



COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING OUR NEIGHBOURS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC.

Chairman's Annual Report

By Dr Sepehr Lajevardi



It's been another very busy year for DAISI. A few failings, but mostly many successes.

Trips this year

This year DAISI has sent twelve volunteer teams to the South Pacific involving four countries (PNG, Kiribati, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands) with 50 doctors and 19 nurses.

Membership for non-doctors

The contribution of nurses volunteering this year has been the best so far, resulting in DAISI having a rethink on its membership policy, now allowing doctors and non-doctors equal membership. This includes being able to vote and participate in elections. The role of stomal therapists and wound care nurses has been particularly important this year in establishing a more team-focused approach to the management of complicated diabetes-related wounds.

Clinical Governance

A major focus this year has been on establishing protocols, and clearly defined roles for Office Bearers, in order to improve service delivery and efficiency and accountability. DAISI has also focused on improving assessment and reporting of trips and outcomes in keeping with WHO and ACNC standards.

Elections

Elections are now open the month of October for the four Board Member positions (Co-Chair, Treasurer, & Secretary) and twelve Office Bearer positions, with voting open to all medical and non-medical DAISI members.

If you haven't already voted online, please visit the "Elections" tab on our home page. Successful candidates will be announced at the Annual DAISI Charity Ball on Saturday 14th December 2019.

DAISI Charity Ball 2019

Based on feedback, this year's Annual DAISI Charity Ball will be even better than last year, being cheaper (only \$75 per person), and promises no long boring speeches. It will feature music and dancing and will be held Sat 14th Dec at Marigold Restaurant, Haymarket. Tickets are available online at <https://daisi.com.au/charity-ball/>

All money raised will go towards medical supplies for the South Pacific. *Cont. page 2*

DAISI

Doctors Assisting In South-Pacific Islands

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DAISI Charity Ball

By Nili Hali

The DAISI Charity ball will be held on Saturday 14th December 2019 at the Marigold Restaurant (level 5), Haymarket. This formal dress event costs \$75 per person, with all money raised going towards sending much needed surgical supplies to the South Pacific.

Guests are asked to arrive and be seated from 6:30pm – 7pm. The event will include music and dancing. Entrees will be served at 7pm, and the main meal 7:20pm.



The DAISI Charity Ball will be at Marigold Restaurant on Sat 14th Dec 2019

This will be a great chance for DAISI volunteers to meet up, but also an opportunity for those who can't volunteer to still become involved and contribute in some way to the work DAISI is doing. Seating is 8 people per table with books of tickets available for purchase individually or as a table.

Total seating capacity is 500 with tickets selling fast, so please book early to avoid disappointment: tickets can be purchased online by visiting www.daisi.com.au (ticket sales close 5pm 5/12/19)

A number of raffles and auctions will also occur after the main meal.

The central location of the Marigold Restaurant in Haymarket (China Town) is ideal for those coming by public transport, being only 700 metres from Central Station. All money raised on the night will go towards sending medical and surgical supplies in a container to the South Pacific.

Chairman's Annual Report (continued)

Cardiology, Diabetes & Psychiatry

Up until now, DAISI has been largely surgery focused, with the majority of members either surgeons or anaesthetists. I am pleased to announce that this year DAISI has sent more physicians to volunteer than previously. The cardiac rehabilitation and assessment clinic at National Referral Hospital and Gizo Hospital in the Solomon Islands organised by cardiologist Dr James Weaver has been a great success. The other huge burden in the South Pacific is diabetic related foot ulcers, with DAISI keen to be involved in preventative foot clinics. Our first psychiatry visit was also conducted this year at Kilu, ufi Hospital, Solomon Islands.

Budget

For the 2018-2019 financial year donations have totaled \$185,777, with expenditure \$165,431. 82% of money spent has been on development projects which compares favourably with other charities. Special thanks for \$15,000 donated by the Owen Miller Foundation, which has paid for one shipping

container of medical equipment to be sent to Lae in PNG this year. A second is planned later this year and a third next year, all covered by this generous donation!

