

Annual Report

2019-2020

Connect
Collaborate
Contribute

ANZGITA

Australian & New Zealand Gastroenterology
International Training Association



CHAIR'S MESSAGE 2019-2020



ANZGITA'S MISSION is to improve community health in developing Indo-Pacific nations by enhancing the standard of gastroenterology practice and treatment of digestive diseases through the provision of training, equipment and support.

The 2019/20 year was one of two very different halves. Up to Christmas we had a very successful period delivering five programs. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted 2020 with only one in-country program delivered. This has been a great disappointment to all involved. It is fortunate that nearly all the countries where we are engaged have been able to avoid or well contain virus cases.

However, through the monthly webinar program and use of internet communications apps, such as WhatsApp, Vimeo and Viber, we have been able to provide valuable learning opportunities and support to our colleagues in the developing Indo-Pacific. These mechanisms have allowed regular, even on-demand, support which has filled the breach to some extent for a network of colleagues that extends well beyond the centres we currently visit for in-country programs. Having worked with these digital services for the last few years and seen how they complement our intensive in-country training, our program leaders, in consultation with our partners, have

plans to broaden the services to provide a richer training and support environment for the coming years.

There is more good work covered in this report. On every aspect, I thank all our trainers and members for their contributions. Thanks also to our colleagues in the region who host us in their facilities (physically and digitally) and who are so keen to learn and provide skilled healthcare services to their communities. The Australian and New Zealand medical community through suppliers, professional bodies, foundations and healthcare providers have given us wonderful support again this year – thank you.

We have scaled back the report this year to reflect the situation. There is more information on [our website](#), which I encourage you to read. I look forward to better times ahead and to continuing our mission in association with our Indo-Pacific partners and supporters.

Professor Finlay Macrae, AO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F Macrae'.

Our Programs

In 2019 – 2020, we delivered the following [in-country programs](#) (with Partners):

Fiji	(FNU & CWMH)	Federated States of Micronesia	(PSH)
Tonga	(Vaiola Hosp)	Solomon Islands x2	(NRH)
Nepal	(NMC)	Timor-Leste	(HNGV)
Samoa	(TTMH)		

Physicians from the countries above and below attended our webinar program during the year:

Palau	Nauru
Tuvalu	American Samoa
Cook Islands	Marshall Islands
Kirabati	

We acknowledge the support of the Pacific Basin Tele-Health Resource Center (University of Hawaii) in this program.

We sourced and delivered equipment, consumables and other items to the following countries:

Tonga	Fiji (including one COVID-19 related)
Solomon Islands	American Samoa
Timor-Leste	Samoa
Palau	Federated States of Micronesia

We acknowledge Medical Aid for Oceania ([MAFO](#)) for logistical and financial support of these shipments.

Our Trainers

These volunteers delivered programs this year:

Fiji

- ❖ Chris Hair (PL)
- ❖ Jennifer Hanley
- ❖ Karen Kempin
- ❖ Matt Kitson
- ❖ Alice Lee
- ❖ Michael Schultz
- ❖ Tony Smith
- ❖ Megan Stokje
- ❖ Ian Turner
- ❖ Kim West

Solomon Islands

- ❖ Rachael Helm
- ❖ Kate Mager
- ❖ Kate Naphthali
- ❖ Eileen Natuzzi (PL)
- ❖ Mark Norrie (PL)
- ❖ Terrence Tan
- ❖ Lea Wiggins

