



# BAIRO PITE CLINIC

Bairo Pite Clinic, Dili, East Timor  
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## *Clinic News*

### **January 2004**

We hope that all our friends had great Christmas and New Year celebrations!!

Our thoughts go out to those affected by the recent earthquake and tsunamis. The scale of destruction to our neighbors has greatly shocked us. We hope that the international community is generous and that further deaths from disease can be prevented.

Christmas Day at the clinic was a lot of Fun!! Dr Santa adorned a Santa Claus costume and conducted morning rounds with much Christmas spirit. The other volunteers joined him as his little helpers and gave out small gifts to our inpatients. Hopefully we bought a smile to our unfortunate inpatients that were sick on Christmas Day!

### **Patient Records:**

Month	General Consultation	Maternity	Post - Paternum	Immunisation	Dental Care	Inpatients
<b>September</b>	5 468	408	19	191 (babies) 245 (mothers)	393	59
<b>October</b>	5 049	337	28	200 (babies) 172 (mothers)	368	68
<b>November</b>	5 007	316	15	249 (babies) 172 (mothers)	362	57
<b>December</b>	5 670	403	31	214 (babies) 196 (mothers)	332	59
<b>2004 Total</b>	<b>99 009</b>	<b>5478</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>2 728 (babies)</b> <b>2 193 (mothers)</b>	<b>4 222</b>	<b>1 001</b>

### **Dr Kay's Visit**

Dr Kay and a team from Frontline, a Japanese NGO, traveled to East Timor to support the clinic over Christmas so Dr Dan could take a much deserved holiday. Dr Kay and the team also held a Christmas party for the staff where Dr Kay displayed the song he wrote and video he put together to raise funds for the clinic in Japan. The clinic presented the members of frontline with tais to thank them for their ongoing support. Then everyone celebrated with dancing and singing into the night.

### **Volunteers:**

Over December we gained more medical volunteers, many of which are undertaking medical internships at the clinic. Chloe, Helen, Sarah, Luke Christine, Jane, Shab, Tom, Deb and Alison have now joined Santa and Huw, which meant we had a very strong medical team to cover the time Dr Dan was on holiday. During December Dinu, a dental student, also volunteered at the clinic. She organized two children's dental education seminars at the clinic, which were very popular. Michael also joined us in December, he is a biomedical engineer and will help us service and repair our medical equipment.

Unfortunately 10 out of our 14 volunteers have recently gained first hand experience of the effects of Malaria! Virginia, Santa, Luke, Christy, Helen, Jane, Tom, Deb, Shab and Michael were all infected with *P. falciparum* - a lovely Christmas present! Shab and Deb have gone home early and the rest of us trudge on cautiously wearing massive amounts of DEET!

### **Overseas Surgery:**

We are currently arranging a pericardectomy for one of our patients. She first presented to Bairro Pite Clinic 11 September 2004, with symptoms of swollen legs, abdominal swelling, difficulty breathing and chest pain. These first started in mid-April 2004. She was admitted and commenced on TB medication. She remained at the clinic for just over 1 month.

She was admitted a second time on 7 December 2004 as her symptoms were persisting. She was diagnosed with constrictive pericarditis secondary to TB pericarditis. She was immediately commenced on diuretics. Her condition has

improved a little but she continues to have gross abdominal ascites, bilateral pleural effusions, palpable hepatomegaly and pitting oedema up to her knees on both legs. A surgeon from Melbourne has kindly volunteered to help us organize her surgery time and means for covering the costs. Without this surgery she would not survive.

### **Painting of Inpatients Ward**

Arte Moris have kindly donated art supplies to paint a mural on the front wall of our inpatients ward. Many inpatients and volunteers spent the afternoon creating the mural that has defiantly brightened up the area!

### **Domestic Violence**

Sara, a medical student volunteer, has created a pamphlet and posters containing information on domestic violence. Alarico, the clinic social worker, has worked with Sara to network with other organizations that provide support for victims of domestic violence. The clinic provides a useful vehicle to reach victims and educate them of their options.

### **Donated Medical Supplies:**

Unfortunately, when we thought we had made progress with customs we face yet another obstacle to obtaining the container of donated medical supplies. Customs cleared the supplies with no tax; however, we have been charged a huge fee by the shipping company. This fee is a holding fee for the container being on their land and a direct result of the problems we had with customs. So another chapter of the shipping container saga continues and we now attempting to get the fee waived...

### **Public Health**

Virginia, an international development student, continues to work on our public health projects. We are enjoying working together with Timor Aid, Rede Feto, FHI, Caritas on projects that include: HIV awareness, counseling and testing; TB monitoring; Promotion of Safe Motherhood; and health education. We also look forward to working with Ian Melrose in establishing holistic village based health-care programs.

## **Donations**

We would like to send special thanks to some of our sponsors. Firstly, Christine Carberry from AFPA for her ongoing support, this is vital for the day to day operations of the clinic. To Tracy and the Dili club who organize a quiz night every Tuesday to raise funds for the clinic. Also to the [Swinfen Charitable Trust](#) which puts the clinic in touch with expert medical help throughout the world.

## **Photo of the Month:**



Dr Santa and Dr Kay carry out morning rounds on Christmas Day

***The team and BPC would like to thank everyone for their support of our clinics work and for the people of East Timor!***