



**CSANZ New Zealand
Annual Scientific Meeting**

Energy Events Centre,
Rotorua | 23-25 May 2025

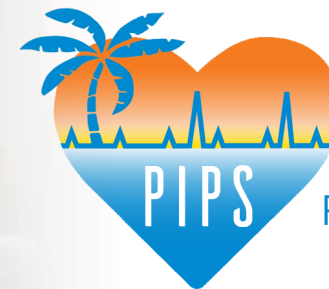
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Pacific Island Pacing Service from a nursing perspective

It's more than just the trip which is a lifetime experience but a massive amount of organising by the team

Charmaine Flynn-Hooker RN team leader for PIPS





Pacific Islands
Pacemaker Services

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I have no disclosures for
this talk

We don't travel light but take what we need

Airport transfer

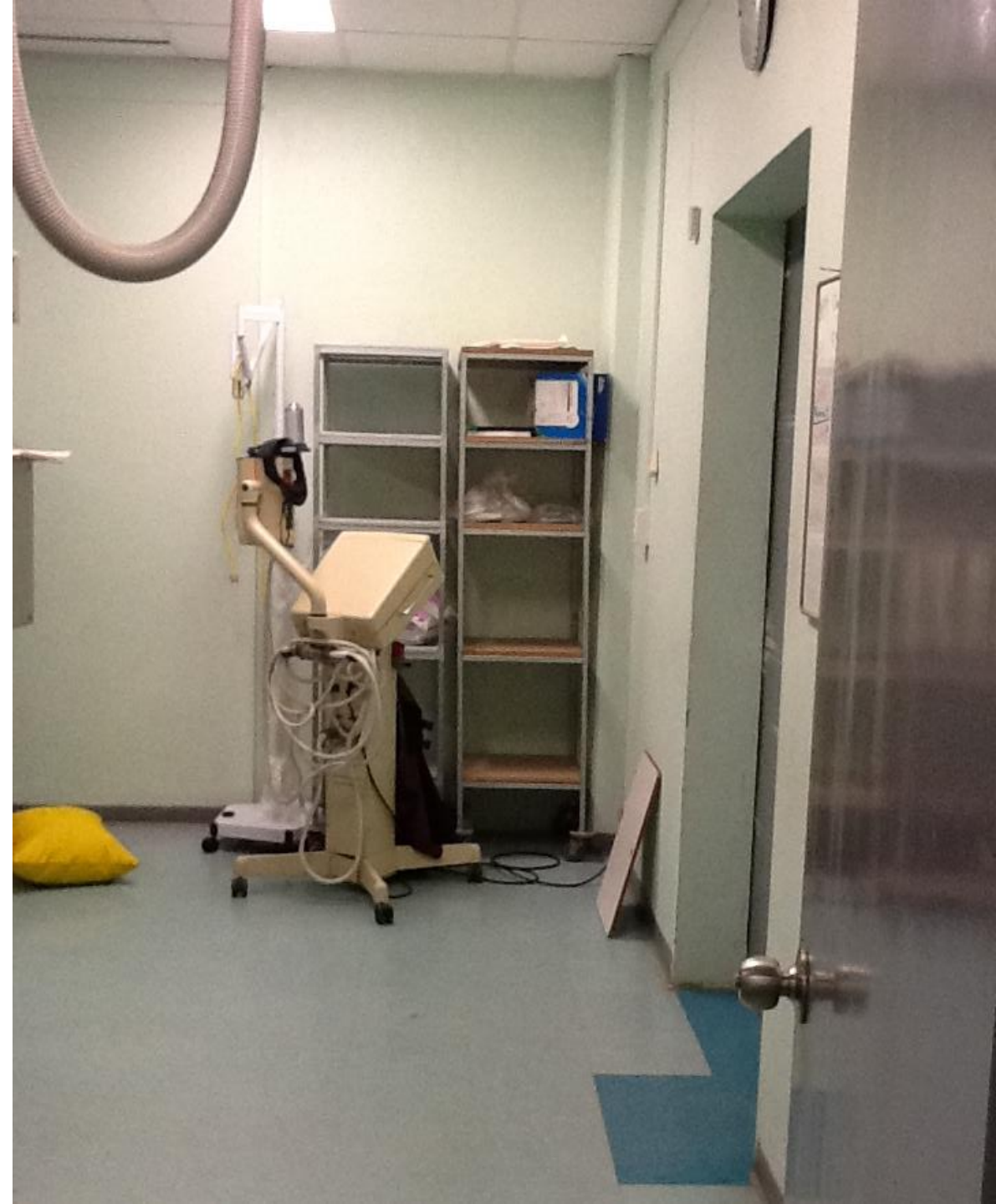


Afterwards on our way home



Things are basic

- Importance of sending equipment that is useable





Things can improve

- Each time we return we see things getting better
- Still needs work and teaching each time
- Remembering we are only there once a year
 - Staff change, government changes



