

# NEWS UPDATE

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2011

THE JOHN  
FAWCETT  
FOUNDATION



YAYASAN  
KEMANUSIAAN  
INDONESIA

While 2011 has been one of the most difficult years the Foundation has experienced from a funding standpoint, we finish on a positive note with generous donors coming to our aid. On a sadder note, Board members are still trying to come to terms with the sad loss of their friend and colleague, Geoff Anderson. It is a humbling experience to be on the receiving end of so much good will and support from those dedicated to our cause. To all of our members and supporters we join with those less fortunate whom you help and offer our heartfelt thanks and best wishes for the Festive Season.

## FAREWELL TO GEOFF ANDERSON



early hours by friends. A lone piper welcomed some three hundred guests and everywhere there was evidence of the wonderful support network Geoff, Prue and the family enjoyed. Two winery buildings were joined by a marquee where pictures of Geoff ran on large screen friends served drinks and refreshments. Further down the hill among the vines, was another marquee set with a lectern and microphone fronting a large semicircle of chairs and further down still was a Flinders

spoke of his great companionship and support, of his love of wine making and contribution to the local community; his academic colleagues spoke of the pleasure of working with him, how he loved teaching and of his intellect and attention to detail; politicians spoke of his political acumen and gift for wise counsel and his family talked of his love and unfailing support. Robert Foord, Chairman of the John Fawcett Foundation, spoke of Geoff's contribution to the Foundation's work, how much he will be missed and how his communications were often leavened with a wry sense of humour. Indeed, examples of Geoff's wonderful sense of humour were sprinkled throughout the speeches.

A moment of silence and toast ended the day, one that had brought both laughter and tears. Everyone present felt they were privileged to be part of such a special occasion and while Geoff wouldn't have liked to be the center of such attention, it was a fitting farewell for a special man who touched the lives of us all and will be sadly missed.

**O**n a glitteringly beautiful Adelaide Hills day, Geoff's family, academic and political colleagues and friends from near and far gathered at a local winery to say their last farewell. The winding road to the winery was marked by blue ribbons put there in the

University stand where a scholarship was offered in Geoff's name. The Foundation, too, distributed brochures providing an opportunity for donations to be made in Geoff's memory.

The pipes announced the formal beginning of the farewell and speaker after speaker told of their relationship with Geoff. Friends

## ASEAN VISIT



**N**ovember was a big month in Bali with the visit of President Obama and the Association of South East

Asian Nations (ASEAN) meeting in Nusa Dua. As part of the ASEAN program, the Foundation was asked by the Indonesian Government to demonstrate its Sight Restoration and Blindness Prevention Program in the village of Tubuh in nearby Klungkung. The demonstration included the screening of local villagers for sight problems with operations carried out in two mobile clinics by Dr Daryhata and Dr Dini. As part of the display, live vision from one of the buses was relayed to a large screen in the local Banjar. Representatives from some 26 nations,

led by the Indonesian Minister for Social, were able to see the Foundation's work at first hand with some visitors choosing to gown up and see an operation live.

During the day, 381 patients were screened, 300 pairs of glasses issued, one patient was identified as needing a prosthetic eye and 15 cataract operations were performed.

The Tubuh program demonstrated once again, the Foundation's strong support and connection with the National, Balinese and Local governments

## PAUL WHEELTON TO THE RESCUE



**O**nce again Paul Wheelton has come to the aid of the Foundation with a major donation that will enable the Lombok Sight Restoration and Blindness Prevention Program to continue in 2012. From small beginnings in 2008, the Lombok Program now runs in the Foundation's Mobile Eye Clinic and the District Hospital of Selong in West Lombok and in the Gerung Hospital in East Lombok. Since it began it has screened 63,523 patients, issued 22,719 pairs of glasses, identified 4,904 cataracts and performed 3,311 cataract operations in the three sites. Having funded the

Lombok program for the past four years, Kerry and David Rickard have redirected their generous humanitarian efforts to other needy parts of SE Asia and do so with our sincere thanks. Paul Wheelton, concerned that the program was coming to an end and aware of the importance of the Lombok work, has generously agreed to fund the project for a further 12 months. In 2012, the project will be known as the JFF/Wheelton Foundation Lombok Eye Project. The John Fawcett Foundation community joins in thanking Paul for his generosity.

## MELVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL COINS FOR KIDS

**I**n early November, John Fawcett, with fundraising consultant Dean Bowker, visited the Melville Primary School in Perth to present a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of the school's outstanding fundraising efforts.

For the past six years, Melville students have raised funds for the Foundation's Education Assistance Program through what is called their "Coins for Kids" program. At the end of 3rd Term each year the children take home money boxes and are asked save all their spare



coins from their two-week holiday. Each year the amount raised has increased with the total for the past six years being a remarkable, \$27,833. Given that \$100 supports a primary school student for a year, \$150 a Junior High School student and \$200 a Senior High School Student, the funds raised have given hundreds of poor Balinese students an educational opportunity they would not otherwise have had. Congratulations to Melville and all those involved.

## ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS SUPPORTS TRAINING PROGRAM FOR DR DINI

**D**r Dini Dharmawidari Sudar joined the Foundation's surgical team as an Ophthalmologist in 2008. Since then she has established herself as a one of the most highly-skilled cataract surgeons in Indonesia.

In January 2012, in recognition of her skill and dedication, Dr Dini will undertake a month-long observation-training program in ophthalmic plastic, reconstructive and orbital surgery in Perth. Her visit and program have been supported by the Lions Eye Institute and funded by the Royal College of Surgeons. In Perth Dr Dini will be under the guidance

of leading ocular plastic surgeons Dr deSousa, Dr Gajdatsy and Dr Anastas who have generously volunteered their time to supervise her program. She will attend public and private operating sessions at Royal Perth, Sir Charles Gardiner and Fremantle Hospitals.

Front of eye disorders are a significant problem in the fight against curable blindness in Indonesia and Dr Dini will return to Bali to further develop her surgical skills in this important area of corrective surgery. She will be further assisted in her skill development by regular visits to Bali by her supervising doctors.



## GREEN SCHOOL FAIR



**A**fter three years of operation, the reputation of Bali's Green School is growing as a centre for environmental education. As the school's mission states "An education at Green School is preparation for green leadership tomorrow". Known well beyond Bali for its remarkable bamboo architecture, the school marked the end of the 2011 teaching year with a first-ever fundraising fair. Appropriately named "Bamboopalooza Holiday Extravaganza", the fair raised funds for the Green School Scholarship and The John Fawcett Foundation.

As part of the celebrations the Foundation had one of its mobile clinics on display and to make their visit more realistic, students were encouraged to act as surgeons by viewing student patients' eyes through the clinic's microscope.

Thanks must go to Renata Hamilton and Linda Jenour for their contribution to the event's success and for making the Foundation's involvement possible.

## IMMANUEL COLLEGE CHOOSES JFF



**I**mmanuel College in Adelaide has chosen the John Fawcett Foundation as its charity to support for the next three years. Celeste Foord has been selected as the Charity Ambassador for the school and has already spoken at some of the school functions. Celeste's work has already born fruit with \$5,000 raised during the last term.

In due course the whole school will learn of the Foundation's work. Our sincere thanks to Celeste for her hard work and Immanuel College for its generosity in making the Foundation its charity to support for the next three years.





## TAX DEDUCTIBILITY IN USA RESTORED

Since September 2008, the Foundation has been without tax deductible status in the United States. We are pleased to report that we have now been

accepted as a United Charitable Programs Donor Advised Fund and tax deductibility is once again available in the United States. Details are available on our website.

## SUMBAWA VISIT



Following an exploratory visit to the island of Sumbawa in early November, a full team, including a mobile clinic, bus carrying the medical team and a car carrying the team leaders left Bali on December 12 for a ten day demonstration program in four Sumbawa villages. The journey for crew and vehicles involved a ferry trip to Lombok, a road trip and overnight stay in Mataram, the capital of Lombok, and then a further ferry trip to Sumbawa. Funding for the visit was provided by the Doctor's Children's Fund, a fundraising group of wives and friends of Newmont Mine executives.

Reports from Drs Sukajaya, the team leader, indicate that in spite of a rough ferry crossing the team was in good spirits and welcomed by both government and mine officials.

The demonstration visit was designed to showcase the Foundation's work in the hope that a longer-term program could be negotiated with Newmont mine. Ophthalmologist, Dr Dini, travelled with the team and a screening and operating program was designed to cover the four Sumbawa villages. Over the ten days the team screened 2,171 patients, issued 1,508 pairs of glasses, identified 84 adults and two children with cataracts and performed 34 operations.

