



Interplast

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Repairing Bodies. Rebuilding Lives

INSIDE INTERPLAST

April 2008

Interplast Australia & New Zealand. Repairing Bodies... Rebuilding Lives, through treatment and training...

Helping Laotians help themselves



Top: The Laos Cleft Team with patients in Savannakhet and the insert is a pre and post operative photo of a young patient treated by the team.

Below: Interplast volunteers Dr Geoff Steele, Ms Linda Ferguson and Mr Nicholas Houseman at the bottom of the Eureka Tower. See page 5.



Interplast volunteers have been working with the Laos Ministry of Health since 1995 to assist with the development of plastic and reconstructive surgery services in Laos. The outcome of this long term assistance has been the development of a trained team of surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses from the Mahosot General Hospital (MGH) in Vientiane, who are capable of providing cleft lip/palate services.

Recognising this achievement, Interplast supported the Laos Cleft team to deliver its first Outreach Program to Savannakhet in February 2008. The Laos Cleft Team operated on 27 patients and performed 37 cleft lip/cleft palate procedures. The Laos team members were delighted to have the opportunity to work as a team and to help the underprivileged children of their own country. They were also able to act as mentors and provide training to staff at Savannakhet Provincial Hospital. Funding for this first program was proudly provided by Oxiana through their donation at the Eureka Tower Event. Interplast is very proud of the Laos Cleft Team and aims to continue to support them to deliver future Outreach Programs.



Founded in 1983 as a joint project of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and Australian Rotary Clubs, Interplast Australia & New Zealand (a Company limited by guarantee) provides voluntary medical teams who carry out plastic and reconstructive surgery and deliver training in developing countries. Whilst Interplast is not an official project of Rotary International, Interplast is actively supported by Rotarians in Clubs and Districts throughout Australia and New Zealand.



AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION OF PLASTIC SURGEONS



Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons



Congratulations

► Congratulations to **Dr John Maihua** from Papua New Guinea on passing his final plastic and reconstructive surgery examination in October 2007. Dr Maihua has been mentored by the visiting Interplast teams to PNG and his training has been co-ordinated by Senior General Surgeon Dr George Gende at

the Port Moresby General Hospital. Interplast will provide continuing medical education and support for Dr Maihua. ► The Board of Interplast is pleased to confirm the AusAID re-accreditation process is complete, and Interplast has been successful in retaining Base Accreditation with AusAID.

Interplast does not send trainees; only fully qualified plastic and reconstructive surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses can volunteer for Interplast programs.

Below: Marie Gay on her epic trek across part of the Great Wall of China to raise funds for Interplast.

Thank you

► Interplast works with many organisations to achieve its goals. Two of those organisations are Moira Kelly's *Children First Foundation* and ROMAC managed by a group of dedicated Rotarians. Children First and ROMAC bring children to Australia to receive treatment by Australian medical personnel when more advanced treatment is required. Interplast would like to acknowl-

edge their assistance and good work. ► Thank you to long time Interplast volunteer and South Australian Plastic Surgeon Dr Randall Sach for taking on the role of Country Co-ordinator for Sri Lanka. Thanks are also extended to retiring Sri Lanka co-ordinator Melbourne Plastic Surgeon Dr Keith Mutimer for his work in this area to date and continuing interest in Interplast.

Annual General Meeting

In November 2007 the Annual General Meeting of Interplast was held at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. Dr Ross Sutton and Mr John Spark were formally appointed as Directors of the Company. Congratulations and thank you also to Vice-President David Inglis who was appointed for a further three year period.

Mr Ray Stewart resigned as a Director of Interplast in February 2008. The Board would like to thank Ray for his contribution, and continuing interest on the Interplast Committee of Rotarians. Interplast would not exist without the willingness of talented people who volunteer to lead the organisation into the future. Thank you.

I Made It! By Marie Gay

After a year of focusing on The Trek to raise funds for Interplast, The Great Wall Challenge is now behind me. Thankfully training on the terrain of the Palm Beach Peninsula and Kuringai National Park meant that I was well prepared for the physical challenge. Most of the group were taken out of their comfort zone on a number of occasions, not only physically but emotionally and psychologically. The Wall has been restored in some places, however in others, took us over rubble strewn, narrow paths. Some of the watch-towers looked like a strong gust of wind would reduce them to a pile of rubble. Upon my return I met some of the Interplast volun-

teers, which gave me a deeper understanding of the work, not only the operations on the children which is amazing enough, but also the scholarships and training that goes on so they can increase the knowledge base in their country. I was very proud to hand over the funds raised from my walk to the volunteers personally. I would like to thank everyone for supporting me and helping me raise nearly \$5,000 — together, through Interplast, we have made a difference. I have volunteered to co-ordinate a walk along the Inca Trail in 2009 for Interplast. If you are interested in joining me in this challenge please contact the Interplast office.



Signing of a new Laos MoU in Burns Care

Interplast is delighted to have signed a new three year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Laos. This occurred during a formal ceremony with Professor Dr Chanpheng Thammavong on behalf of the Ministry of Health of the Government of the Laos People's Democratic Republic and Interplast Board Member Senator The Honourable Kay Patterson on behalf of Interplast Australia & New Zealand.

