

# Annual Report

## 2020 – 2021

*ANZGITA's Future...  
traversing ancient sea lanes  
via 21<sup>st</sup> century technologies*



### ANZGITA

Australian & New Zealand Gastroenterology  
International Training Association

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# CHAIR'S MESSAGE 2020 - 2021



***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.***

**ANZGITA has been continuously active throughout the year** despite the constraints that COVID has delivered us through closure of travel. Without any hint of hibernation, our leadership team and volunteers have been busy **supporting our partners across the Indo-Pacific** in delivering virtual training and mentoring, furnishing much needed equipment, consumables and other support.

With no exposure to visiting training teams and practising amid a global pandemic that might arrive on their shores at any time, the isolation, both professional and geographic, felt by many regional colleagues has been even more marked this year. Despite this, perhaps because of it, their **appetites for learning and services development have continued to be strong.**

In response, **we enhanced our portfolio of 'virtual' programs, resulting in a reach well beyond our established in-country training partners.** This has been enabled by optical fibre cables which now connect almost every Pacific Island Country and Territory.

These **cables and local 4G mobile data services are our 21<sup>st</sup> century mode of swift and regular transport** for trainers and mentors to our colleagues' hospitals.

Our programs, which include informal, sometimes urgent, interaction as well as formal sessions, are described in this report. **My thanks to our members who led and engaged in this work** and to others who responded to our requests for their expert involvement in the COVID related program of sessions. This report provides a comprehensive list.

***Physicians, surgeons and others from at least 14 countries and territories engaged in our programs, attracting up to 80 participants per session.***

In my experience, there was always wonderfully fluent interactions with probing issues discussed across the media, often focussing on clinical management where resources and drugs are unavailable or in limited supply.



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# CHAIR'S MESSAGE 2020 – 2021 (continued)

Basic clinical skills and physiological understanding were often teased out in discussions which were so valuable for attendees. Their engagement was a credit to their professionalism and the collegiality of our medical fraternity across the Blue Pacific and Timor-Leste.

**Another important aspect of our work this year was the provision of equipment** to further enhance facilities, and accessories and chemicals which helped eight national hospitals continue their services.

**Thank you to our supplier industry partners** who are noted in this report for their support again this year. Donated funds were also used for some major (for us) capital equipment and accessories purchases.

**My thanks to those members who donated** towards the refurbishment of the Endoscopy Rooms at Vaiola Hospital in Tonga. This was topped off by a generous donation from the JGH Foundation in addition to its multi-year funding commitment. The work has now been completed.

**ANZGITA continues its close association with the World Gastroenterology Organization (WGO).** Two WGO Clinical Research Projects are being conducted jointly with ANZGITA

and FNU at CWM Hospital in Fiji. GESA, both at an organisational and individual level, remains a valued supporter.

Sadly, it is a time of great distress for our Myanmar colleagues, and I ask everyone to keep them in your thoughts and use any opportunity you may have to show your support.

**I look forward to the time we when can combine our growing portfolio of virtual programs with our traditional in-country intensive training work** to do what we do best: building capacity where invited across the Indo-Pacific, with our partners, colleagues and friends. Please join us in our vision!

