



Interplast

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Repairing Bodies. Rebuilding Lives

ROTARIANreview

insideINTERPLAST

July 2010

inside

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Repairing Bodies. Rebuilding Lives



Twins! Twice the hope...



Double the joy!



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



ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

New Rotarian Coordinator joins the Interplast team ...

PP Glenda Sherwin-Lane of the Rotary Club of Waverley, District 9810 was appointed to the Staff of Interplast Australia & New Zealand in May this year. Her role is to liaise with Rotarians, to increase their knowledge of Interplast and to encourage more Districts to fund an Interplast team of volunteer surgeons, anaesthetists and nursing staff for programs in Asia and the Pacific.

"I think I'm representative of a large number of Rotarians who think they know about Interplast but, five minutes into my first day, I realised just how much more is being achieved and how much more I have to learn. I am very excited at the prospect of being able to convey that message to my fellow Rotarians, who currently contribute about 35% of Interplast's total program income."

"I have received much encouragement from District Governors in Australia and New Zealand. Virtually every District has its Interplast District Chair and I'm looking

forward to supporting each of them to achieve their particular goal for Interplast."

Glenda has been a Rotarian for some 15 years, starting her Rotary life with the Rotary Club of Morialta, District 9520 in South Australia before joining the Rotary Club of Waverley, District 9810, in May 1998. She became the club's first female President in 2003/04.

Apart from working three days a week at the Interplast office, Glenda is busy in voluntary roles for Rotary at District and Club level.

"Hopefully, the years spent editing Club Bulletins and District Newsletters will help me to come up with some **ROTARIAN**reviews that are informative, interesting and help to attract Rotary funds like magnets," Glenda said.



What Does Interplast Do?

Interplast Australia & New Zealand sends teams of **volunteer** plastic and reconstructive surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses to developing countries of the Asia Pacific region to provide free medical **treatment and training**.

Volunteers

Each member of an Interplast program is fully qualified in their field of expertise and **VOLUNTEER** their time to participate in an Interplast program.

Treatment

Interplast volunteers provide free treatment to people living with a disability from a congenital condition such as cleft lip and palate, or an acquired condition such as burn scar contractures. Treatment is targeted to the indigent population who would otherwise not be able to afford to access services.

Training

Interplast assists with developing local capacity to provide plastic and reconstructive surgery services by providing training and mentoring programs for medical and allied health professionals. All Interplast programs are training programs — leaving a legacy long after the team has gone.

And here's a Direct way you can help Interplast and your club!

In 2006, the **WA Interplast Direct Debit Project** was born, with prospective donors committing to a monthly donation deducted from their bank account.

Donors are advised that a large percentage of funds raised are forwarded to Interplast for its volunteer surgical programs in developing countries, whilst some funds are retained for local Rotary projects. It's a win for Interplast and a win for local Clubs.

Motivated by his "*humbling*" experience in 2007 as a Rotarian Observer with an Interplast volunteer surgical team to Tanzania, Richard Viney of the Rotary Club of Kenwick, returned to Australia to spread the news about the work of Interplast.

Richard's excellent presentation and commitment attracted great interest and consequently many more donors. Currently some 80 local small businesses and members of the general public are donating through monthly Direct Debit—many since its inception in 2006. Each year the amount of giving increases, with \$45,000 being transferred to Interplast last financial year .

Donors are happy that they are helping children to receive life changing surgery in their developing country which they could not otherwise afford. Lee Elvish of Esprit Auto in WA said recently when handed his tax receipt, "*Thanks for asking me to support Interplast. It's a great way to put something back!*"

It's important for donors that Rotary helped to form Interplast in 1983 along with RACS and that Rotarians are on the Interplast Board of Directors and have their own committee.

Interplast Australia & New Zealand takes this opportunity to recognise the commitment of these particular donors and to thank them for their ongoing support.