Cancelled trips

Regrettably, a DAISI trip to Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands had to be cancelled this month due to communication and preparation issues and concerns. DAISI is extremely apologetic to the DAISI volunteers Dr Michelle Castro, Dr Katherine Jeffrey, Dr Fiona Reid, Dr Elizabeth Dalton, Daniel Peirce, Elizabeth Carter, Julie Coulson, and Julie Moretti who were inconvenienced by these cancellations, and realizes what a big sacrifice it is to take time off work, purchase flights and accommodation and volunteer for a week or two. We can only hope that these volunteers will give DAISI another chance and volunteer in the future.

Temporary Registration

Temporary medical and nursing registrations for DAISI volunteers have been issued this year without any difficulty or lengthy waits. To date no DAISI volunteer has been denied registration. Registration fees still apply for PNG, which DAISI is currently trying to negotiate and exemption for DAISI members

negotiate an exemption for DAISI members

Patient Transfers

This year two patients from the South Pacific were transferred to Sydney and received necessary life-saving cancer surgery not possible in their native country. Many thanks to Ian Richards from The Solomon Foundation, Prof Charbel Sandroussi from RPA and Dr Daniel Kozman from St George hospital for making this possible.

Government Funding

DAISI, as a small, relatively new grass-roots organization that to date has run on the smell of any oily rag, and has grappled with the issue of whether or not to expand and seek Government funding from DFAT. Until now, DAISI has not received or required any Government funding, with all volunteers paying their own way. In many ways this simplistic model allows DAISI to be quick and nimble as well as independent when it comes to plans and projects. Although DAISI is still undecided if it wants to go down the pathway of expanding and asking for Government funding, it also appreciates that certain benefits are to be had with DFAT funding and has been developing its policies and procedures in such a manner that should it decide to apply for funding from DFAT, it will meet DFAT's strict regulatory criteria.

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**DAISI Annual Charity Ball**

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Preventative Foot Clinic at NRH soon. Page 4



Colorectal Surgeon Dr Carina Chow from Wesley Hospital with General Surgeon Dr Elvis Japhlet, with the donated laparoscopic stack at Sopas District Hospital, in Enga Province. The Highlands of PNG.

Laparoscopy in the Highlands

By Dr Carina Chow

Last year, I was fortunate to meet Dr Elvis Japhlet, a surgeon from Sopas District Hospital in the Enga district of Papua New Guinea. At the DAISI ball in 2018, Dr Japhlet had expressed a wish for a laparoscopic stack. The Wesley Hospital, Brisbane, had generously donated a stack with all the additional, equipment necessary to perform laparoscopic surgery, so, with DAISI's expertise, a trip was set up. Our team was simple, myself, a colorectal surgeon, an anaesthetist, Dr Rajesh Brijball and we were fortunate to have Mr Mark Taffa, from DAISI, as the third member of our team. Mark proved to be the most valuable member of the team, having local knowledge, local language and being a biomed engineer, he could fix anything! He also arranged transportation of all the equipment to Sopas.

Dr Japhlet wanted to bring laparoscopy to The Highlands, not only to be able to offer minimally invasive surgery to the local people, but his vision was much bigger. He wants to provide his hospital and his community with the best care. To do this, he knows that he needs to have the best doctors on the ground and to attract the best people, he wanted to be able to offer something that could not be learnt anywhere else in PNG.

Then surgeons would want to come to Sopas to learn, would see what Sopas has and hopefully stay. It was lovely to meet someone with such vision and passion for his community.

Our week was exciting and rewarding. We had to source a functional anaesthetic machine capable of doing safe, paralysed anaesthesia. We ran Sopas Hospital's first basic laparoscopic skills course with six surgeon delegates and two O&G delegates from three local hospitals taking them through numerous exercises on simulators to teach the skills necessary to perform a safe laparoscopic operation. This was run in conjunction with an education day for the five anaesthetic scientific officers from the same hospitals teaching them skills necessary to perform paralysed anaesthesia. In the background, equipment was being assembled, CO₂ was being sourced and once logistics of sterilisation had been worked out, we were able to perform The Highlands first laparoscopic operation. However, the pinnacle of our week was to see Dr Japhlet and his surgical and anaesthetic team perform their first, independent, laparoscopic operation.