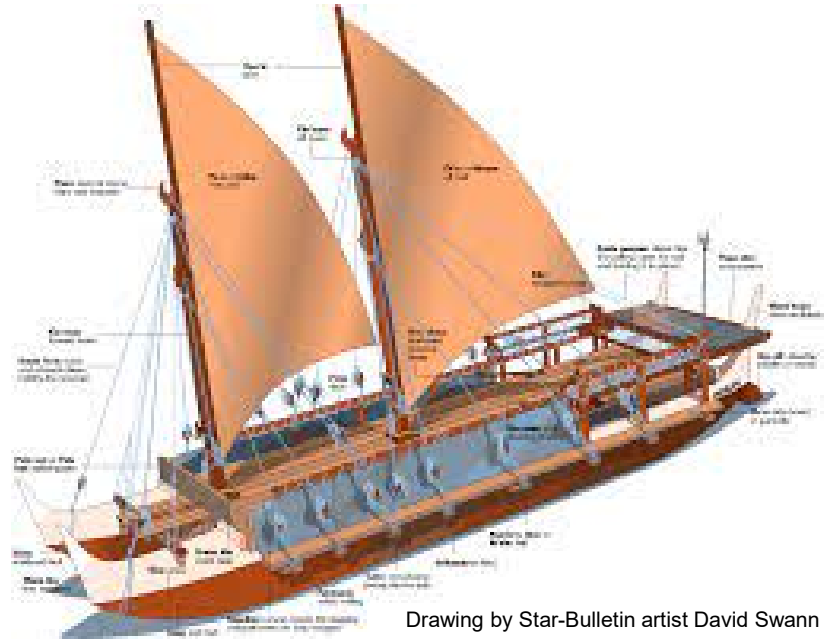


**Professor Finlay Macrae, AO MBBS MD FRACP FRCP  
AGAF MWGO**

**Chair, ANZGITA**



- ANZOTTA is increasingly using a third millennium transport



The craft watermarked through this report is the ***Hōkūle‘a*** (‘Star of Joy’), a performance replica of a Polynesian ocean-going canoe that would have been used for transport around the start of the second millennium CE and later. It has completed many Pacific voyages. See <http://www.hokulea.com/moananuiakea/>.

**ANZGITA is increasingly using a third millennium transport medium that traverses the same Pacific sea lanes as the *Hōkūleʻa* – undersea fibre optic cables. They regularly deliver our trainers and mentors via our virtual programs to their colleagues in the Blue Pacific.**

# Our 2020 – 2021 Programs

**All programs, delivered virtually, were attended by doctors and nurses from these countries and territories:**

Fiji (FNU & CWMH)	Federated States of Micronesia
Tonga (Vaiola Hospital)	Solomon Islands (NRH)
Samoa (TTMH)	Timor-Leste (HNGV)
Papua New Guinea	American Samoa
Palau	Marshall Islands
Tuvalu	Nauru
Cook Islands	Guam
	Kiribati

We acknowledge the support of the [Pacific Basin Tele-Health Resource Center](#) (University of Hawai'i) in this program.

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

Tonga	Fiji
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.





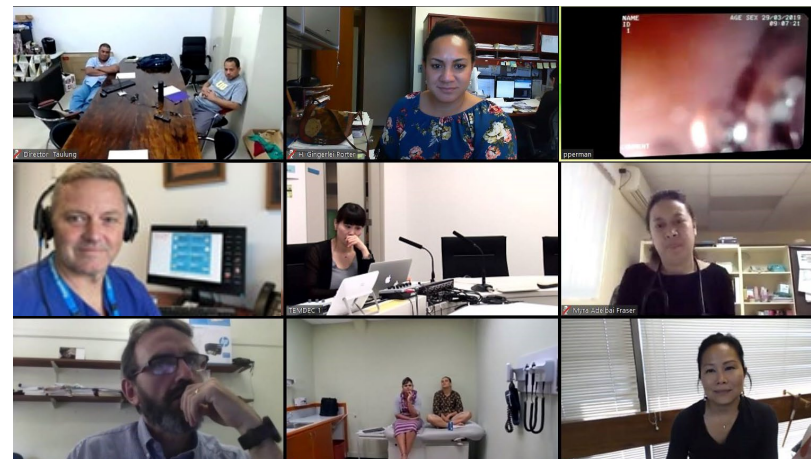
# Our Virtual Training & Mentoring

In 2020-21 we delivered all training and mentoring as virtual internet activities – ‘live’ presentation and discussion over Zoom and regular use of group-communications apps. Doctors and other medical professionals from at least 14 countries participated.

The planning and implementation of three webinar programs was led by **Assoc Prof Chris Hair** and **Asst Prof Mai Ling Perman** (FNU & President of the Internal Medicine Organisation of the Pacific). They recruited additional expertise for each program to complete the design and delivery of the sessions (see page 8). Thanks to everyone involved for a most valuable contribution to our colleagues in the Blue Pacific and Asia.

The initial webinar program started in 2018 and has been further developed in 2021 with a ‘liver’ theme. There were 11 webinars in the year and a further 5 planned for the remainder of calendar 2021.

