



## A Beginning for Burns in Bangladesh

**I**n the year 2000, 238,000 people died as a result of burns – 95% of those people were in developing countries. The majority of these injuries occur in the home, and over half are caused by cooking over open flames. Electrocutions, hot cooking liquids and acids in cases of domestic violence are also common causes. It is estimated 3.8 million women fall victim to a severe burn from fire each year — the same as the total number of those who are diagnosed with HIV or AIDS every year. Burn injuries are the second biggest cause of disability in Bangladeshi children. One child dies and a further nine children are disabled from severe burns every day. Not only

**“One child dies and a further nine children are disabled from severe burns every.”**

are the physical and emotional burdens on the victims enormous, they also bear a large economic burden. The treatment of severe burn injury is long, painful, and on average four times more costly than treating other injuries. This presents a significant challenge in countries where health care issues far outweigh the resources available to combat them.

Interplast has worked with the Plastic Surgery Unit and Burns Unit at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in Bangladesh since 2004. During this time, Interplast volunteers have been overwhelmed by the number of patients suffering severe burns. Most arrive at hospital many hours, even days, after sustaining their injuries having received no basic first aid treatment. (cont p3)



Burns patients seeking treatment in Bangladesh



Burns scar release required of the thumb



## CONTENTS — Eureka Tower Challenge, International surgeons attend ASPS conference & more...



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.



ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS



AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION OF PLASTIC SURGEONS



Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons



Beautiful Bless and her mum before the operation



Beautiful Bless with her cleft lip repaired



Rebecca with an unsuccessful attempt at bilateral cleft lip repair



Rebecca with a successful bilateral cleft lip repair

## Making dreams real in the Philippines

**R**otary District 9800 funded an Interplast program to Baguio City in the Philippines in November 2008. Interplast volunteers performed 69 operations on 52 patients over the seven days of operating.

The patients had been identified with the help of the Cabrini Sisters and SOSCFI (Save our Street Children Foundation Inc) and pre-screened by the staff at the hospital. The

nursing staff, many qualified, volunteered their time and were very eager to learn. Rotarian Observer Mike McFarlane said this of his experience

*“The benefit to the individual and the community is like a pebble being dropped into a pond, each operation creates a ripple which sweeps outward and embraces all around it. The transformation to the individual is only surpassed by the multiplier effect of the ripple impacting on the parents, grandparents, siblings and the community.”*

## Eureka Tower Charity Challenge

**T**he Eureka Tower Charity Challenge was held on October 24, 2008. Forty corporate teams entered the relay style event. In total, 569 laps were recorded with 1,114, 102 steps climbed, and over \$55,000 raised by the participants. Many prizes were awarded. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade won the most number of laps, climbing a

staggering 28. Team CPA won the most funds raised by a team, and James Stewart, from Ferrier Hodgson won the honour of the most funds raised by an individual. For information please go to [eureka-towerchallenge.com.au](http://eureka-towerchallenge.com.au).



# Celebrating 25 years of Interplast



Keith Walter, Marion Wright, Prof Donald Marshall, Leo Rozner.



Penny Cass, Margaret Barnett, Prof Donald Marshall presenting the Sir Benjamin Rank Award

**I**nterplast Australia & New Zealand celebrated 25 years of service in 2008. Thanks to **KCI Medical**, Interplast has been able to commemorate this milestone with volunteers, Rotarians and supporters in a number of states around Australia. A Melbourne function was held in December 2008, and had the feel of a family reunion.

The catalyst to the foundation of Interplast was in the early 1980's when Melbourne surgeon Leo Rozner spoke at a Rotary Club about his experiences with the Interplast USA team. Interplast

USA was formed to provide treatment for Cleft Lip and Palate patients in poorer countries in Central America.

Rotarians felt there was a need for a similar aid program in the countries surrounding Australia, and in cooperation with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) founded Interplast in 1983.

Interplast also took the opportunity, at the Silver Jubilee Celebration to present the prestigious Sir Benjamin Rank Award to the late surgeon Mr John Barnett for his outstanding contribution

to the field of plastic and reconstructive surgery with Interplast in Papua New Guinea. His wife Margaret Barnett and daughter Penny were present and very moved to accept the award.



## A Beginning for Burns in Bangladesh *(cont from p1)*

Or worse, advice from unqualified providers, such as medicine shopkeepers and traditional healers. Traditional remedies for burns range from using egg or salt on the wound, to slathering the burn with mud found at the bottom of ponds. Such practices greatly increase the risk of infection and lead to further complications.

As a first step in trying to address these issues, Interplast and ANZBA have partnered with the Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh (CIPRB) to provide training in the Emergency Management of Severe Burns (EMSB) in Bangladesh. With funding support from AusAID, the course was adapted for the Bangladeshi environment, and the first courses were delivered in Dhaka during December 2008 by the ANZBA Faculty lead by Prof Peter Maitz.

