once shipped to ensure quicker delivery of items for any future medical needs. If you have contacts in these locations that would help facilitate transport please let the Marsh Foundation know.

### Shipping Costs:

While medical supplies are donated, sending the filled containers overseas, costs around \$5,000, which is paid for through fundraising activities and membership contributions.

### MARSH FOUNDATION WISH LIST

- Securing an office/warehouse in inner city Melbourne.
- Further corporate support to assist with running and shipping costs
- Increase in hospital donation network.
- Increase in membership.
- Further fundraising events and opportunities.
- Increase in our available volunteer network.
- Create a program of grants locally and nationally to assist us in achieving our goals

### YOU CAN HELP US BY:

- Becoming a member and getting your friends and work colleges to join, volunteer or attend events. Membership starts at as little as \$10.
- Volunteering to drive cars and trucks to collect goods, to be available for packing either at the Marsh Foundation office or at the Tullamarine warehouse. Any assistance gratefully received.

### MEMBERSHIP

Annual membership renewals will be from 30<sup>th</sup> January with those joining in November or December, having their membership carry over to the next year.

### KEY POINTS OF THE MARSH FOUNDATION:

- Recycles and re-uses medical supplies and equipment, rather than sending it to landfill.
- Medical supplies and equipment are given to the needy and sent to where it is most needed, in Australia and overseas.
- When equipment is donated, follow up training and maintenance is given to health services in order to ensure its' continues to be useful and to fill a need in the long term.