Any Rotary Club in Australia who would like to learn how their Club can benefit whilst helping Interplast should contact **Steve Weychan** on sweychan@bigpond.net.au or **PDG Brian Guest** on brian@guestdistributors.com.au



Cover Story

These twins were amongst the children whose hopes and dreams were realised after an operation by one of Interplast's volunteer surgical teams visiting Balikpapan in Indonesia in 2007. Three years later they are enjoying their new life. They now have the opportunity to get an education and become contributing members of their family. Had the equivalent operations been performed in Australia without the benefit of health cover, the cost would have been in the vicinity of \$18,000. The cost for the operations in Balikpapan by the volunteer Interplast team was \$1,400 (\$700 per child). Rotarians and Rotary Clubs around Australia and New Zealand help change the lives of children like these twins.

A 'ghost' story to bring our lives into focus ... as told by Dr Serge Kaplanian, Interplast Volunteer Anaesthetist

We first heard about 'Yang' on the second day of our Interplast trip to Laos back in February of this year.

A Socio-Economist by the name of Dr Charles Alton who is associated with WIG (Woman's International Group) approached us with Yang's story. Charles has lived in Laos for over 10 years and most of his work involved working with villagers in the countryside, including the heavily bombed 'Plain of Jars' in the north east of the country. It was during one of those missions that he came across Yang.

'Yang' in Laos language means ghost and it's a name he was given by the children in the village because of his ghostly appearance. The story goes that back in 1983, Yang was working the rice fields when a cluster bomb went off in his face. This was not an ordinary cluster bomb, it was a phosphorus bomb. When phosphorus comes into contact with skin, it continues to burn for days. Villagers remember that fateful night like it was yesterday. Yang's skin kept burning for 4 days and his cries were heard for months. The only treatment he ever received involved applying aloe vera to his face and neck.

Despite all his extensive injuries, Yang did eventually get married and have children. He never left his village until the day he was brought to Vientiane for review by the Interplast team. His repair took the best part of a whole operating day.

Before leaving for home, a traditional Laos ceremony (baci) was performed to change his name and wish him good luck on his return. His name was changed from 'Yang' to 'Bounthanom' (foundation of merit), which was meaningful to his transformation into a new life.

Ajaan Khambay Nyoundalath, Laos' leading ethnologist and Bounthanom's uncle, notified village elders that from this day forth he was to be called by his new name.

In summary, this operation has been a life-changing event for this man. He returns home to try and live a more normal life for the first time in years.

Villagers have already said that the Interplast team will attain a lot of merit for doing this for him.



'Yang' in Laos language means 'ghost' and it's a name ... given by the children in the village because of his ghostly appearance.

Bounthanom

Baci: traditional Laos ceremony changes a name and brings wishes for good luck.

Footnote

In the year 2000, nearly 250 million people died as a result of burns – 95% of those people were in the developing countries.

The epicentre of burns is in Southeast Asia, where three times as many people suffer a severe burn as contract HIV/AIDS.

Interplast is providing training in many countries in burns management / healing. To ensure victims receive the appropriate treatment, Interplast has established faculties of EMSB (Emergency Management of Severe Burns) in Bangladesh and introducing them in PNG and the Pacific.

Most burns victims in the developing world arrive at hospital, if at all, hours or even days after they sustain their injury, having received no basic first aid treatment. Or worse, advice from unqualified providers such as medicine shopkeepers and traditional healers.

One of the most common operations performed by Interplast is release of burn scar contractures.

Burns left untreated will scar. That scar will contract and can

lead to disabling deformities where victims lose function of limbs.

Burn scar contractures cause children to stop going to school because they cannot use their hands to write. Mothers cannot pick up their babies because they can no longer bend their arms; and fathers lose their jobs because they can no longer walk, plunging a poor family deeper into poverty.



When a round of golf here changes a life there ...

Interplast Australia & New Zealand was recently the beneficiary of some golfers enjoying a great day at the renowned Woodlands Golf Club in Mordialloc.

'Rounded' up by the Rotary Club of Mordialloc, this annual event in April was highly successful thanks to the Club's hard work and the generosity of its sponsors, supporters and players.