Twelve senior surgeons and medical professionals from the first course were selected for an instructor training course. The new Bangladeshi Faculty then delivered the second EMSB course with the support of the Australian faculty. The aim is

to establish sustainability, so Bangladeshi medical practitioners can train their own counterparts without our assistance.

***“The long term goal is for Bangladesh’s population of 150 million to have access to the appropriate early intervention”***

The long term goal is for Bangladesh’s population of 150 million people to have access to the appropriate early intervention so the mortality rate and severe morbidity resulting from burns injuries is reduced. A second round of EMSB courses are planned for April 2009. You can help by making a donation.



# Interplast brings surgeons to ASPS Congress

Interplast provided travelling fellowships to nine surgeons from five countries to attend the inaugural Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) Congress on the Gold Coast in October 2008.

Dr Dulip Perera and Dr Thushan Beneragama from Sri Lanka, Prof Khin Maung Lwin from Burma (Myanmar), Dr Kiran Nakarmi and Dr Shankar Man Rai from Nepal, Dr Teddy Prasetyono and Dr Nyoman Riasa from Indonesia, and Dr George Gende and Dr John Maihua from Papua New Guinea.

Interplast volunteers have been working with these international delegates for several years and have watched each grow in skill and talent to become trainers in their own countries.

In addition to attending each was invited to give a presentation on the state of

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in their country, how it has grown during Interplast's programs, and what is required in the future.

***It was a valuable opportunity for surgeons in developing countries to mix with their western peers, cement friendships support networks with colleagues, and present a paper at an International Congress."***  
***Said Professor Marshall Interplast President***

The well attended sessions provided a fascinating insight into the development achievements in each country and the promising but long road ahead. For example, Indonesia is made up of 30,000

islands, and with 220 million people it is estimated there are 3,000 – 6,000 new Cleft Lip and Palate patients born every year; they have currently less than 90

plastic and reconstructive surgeons.

Burma (Myanmar), has 56 million people and only

three plastic and reconstructive surgeons. Similarly Sri Lanka has nearly 20 million people, and only nine plastic and reconstructive surgeons.



Dr Shankar Man Rai, Dr Kiran Nakarmi, Prof Khin Maung Lwin, Dr Thushan Beneragama, Prof Donald Marshall, Dr John Maihua, Dr Dulip Perera, Dr Nyoman Riasa

# AYAD developing speech therapy in Nepal

Jessica Crause, a Speech Pathologist went to Nepal as an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development (AYAD) as part of the Interplast Surgical Outreach Program. The AYAD Program is an Australian Government AusAID initiative which places skilled young Australians between the age of 18-30 in developing countries to strengthen mutual understanding between Australia and the Asia Pacific

and to make a positive contribution to development.

Jessica's aim during her 12 month stay is to equip the therapy assistants with the skills to independently screen and provide therapy to cleft patients, at Speech Therapy camps, all around Nepal, to ensure access to service.

*"The progress so far is astonishing! The assistants are always ready to learn and we have now had 3 speech therapy camps in*

*periphery sites where teaching took place, assistants were observed and able to put theory into practice and develop much needed practical skills. With an average of 60 patients per speech therapy camp, it is a hectic but rewarding week for everyone. The value of such a training program is becoming more and more evident every day. I feel so humbled and fortunate to work with such an amazing team who work so hard to bring healthcare to their people, always with a smile on their face."* said Jessica Crause.

# Moving into Mongolia with the ASA

Anaesthesia in Mongolia is approximately 40 — 50 years behind the Western world. Interplast has been invited to work with the Australian Society of Anaesthetists (ASA) to assist in the establishment of a training program that can eventually be run by the Mongolian anaesthetists. The program commences in June, however some funding was sent to start setting it up, and we received this letter of thanks

*Dear Colleagues,  
 The project funding arrived safely. The MSA members sharing the good news to each other.  
 We will do everything precise for achieve as much we can and make remarkable progress and introduction new system in Anesthesia education in Mongolia. We will report our activity as we agreed upon.  
 Please, take a great appreciation and joy from all members of MSA. Wish you successes in your business and happiness in your private life.  
 Truly, Dr. Ganbold.L, President of MSA*

## Floods, and 4 days of flight delays

The team traveling to Cagayan de Oro in the Philippines in January 2009 encountered their fair share of obstacles on top of those normally encountered by Interplast teams.

A typhoon off Indonesia was affecting the weather in the southern Philippines which meant flights could not land in Cagayan de Oro. The teams flights were delayed several times and then cancelled, which meant a lot of waiting around at Manila airport from 5am in the mornings. After the fourth day of delays and cancellations the team was determined to get there somehow. They caught a flight to Davao the capital of Mindanao and then a short 8 hour bus ride through the mountains with 41 pieces of luggage.