Our trip would not have been so successful without the enthusiasm and energy of the staff on the ground. They were all so keen to learn, to help and most importantly keen to see their hospital succeed. To us, everyone was so kind and generous making sure we were well looked after, comfortable, very well fed and safe. I would like to thank everyone in Sopas for making our trip so memorable.

Diabetic foot ulcers in the South Pacific

by Dr Gary McKay



Prof Rob Footridge with the Nurses and Doctors from National Referral Hospital (NRH) during a conference on Management of the Diabetic Foot.

My first trip to National Referral Hospital, I was struck by the number of inpatients with diabetic foot ulcers. It seemed that most of the surgical beds, and some of the medical beds were occupied by this condition. I was well aware of the epidemic of diabetes and related complications in the South Pacific, but the shocking reality of seeing so many debilitating leg ulcers, and amputations occupying so many of the hospital beds really made me ponder as to how DAISI could tackle this mammoth problem. Fortunately last year DAISI had the input of vascular surgeon Prof Rob Footridge,

(an easy to remember name because he has a particular interest in the management and prevention of diabetic and vascular related foot ulcers.) Prof Footridge was able to conduct a fact-finding mission and conference with the doctors and nursing staff at National Referral Hospital (NRH) in The Solomon Islands. This visit allowed discussion and brainstorming as to how to challenge the issue of diabetic foot ulcers, both in terms of treatment and prevention.

Many of the strategies for managing ulcers are fairly basic and simple and cheap to implement. For example educating nurses of the need for daily dressings, and recognizing the early warning signs of failed conservative management, and the need for surgical debridement.

Preventative measures would be ideal including the development an outpatient diabetic foot clinic where assessment and management of diabetic foot conditions can take place before catastrophic complications occur. This will hopefully translate into savings with fewer acute admissions to hospital.

This year DAISI has been fortunate to have a large number of nurses volunteer in the South Pacific. In February this year, stomal therapy and wound care nurse Amanda Summers was sponsored by Prof Peter Hewett and Colorectal Surgery Adelaide to attend NRH and Gizo Hospital in the Solomon Islands to assess the problem areas in wound care nursing.

To address this issue of diabetic foot ulcers there must be a multi-modality approach, recognizing the particular importance of education and the involvement of nurses and allied health volunteers.

I'm excited and pleased to announce, that in association with Motivation Australia, and due to the incredible generosity of the Australian Philanthropic Services (APS) Foundation, plans are underway to send Dr Matthew Malone, Director of Research at Western Sydney Limb Preservation and Wound Research Unit, to conduct a two day diabetic foot clinic at NRH, as a pilot study.

----- Cut along this line and post to DAISI GPO Box 4488 Sydney NSW 2001 or email to staff@daisi.com.au -----

APPLY TO BECOME A DAISI MEMBER

Name	Address (Number & Street)	Describe your volunteering in the South Pacific
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Email	Address (Suburb)	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Mobile	Address (Country & Postcode)	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Qualifications (e.g Nurse, Doctor, Non-Medical)	Dates that you volunteered in the South Pacific	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	

DAISI Doctors Assisting In South-Pacific Islands

ALL MONEY RAISED WILL GO TOWARDS URGENTLY NEEDED MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR THE SOUTH-PACIFIC

Invite you to

THE ANNUAL DAISI CHARITY BALL

Sat 14 Dec 2019, Marigold Restaurant, Haymarket.

6:30pm – 7.00pm *Welcome*
7.00pm – 11.00pm *Three Course Meal*

Tickets \$75 per head
(Max. 8 people per table)

INCLUDES: THREE COURSE MEAL • DRINKS • MUSIC AND DANCING



THIS YEARS DAISI BALL PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



A Colorectal and Stomal Therapy visit to NRH

by Prof Peter Hewett & Amanda Summers



Prof Peter Hewett at Gizo Hospital with surgical registrars and General surgeon Michael Buin and stomal therapist Amanda Summers.

