

# Surgery's Silent Achievers: A Photo Essay

LOCATION: Apia, Samoa | PHOTOGRAPHY: Dr Ferraby Ling

MR KIKI MAOATE FRACS  
Project Director

Amidst a small city locale of the tropics, Samoan surgeons are the silent achievers. With only a handful of surgeons, there is no true specialisation, and Samoan surgeons have to be prepared to make difficult decisions on complex cases, covering a wide range of pathologies.

Mr John Clifford FRACS and Mr Robert Pianta FRACS, orthopaedic surgeons from Western Health, Victoria, are two respected colleagues, and two close

friends. Over the last few years they have worked together to support their colleagues in Samoa to improve orthopaedic services. This year, the trip was joined by a young surgical registrar, Dr Ferraby Ling, and his camera using old Kodak film. Dr Ling has a passion for capturing the essence of a moment on film, and shares with us the people that make up the Australian Government funded RACS Pacific Islands Program (PIP). ►



Images (Clockwise from opposite page):

**Lifetime friends** Mr John Clifford FRACS (left) and Mr Robert Pianta FRACS (right);

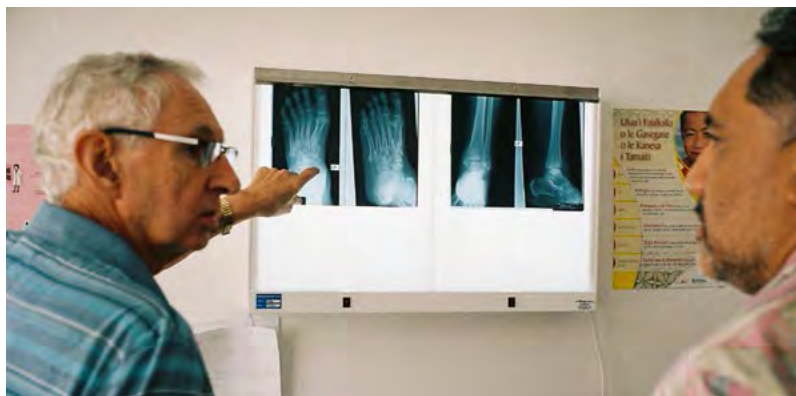
**Two Peers** Mr Robert Pianta FRACS (left) and Dr Naseri Aitaoto (centre);

**Courageous yet humble** Orthopaedic trainee Dr Naseri Aitaoto stands in-theatre at the Tupua Tamasese Mea'ole Hospital;

**Care until nightfall** Mr Robert Pianta FRACS (kneeling) and Dr Dharsh Musiienko (seated on bed);

**Orthopaedic Team** Led by Mr John Clifford (foreground) with (from left to right) Dr Julie Chan, Ms Lynne Moloney, Dr Alex Beath, Dr Dharsh Musiienko, Ms Katy Sue, and Mr Robert Pianta FRACS (absent: Dr Ferraby Ling).





*Images (Clockwise from top): Studying Sonographic Anatomy Dr Areta Samuelu, Dr Lamour Hansell, Dr Naseri Aitaoto, Dr Julie Chan (from left to right); Scrub Nurse Mr Junior Aperaamo; Operating Theatre Tupua Tamasese Meaole Hospital; Navigating the Navicular Mr Robert Pianta (left) and Dr Naseri Aitaoto (right); A Gentle Touch - Dr Areta Samuelu with Mr John Clifford (background). Centre Image: Photographer Dr Ferraby Ling.*