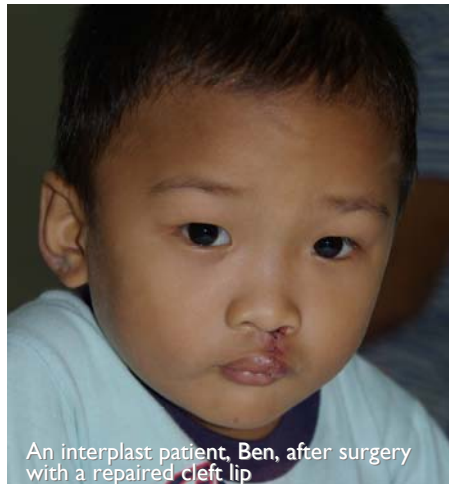
The team worked hard and were able to perform 59 operations on 59 patients that had waited. Kathy Monley, Rotarian Observer said

*"Having been an avid supporter of Interplast for a number of years, having seen many of the before and after photos, I was well aware of what the program does*



Volunteer surgeon Dr Damien Marrucci with a patient.

*and the impact Interplast has on the lives it touches. What I was not prepared for was the impact of being part of the program. To actually meet those who have had to live with a physical deformity up until this time and to see the joy of having the operation is indescribable."*



An interplast patient, Ben, after surgery with a repaired cleft lip

## Become an Interplast Benefactor

Founded in 1983 Interplast Australia & New Zealand volunteers have been providing humanitarian aid and development for over 25 years.

We invite you to join Interplast's vision for the future, a vision that provides access to health care for people living in the Asia Pacific region by leaving Interplast a gift in your Will and becoming an **Interplast Benefactor**.

Once you have provided for your loved ones in your Will, a gift to Interplast is

an investment in health, and will have an enduring impact for generations.

Below is suggested wording of a specific bequest, however we do recommend you seek expert advice.

*After payment of all my debts, funeral and testamentary expenses and all duties, taxes and charges payable on my estate on my death I give to Interplast Australia & New Zealand \$\_\_\_\_\_ for its absolute use and benefit. I declare that the receipt by the treasurer or other proper officer of Interplast Australia*

*& New Zealand of the bequest shall be sufficient discharge of my trustees responsibilities.*

More information can be found at [www.interplast.com.au/bequest](http://www.interplast.com.au/bequest). Thank you for your consideration.



## Interplast insights ►

Interplast representatives met with Dr Justin Lee the High Commissioner for Bangladesh (designate). Our sincere thanks are extended to retiring High Commissioner, Mr Doug Foskett for his unwavering and avid support.

A group of passionate Interplast supporters in Sydney are organising the inaugural

black & white ball to be held at one of Sydney's premier venues Ivy on George Street. See [interplast.com.au](http://interplast.com.au) for more information or [interplast@surgeons.org](mailto:interplast@surgeons.org)

With the assistance from AusAID Interplast is currently editing a DVD on hand surgery techniques to add to the surgical series collection of DVD's. These DVD's are provided to hospitals in-country as part

of their reference collection.

Interplast has received an Invitation to provide programs to the Quang Nam Provincial Hospital in Vietnam to compliment existing in-country activity. It is hoped, funding permitting, a program will be scheduled there in the second half of 2009. If you would like to help — please consider a donation to Interplast.

# Black and white

## Interplast Fundraiser Black & White Ball

The Ivy Room — Level 1  
Ivy, 320 George Street, Sydney

**Saturday 28 March 2009**  
**7pm—midnight**

MC—Wendy Harmer, Interplast Ambassador  
Dress—Black tie. Black & White

Tickets \$225 per person, or \$2,000 for a table of 10, includes a sumptuous three courses, fine beverages & toe tapping entertainment

Silent auction prizes include — Qantas flight simulator, ski holidays, tours, accommodation, meals, artwork and much much more.

Tables booking fast for more information [www.interplast.com.au](http://www.interplast.com.au) or email [interplast@surgeons.org](mailto:interplast@surgeons.org) or Tel (03) 9249 1231.

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Interplast Australia & New Zealand is a registered charity that sends volunteer medical teams to the Asia Pacific region to provide programs of treatment and training. Interplast was founded in 1983 as an association between Rotary District 980 and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, Interplast is accredited with AusAID as an NGO, and 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](http://www.interplast.com.au).

Thank you for

Repairing  
Bodies.

Rebuilding  
Lives.

## Donation Form

Yes I would like to help rebuild lives

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**By making a donation of \$** \_\_\_\_\_  My cheque payable to  
Interplast Australia & New Zealand Overseas Aid Fund  
 From my credit card (please complete details below)

### TRIBUTE / ROTARY CLUB

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  Diners Club  AMEX  
Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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