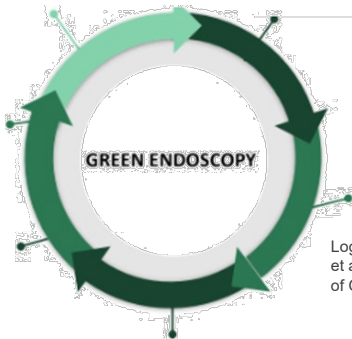


Annual Report

2021 – 2022

ANZGITA's Future...creating a framework for sustainable endoscopy services



Logo Credit: de Santiago Enrique Rodriguez et al. Reducing the environmental footprint of GI endoscopy...Endoscopy 2022; 54

ANZGITA

Australian & New Zealand Gastroenterology
International Training Association

Connect
Collaborate
Contribute

CHAIR'S MESSAGE 2021 - 2022



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 survived, I might say even thrived in novel ways, in the COVID pandemic.

Well, yes, our in-country activities have been severely curtailed due to the virus but, as the situation improved, we accepted the invitation to run our annual Fiji program in June. Our doctor and nurse trainers renewed relationships, made new friendships and further cemented the successful ANZGITA model of training. Although program preparation and execution were hampered as we all emerged from pandemic conditions, the dedication of our trainers, **Fijian** colleagues and trainees ensured it was a success.

Last year I noted the further development of virtual training activities. The monthly webinars, now the **Pacific Gut Club**, continue as impactful and popular interactive discussions on a range of relevant topics. A weekly virtual training program for **Samoa**n doctors wishing to learn endoscopy was also instituted to complement local practical training. A COVID lockdown caused a pause, but the program has started again with American Samoan involvement.

The pilot **vTERM project** – virtual Training in Endoscopy by Remote Mentoring – steered by a highly credentialed multi-national project team, will begin later in 2022. This innovation is ushering in a more sustainable approach to training and enabling frequent contact with trainees in their home environments – all real-time from teams in Australia.

**** "GI endoscopy is estimated to be the third highest generator of hazardous waste in healthcare facilities."***

There is more on all these programs in this report. Importantly, they demonstrate ANZGITA is continuing to innovate in response to our partners' expressed needs, bringing together in-country and virtual training modes to produce a more engaged and sustainable portfolio.

Environmental sustainability initiatives have gained momentum across the gastroenterology world and we will increase support for our partners as they work on the Sustainable Development Goals of their countries.

CHAIR'S MESSAGE 2021 – 2022 (continued)

In addition to training, we continued to assist our partners in securing high priority **equipment and materials**. Of note was the completion of the multi-faceted endoscope reprocessing system at the national hospital (HNGV) in **Timor-Leste**, which is highlighted in this report.

These programs and initiatives are only happening because of the efforts of my fellow directors, our program leaders and trainers, and our in-country partners. There is also a very small non-clinical team, mostly voluntary, that handles our marketing, communications and administration. I admire them all for their commitment and innovation in challenging times.

Of special note is my enormous gratitude to **Tony Clarke** who is retiring, having been the inaugural Programs Coordinator and Deputy Chair. Tony's contribution to the success of ANZGITA could easily be judged as the most significant to date. I am delighted that **Chris Hair** has agreed to be our new Deputy Chair.

Long-time member **Robyn Nagel** has taken on the Programs Coordinator role. In preparation, she was as a trainer on the Fiji program and will also attend the Timor-Leste program in August. An excellent start to a challenging task.

Assoc Prof **Bruce Waxman** OAM has been appointed as our first Surgical Coordinator. Gastroenterology is a speciality practised by physicians and surgeons. Demonstrating the synergy between the disciplines and the value of collaboration is something to be accentuated in our training.

To all our donors and grant providers – thank you! Medical industry suppliers also continue to be very generous in-kind donors. It is appropriate to acknowledge **Graham Hines**, from CR Kennedy, who has been an indefatigable support for ANZGITA and deserves special recognition as he too steps into retirement.

I encourage you to read this report and be fortified by the generosity of spirit, innovation and determination of everyone delivering, utilising or supporting ANZGITA's work.