In late July and August 2020, a team delivered 16 sessions on specific academic topics to **FNU Post Grad** students undertaking **Masters and Diploma courses**. Sessions incorporated presentations, case discussions, quizzes and tests. The sessions were held again in 2021.



Chris Hair leads a virtual webinar presentation across the Blue Pacific to participants in many settings.

**RIPE** - Under the Response in the Pacific Education (RIPE) program developed with **Dr Meru Sheel** (ANU) and **Dr Adam Jenney** (UniMelb, Alfred Hospital, FNU), a **COVID-19 Vaccination Seminar Series** of at least 12 seminars is being conducted in calendar 2021.

The seminars have generated considerable engagement from a broad range of clinicians across the Pacific. We are grateful to Drs Sheel and Jenney for their expertise and assistance in engaging relevant experts.

# Our Virtual Training & Mentoring (continued)

The **RIPE** series followed on from the valuable **2020 series** which focused on COVID pandemic response actions and consisted of three sessions.



**Dr Dmitri Orleanski, MD**  
**American Samoa**

*"I feel very fortunate to know the people who have built ANZGITA and are able to provide hands - on training, education / tele - medicine and prompt help on difficult cases to a small island nation with limited resources."*

Our communications partner, the **Pacific Basin Telehealth Resource Center** of the University of Hawai'i, provided Zoom conferencing, technology and administration led by Co-Director, **Dr Christina Higa**.

Group communication apps such as **WhatsApp** and **Viber** were utilised in sessions ranging from discussions of required materials at a particular hospital to advice on medical cases (on at least one occasion in real time).

**Nurse Training** - Planning is well advanced on gastroenterology **nurse training video modules** and virtual sessions tailored to specific centres. The video modules will remain available for referral and further local training.

**Chris Hair** is working with a multi-disciplinary team of colleagues and suppliers in Australia and overseas on a virtual **Teaching Endoscopy by Remote Mentoring (vTERM)** project.

It is envisaged that an expert endoscopist in one location would view on their PC endoscope generated vision and procedure room video and audio coming from another location. The expert would advise the colleague undertaking the procedure as if they were standing side-by-side.

The feasibility of this approach has been tested enough elsewhere to justify a pilot. A Pacific colleague has agreed to trial the service and planning is proceeding.

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# Our Volunteer Trainer Speakers



