



Newsletter

August 2013

Chairman's Report for Year Ending March 2012- 013

I am delighted to report once again on the important and valuable work done by MAA. From unwanted medical and pharmaceutical surplus within NZ, we have been able to help thousands of people who would normally be without quality medical aid. We are indebted to the wholesalers, importers, clinics, pharmacies, medical centres, hospitals and many other sources who provide us with these medical supplies. We particularly thank PWR and their Manager, Shaun Smith. PWR moves and stores goods donated by pharmacies for us. They do this at no charge. This assistance is much appreciated.

Our crowded rooms in Greenlane Clinical Centre continue to competently handle the incoming and outgoing supplies. I remain amazed and humbled by what the team there manage to achieve week by week. The Executive wholeheartedly thank the Wednesday volunteers and Store Manager Mary, for without this team, MAA would cease to exist.

The Executive and Trustees continue to meet about every 6 weeks throughout the year keeping a low-key eye on how MAA is running. We tackle issues large and small as they come along. As all are volunteers, I want to thank them for the time they willingly give from their busy working careers.

The matter of us having to re-locate remains unresolved. I met with several senior staff of the Auckland District Health Board, to show them first hand what we do and how useful are the current rooms. We have heard nothing further since then.

The details in the NZ Charities Commission website have been updated. The MAA website has also been partly upgraded, but remains a work in progress. Thanks to Jessica and her team for this work. Jessica is also collating and scanning MAA historical documents. An archive like this is an important part of maintaining the story of MAA.

The Executive have also discussed purchasing a vehicle for moving supplies. Currently all stock is shifted using private cars. We are looking to buy a small, second-hand van or similar, which can hold the quantity of goods that sometimes requires two or three car-loads. Significant money has been donated toward this project.

Security at the rooms has come to our attention. As MAA holds a large quantity of Prescription Only Medicines, they need to be in a locked place, access to which is restricted. The remainder of our valuable stock also needs security, although at a reduced level.

My thanks go to the Wednesday Volunteers, the Trustees, the Store Manager and the Executive for their advice, help and support for the year ended. It's been another successful year. Well done, good and faithful servants.

Murray Kerr – Chairman



Store Annual Report 2012-2013

In the last year MAA has supplied goods to many countries in the Pacific and around the world. It was great to see supplies sent in both shipping containers, and smaller packages carried by individuals.

We have helped fill big shipping containers to Tanzania, North Korea, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, and the Philippines and are currently loading a container for Samoa. These containers usually hold more than 200 cartons each. We have sent over 1900 cartons out from MAA in the last year.

These enormous quantities of supplies have been handled by just a small number (5 or 6) hard-working and warm-hearted volunteers. I am thankful for their support and dedication. They are able to do the work of sending goods out at a fast pace, as well as handling and storing the huge number of donations received weekly. I would like to thank the volunteers for their great team spirit and unselfish dedication to this work. We also thank PWR, Onelink, Mercy Hospitals, Fresh and Clean, Orthocare distributors, EBOS, hospitals, homes and all the companies and individuals for their continued generous donations to the store, and to Pacific Freight Management who ship goods to the South Pacific.

Dr Mary Ponifasio – Store Manager

Treasurers Note

The details of our Accounts will be presented at our AGM on August 22. As we get busier we are now spending more than previously to keep up with the growing requests for medical aid packages. Of course that is what we want, but we need to obtain considerably more income to cover our costs. We rely principally on donations from our membership, so I hope you can kindly help.

We are registered with the Charities Commission, (registration number is CC20916), and any donations are tax deductible.

Donations will be receipted, so please include your address with any Cheque, and send to:

MAA
PO Box 26 336
Epsom, Auckland 1344

For Internet Banking our ANZ Account number is 06 0287 0232094 25

Please ensure that you use your name as a reference in the payment details so that we may track your transaction, and importantly send me by post or email your address so a receipt can be sent. My email is dsmorris.nz@gmail.com