Professor Finlay Macrae AO
MBBS MD FRACP FRCP AGAF MWGO FASGE FGESA

Chair, ANZGITA

Highlighted Activities 2021 – 2022

Connecting flexibility and innovation for success:

- ✓ **8 Pacific Gut Club** virtual sessions delivered – program on-going
- ✓ **15 COVID RIPE** (Responding in the Pacific Education) sessions held in the 2021 calendar year
- ✓ **14 Pacific Island** Countries and Territories and Timor-Leste participated
- ✓ **Samoan Doctors weekly training program** delivered virtually prior to COVID lockdown
- ✓ **Fiji 3-week program delivered** – first in-country since COVID
- ✓ **Hybrid online & in-country Nurse Training program** piloted on Fiji program
- ✓ **vTERM** (Virtual Teaching of Endoscopy by Remote Mentoring) equipment design completed, purchased and delivered to **Palau** for pilot program
- ✓ **First Surgical Coordinator** appointed.



Our 2021 – 2022 Programs

Virtual programs were attended by doctors and nurses from these countries:

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	Kiribati

In Fiji we delivered a three-week in-country program at the WGO Training Centre with our partners at CWMH and FNU.



The Pacific Island Countries now often refer to themselves as the **Blue Pacific Continent** which covers almost 20% of the world's surface.



Our Training & Mentoring Programs

Until May of the reporting year we delivered all training and mentoring as **virtual internet activities**. In June we delivered our first in-country training program in association with our local Fijian partners since the start of COVID.

The **gastroenterology webinar program** evolved into the **Pacific Gut Club** for seven meetings in 2022. Its leaders, **Chris Hair** and **Asst Prof Mai Ling Perman** (FNU and President Internal Medicine Organisation of the Pacific) were joined by **Prof David Russell** of Royal Melbourne Hospital & University of Melbourne, who broadened the topics to include lectures on nutrition. **Attendance Certificates** for accruing hours under Continuing Professional Development governance systems in Pacific Island Countries are now provided on request.

Group communication apps such as WhatsApp and Viber continued to be utilised to support our colleagues on matters ranging from healthcare support on specific patients to simply staying connected during difficult periods.

Our communications partner, the **Pacific Basin Telehealth Resource Centre** (PBTRC) of the University of Hawai'i, led by Co-Director **Dr Christina Higa**, again provided zoom conferencing technology and administration support.

A four-week Fiji in-country program was planned and delivered in June at relatively short notice following a request from our Fiji colleagues, with the availability of PIP funding being subject to a 30 June deadline. The **Post Graduate Masters and Diploma program** at FNU was also brought forward.

A team of nine trainers each spending up to two weeks taught 16 doctor and 14 nurse trainees. This was a higher than normal number which reflected a backlog training requirement.

A higher proportion than usual were from Fiji due to several PICs in COVID lockdown. Unfortunately, the last week of the program was largely cancelled due to many of the trainees and two of our trainers catching COVID. However, there were still some online lectures delivered to the FNU students.



New Programs Coordinator, Robyn Nagel with Lead Nurse, Maraia Ratumaiyale on the Fiji program.

Our Training & Mentoring Programs (continued)

Nurse Training on the program was structured around the course being developed using a mixture of pre-recorded presentation / video and real-time virtual training. For each aspect, general theory and application will be delivered in the pre-recorded material while real-time sessions will cover the practicalities of implementation given the setup and resources specific to the centre receiving training.

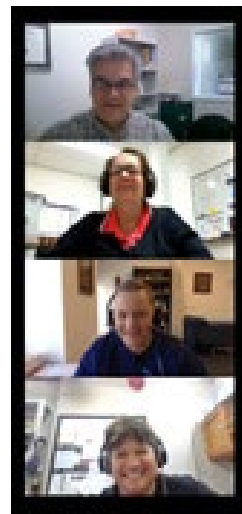
Throughout 2021, under the **Responding in the Pacific Education (RIPE)**, we partnered with **Dr Meru Sheel** and **Dr Adam Jenny** to organise and deliver 15 sessions covering COVID issues. These were well received with up to 80 attendees per session.



“Relationships are so important in the Pacific Islands where there is a strong sense of community. I am honoured to be a partner with such an impactful organisation.”

Dr Christina Higa
Co-Director
Pacific Basin Telehealth Resource Center

The virtual **Teaching Endoscopy by Remote Mentoring (vTERM)** program represents a significant advance in our ability to provide on-going training and mentoring which will be complementary to our in-country programs and more environmentally sustainable. It is now ready for a pilot program in Palau and is covered in more detail on page 11.



Our Fiji In-Country Volunteer Trainers – Fiji Trainers Profile

Thanks to the trainers who responded to our call for volunteers at short notice. A team of 5 doctors and 5 nurses were assigned to the program. The program was cut from 4 to 3 weeks due to a COVID outbreak. Below is a profile of the team which is broadly typical for our programs.