A/Prof Chris Hair



Asst Prof Mai Ling Perman



A/Prof Jioji Malani



A/Prof James McMahon



Dr Emily Prewett



Dr Aminiasi Rokocakau



Prof Michael Schultz



A/Prof Steve McGloughlin



Dr Meru Sheel



Prof Adam Jenney



Prof Julie Leask



Prof Huyen Tran



Prof Raina MacIntyre



Dr Kate Napthali



Prof Collin Tukuitonga



Dr Nick Wood



Prof Finlay Macrae



A/Prof Tony Rahman



Dr Christina Higa



Dr Colin Banks



Dr Christopher Blyth



Prof Allen Cheng



Dr Alice Lee



Prof Michael Gold



Dr Chris Kiely



Dr Sam Hall



Dr John Ombiga



Dr Thane Hancock

Dr Nicholas Hannah

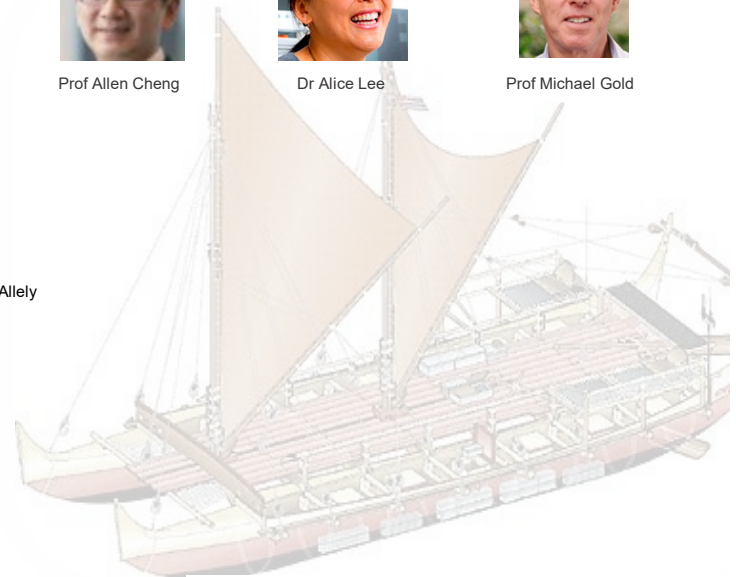
Ms Beauty Tebaa

Ms Stephanie Kern - Allely



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# Training Program Testimonials



**Asst Prof Mai Ling Perman**  
Acting Head of School of  
Medical Sciences, Fiji  
National University

*"Since 2008 I have been a regular participant of the Suva annual endoscopy training program provided by ANZGITA resulting in a tremendous improvement in my knowledge and skills ... and **thanks to ANZGITA I have done some overseas training.** I am [now] a local endoscopy trainer, and in that capacity, I get invited by other Pacific Island Countries to provide technical assistance and provide endoscopy training in country."*

*ANZGITA, through expert training and good will, have not only helped me grow in my career, but also helped save lives, reduced unnecessary surgery, improved the quality of life for Pacific people and helped reduce reliance on overseas medical care."*



**Dr William May**  
Dean, College of Medicine  
Nursing & Health Sciences  
Fiji National University

*"I found that the model of gastroenterology training in the Pacific has proven to be one of the ideals that could be replicated for any capacity building project among our people. **ANZGITA has responded beyond expectation to the needs of our doctors and nurses in Fiji and the Pacific.** Through the vision of its leaders, they have addressed a gap in much-needed service and skills."*

***Their relentless involvement and care for their colleagues in the Pacific is exemplary.** ANZGITA networking has pulled in other non-GI specialists to share their expertise in the RIPE series which enabled sharing of information and experience/practice, an example of a very beneficial and commendable initiative."*



**Dr Loutoa Poesse**  
Vaiola Hospital, Tonga

***"ANZGITA has continued to build our capacity despite the challenges brought by COVID.** They remained in contact, and I can refer a gastroenterology case over to Dr Chris Hair via email/message or even a phone or video call."*

*Not only that, there is a regular webinar session provided by ANZGITA on gastroenterology where we can attend and ask questions on the case reviews. It was also through [ANZGITA] visits that they realised how small our endoscopy room was and how it needed much expansion. This year we saw that come to light with their support."*



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# Equipment, Materials & Services Support for Centres

Although unable to visit our colleagues, we have continued to support the hospitals where they practise with equipment and materials, either donated by suppliers or purchased using donated funds. The following is a summary of the main equipment and materials support activities by centre. All purchases were made from donated funds.

Centre	Items
CWM Hospital Fiji	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urease testing items – Melbourne Pathology (WGO funded)</li> <li>• Provation Endoscopy Documentation Management laptop computer system including ancillary devices (WGO funded)</li> <li>• Reprocessing Chemicals (Whiteley Corp)</li> <li>• Benchtop Steriliser (purchase)*</li> <li>• Band Ligators (purchase)</li> </ul>
Solomon Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Esophageal Stents (x9) – Cook Medical</li> <li>• Esophageal Stents (x11) – CK Surgitech</li> <li>• Refurbished Endoscopes (x3) – Pentax</li> <li>• Benchtop Steriliser (purchase)*#</li> </ul>
Samoa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Band Ligators (purchase)</li> </ul>
Tonga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reprocessing Chemicals (Whiteley Corp)</li> <li>• Endoscopic Clips (x100) – Olympus Medical</li> <li>• Band Ligators (purchase)</li> </ul>
Timor-Leste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Band Ligators (purchase)</li> <li>• Benchtop Steriliser (purchase)*</li> <li>• Air Compressor for drying cabinet (purchase)^+</li> </ul>
Vanuatu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Band Ligators (purchase)</li> </ul>



Trainers and Hospital Nacional Guido Valadares Colleagues during a Timor-Leste 2019 training program.

