

Day five from the team in Samoa

Had a tsunami warning today. Caused a little bit of angst as to what was about to hit us. We were safe as the hospital is on high ground, but concerned as to further trauma and how we were to deal with it.

Didn't matter how many times we told Andrea we were on "high ground", she still wanted to get higher.



Petu (Samoan registrar) with Jason Donovan

Looked outside for a taller building, hill, or tree to climb, and then started walking around on her tip toes. We wouldn't let her bring platforms into theatre. Needless to say she felt very susceptible, despite much reassurance and laughter from the locals. We did end up closing a theatre early to allow the locals to get home to their families, just in case it did hit. Fortunately it all came to nothing.



Pitu (Samoan anaesthetist registrar) at work.

Alan (Goodey) very early on was nominated as team leader. I don't think he knew what he was getting in to. So far I have seen him start one anaesthetic before he had to rush off for another meeting. Goodness knows what they meet about, but he often doesn't get finished to nine at night. He has certainly done an admirable job. Even if the one patient he put to sleep moved as soon as the knife hit...

Good news, Ralph found two bums. They both needed an operation too. The nurses also taught him how to be a scrub nurse. He failed....kept dropping things, and telling the surgeon what to do. Actually, I don't know why he failed, as that sounds like a typical Waikato scrub nurse.



Our attempt to have a closed theatre for a femoral plating.

We have been fed well. Everyone has gained weight... except for Jason, who somehow lost some. In between cases he tried tanning today. Debbie taught him how to roll up his scrubs, but he got bored and wanted to get into the femur so went back inside. Man that boy is white... very

muscular though.



The broken femur

Anyway, we will see you all soon. Our special specialist in the special specialty of orthopaedics (Jason Donovan) is leaving tonight. Theatre will not be the same. Probably get more work done though. The rest of us will be back in the next few days.



Christian Fougere (Auckland surgeon) operating.

Looking forward to getting home. Have enjoyed our time here, despite occasional hardships, but starting to miss family and friends. Our great team dynamics have certainly kept us all sane. Thanks also to Mary Anne Gill and all those who have sent their best wishes. We have certainly appreciated it.



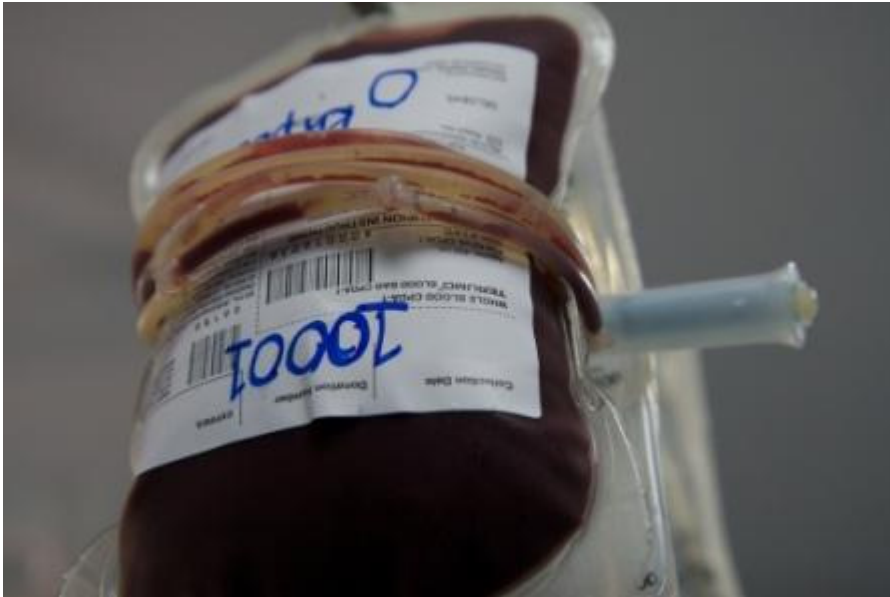
Reading the feedback from Waikato. Thanks everyone! l-r Roelof van Dalen, Alan Goodey, Debbie Ratima and April McFarland.

P.S. If Debbie ever hands you the phone, find out who's ringing. Jason ended up inadvertently being in a live interview with Maggie Barry on Radio Live at 5.45pm when Debs said "Jason, the phone's for you..." Cow!



Group photo before Jason Donovan flew out. L-r back row: Janine Lee, Andrea Jarocki, Roelof van Dalen, Jason

Donovan, Debbie Ratima, Jeremy Simcock (Canterbury). Front row: Barbara Roberts, Christian Fougere (Auckland), John Smithells, April McFarland, Alan Goodey.



Whole blood being transfused.



Blood warmer in PACU.



Fire dance at Aggie Greys in Apia.

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