



Perth surgeon restores hope

FLIP PRIOR

While many WA citizens enjoyed a break over Easter, a Perth surgeon was working to restore the faces of more than 30 severely disfigured Balinese children.

Cottesloe plastic surgeon Tim Cooper flew into Bali on Sunday, March 28 and went straight to the John Fawcett Foundation clinic in Sanur, where he found children with cleft palates, all in desperate need of help.

He started operating at the Puri Raharja Hospital in Denpasar at 7.30am the next morning, working all day, every day until Good Friday. On Saturday, he checked the children once more before returning to Perth.

In Bali, Mr Cooper was reunited with Azhar Adhyaska, a burns victim whom he operated on in Perth in 2006 to remove scar tissue and attach skin



Happy to help: Tim Cooper

grafts to 20 per cent of the boy's body.

He wants to raise money to bring the child and another boy to Perth for more surgery.

"The Indonesian people don't have access to modern health care and John's program provides it for burns victims, cleft lip and palate, cataracts, tuberculosis — a whole bunch of things . . . he does amazing work," Mr Cooper said.



Good Samaritan: One of the disfigured young patients before surgery.