\* 3 unused benchtop sterilisers were purchased from a government disposal website at a price significantly less than for new.

# This item was the last piece in establishing a complete *high-standard* reprocessing and disinfection system which can be supported locally.

^ Once the drying cabinet is installed in FY22, the hospital will have a complete *high-standard* reprocessing and disinfection system which can be supported locally.

# Equipment, Materials & Services Support for Centres (continued)



Vaiola Hospital, Tonga – ANZGITA, and member donations via our GoFundMe Campaign, were successful to add a dedicated Endoscopy Room.

## Vaiola Hospital Renovation

When the team at Vaiola Hospital commenced endoscopy services, they made best use of the layout of the space provided by management. On a training visit in 2019, **Cathy Conway advised on how best to renovate the space** to improve the management of endoscopy procedures and the comfort of patients. The team took her advice and had architectural plans prepared and costed at A\$16,500.

In response to a request for assistance with funding, ANZGITA was able to source the funds with support from members and friends (\$3,600), the **JGH Foundation** (\$10,000) and by using already held funds. The work was completed early in the 2021-22 financial year.

## Research Projects

ANZGITA worked with the [World Gastroenterology Organization \(WGO\)](#) Clinical Research Committee Chair, **Prof Des Leddin**, on two WGO-funded research projects in Fiji. Both were underway to some extent prior to COVID but have been subsequently put on hold.

The **Endoscopy Reporting Project** will assess the value that can be derived from an automated system in the areas of patient safety and quality of care, auditability of service performance, strengthening of training and research programs. The project uses a donated license for the Provation® MD product. Fiji lead: **Dr Aminiasi Rokocakau**.

The **Helicobacter pylori Resistance Research Project** is investigating the microbial resistance patterns of H.pylori bacteria in Fiji where prevalence is very high, as it is throughout the Pacific. Fiji lead: **Dr Vikash Sharma**.

# Our Future



Trainers and Tupua Tamasese Mea'ole Hospital colleagues during a 2018 Samoa training program.

*Further development of virtual activities will occur in coming years and complement future in-country training activities.*

## Engaging in more opportunities to work with our Indo-Pacific colleagues:

- **Further development of Virtual Training & Mentoring Programs**
  - Provide improved mentoring within existing relationships
  - Provide support for doctors and nurses in additional countries in the region
  - Cover gastroenterology related areas not previously addressed, e.g., nutrition
- **Further support for development of facilities in Partners' centres**
  - Safe endoscopy, e.g., reprocessing systems
  - Better provision of existing services, e.g., automated reporting systems
  - Additional services, e.g., ERCP
- **Development of a capacity building approach** that maximises the benefits to Indo-Pacific clinicians through a combination of virtual & in-country programs
- **Co-operating with ANZ colleagues beyond gastroenterology** to support the general training and mentoring needs of Indo-Pacific physicians.



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# Our Board, Advisory Group & Program Leaders

## Board Directors & Leadership Team



Prof Finlay Macrae AO  
Chair



Dr Tony Clarke  
Deputy Chair



Mr Alan Studley  
Treasurer



Mr Frank Eastaugh  
Secretary



Ms Dianne Jones  
OAM, Director  
Nurse Leader  
Timor-Leste



A/Prof Peter Katelaris  
Director



Mr Jonathan Long  
Director



Prof Michael Schultz  
Director



A/Prof Chris Hair  
Director  
Programs Leader  
South Pacific



Dr Mark Norrie  
Co-Leader  
Solomon Islands



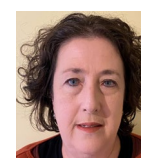
Dr Eileen Natuzzi  
Co-Leader  
Solomon Islands



Dr Chris Kiely  
Program Leader  
Timor-Leste



Dr Ian Turner  
Program Leader  
Samoa



Ms Karen Kempin  
Nurse Leader  
Pacific Programs



Ms Barbara Hines  
Marketing & Fundraising Manager  
Programs Administrator

## Advisory Group



Prof Joseph Sung



Prof Ian  
Roberts-Thomson



Prof KL Goh



Prof Michael Wesley



Prof Desmond  
Leddin



Mr Brian Freestone



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# Financial Statement

**Summary – ANZGITA recorded funds inflow of \$66,141 and outflow of \$70,422 for a net cash decrease of (\$4,281). The full report by the ANZGITA Treasurer is on our [website](#).**

**Total expenditure** on administration, programs, covering capital and service items, was \$70,422 with services, transport, equipment and materials delivered across primarily Timor-Leste, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Samoa and Tonga and by Virtual Programs to those and other countries.

