



ANZGITA

Australian & New Zealand Gastroenterology
International Training Association

New Members

The following trainers applied for and received participatory membership in 2015.

Chris Ashton
Rob Brodribb
Jacky Burgess
Cathy Conway
Catherine Croag
Daniel Croag
Gary Crosthwaite
David Devonshire
Lyne Dine
Anne Dowling
Terry Gavaghan
Felicia Gomez
Jane Hattley
Melissa Jennings
Karen Kempin
Dinesh Lal
Alice Lee
Sunny Lee
Lucy Lim
Greg Lockrey
Lindsay Mollison
Eileen Natuzzi
Mark Norrie
Desley Raynham
Maureen Richardson
Martin Schlup
Mark Schoeman
David Scott
Paul Urquhart
Ann Vandeleur
Leslie Wiggins



Peter Katelaris at the ANZGITA & WGO supported national training centre at Yangon General Hospital

Our first newsletter

Happy New Year! Every few months we plan to produce a newsletter which keeps you, our members, informed of the various things going on in and around ANZGITA. If it prompts a response or a thought on how we, as an association of members, can do better, in any aspect, then please contact our Chair, Prof. Finlay Macrae or any of the other directors. Contact details are on the website.

In the side bar are the members who joined in 2015. Membership is very important to our future as it demonstrates to governments, regulators and potential donors that we have the backing of those who have been involved in our work and are committed to its future. Thanks to all who showed that commitment.

Donations to ANZGITA for program and other activities are now tax deductible! Read on, for news about that, the 2016 programs, our registration as a charity, developing further support from equipment suppliers, donations news, possible new programs and more.

Frank Eastaughffe,
Board Secretary. secretary@anzgita.org



Di Jones & Maraia Ratumaiyale
with trainee GI nurses in Suva

Charity Registration & Tax Deductibility for Donations

In December we were advised by the Australian Charities and Not for profit Commission (ACNC) that our application for registration as a Health Promotion Charity had been successful. We also received registration as a charity that is advancing education.

Following on from that, the tax office (ATO) advised us of two important tax benefits.

Firstly, individuals who give a donation of \$2 or more are able to claim that donation as a tax deduction. Please spread the word among colleagues, friends and family who are keen to support your work on our programs. We are also developing plans to help you do just that.

Secondly, ANZGITA is now exempt from income tax and we have concessions for other taxes that are relevant to us at this stage in our development. Importantly, we are GST exempt which will help reduce the cost of administration and some costs related to programs.

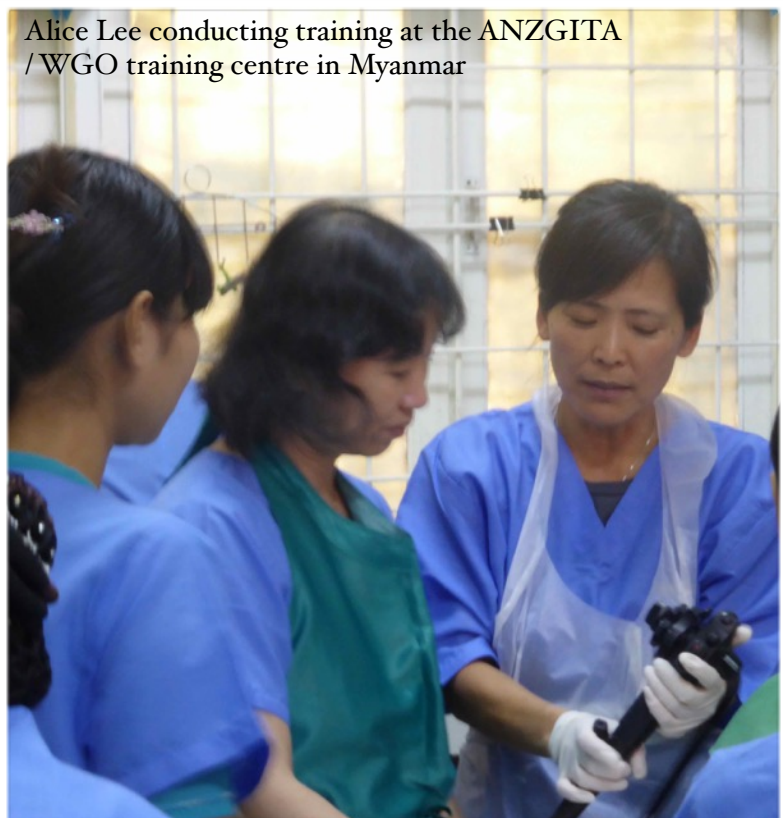
2016 Programs

The Myanmar program will be held between 10 and 23 February. Training will involve hands-on endoscopy training, case studies and lectures to both trainee doctors and nurses. For the first time, senior Myanmar gastroenterologists will also share the teaching program. The volunteer doctors will be Thein Htut, Finlay Macrae, Peter Katelaris, Alice Lee, Mark Norrie, Kate Naphthali and Enrico Roche. For Kate and Enrico, it will be their first ANZGITA program. There is more information about the program content on our website.

