

inside INTERPLAST

INTERPLAST AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND REPAIRING BODIES. REBUILDING LIVES.



Interplast volunteer nurse Catherine Gorr holding a happy patient in PNG. Pic: AusAID

Smiles all round in Papua New Guinea

In late January this year AusAID funded an Interplast program, through the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons to Alotau and Mt Hagen in Papua New Guinea.

Whilst the team were all experienced Interplast volunteers they found the long queues of people wanting treatment and the urgency with which they need it very difficult emotionally, as they were not able to help everyone.

“They were queuing all day and some had walked for days to see us” said nurse Catherine Gorr.

The team consulted 81 patients in Alotau and 117 patients in Mt Hagen, and treated a combination of cleft lips and palates and burns scar contractures.

Children born with cleft lips are unable to breastfeed because they are unable to use their lips to suck. Yet within hours of a relatively simple surgery a child can often feed properly.

“I saw the worst burn scars and contractures I have ever seen on children, their hands are so badly deformed they are stuck to their forearms. One was burnt at one month of age and is now four.” said Interplast volunteer surgeon Mr Simon Donahoe.

After several hours of surgery the team were able to release the disabling contracture and all indications are that the hand will return to its normal position and the child will regain function of his hand.

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Mr David Inglis and Prof Donald Marshall AM

Our new PATRON

Professor Donald Marshall retired as President at the 2009 AGM, and accepted the position of inaugural Patron of Interplast Australia & New Zealand.

Professor Marshall has been involved with Interplast since its foundation in 1983 and held the position of President since 1993.

Professor Marshall held a distinguished career in medicine, particularly in the field of Plastic and Reconstructive surgery. He has been awarded the Medal and the International Medal of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and in 1999 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia. In 2008, he was also awarded the distinguished Prince Henrys medal of the College for his outstanding lifetime contribution in the field of Plastic Surgery.

“It has been a privilege to be associated with such a wonderful organisation and witness its growth, I would like to thank the volunteers, members of the board and staff who have given me such unstinting support for so long. While we can all be proud of the present position of Interplast, I feel there is much more to be achieved and I have every confidence that Interplast will continue to thrive and make an increasing contribution to health care in our region.” said Professor Marshall.

Mr David Inglis accepted the position as President of Interplast. David has been involved with Interplast since 1983 and on the Board of Directors since 1985.

“I am very much looking forward to the challenges ahead and taking Interplast through its next phase of development to increase the provision of health care in our neighbouring countries.” said David Inglis.

Harmonisation in Bangladesh

Interplast is delighted to have been one of four NGOs to receive funding through a new AusAID NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) Innovations Fund. The fund is an AusAID initiative to support good practice by accredited Australian NGOs and assist with the implementation of innovative development activities.

Interplast’s successful proposal was for the establishment of a “Partnership Harmonisation Project”. In Bangladesh, Interplast provides assistance to four key organisations working in Bangladesh in the area of injury and disability – in particular services supporting treatment and rehabilitation of burns injury patients.

In Bangladesh, burns are the second most common cause of disability in all children (up to 17 years). Each year more than 173,000 children are burnt and as a result more than 13,000 are hospitalised and 3,400 become permanently disabled.

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Managing limited resources, obtaining access to professional development, and finding mechanisms to assist with reducing the burden of burn injuries and related disability are common challenges faced by each of our partner organisations. However, no routine referral process or collaboration between these organisations currently exists.

This project aims to bring Interplast’s key partners together and establish communication and collaboration to build local capacity to improve access to the full spectrum of services required to assist patients recover and rehabilitate from their injuries.

While life is difficult for a significant proportion of the population in Bangladesh, it is especially difficult for those with a disability. It is hoped this innovative idea will improve access to much needed services for those most disadvantaged.

Help in Papua New Guinea (from page 1)



(Continued from page 1)
“It’s heart-wrenching when you see the amount of people who, in many cases, had they received medical support at the time of their injury, would have been able to continue on with a relatively normal life” said nurse Catherine Gorr.

Surgeons Mr Simon Donahoe and Mr James Savundra, anaesthetist Elizabeth Bashford and nurses Catherine Gorr and Hollie Boal

were accompanied by Papua New Guinea trainee surgeon Dr Morath Maire who gained valuable skills and experience.

Interplast has conducted 66 programs in Papua New Guinea since 1985 and this year is sponsoring Papua New Guinea surgeon Dr John Maihua to attend the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Annual Scientific Congress in Perth in May 2010.

Education in the Solomon Islands

Interplast conducted its second nurses training module in the Solomon Islands in April 2010 in conjunction with a visit from an Interplast surgical volunteer team.

The Alan Nam Bequest is funding a series of nurse training programs to strengthen the post operative care of the surgical patients. This program also includes the training of nurse educators to tour provincial hospitals with Interplast volunteer nurse educators and pass on the knowledge learned.



The team also saw over 60 patients and performed mainly cleft repairs and release of scar contractures. In some societies, no matter how minor a deformity, you are marginalised and treated differently. The nine year old boy pictured below had never been to school because he was born with six toes, could not wear shoes and was teased by his peers. He travelled from an outlying island to receive the simple corrective surgery by the Interplast team, and is now looking forward to going to school and making new friends.



