

# inside INTERPLAST

INTERPLAST AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND REPAIRING BODIES. REBUILDING LIVES.



Tomso and mum Roselyn, very happy, two days after the surgery to correct his cleft lip

## Happier Eyes For a Brighter Future

Roselyn gave birth to Tomso in a remote location in Papua New Guinea (PNG) by candlelight and with no running water. What should have been a joyous occasion was instead very worrying because she did not know what was wrong with him.

Tomso was born with a cleft lip, and Roselyn began to lose hope of ever getting help for Tomso.

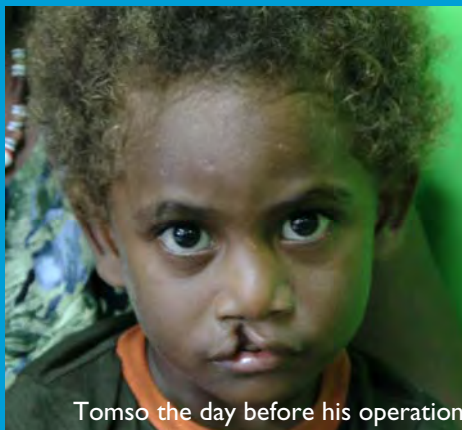
"I could see it was affecting his confidence and he was starting to feel out of place when he was with his friends" said Roselyn.

With the help of her friends Roselyn travelled the long distance to Port Moresby so Tomso could receive life changing surgery from the Interplast volunteer surgical team that was visiting PNG this summer to provide treatment and training.

Interplast volunteer surgeon Dr James Masson commented, "We spent the first

week in Madang with Doctor Maihua. He is performing procedures that we trained him in last year and he is teaching those same procedures to young surgeons in Madang, so that is very encouraging."

Roselyn thanked the team saying "Since the operation Tomso has been eating so much food, even with the scab on his lip. I have never felt so happy."



Tomso the day before his operation

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Shane, Veronika and their family

## Our DONORS

### Shane and KPC in Indonesia

Shane Bennett, originally from Adelaide, met his wife Veronika in Indonesia in 1992 while working in Borneo. They were married in 1996. Veronika was one of Interplast's first patients in the area.

Veronika was born with a cleft lip and although she had received some surgery, the Interplast volunteers were able to fully repair her condition.

"She went from a painfully shy girl who would cover her face whenever she smiled, to a happy, outgoing woman," said Shane, Interplast supporter.

Shane works for KPC which has always been actively involved in helping patients from remote areas in Kalimantan to receive treatment from Interplast volunteers.

"The volunteers do a fantastic job. We have seen many of the patients and understand what a wonderful difference these programs can make to the lives of the individuals, so we personally donate money too. I also help with our company footy tipping competition, as well as other ideas and events, to raise funds for Interplast."



Interplast volunteer Marie Doolan and the team at the CASC

## Healing Acid Burns Injuries

Sadly, acid throwing is a form of premeditated violence in some of the countries where Interplast works, Cambodia being one. The majority of victims of acid throwing are women as a result of a domestic dispute. Consequences of these attacks are burning of the skin and bone, causing permanent scarring and sometimes blindness. Some countries, particularly Bangladesh, have begun to see a decrease in these types of attacks thanks to successful lobbying and an increase in the penalties combined with strict laws controlling the sale of acids.

Interplast began working with the Cambodian Acid Survivor Charity (CASC) in 2010. Using a holistic approach, the CASC works at several different levels to support and empower survivors of acid burns and toward the elimination of acid violence in Cambodia.

Thanks again to The Gandel Charitable Trust, Interplast volunteer Marie Doolan returned to the CASC in February 2011 with volunteer Janet Milne to consolidate and continue the training in the production of pressure garments.

Pressure garments help in the rehabilitation of burns by applying pressure to the area to create a soft, pliable and elastic scar that will maintain

unrestricted joint movement. Without a pressure garment a scar can thicken and contract, thereby reducing or removing mobility and causing horrific deformities requiring surgical correction.

"I was thrilled to my back teeth at how well the girls were doing. They can assess where the compression garment needs to be, measure, make a pattern, choose the appropriate material for the situation and make the garment correctly. It will make a huge difference to the women who wear them," said Marie Doolan.