Nurses

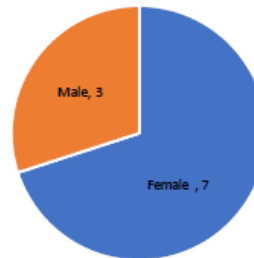
Dianne Jones
Karenza Heath*
Natasha Rutland
Karen Kempin
Helen Van Loenen

* Late withdrawal due to COVID

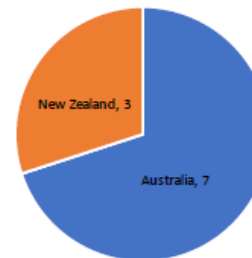
Doctors

Robyn Nagel
Dinesh Lal
Lybbie Hillman
Terry Gavaghan
Kumanan Nalankilli

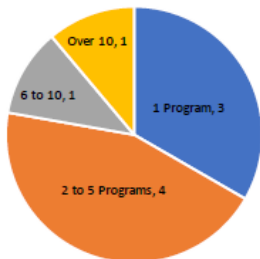
Gender



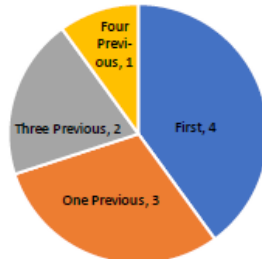
Country



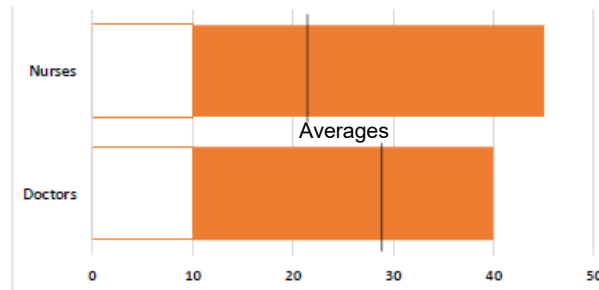
Total Programs now completed by Trainers



Number of Fiji Programs by Assigned Trainers



Range of Trainer Experience in Years



Dr Leshni Pillay, an advanced gastroenterology trainee, also attended. [See website Fiji page.](#)
A/Prof Bruce Waxman, Surgical Coordinator, cancelled his planned involvement due to a COVID outbreak.

Innovative vTERM Project Piloted in 2022 in Palau

vTERM – virtual Training in Endoscopy by Remote Mentoring is an innovative project utilising the latest digital technologies. It enables virtual side-by-side mentoring of doctors as regularly as required, building on the skills acquired at annual/bi-annual in-country training programs.

In-procedure remote endoscopy mentoring is provided from a distant site via HD Zoom. Almost ubiquitous optical fibre services around the Pacific provide reliable real-time connections. The pilot is being conducted with **Dr Myra Adelbai** at **Belau National Hospital** in **Palau**.

“vTERM has the capability to provide mentoring on demand, anywhere in the world, at anytime. The potential for mentoring through digital media is endless.” Chris Hair

The feasibility of remote mentoring based on access to images from the endoscope and endoscopist was demonstrated by **Prof Jerry Waye** (USA). It has been developed further by **Assoc Prof Chris Hair** in his virtual presentation **“Establishing Teaching Endoscopy by Remote Mentoring (TERM) in Oceania”** at the **GASTRO 2021 Prague**, 9-10 Dec, and implemented by a project team he assembled of ANZGITA and partners:

- **Dr Myra Adelbai**, Belau National Hospital, Palau
- **Dr Tony Rahman**, Director of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, The Prince Charles Hospital Brisbane
- **Prof Des Leddin**, Dalhousie University, Canada & Member Clinical Research Committee, WGO
- **Alben Adelbai**, Belau National Hospital IT Consultant
- **Steve Williams & Ashene Ranasinghe**, C.R. Kennedy Medical
- **Dr Tomohiko Moriyama & Dr Shunta Tomimatsu**, Telemedicine Development Centre of Asia (TEMDEC), Kyushu University Hospital, Japan
- **Frank Eastaughffe**, ANZGITA Secretary
- **Brian Freestone**, ANZGITA Advisory Group



Myra & Alben Adelbai with equipment set up at Belau National Hospital.



C R Kennedy's Ash & Steve designed and sourced an equipment solution.

Timor-Leste National Hospital Endoscopy Reprocessing System

In 2022 the final item of a **sustainable Endoscope Reprocessing System** suitable for Timor-Leste conditions was commissioned at the endoscopy unit of the National Hospital – Hospital Nacional Guido Valadares (**HNGV**).