The MoU facilitates capacity building in reconstructive surgery with a focus on training in Burns Management so that patients may receive treatment that otherwise would not be available.

The recent program to Laos was funded by the **Rotary Clubs of Belmont and Mill Point** in Western Australia.

The team was able to perform almost 40 operations and train many of the local medical personnel. One of the patients the team will never forget is Onh, a three year old boy who lives in a village not far out of town. A month ago he received burns to over 60% of his body while he was trying to keep warm near a fire lit by his father. "It was heart



Above: Signing the MoU Sen The Hon Kay Patterson for Interplast and Prof Dr Chanpheng Thammavong for the Laos Ministry of Health.

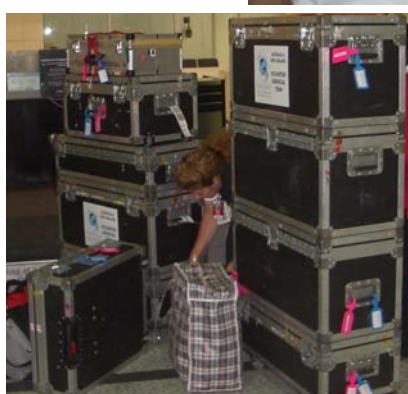
wrenching to think he had been in the hospital a month before we saw him with little if any treatment. That in itself was a real eye opener." said Nurse Sam Jervios who was volunteering for her first Interplast program. Onh was so badly burned he had no fingers left on his hands. The team were able to operate on his legs with significant skin grafting in an attempt to avoid debilitating burns scar contractures.

Below: Simon Donohoe, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, Catherine Gorr, Vernon Moo, and Andrea Thompson
Inset: Equipment & Supplies baggage

PM meets team in Goroka PNG

During his recent visit to Goroka in Papua New Guinea, Prime Minister The Hon Kevin Rudd visited the Interplast team working at the Goroka General Hospital. The team took the opportunity to talk with the Prime Minister about some of the achievements of Interplast. This was Interplast's 63rd program to Papua New Guinea since 1985 and over 2,000 operations have been performed in PNG. Dr John Maihua was very proud to also be a member of the Inter-

plast team. Interplast would like to thank **Air Niugini** for providing assistance with the arrangements for the 250kg of surgical and anaesthetic equipment (pictured) that accompanied the team.



Microsurgery

Module 2

In February 2008 Interplast volunteers delivered the second module of microsurgery training to Nepal. Microsurgery is still in its infancy in the developing world despite the advances of the specialty elsewhere. A series of formal lectures were carried out along with small group workshops as well as one to one active training. As with the first module, delivered in April 2007, the thirst for knowledge and the enthusiasm of the local surgeons was immense. Interplast has also undertaken to sponsor a microscope for the Model Hospital to allow for more complex procedures to be undertaken.

Since the training Nepalese surgeons are pleased to report they have successfully performed microsurgery on some local patients with great success.



Top Right: Interplast volunteer and Board member Mr David Hunter-Smith teaching Nepalese surgeons.

Right: Before & Immediately after burns scar contracture patient, with the pulling on the chin and chest released and movement restored in the neck.

Interplast Insights

▶ Following the volunteer workshop held July 2007 the Interplast Board of Directors have created a new committee of volunteers called the Planning and Evaluation Committee. The Surgical Committee and Committee of Rotarians remain the same. The role of the Planning and Evaluation Committee is to evaluate Country Program Plans, and ensure Interplast is making a sustainable difference.

▶ 2008 is Interplast's 25 year anniversary. Founded in 1983 as a joint project of Rotary District 9800 and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons over 600 volunteers have been on over 400 programs, trained hundreds of overseas medical personnel and performed over 17,000 instantly life changing operations. A series of get togethers will be held around Australia throughout the year to

acknowledge the volunteers and the outstanding achievements of Interplast the official charity of the Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons, and the New Zealand Association of Plastic Surgeons.

▶ Dr Moe Thuzar from Yangon General Hospital, Burma is currently in Australia for 10 weeks training in plastic and reconstructive surgery. A recipient of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons International Award, Dr Thuzar has spent two weeks in Melbourne and will spend the remainder of her time in Sydney with fellow Myanmar surgeon Dr Moe Moe. Dr Moe Moe has been in Australia for nearly 12 months training in burns management. An anaesthetists and nurse will arrive in Australia this month to learn to assist Dr Moe Moe.

Below: A gorgeous and cold little boy waiting for surgery .



Eureka Thank You

On Sunday 14 October 2007 Interplast volunteers and supporters were the first to officially climb Melbourne's Eureka Tower to raise funds and awareness for Interplast. Nearly 400 Interplast supporters and volunteers climbed the 92 floors of one of the worlds tallest residential buildings where the blue sky topped off their 360 degree view.