**ANZGITA's Board** has acted to ensure that comprehensive **insurance coverage** is in place to protect the activities of both directors and program clinicians from all identified risks.

**Services provided by directors are on a pro bono basis**, the exception being where some directors apply their clinical skills to training and mentoring programs. In such cases travel and living expenses are reimbursed to directors. All program participants including directors who may be engaged directly are reimbursed their expenses only.

**ANZGITA does not own or hold any fixed assets** and as such cash at bank of \$102,366.57 represents the only current asset owned by ANZGITA shown in the balance sheet.

**ANZGITA does not undertake a formal external audit** as the cost would outweigh the benefits. The bank balance is reported regularly with management information at both Board and management meetings and details are noted in minutes.

This information is certified annually by a qualified and independent member of CPA and a report issued to the Board.

<b>Trading Income</b>	
Grants	40,267.59
Individual Donations	3,355.00
Interest Income	32.69
Other Revenue	14,168.14
PayPal Donation Platform	4,700.00
RACS Reimbursement for Program Expenses	3,617.31
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>66,140.73</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>66,140.73</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
Bank Fees	50.00
Equipment and materials	51,138.99
Freight & Courier	2,565.50
General Expenses	7,723.49
Insurance	2,081.45
Office Expenses	29.16
Program Expenses - Virtual Programs	833.00
Project Contributions - Tonga	6,000.00
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>70,421.59</b>

**Net Profit** **(4,280.86)**

Profit and Loss Australian & New Zealand Gastroenterology International Training Association Ltd

# Our Supporters

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



The Royal Australasian College of Physicians



# Our Supporter Donations 2020 – 2021

**ANZGITA gratefully acknowledges support from a breadth of organisations involved in providing gastroenterology healthcare services in Australia and New Zealand.**

**C.R. Kennedy Medical Solutions**, Australian distributor for **Fujifilm**, supported the WGO Training Centre at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva, Fiji with endoscopy equipment, services and advice. The company has also supported us with the production of marketing materials.

**Olympus Medical** supported the national hospital (HNGV) in Dili, Timor-Leste, and Vaiola Hospital in Tonga with endoscopy equipment, accessories, services and advice.

**Cantel Australia** supported the installation of semi-automatic reprocessing systems at NRH, Solomon Islands and HNGV, Timor-Leste, and the automatic reprocessing systems at CWMH, Fiji. The company offered to work with us on the installation of a drying cabinet at HNGV.

The **Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology Foundation** provided the third payment of a three-year US\$45,000 grant. The Foundation also granted A\$10,000 toward the endoscopy renovation project at Vaiola Hospital.

**CK Surgitech** supported our partners' centres through donations of endoscope accessories.

**Pentax Medical** supported the National Referral Hospital (NRH) in Honiara, Solomon Islands with endoscopy equipment, services and advice. During the year the company donated three reconditioned scopes to NRH.

**Whiteley Corporation** generously supplied partners' sites in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Timor-Leste with endoscopy cleaning and disinfection chemicals. The company made a significant donation of hospital equipment cleaning products directly to the Fiji government.

**Cook Medical** provided product for the NRH, Solomon Islands training program through their Charitable Donations, Grants & Sponsorships Scheme.

**Boston Scientific** supported the ERCP service at CWMH, Fiji through the provision of endoscope accessories.

The **Republic of Fiji High Commission** in Canberra, through **Ms Salote Tagivakatini**, Counsellor, smoothed deliveries in Fiji. We also acknowledge the support by **Gibson Freight**, for delivery of Fiji donations.