A service was established at the hospital in 2016 when **Dr Chris Kiely** was resident in Dili for two years. Since then, except for the COVID period, ANZGITA has conducted regular training programs at the hospital and, with donor and supplier help, contributed to the development of the endoscopy facilities.



Nurses commissioning Drying Cabinet (rear)

Endoscopy practice must be safe, and risk minimisation of cross-infection between patients via endoscopes is essential. It must also be safe for nursing staff who use relatively toxic chemicals in reprocessing.

HNGV's system has been **designed by the ANZGITA team** to meet endoscope and accessory reprocessing requirements

in local operational and support conditions. We see it as a forerunner for installations in other partners' centres. The system, valued in excess of A\$100,000, is comprised of:

- Semi-automatic cleaning and disinfection system
- Drying and storage cabinet fed by a medical air quality air-compressor
- Benchtop steriliser
- Ultrasonic Cleaner

R: Nurses working at Cleaning System



"We now have a facility that enables us to manage our scopes to a degree comparable to hospitals in far better resourced countries."

Dr Celia Santos, Head of Internal Medicine at HNGV (quoted and pictured above with Timor-Leste Programs Lead **Dr Chris Kiely**) welcomed the completion of the project.

Our thanks to Ainsworth Foundation, GESA, Cantel Medical, Getinge Australia, Whiteley Corp and RMS Engineering (Dili) for their support.

What Sustainable Endoscopy Means for ANZGITA

Maintaining environmental integrity and driving sustainable economic prosperity and development in a region which is 'at the frontline of the adverse impacts of **climate change**' are objectives of the Pacific Islands Forum in its Blue Pacific 2050 strategy. We believe they also apply to other Indo-Pacific countries where we have partners. **ANZGITA is committed to assisting our partners** in their professional work as they support the achievement of those objectives. The issues we see that need addressing are:

- Healthcare activities significantly contribute to **greenhouse gas emission and waste production**, with gastrointestinal (GI) endoscopy being one of the largest contributors (likely third after Theatres and ICU).
- Reducing the **impact of our training activities on the environment**. How best to make use of air travel (it contributes around 4% towards global warming) to work with our partners, the way we conduct on-site training and other aspects.
- Long-term, self-managed **sustainability of endoscopy services covering all resourcing aspects** – financial, people (including training), equipment / materials, information – is a goal of all our partners. Long-term **sustainability of ANZGITA** is also part of this issue.



L: Dr Chris Hair, Chair of GESA's Sustainability Network Committee, presents '*Virtual Sustainability*' at GENCA 2022 and R: Panel discussion on '*Sustainability in Endoscopy*' with Leigh Donnelly.

(Credit: Camera Creations)



L: Asst Prof Mai Ling Perman speaking at AGW 2022 on '*The Impact of Climate Change on Pacific Healthcare and People*'

Supporting Sustainable Endoscopy Practice

ANZGITA is already addressing Sustainable Endoscopy with our partners and in our own work, seeking to harness existing industry initiatives and build on sustainable endoscopy practice.

- We **designed and installed** two reprocessing systems that now enable in-country partners to **reduce the use of toxic chemicals** and better aid the safe **reuse of accessories**.
- These reprocessing systems are designed with components that can be **affordably maintained** and emphasise the use of **local knowhow**.
- We have provided a formula for local production of an **H.pylori test** - no packaging, reusable containers, no transport - **reduced waste**.
- For the last five years, we invested in developing **virtual training**. We are now piloting multiple models of virtual and in-country training which enhance training **without increasing our carbon footprint** in air travel.
- We sourced **reusable accessory devices**, not available in Australia, for in-country partners.
- We are **building** digital systems which enable us to manage our programs with **fewer resources**.
- We are **investigating** new in-country training methods to **reduce** waste, e.g., a greater use of simulators.
- We **continue to draw on the knowledge** members gained through their involvement in national and international forums and in their workplaces to support sustainable endoscopy practice.
- We have provided advice on **best practice standards** for facilities, equipment, management structures and processes.

** "Global GI leadership is deeply concerned about the issue of climate change."*



Our Board, Advisory Group & Program Leaders 2021 - 2022

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



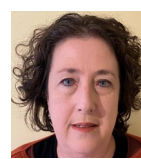
Dr Eileen Natuzzi
Co-Leader
Solomon Islands



Dr Chris Kiely
Program Leader
Timor-Leste



Dr Ian Turner
Virtual Training
Lead, Samoa



Ms Karen Kempin
Nurse Leader
Pacific Programs



A/Prof Bruce
Waxman OAM
Surgical Coordinator



Dr Robyn Nagel
Programs
Coordinator



Ms Barbara Hines
Marketing
Manager

Advisory Group



Prof Joseph Sung
Singapore



Prof Rakesh
Aggarwal
India



Prof KL Goh
Malaysia



Prof Michael Wesley
Melbourne



Prof Desmond
Leddin
Canada



Mr Brian
Freestone
Australia



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Financial Statement 2021 – 2022

Summary – ANZGITA recorded funds inflow of \$88,381 and outflow of \$96,876 for a net cash decrease of (\$8,496). The full report by the ANZGITA Treasurer is on our [website](#).