The visit began with a Friday morning lecture on anorectal conditions to all of the medical staff. I was able to bring a number of textbooks on anorectal disease which I left with the departmental head of department at NRH for the surgical registrars to use as part of their training.

There were to be two rectal cancer cases but sadly (but not unexpectedly) one of the patients a 40 year old female decided against the procedure. This provided extra time for teaching in the morning, so I went through a DVD by Prof Bill Heald and Brendan Moran on operative aspects of open ultra low anterior resection which was viewed together before the second planned rectal cancer case. The case was a 64 year old male with locally advanced rectal cancer. I assisted the head surgeon Dr Rooney Jagilly for most of the case but anteriorly it had invaded seminal vesicles so he finished the dissection.

Saturday morning stomal therapist Amanda Summers gave a talk on stomas and management of stomal complications to the surgical doctors. Prof Peter Hewett helped out with a couple of cases: an endometrioma with 4 litres of old blood causing bilateral ureteric compression and an advanced lymphoma of jejunum needing a gastroenterostomy. This

allowed for numerous discussions about surgical techniques with registrars.

Amanda Summers is now the second stomal therapist to visit the Solomon Islands as part of a DAISI visit. Amanda provides a description of her visit below:

Working at the National Referral Hospital in Honiara was an incredible experience and I feel truly grateful to have gone over there to share my knowledge and clinical skills with the beautiful Nurses and Medical staff. On the first morning Mary and I had a tour of the Hospital by Maria one of the Head Nurses. It was extremely interesting to see the difference of healthcare in the Solomon Islands compared to at home. I presented to the Nurses a talk on what a stoma is, the different stomas, general management, different appliances, troubleshooting and complications with stomas. I believe this was a wonderful session and that the Nurses were very engaged and asked lots of questions. On the practical side we had the opportunity to attend a pre op and I was able to explain the importance of pre op education and correct site marking. There was also a fistula patient at the hospital that I was able to attend to and with the Nurses present I applied a stoma bag and explained that bags can be used for stomas, fistulas and wounds.

On the second day I presented the same Stomal talk to the Medical team along side Prof Hewett which was also well received. With a little bit

more of a focus on how to attend a correct site marking pre op with is the Medical teams role in Honiara as there is no Stomal Therapy Nurse. I also attended some wound reviews with the Medical and Nurse team. This was very interesting and together we worked out the best regime that could work with limited supplies.

With the Stomal products that had been previously sent over and the ones I brought over Mary and I set up a little stoma supplies cupboard on the ward for them and I'll continue to send products to them. Especially now that I have a better understanding of what they require. Along with providing assistance via email.

My time at Gizo Hospital was also truly amazing the Nursing and Medical teams were so welcoming and it was such a pleasure to work with them. Along with the rest of the DAISI team. During my time at Gizo Hospital I attended Stomal education to a small number of staff and some medical students currently on placement there. I worked on the Male and Female wards attending to wound dressings. This was well received especially on the female ward, the staff were very interested in what I had to say and were there watching me attend the dressings to learn from me. I also went to the postnatal Ward. Reviewing C-section wounds, also discussing hernia prevention and pelvic floor exercises for the women and also had time to have cuddles with newborns. The highlight of my time in Gizo was following a Stomal patient's complete journey from outpatients diagnosis (1st diagnosed last year) and discussion of theatre to pre op siting, watching the whole operation and then attending his post op education on day 1. We also made a little area in the theatre store room for Stomal supplies to be placed and advised each area. This should help them out when/if they have other Stomal patients and also have access to them if they wanted to use the products for wound management too.

Given the opportunity to return the Solomon Islands I believe it would be extremely beneficial to have 2-3 Nurses that have a particular interest in stoma and wounds that I could work solely with and then these Nurses can be identified as stoma and wound resource people for their Hospitals. I would also do more of a focus on wounds then I did this trip and would very much like to observe more of the wounds in the hospital and the outpatient department. Overall the time I spent in the Solomon Islands has been a fabulous learning experience for me and I would love to return one day.

DAISI 2019 Elections for Executive Board Members.