Amongst the supporters of Interplast was Grocon CEO, Daniel Grollo who volunteered to climb the Tower to help raise funds for Interplast "It was an easy decision to make when you see the change these surgeons make to the lives of those kids, its incredible" said Daniel Grollo. The day was a huge success in many ways. It was a wonderful opportunity for family and friends, to rally with the medical fratern-

ity for a charity they volunteer passionately for year after year. In total approximately \$125,000 was raised by the event and the many generous partici-

pants. Receipts and thank you letters were, very gratefully, written to nearly 500 generous donors. "As I was climbing I was reflecting on the funds raised as a result of this event; we really were taking steps towards repairing bodies and rebuilding lives." recalled Professor Donald Marshall, Interplast President.



Above: Grocon CEO Daniel Grollo, Interplast Treasurer John Spark, Interplast Director Sen The Hon Kay Patterson and Interplast President Professor Donald Marshall with Melbourne sports precinct 300m below
Below: Eureka Day Volunteers General Manager Marion Wright, Program Coordinator Terese Karaan and Equipment Coordinator Leonie Simmons

Eureka Floor Donor Thank You

Interplast would like to thank the following organisations and people for their support of the inaugural Eureka Tower Climb.

TEN FLOOR DONORS

- Allergan
- Grocon
- Oxiana

THREE FLOOR DONORS

- Deloitte
- Protiviti

TWO FLOOR DONORS

- Evans Buchanan
- Ferrier Hodgson
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- Johnson & Johnson
- KCI Medical
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- Minter Ellison Lawyers
- Mr Andrew Duncan
- Mrs Jean Duncan

FLOOR DONORS

- AE Smith
- Australian Exhibitions & Conferences

FLOOR DONORS (cont)

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- Dr Margaret Goodrick
- Epworth Health Care
- Erase Products Management
- Erase Skin Rejuvenation Specialists
- Eureka Skydeck 88
- Frazer & Prichard Heathmont Pharmacy
- Get Fit PT
- Golder & Associates
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- Medical & Optical
- Miller & Associates
- Miss Emily McPhee
- Mr Lutz Preusche
- Mrs Kerrie Westwood
- Ms Pauline Bidwell



FLOOR DONORS (cont)

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- Otis
- Pondalowie Vineyards
- Property Essentials
- Reeds Consulting
- Rotary Club of Clayton
- Rotary Club of Haberfield
- Sanofi Aventis
- Spectrum Fire
- Stryker
- Surgiplas
- The Bays Hospital
- Travelodge Hotels
- Watters Electrical
- Waverley Plastic Surgery
- XICG.COM

EUREKA



Building Bridges by Dr Peter Tian

In September 2007 Interplast sponsored four international surgeons to attend the 2007 Cleft & Cranio-Maxillofacial Anomalies Conference at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne. Dr Kiran Nakarmi from Nepal, Dr Moe Moe from Burma, Dr Tarique Abdullah from Bangladesh and Dr Peter Tian from the Philippines. The four day conference presented state of the art treatment for cleft and craniofacial patients, and the doctors also spent some time visiting the hospitals of the surgeons who volunteer for Interplast in their country. Dr Tian from the Philippines wrote the following about his experience and titled it 'Building Bridges' Here is an excerpt from his article.

The Interplast Australia & New Zealand International Fellowship Grant is about building bridges: bridges in education, bridges for

collaboration, but above all, it is building bridges of hope.

Education: The cleft conference was an eye-opener where I beheld the wonderful cleft services that the first worlds offer. Observing at the hospitals I visited was intensely educational.

Collaboration: I also spent my time establishing collaborations with the Australian education and medical system so that others in my country may also benefit from this visit.

Hope: But above all the fellowship has given me hope; Hope to work charitably for the poor, cleft patients in the Philippines. It has given me hope to do better surgeries and to explore avenues for better cleft services. And so, I sincerely say: Thank you Interplast for the gift of education! Thank you Interplast for opening the doors of collaboration. Thank you Interplast for the hope you've brought! Let us continue to change the world ... in our small ways.

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Interplast Australia & New Zealand is a registered charity that sends teams of volunteer plastic and reconstructive surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses to the Asia Pacific region to provide programs of treatment and training. Founded in 1983, as an association between Rotary District 980 and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, Interplast is a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development Code of Conduct. Copies of audited financial statements can be obtained by contacting the office or on line at www.interplast.com.au.

Donation Form

Yes I would like to help rebuild lives

Title _____ Name _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Suburb _____ State _____ Post Code _____

Email _____

Phone _____

By making a donation of \$ _____ My cheque payable to
Interplast Australia & New Zealand Overseas Aid Fund

TRIBUTE / ROTARY CLUB From my credit card (complete details below)

Please tribute/credit Rotary Club _____
Insert name of the person or Rotary Club you would like to tribute your donation to

JOIN THE REBUILDING LIVES FELLOWSHIP

I would like to join the **Rebuilding Lives Fellowship** and make monthly donations from my credit card.
Please deduct \$ _____ on the _____ of every month from my credit card until further notice.
Insert amount Insert date

CREDIT CARD DETAILS

Visa Mastercard Bankcard Diners Club AMEX

Card Number _____ Expiry Date _____

Name on Card _____ Signature _____

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