**RMS Engineering & Construction** supported the HNGV drying cabinet project with transport and on-site assistance.

# Our Supporter Donations 2020 – 2021 (continued)

[Montserrat Day Hospitals](#) and **Townsville Hospital and Healthcare Service** donated no-longer-needed equipment.

**Melbourne Pathology** donated items for use on the WGO sponsored *Helicobacter Pylori* Resistance Research Project.

Although there were no in-country training programs, we still engaged with the Global Health unit of the [Royal Australasian College of Surgeons \(RACS\)](#) about the PIP.

[Department of Medicine, University of Otago \(Dunedin\)](#), supported 41 Pacific physicians to attend their online RACP written and clinical exam refresher courses at no charge.

**Gastroenterology Profession Community** - [AGW](#), [NZSG](#), [GENCA](#) & [SIES](#) all offered us a complimentary or highly discounted presence at their industry conferences / symposia.

[Medical Aid for Oceania](#) through their joint lead, **Mr Barry Barford**, managed the preparation, dispatch and delivery liaison for over 18 shipments during the year. MAFO contributed \$15,000 to the costs of overseas transport, and have committed \$5,000 for FY22.

[Pentagon Freight](#) in Brisbane, through **Ms Karen Hirst**, temporarily stored and kindly re-packaged donations ready for shipment at no cost to us.



**Thank you** to these Epworth nurses for their support of our Sydney Sock Project and to all healthcare professionals in this challenging year.

[Sydney Sock Project](#), and its founder **Mr Andres Herrero**, generated funds through the sale of ANZGITA socks.

Thanks to **individual members and friends** who donated. Some members had honorariums due to them for participation in market research forwarded to ANZGITA.

# ANZGITA's Future... traversing ancient sea lanes via 21<sup>st</sup> century technologies

We would especially like to thank these supporters who have assisted us this year:



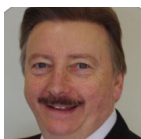
Mr Barry Barford



Mr Darran Leyden



Mr Mario Cutts



Mr Graham Hines



Ms Fiona Bailey



Mr Miguel Brostrom



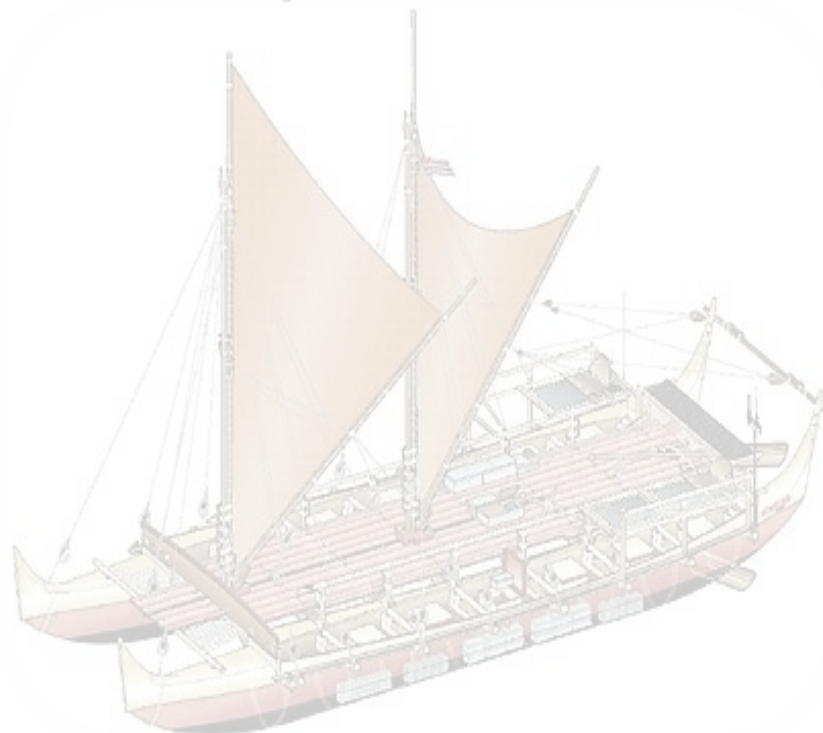
Ms Jennifer Reeves



Ms Kim West



Ms Jayne Kidd



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