Delivering equipment all hands-on deck

**Stock for procedures and what will
be left**



New plasma blade trolley



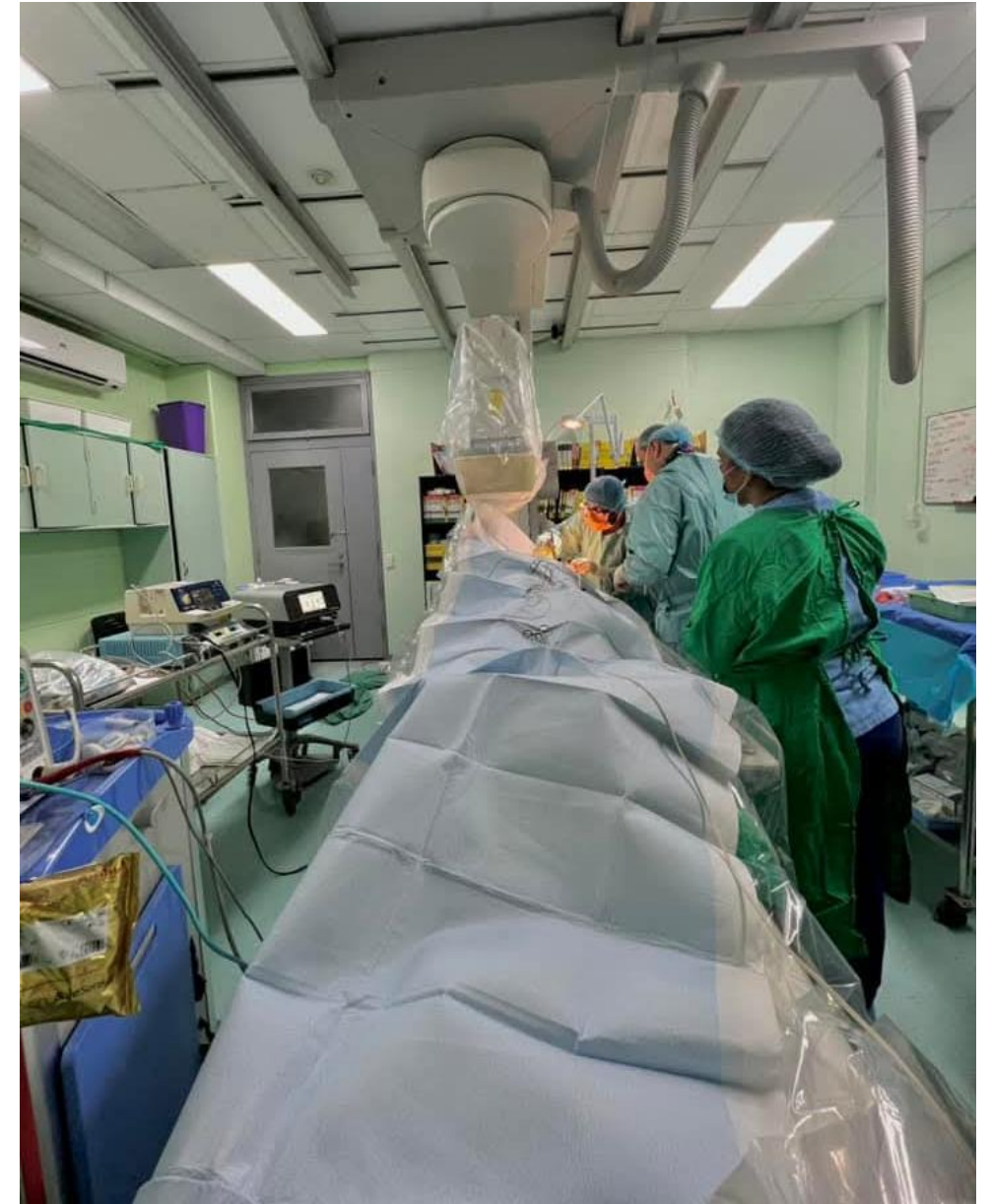
Conditions aren't always ideal

Room for improvement, basic conditions



Often better than expected





Fiji cath lab or theatre environment

- Theatre's use a C arm for x-ray
- Theatre has more room
- Cath lab is a second -hand system can be prone to breaking down
- We work with expired stock but as sterile as is possible
- Infection rate is still low



Great opportunity to teach aiming for scrubbing alone

- Eager to learn
- Create a learning environment
- Teaching opportunities



Teaching at every opportunity

Doctor to Doctor



Staff who will be there when we are gone can be nursing or radiographers



Teaching and supporting post implant patient care



PACEMAKER ADVICE FOR THE WARD

WOUND SWELLING

- This is usually due to haematoma.
- Provide analgesia and review prescribed oral anti-coagulation.
- Review integrity of the wound and use non-occlusive dressing if glue is breached.
- Provide manual pressure.

DYSPNOEA, INCREASED RESPIRATORY RATE AND / OR DESATURATION

- Consider sedation as a possible cause and manage accordingly.
- Provide supplemental oxygen while evaluating and managing the underlying cause.
- Consider the route of vascular access and risk of pneumothorax:
 - If axillary or subclavian vein access has been used, consider pneumothorax and review / repeat the chest x-ray to evaluate for this.
 - If cephalic vein has been used for vascular access the likelihood of pneumothorax is low.

HYPOTENSION

- Consider sedation as a possible cause and manage accordingly.
- Consider cardiac perforation and tamponade.
- Consider obtaining an echo.

BRADYCARDIA AND / OR FREQUENT PVCs / VT

- Consider the possibility of pacemaker lead displacement as the cause for this situation.
- Review the ECG and chest x-ray.
- Consider repeating the chest x-ray.
- Consider obtaining a pacemaker check.

Management of pain relief

- Regular pain relief as needed. Paracetamol (Panadol) 1gram 4 hourly max 4 grams per 24 hours.
- If this isn't enough, please discuss with the team or local Doctor

Wound care and Arm instructions

- If the wound has a pressure dressing on the team will remove this.
- If there is no dressing keep it dry until the morning, then they may shower but ensure the wound is left to dry don't rub it
- Arm movement is not restricted but no high stretching, heavy lifting or arm binding



