

MEDICAL AID ABROAD NZ

Annual Report - For year ending 31st March, 2011 from Chairman

Once again Medical Aid Abroad can look back on an amazing year, when huge volumes of goods have been received from our supporters and despatched overseas.

The Wednesday team's tireless and unending efforts have achieved so much. Lead by Dr Tony Wansbrough, this group of volunteers receive and sort incoming goods and then pack orders received from our recipients in many countries. In October we received the second 25-pallet load of goods donated by EBOS. Handling quantities this large is a challenge, but with Progressive Enterprises allowing us to use an empty building in Browns Bay, a team of additional workers from the Long Bay Baptist Church and a truck donated by Kumeu Rotary, the task was completed.

Civic Wholesalers have given us storage room in their warehouse in Sims Road, Penrose. We thank them for giving us access to this modern and secure building. This has taken pressure of our rooms at Greenlane.

Late last year, a group of Auckland-based Fijian professionals and businessmen approached MAA with the aim of working together. Friends of Fiji Health's concern is the medical care in their home country and MAA can provide many of the goods needed there. In November, MAA provided an estimated \$70,000 worth of goods for a surgical project run by FOFH. This is a joint venture with good potential for both groups. They are keen to help MAA develop and we are happy to donate toward their projects. We have met several times and are preparing a Memorandum of Understanding.

During this year two benefactors have agreed to help MAA financially. Gregg McNair and Sir Graeme Douglas have both made large donations to our work. I wish to thank them very much for their help. While our finances have never looked so good, we do have significant costs ahead in the 2011 year and we cannot rely on large-donation help regularly.

The MAA Executive is a group of about 10 who meet regularly. I'm grateful indeed to this group who are so enthusiastic and regular in their support of all the things MAA does and hopes to do. They are all volunteers who give willingly of their precious time. We are currently working on a project to create a better electronic method (email) of keeping in contact with our supporters.

To our supporters, MAA gives its grateful thanks. Those who donate financially, those who give of their time, those who donate their cars and trailers to move stock, those companies, pharmacies, medical clinics, importers, wholesalers and pharmaceutical distributors who give us unwanted stock – MAA thanks you again. We also want to acknowledge the generosity of the Auckland District Health Board for continuing to provide our rooms in the basement of building 17 at no charge. We appreciate this provision very much.

Of course, special thanks go to Dr Tony Wansbrough who manages the rooms and everything that happens there. Her enthusiasm, generosity, knowledge and endless patience are a blessing to us all.

Looking ahead: At the time of this AGM I am living and working in Tonga. The timing of this locum role has not been easy while MAA is undergoing several changes.

We are hoping that the relationship with FOFH may bring us better stock management systems, storage and freight-movement help.

Dr Wansbrough has indicated her intention to stand down toward the end of the year. A small sub-committee has the task of finding her replacement. If this role is something you would be willing to consider, do speak to Tony or one of the Executive.

It's a delight to be involved with a such a great group that uses NZ's unwanted goods to help others less fortunate and in need. Thank you.

Murray Kerr (Chair)