"What was equally exciting was that the women were starting to direct their own learning. They asked us to go over particular lessons from last time and suggested areas of further learning they wanted to explore."

Empowering people to take ownership of their learning is part of Interplast's philosophy in capacity building. It is planned that a third and final program will be delivered later in 2011 to monitor progress and set them up for the future.

Our sincere thanks to





Manisha proudly showing Hilary her exercises



Manisha showing the nurses how she can write

## Lessons from Nepal, by Hilary Veale

Manisha is 9 years old and from the far eastern region of Nepal. She burned both her hands when she was a baby by crawling into the fire on the kitchen floor. Most rural Nepali families cook on a fire on the floor of the kitchen and many of the post burn contracture cases seen by the Plastic Surgery team at Kathmandu Model Hospital (KMH) happen this way.

Unlike many of the young children with disfiguring burns contractures that I saw, Manisha is not scared or painfully shy. She regularly travels five hours by bus with her father to see the nurses and smiles as she shows off the exercises she has been practicing and how she can hold a pen and write.

Manisha is lucky because she was brought to one of the surgical camps run by the team from KMH. She is also lucky because her father sends her to school, despite her deformities and her gender. In Nepal, if someone has a disability often they cannot go to school or make a living, and they become impoverished, with their children also being born into poverty. The KMH team aims to break this poverty cycle by restoring function to those who have lost it. A crucial step in restoring function is good therapy.

I was lucky enough to spend a year with the KMH Plastic Surgery Department through the Australian

Government's Youth Ambassadors for Development (AYAD) program as a Hand Therapy and Physiotherapy Trainer, with support from Interplast Australia & New Zealand. I worked closely with Mohan, the Hand Therapist, as well as the nurses and health assistants, to build and develop their skills so that patients like Manisha can achieve the best possible outcome from surgery. Mohan and I conducted nine Physiotherapy training camps for nurses and health assistants outside of Kathmandu

Interplast's partnership with KMH, which involves annual surgical training trips, sponsorship for doctors and therapists to attend overseas training seminars, as well as nursing and therapy support, is truly capacity building

Although, thanks to their hard work and motivation, I left with a few more people trained in basic hand therapy and Mohan trained as a trainer, I definitely learned much more than I could possibly give. I learned that relationships and patience are most important, that culture and context must be understood and that one can never, ever, have too much sweet tea. I am grateful to the Interplast team for their support and for their ongoing support for the team in Nepal. I am also very grateful to the KMH team whose dedication, genuine warmth, enthusiasm and service to the Nepali people blew me away.



Kevin Egan, Prof Donald Marshall, and David Inglis in 2004

## Kevin Egan SCHOLARSHIP

When Kevin Egan, Manager of International Development at Melbourne University Private retired in 2003, he didn't want a gold watch or park bench named after him.

Thanks to the foresight of then CEO David Lloyd and the generosity of the staff at Melbourne Uni Private the Kevin Egan Scholarship was established with Interplast to honour his commitment and dedication to international development.

The Kevin Egan Scholarship allows an overseas plastic and reconstructive surgical trainee to attend the Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons Registrars Training Week (ASPSRTW).

"I had seen first hand the difference Interplast volunteers make not only to the lives of the patients in Indonesia but also to the knowledge base in that country.

"I am very proud that the scholarship provides an opportunity for someone to learn more here and then impart that knowledge to their colleagues back home," said Kevin.

This year's Kevin Egan Scholarship recipient is Indonesian trainee Dr Doso Iswinarno who will be attending the ASPSRTW in Sydney 7–11 March 2011.

**SOLD OUT**

## 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 the Fellows remain active supporters.



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### Interplast is the official charity of



Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons



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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](http://interplast.com.au).

Interplast has Deductible Gift Recipient status with the Australian Government. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

INTERPLAST AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

## BLACK & WHITE BALL

Don't miss the Interplast Black and White Ball in Sydney on 2 April 2011. For information phone 03 9249 1231

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(All donations over \$2 are tax deductible)  From my credit card (please complete details below)

### REGULAR/MONTHLY GIVING — 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 1st / 15th (circle one) of every month (or the next business day) from my credit card.

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