Total expenditure on administration, programs, covering capital and service items, was \$96,876 with services and equipment delivered on one in-country program in Fiji and by virtual programs to it and other countries.

ANZGITA does not own or hold any fixed assets and cash at bank of \$96,396.29 represents the only current asset owned by ANZGITA (see balance sheet). With 7 years of operating results available from our accounting system, the Board can review the pattern of funds inflow and program expenditures for planning purposes.

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. All trainers, including directors, who are engaged directly in delivering programs provide their services pro bono and are reimbursed their expenses only.

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

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

Trading Income	A\$
Grants	15,150
Individual Donations	2,706
Interest Income	25
Other Revenue	25,500
RACS (PIP) Grant for Program Expenses	45,000
Total Trading Income	88,381
Gross Profit	88,381
Operating Expenses	
Bank Fees	60
Equipment and Materials	9,757
Freight & Courier	2,937
General Expenses	10,794
Insurance	3,695
In-Country Programs – Training & Other	57,340
Virtual Programs Expenses	1,793
Project Contributions - Tonga	10,500
Total Operating Expenses	96,876

Net Profit **(8,496)**

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

Our Supporters 2021 - 2022

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



Our Supporter Donations 2021 - 2022

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 (CWMH) in Suva, Fiji with endoscopy equipment, services and advice; developed system product devices for use in Pacific vTERM project; and supported us with the production of marketing materials.

Olympus Medical supported the Hospital Nacional Guido Valadares (HNGV) in Dili, Timor-Leste, and Vaiola Hospital in Tonga with endoscopy equipment, accessories, repair services and advice.

Cantel Australia supported the installation and commissioning of a drying cabinet at HNGV, Timor-Leste, including virtual support to the HNGV team.

Ferring Pharmaceuticals provided a grant to support the development of our virtual training programs.

Pentax Medical supported the National Referral Hospital (NRH) in Honiara, Solomon Islands with endoscopy equipment, services and advice.

Whiteley Corporation generously supplied partners' sites in Fiji and Timor-Leste with endoscopy cleaning and disinfection chemicals and stands ready to support our other partners as it has in the past.

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

RMS Engineering & Construction in Dili (with Erik Stokes & Raquel Belo) supported the HNGV drying cabinet project with transport and on-site assistance.

Provation Medical provided support to ANZGITA and the WGO Suva Training Centre on best utilisation of their endoscopy reporting product.

Our Supporter Donations 2021 - 2022 (continued)

[St Vincent's Hospital Sydney](#) donated three endoscope drying cabinets being replaced by newer technology.

[Southside Endoscopy Centre](#) (Dr Michael Miros OAM) donated an endoscope drying cabinet being replaced by newer technology.

The Global Health Unit of the [Royal Australasian College of Surgeons](#) (RACS) as PIP program manager, provided funding and trainer credentialing compliance support for the Fiji Training Program in June.

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

[Gastroenterology Profession Community - NZSG](#) provided us complimentary presence at its industry conference. All other major conferences were virtual or cancelled.

[Medical Aid for Oceania](#) funded two shipments to/from Timor-Leste during the first half of the year.

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



Thank you to our members for the great support in purchasing all six types of ANZGITA socks from the Sydney Sock Project, their bestsellers for a few months during the year.

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

Our Future...creating a framework for sustainable endoscopy services

Engaging in more opportunities to work with our colleagues in Australia, New Zealand, across the Indo-Pacific and beyond:

- Further develop the **best mix of in-country and virtual** programs to meet the needs of our colleagues
- Advance **sustainability** as a core part of our work
- **Support our partners** as they work on the Sustainable Development Goals of their countries
- Increase utilisation of modern digital technologies and communications services to **innovate in training, mentoring** and sustainability
- Continue support of the **development of our partners' centres** in safe endoscopy, services, supplier relationships and other areas
- Engage more with other Australian and New Zealand **medical groups** already assisting in the region or open to involvement, to maximise the value of all our efforts
- Build on our **marketing track record** to keep members and stakeholders informed via regular communication channels.



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