The Fiji program will occur between 1 and 26 August. Ten doctors will be involved. For six of them it will be their first program. The doctors are Terry Gavaghan, Lindsay Mollison, Rebecca Ryan, Sunny Lee, Geoff Metz, Jim Toouli, Galib Ali, Jess Howell, Rohit Sawhnay and Alice Lee. Jim is the past president of the WGO and Geoff is the Chair, Scientific Programs Committee. A student from Melbourne Uni will do a research project supporting the first epidemiological study of biliary disease in Fiji.

For both programs, the nurses who will be involved will be announced early in 2016. No date has yet been fixed or volunteers assigned for the Solomon Islands program.

Alice Lee conducting training at the ANZGITA / WGO training centre in Myanmar





Equipment to Support ANZGITA Programs

This February, prior to the Sydney International Endoscopy Symposium (SIES), we plan to hold a function with the equipment supplier community to present the needs of the training centres over the coming years. It will also cover accessories and ongoing support and maintenance. We have already had encouraging comments from a number of suppliers and look forward to discussing with them how they can assist us. We intend treating this as the start of a regular program of interaction with suppliers.

Additional Programs?

At the recent Board meeting there were discussions about possible future programs in Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu and Nepal. The involvement of North Korean doctors in a future program will also be investigated by Alice Lee.

A compelling account of the opportunities for training in Nepal has been provided by Di Jones and John Croese who spent several weeks in Kathmandu in December.

Donations & Funding News

Work continues to identify philanthropists that support the work ANZGITA is doing in AsiaPacific. Recently we received a generous donation of \$60,000 from Len Ainsworth, one such person, and a commitment for support over the next five years. A proposal has been made to an overseas philanthropic fund to support a major expansion of our work in Myanmar. This request, if successful, may well come with the challenging condition that we find a matching amount from other sources. There are also discussions with an equipment company, a medical foundation and others.

Australians and New Zealanders generously donate to causes they feel are deserving and we are now able to offer the benefit of Australian tax deductibility. If you know someone who would like to donate, or if they knew more they may well consider it, contact our treasurer, Alan Studley (alanstudley1@gmail.com). We are also preparing materials to help our members and supporters secure donations.

Priorities for the allocation of donations are being firmed up. Amongst the high priorities are a fume cupboard and associated facilities at CWMH, covering the travel and accommodation costs of nurses and supporting on-site training in Suva in biomedical engineering. A detailed, costed plan has been drafted for the Board.

We are looking for local champions amongst our doctor members to take the lead with colleagues to secure donations under the banner of 'donate an endoscopy fee for Fiji'. More details will be sent in the near future but contact Finlay Macrae if you are interested in knowing more.

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) aid money for AsiaPacific was reduced again in the last budget. ANZGITA Directors Finlay Macrae, Tony Clarke and Alan Studley met DFAT in Canberra recently. There is still some money for capacity building work like ours in Fiji, but in Myanmar all aid is being directed towards economic development. New models of funding are being considered for the Pacific. With the developing countries of the South Pacific so close and in need of support, we will continue to promote the effectiveness of our approach with DFAT and seek greater funding for ourselves and our partners.

Equipment donations also important. See the side bar about SIES. David Devonshire has agreed to take on the role of liaising with senior management of endoscope suppliers. More on this topic in future newsletters.

A team dinner in Myanmar



2015 Program Reports

A summary report on the 2015 programs by Tony Clarke was included in the Officers' Reports for the AGM. All members should have received a copy. If you didn't and would like one, email secretary@anzgita.org

AGW2015

At AGW2015 we got some good exposure and feedback. We had a counter in the exhibitors' area which had a number of enquiries. A few supplier conversations were also opened and are being followed up. Prior to the start of each presentation session an ANZGITA slide was on the auditorium screen.

Australian Training for Fiji Doctor

Dr. Aminiasi Rokocakau from Fiji received advanced training in gastroscopy and colonoscopy at hospitals in Geelong, Melbourne and Canberra during October and November. Over the time he performed 197 procedures. Aminiasi has reported "immense benefit" from the training which has strengthened his interventional endoscopy skills.

Governance

As a charity that will spend most of its donors' funds overseas, it is important that our governance structures and procedures enable us to meet the needs of regulators and operate effectively as a purely volunteer organisation. Regulators are primarily concerned that funds are safely moved overseas, end up in the hands of the correct bodies, are spent in the manner we committed and deliver the benefits we proposed. We already do a lot of that, but we have to be more formal about it in future and report back to the Charities Commission (ACNC) every year.

We have also committed to abide by the Australian Council for International Development's (ACFID) code of conduct. The Royal Australian College of Surgeons (RACS) already complies and so the requirements on trainers will be the same as for those on a Fiji program already. Three board committees have been established and a number of policies endorsed by the Board. We will implement formal agreements with our close partners and establish necessary procedures. Details will be on the governance page of our website.

Recruiting more trainers

With new programs possible and existing ones continuing, we are keen to hear from those interested in being a trainer. **Word-Of-Mouth** is our best recruitment tool by a long stretch. When with colleagues, please talk about your wonderfully rewarding experiences and encourage them to register their interest at www.anzgita.org. Offer to be a referee!



Di Jones overseeing a trainee in Solomon Islands