Tonga

- ❖ Catherine Conway
- ❖ Terence Gavaghan
- ❖ Chris Hair

Timor-Leste

- ❖ Damian Harding
- ❖ Dianne Jones
- ❖ Tony Rahman
- ❖ Elizabeth Webster

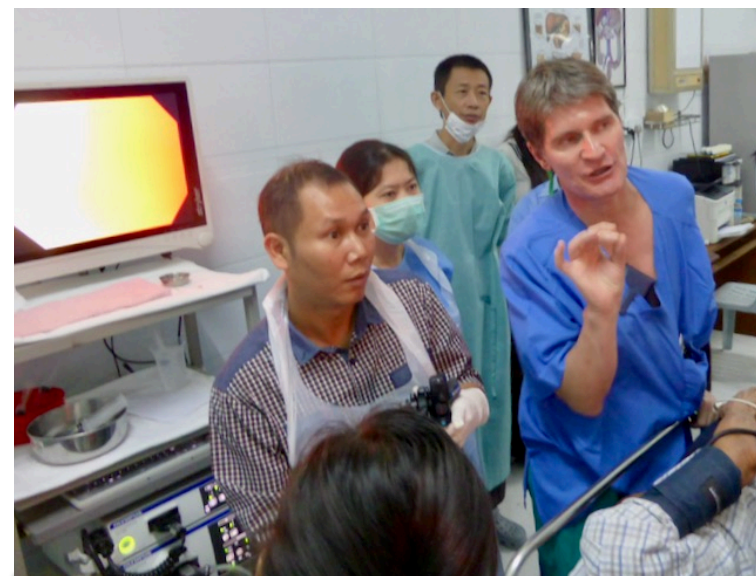
Nepal

- ❖ Mark Appleyard
- ❖ John Croese (PL)
- ❖ Dianne Jones
- ❖ John Masson
- ❖ Ann Vandeleur
- ❖ Christine Welch

Federated States of Micronesia

- ❖ Finlay Macrae

PL = Program Leader



"Honiara (NRH) goes from Strength to Strength with the level of competency, enthusiasm and local organisation rising every year."

Mark Norrie, March 2020

Highlighted Activities 2019-2020

Connecting action to success:

- ✓ **Increase in the use of digital technologies** in support of our Indo-Pacific colleagues
- ✓ **Regular on-site ERCP training** in Suva of Dr Aminiasi Rokocakau up to January 2020, with excellent progress from early 2019
- ✓ **First training visit** to the north Pacific at Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia
- ✓ **Gastroenterology curriculum advice** to Fiji National University (FNU) College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences for its update of postgraduate degrees
- ✓ **Record amount of materials transported** to our colleagues - transport expenditure of approximately \$3,500 by ANZGITA and \$4,700 by MAFO
- ✓ **WGO funded procedure documentation IT system** (Provation) plans for CWM Hospital in Fiji implemented before end of 2020, plus two more WGO projects on our website
- ✓ **Establishment of an Advisory Group to the Board** of five highly respected professionals from the medical and other fields.



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Financial Report

A full report by the ANZGITA Treasurer is available on our [website](#). The report covers the financial position and governance procedures. Other major points from the report plus donations information are below:

- **In-country programs** – \$94,320 expended on capital and services (e.g. training)
- **Automated accounting system** (Xero) implemented
- **Trainers and directors provided their time pro bono** – but were reimbursed for expenses associated with training program delivery and administration
- **Programs administration** – For the first time, we engaged a services company to conduct the high-volume of administrative work associated with programs' delivery
- **Australian Government supported RACS Pacific Island Program (PIP)**, provided \$67,000 towards trainers' costs for Pacific programs
- **JGH Foundation** – second US\$15,000 grant received from a three-year support commitment
- **Equipment no-longer-needed donations** – With the support of donors and CR Kennedy we raised \$23,000 through the sale of donated equipment
- **Member Donations** – Trainers, in addition to their pro bono work, and members donated over \$12,000, acknowledged on our website.
- **All donations and grants** are acknowledged on our website [here](#).



Our Future

Requests for our engagement continue:

- ✓ More remote on-line support:
 - Higher frequency of webinars
 - A broader range of activities to be conducted on-line
 - More formalised mentoring and across a larger network
- ✓ Further development of facilities in partners' centres, e.g.
 - Complete the reprocessing systems upgrades
 - Endoscopy reporting systems
- ✓ In-country training requests, e.g. Micronesia as a possible hub for North Pacific training
- ✓ Support for the clinicians and centres in our extended Pacific network.

"I realize now how much impact interventional endoscopy has on people. I would very much like to pursue and build on what I have learned during this session and I can't wait for next year."
(Doctor 2019)



Our Supporters

We gratefully acknowledge the in-kind and financial assistance of all our [supporters](#) – organisations, governments and individual.