"The Rotary Club of Mordialloc was privileged to use this event to promote awareness of and raise funds for the life changing free surgical treatment provided by the **volunteer** Interplast medical teams," Interplast Golf Day organiser and Rotarian Barry Donaldson said. "The unnecessary disfigurement suffered by the children is especially heart wrenching."

"Mordialloc Rotary is fortunate to be associated with the Woodlands Golf Club and its Board and Staff who generously support Rotary," commented Barry. "Woodlands has a reputation for supporting organisations with genuine needs."

Interplast Australia & New Zealand thanks the Rotary Club of Mordialloc for its continuing support and interest.

Footnote: The Aggregate Par Competition was won by a Mount Waverley RetraVision Team and their second team were runners-up.

The next Interplast Golf Day at Woodlands Golf Club will be on Friday, 8 April 2011. Please contact Barry Donaldson on (03) 9598 6446 or email to barrydon@melbpc.org.au or Russell Hellier on (03) 9589 1083 or email to rhellier@melbpc.org.au to register your interest for next year's Interplast Golf Day.



... and who said money doesn't grow on trees?

Well, grow from trees, anyway.

As part of its third annual fundraiser on behalf of Interplast Australia & New Zealand, the Rotary Club of Terang propagated 4000 seedlings earlier this year.

The proceeds will go towards delivering free plastic and reconstructive surgery to children in the Asia-Pacific region through Interplast.

Project Coordinator Mark Andrews said he was pleased to support the teams of medically trained volunteers who provide the service for people who would otherwise not be able to afford treatment. "I believe it's a great cause," he said. "For a lot of these children, there is no medical access and Interplast makes a big difference in their lives."

Interplast volunteers are fully qualified in their field of medical expertise and provide treatment to people living with a disability from a congenital condition, such as cleft lip and palate, or an acquired condition like burn scars.

A total of 70 per cent of Interplast patients are under the age of 15 and many have treatable deformities and injuries



"It's a win for the environment, Interplast and for gardeners."

but are unable to access treatment because of poverty, isolation and the lack of surgeons skilled in plastic and reconstructive surgery.

The volunteers also provide free medical training and mentoring programs to improve services in the developing countries.

Mr Andrews said Rotary members had collected the seeds for the trees, including flowering gums, manna gums, swamp gums and river gums, from around the Terang area and watched over them as they grew into seedlings.

"Our project is a win for the environment, for Interplast and for gardeners."

The end users include professional farmers, hobby farmers, the local secondary school wetland project and the Terang Lions club for their tree projects. All of this crop has been sold and another batch will be sown in November—a great gift idea for Christmas.

Trees from other areas can be grown and orders to grow specific trees in bulk are also welcome.

For further information or sales enquiries you can contact Mark Andrews on (03) 5592 1859. **Another great Rotary project!**



It takes more than surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses to deliver a program of plastic and reconstructive surgery. It also takes 300kg of medical supplies and equipment. Each team is self-sufficient and travels with all that is necessary, thus minimising the burden placed on the local hospital or community resources. The picture left depicts just some of the 'excess luggage' which is organized from the Interplast office and delivered to the airport. Once at its destination country, it must be cleared by customs. Imagine having to check this in!



Thank you to these Clubs for Donations

District 9450

Morley
Nedlands
Northbridge

District 9460

Harvey
Margaret River
Rockingham

District 9470

Cunderdin
Kenwick
Munderang
South Perth-Burswood
Private/Business—90

District 9500

Alice Springs

District 9520

Brighton—SA
Brownhill Creek
Burnside
Campbelltown—SA
Encounter Bay
Goolwa
Private/Business—1

District 9550

Airlie Beach
Ayr
Mareeba
Ross River
Townsville
Private/Business—1

District 9570

Bundaberg Sunrise
Maryborough
Mirani
Port of Mackay
Rockhampton North
Private/Business—1

District 9600

Boroko
Kingaroy
Private/Business—5

District 9630

Archerfield
Brisbane Centenary
Chinchilla
Dalby
Forest Lake
Goodna
Ipswich City
Jindalee
Logan
Redland Sunrise
Rocklea
St George
Sumner Park
Toowoomba Garden City
Toowoomba North
Toowoomba South
Private/Business—2