David Morris – Treasurer

MAA Christchurch Report

2012-13 has been another difficult year with 90% of the goods we have sorted coming to you per ProPharma. We hope they have helped meet the requests you have received. We have been able to send 2 to 4 boxes a month again. The amount sorted is about 10 times the amount we can reuse so the handling is becoming difficult. We are very grateful to Sani-Pac for their help with local collection, 0800 Hungry Ministries for premises, Toniq for the computer program, ProPharma for the great service of sending our parcels to you, and the team of 5 who worked to send over 400kg of good items to other countries, mainly through you. We have found the 3rd year after the quakes almost as bad as day one, particularly with continual road and sewer works, causing irregular changes to how the city functions. Recently we have been displaced from our rooms at 24 hours notice. This has forced us to dump some goods, send the rest to you and dismantle shelving urgently. We seem unable to attract young pharmacists to the task and as most of us are older, it may mean that the work might have to close down. (report abridged)

John Tavener, Pharmacist (Ret.)

Three Stories from Recipients

Papua New Guinea, July 2013.

Hi Mary,

The container arrived today. Frank Goi came over from Moresby and it was all unloaded into storage in one of the diocese buildings and we will begin sifting through it on Monday for what is for Vunopope and other medical facilities in the area from MAA.

I just wanted to let you know it has arrived and thank you for what has been sent.

Kind regards,

Tim Fletcher

(and our Store Manager Mary's additional comments.)

Hi everyone,

Just letting you know that the 20ft container has arrived in Papua New Guinea and supplies from MAA will be used by people around the volcano-devasted area of Rabaul and Vunapope. A NZ doctor working in that area (Dr Tim Fletcher) is now in communication with Mr Frank Goi (a Papua New Guinean)who organised this, using the PNG Member of Parliament's discretionary funds to pay for freight costs. Dr Tim Fletcher will be using hospital equipment and trolleys etc given to MAA by Mercy Mospital in Auckland. Another container will be organised by the end of this year to supply another part of PNG.

For your information and thanks to you, as the MAA board supporting this work.

Mary (MAA Store Manager)

Arusha, Tanzania, April 2013.

Dear all,

Today at work it was great to see the effect the medical container has had here. Today I taught the medical staff how to use the ECG that was donated. The staff learnt a lot and the radiology staff who will be doing it, will practice until they know how to use it. I also took more gear from the container to theatre. This included 2 boxes of gear that a NZ anaesthetist had got together. We had a very excited anaesthetist nurse with the laryngoscope - who kept saying "yeah, yeah". In the theatre we can see gloves on the wall that came from the container, as well as gauzes and vaseline gauze that came in the container. As I operated I noticed these things and that one of the consultants was wearing scrubs that had been in the container. The anaesthetic machine had anaesthetic tubing that had come from the container. The gauzes and dressing at the end all came from the container.

My house girl has spent the last 2 days sorting out into piles the first aid gear that was donated.

When I return from Australia/NZ, I will put these into packs for schools and individuals in the villages who don't have first aid kits in their home.

Last week I delivered all the boxes of shoes to the Plaster house - sorry there are no photos but it was late.

Thanks again for making it possible

Jenny and Richard Wagener





DPR Korea, June 2013.

Attn: Dr. Mary Ponifasio
Hi Mary,

We are very pleased to advise you that a container load of medical supplies have been successfully delivered to Hospitals Association of DPR Korea in mid May.

We believe this would have not been possible without full support and help from MAA.
Both Bill and I would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere thanks to MAA and to you personally.

Attached (see below) please find the official letter from Hospitals Association of DPR Korea to MAA for your record. Considering the current situations in North Korea still in dire need of help from outside world we expect your continuous sympathy and support for the people of North Korea so that we could carry on our little mission to share our hearts with the North Koreans.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Cho & Charlie Choi

조선병원협회
HOSPITALS ASSOCIATION OF KOREA
Kyogu-dong, Central District, Pyongyang, DPR Korea

Dear. Mrs,

It is my pleasure indeed to express our heartfelt thanks for your unsparing contribution, the humanitarian donation to our people. The goods you have sent will be forwarded to the mountains areas and the natural disaster zones in particular to help their medical care.

We have felt your sincere consideration and confirmed that this first project will be the milestone of our cooperation in future.

We, Hospitals Association of DPR Korea, sincerely hope for our friendship and cooperation with MAA will be further strengthened and expanded.

I wish you a success and wellbeing of your family.

With best regards,

Choe Kyong Chol,
Executive Director of Hospitals Association
of DPR Korea