Where we're WORKING

The first half of the 2010 year is proving to be our busiest ever with four training attachments and 15 teams of volunteers providing treatment and training. Activities planned include

- Dhaka, Bangladesh, Innovations Fund Planning Jan 2010
- Alotau & Mt Hagen, Papua New Guinea – Jan 2010
- Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea – Jan 2010
- Vientiane, Laos – Feb 2010
- Sumba, Indonesia – Feb 2010
- Indonesian Training Attachment
- Jakarta, Indonesia Meeting
- Honiara Solomon Islands – April 2010
- Honiara – Nurses training, Solomon Islands April 2010
- Phongsalay, Laos Outreach – April 2010
- Kathmandu, Nepal – April 2010
- Dhaka & Chittagong, Bangladesh EMSB – May 2010
- Papua New Guinea training attachment to Perth – May 2010
- Nepal Training attachment to Melbourne & Perth – May 2010
- PERAPI Conference, Indonesia – May 2010
- Balikpapan, Indonesia – May 2010
- Madang EMSB, Papua New Guinea – May 2010
- Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia – June 2010
- Mongolian training attachment to Japan
- Dhaka, Bangladesh June 2010

Interplast needs your support so our medical volunteers can keep helping the people and health systems in our neighbouring countries. Please make a donation today.

News in Brief

Black and White Ball

The Black and White Interplast Fundraising Ball was held at Ivy in Sydney on 20 March 2010. A great night was had by over 200 guests and over \$55,000 raised by auctioning many items that were generously donated such as exclusive holidays, beautiful artwork and amazing experiences.

KCI Ambassador

Interplast's KCI Ambassador program helps spread the news of the life changing work of Interplast volunteers and to garner future support. The KCI Ambassador program funded Interplast Vice President The Hon Dr Kay Patterson's tour of Rotary District 9630 to speak to over 20 Rotary Clubs in four days to raise awareness and funds for Interplast.

Appeal Thank You

Thank you to the many people that donated to the 2009 Interplast Christmas Appeal. We are delighted to report that your donations combined with other funding has enabled future programs to be scheduled. On behalf of the many peoples lives you have changed—thank you.

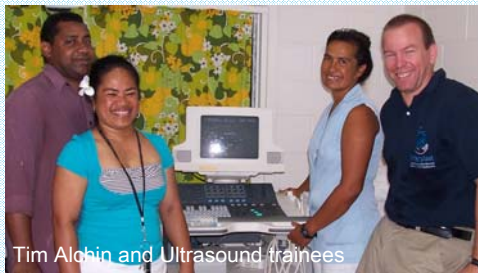
2010 Eureka Climb

The 2010 Interplast Eureka Climb will be held on Sunday 14 November. Climb and be timed, or walk the 88 flights of stairs to Eureka Skydeck, and take in the awe-inspiring views. Save the date for Melbourne's iconic fundraising fitness challenge. For more information go to the Interplast website www.interplast.com.au

Rebuilding Lives Fellows

Help those living with a treatable disability get the corrective surgery they need to live a life without impairment, and assist in the provision of medical training so one day everyone will have access to the health care we have here. Become a Rebuilding Lives Fellow and make regular monthly donations to Interplast. You may not notice \$30 or \$50 a month, but at the end of the year you would have donated \$360 or \$600! Complete the donation form over the page or online at www.interplast.com.au and repair bodies and rebuild lives with our Interplast volunteers.

Pacific Ultrasound



Ultrasound is a valuable tool that greatly enhances the diagnostic capabilities of a medical service, especially in the absence of more elaborate and expensive imaging. Tim Alchin has relocated to the Cook Islands to volunteer his expertise for 12 months to help the Cook Islands establish a self sustaining, high quality ultrasound service.

“My first few months have been challenging, often frustrating, but very rewarding.

“After my first meeting I realised that the training program initially planned required much modification to suit the local requirements. I have revised the training program accordingly and three trainees have been identified by the Ministry of Health and commenced their training.

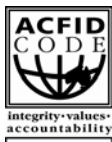
We work with



Interplast Australia and New Zealand is a project actively supported by Rotarians in Clubs and Districts throughout Australia and New Zealand.



The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons established Interplast with Rotarians and their fellows remain active supporters.



Interplast is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. For more information go to www.acfid.asn.au

Interplast is the official charity of



Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons



NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION of Plastic Surgeons



Avant
Australia's Leading MDO

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Interplast is a registered charity and Company limited by guarantee established in 1983 by Rotary District 980 and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. Interplast is accredited with AusAID to provide development work on behalf of the Australian Government, and is a signatory to the Australian Council For International Development Code of Conduct that promotes standards of best practice and a commitment to conduct activities with integrity and accountability. More information and copies of audited financial statements can be obtained from the office or online at interplast.com.au. Interplast has Deductible Gift Recipient status with the Australian Government and as such all donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

My donation to Interplast

Yes I would like to help rebuild lives

Title _____ Name _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Suburb _____ State _____ Post Code _____

Email _____ Mobile _____

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 _____

JOIN THE REBUILDING LIVES FELLOWSHIP

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

CREDIT CARD DETAILS

Visa Mastercard Diners Club AMEX

Card Number _____ Expiry Date _____

Name on Card _____ Signature _____

Any information you provide to Interplast will be treated in the strictest confidence. Interplast will only use your personal details in order to provide you with the opportunity of a range of services and facilities that will benefit Interplast programs. Interplast does not rent, lease, or sell your personal details to any other organisation. Interplast Australia & New Zealand respects your privacy, for more information on our privacy policy please see our website at www.interplast.com.au. Please check this box if you do not wish to receive further material from Interplast.