District 9640

Boonah
Kyogle
Lismore
Loganholme
Maclean
Mudgeeraba
Palm Beach
Runaway Bay
Tweed Heads South
Private/Business—1

District 9650

Tamworth—First Light
Uralla
Wauchope
Private/Business—1

District 9680

Hornsby

District 9690

Blacktown
Chester Hill
Upper Blue Mountains
Sunrise
Private/Business—28

District 9700

Boorowa
Griffith
Orange
Orange Daybreak
South Wagga Wagga
Wagga Wagga
Young

District 9710

Bomaderry
Bungendore
Canberra
Canberra—Weston Creek
Gerringong Sunrise
Pambula

District 9750

Bulli & Northern Illawarra
Double Bay
Camden
Corrimal
D9750 Interplast Committee
Fairy Meadow
Illawarra
Marrickville
Miranda
Picton
Rockdale City
Sydney
Private/Business—1

District 9780

Ballarat East
Ballarat South
Bordertown
Charlton
Colac West
Geelong

(D9780 cont'd)

Geelong East
Highton
Horsham East
Ocean Grove
Portland
Port Fairy
Stawell
Terang
Warrnambool East
Private/Business—3

District 9790

Albury North
Bright
Lavington
Preston
Private/Business—1

District 9800

Balwyn
Bendigo South
Boroondara
Brighton North
Camberwell
Canterbury
Chadstone
Chadstone-East Malvern
Daylesford
Eaglehawk
Kew
Rochester
Toorak
West Footscray
Private/Business—7

District 9810

Bentleigh-Moorabbin Central
Boronia
Box Hill
Chirnside Park
Clayton
Dingley
Doncaster
Emerald & District
Knox
Monbulk
Mordialloc
Mount Waverley
Nunawading
Ringwood
Rowville
Upper Yarra
Wandin
Warrandyte & Donvale
Private/Business—14

District 9820

Bairnsdale
Bairnsdale Sunrise
Dandenong
Korumburra
Long Island Frankston
Mitchell River
Mornington
Morwell

(D9820 cont'd)

Mount Eliza
Mount Martha
Narre Warren
Pakenham
Seaford-Carrum Downs
Somerville-Tyabb
Traralgon
Wonthaggi
Yarram
Private/Business—2

District 9830

Devonport North
Devonport South East
Latrobe
Longford
Moonah
Youngtown
Private/Business—2

District 9910

Maungaturoto

District 9920

Auckland East
Auckland East Charitable Trust
Private/Business—1

District 9930

Havelock North
Te Awamutu

When a Rotary District or Club raises \$40,000 or more in a twelve-month or two-year period, it can nominate a member to accompany an Interplast team on a program as a Rotarian Observer.

Upon their return, the Rotarian Observer is encouraged to visit Clubs in their District to share their experience and to highlight the work of the volunteer surgical teams.

Whilst every effort is made to enable the Rotarian Observer to accompany the specific program which their District or Club has funded, this is not always appropriate.

The intention is to provide the Rotarian Observer with a Rotary connection as well as an Interplast experience.

Of course, funding a program is a reward in itself—knowing that one has helped to bring life-changing surgery to people too poor to afford it and who have waited, sometimes many years, for a better life.

One profits most who serves best! Rotary motto.

Contact Us

Interplast has a District Chair in all of the Australian and New Zealand Rotary Districts. Please contact them or the Interplast office if you would like any further information sent to you, or would like to host a speaker who has experienced first hand the incredible work of Interplast's highly motivated and caring volunteers.

Contact PP Glenda Sherwin-Lane, Rotarian Coordinator:

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ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN
COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

Donation Form

Yes I would like to rebuild lives

Title _____ Name _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Suburb _____ State _____ Post Code _____

Email _____

Phone _____ Mobile _____

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

ROTARY CLUB

Please credit Rotary Club _____ **District** _____

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

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 of 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.