Being ready to adapt to the patient's needs with what we have available

Patient with a heart rate of 26 in heart failure can't lie flat

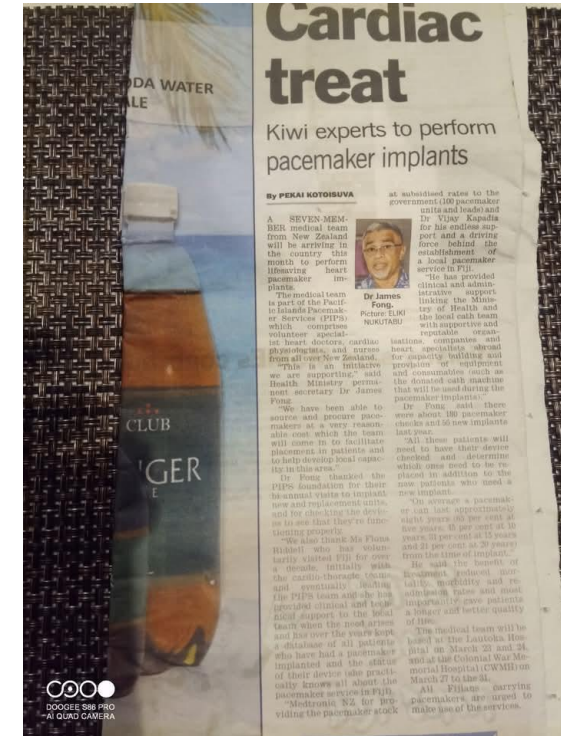


Working in a small space as best we can



Getting the word out to the public

- We often get asked to do presentations
- Sometimes appear on the TV
- Present to the medical teams
- Talk at funding dinners
- And more



Always time to relax, enjoy great company and find amazing local food



Raising funds for our cause

The walkers



The runners and walkers

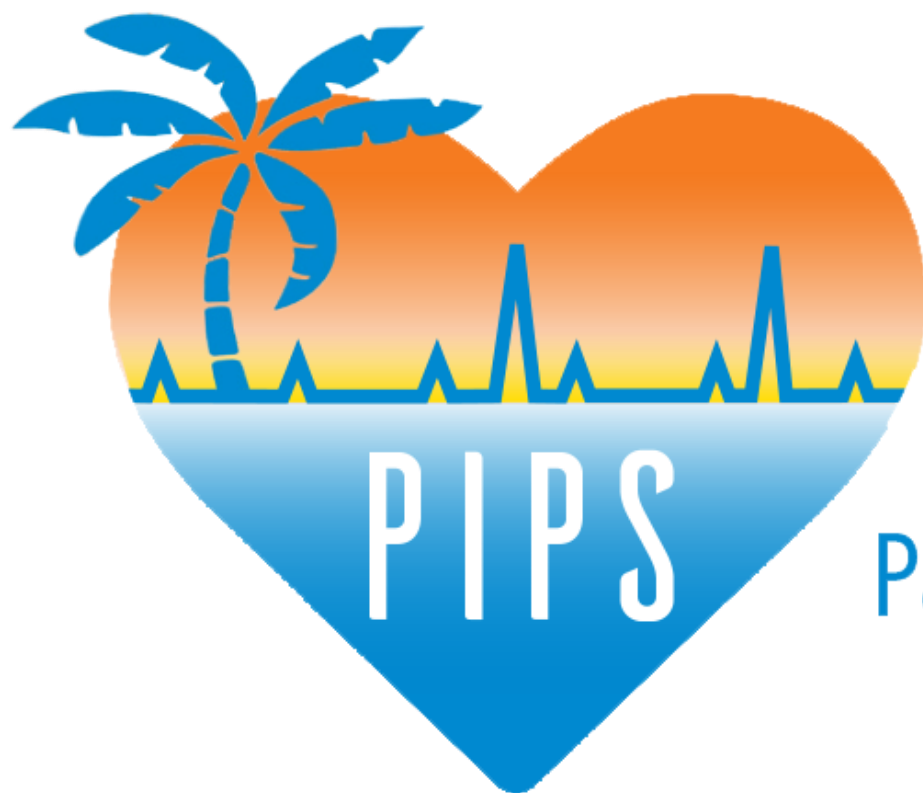


PIPS family values

- PIPS is a family of skilled passionate members who go above and beyond often outside our expected comfort zone to deliver 1st world care in a 3rd world environment
- Our patients and family are incredibly grateful, and we leave with our hearts full



Thank you to all our supporters



Pacific Islands
Pacemaker Services