Please number candidates from "1-17", with "1" being your first preference and "17" your last preference and email to staff@daisi.com.au. Do not leave any boxes empty. Voting closes 5pm Wednesday 30th October 2019.



Dr Danny Kozman

Over the past 4 years I have been on several trips. I went on the first trip to Kiribati last year and am going again this year. I have also been involved in packing shipping containers and am currently fund raising by getting sponsorship for bike rides. I would be grateful if you would consider my nomination.



Prof Chris Berney

As the current Treasurer for DAISI, I would like to be considered for re-nomination as a Board Member or Officer Bearer. I have an ongoing commitment to DAISI and its philosophy of teaching others and providing support to our South Pacific neighbours.



a/Prof Matthew Rickard

Dr Matt Rickard has extensive experience both as a volunteer, and in administrative activities, being on the RACS and CSSANZ committee. His leadership and administrative skills would be valuable assets for DAISI.



Ian Hosking Richards

Ian has been closely involved with caring for Solomon Islands patients in Sydney since 2015. He is Chair of The Solomon Foundation, Ian is Solomon Islands Honorary Consul Elect NSW.



Dr Gary McKay

I would like to remain actively involved with DAISI, either as a Board Member or Office Bearer and appreciate your consideration.



Mark Taffa

Having spent some time in PNG, and currently the PNG Program Coordinator, I would like to be considered for a role with DAISI. I am committed to its principles and agree to abide by its Constitution.



Dr Santee Santhanam

I have been a DAISI member since 2017, and would like to serve DAISI in a more comprehensive way. I would appreciate being considered for any position you think appropriate.



Dr Basil Leodoro

I would like to nominate as Vanuatu Program Officer as I believe I bring with me: Local ownership, local leadership, cultural appropriateness, training and advocacy, coordination and logistics, surgical expertise, networking & research capability.



Dr Sepehr Lajevardi

I have been privileged to be the elected Chair, and am ready to hand this position onto somebody else who is deserving. I would like to be considered for an Office Bearer position, and plan to remain actively involved with DAISI.



a/Prof Konrad Richter

I have recently returned from Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Fiji. I have also volunteered in many other South Pacific Countries with DAISI, and would like to contribute in a more involved manner with the DAISI team.



Sam Deylami

I have been serving DAISI as its volunteer accountant for the past two years and would like to continue in the role as DAISI Accountant.



Dr Carina Chow

I have done a number of DAISI trips with DAISI, to various countries in the Pacific including, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and PNG. Most recently I returned from Sopas Hospital in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea, where I was able to set up a laparoscopic training session and introduce basic laparoscopic surgery. I am planning to return to Sopas next year with my husband and family, and am excited about the DAISI developments at Sopas Hospital in PNG.



Nili Hali

I share the values and vision of DAISI, and would like to continue assisting the organisation's growth and development by offering my legal skills on a pro bono basis. I have wide ranging legal experience as a self-employed and independent barrister, can best promote DAISI's growth without any employment restrictions. I have broad general advisory and litigation experience, which may be of assistance in the long term. Please consider me for the upcoming elections.



Prof Charbel Sandroussi

I am happy to be involved and supportive of DAISI in any way possible.



Prof Peter Hewett

As the current Solomon Islands Program Officer for DAISI, I feel I can continue to contribute much in this role, and would like to be considered for this position.



Dr Michael Chow

I was introduced to DAISI via my daughter Carina. Last year I was the acting Coordinator of the Solomon Islands Ten Bed Program, which I enjoyed. I think DAISI is doing a wonderful job, and I would like to help in whatever capacity possible.



Barry Barford.

I have provided voluntary shipping and logistics services to DAISI since its inception and have been an Associate Member since 2017. I have extensive experience of international freight movements and aid deployments utilising multiple modes of transport, both as a volunteer and in my earlier career. I work mainly in the South-Pacific Islands and Africa, specialising in complex and remote logistics. I am also International Director of Berrima District Rotary's medical aid project and a member of the Maritime Law Association of Australia and New Zealand, the International Association of Marine and Shipping Professionals and the H