



Interplast

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Repairing Bodies. Rebuilding Lives

ROTARY REVIEW

INSIDE INTERPLAST

2006/2007

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



Rotary in 'Service Above Self' with Interplast

With the approach of the 25th anniversary of Interplast Australia (now with New Zealand as part of its name), it is timely to reflect on the association between Rotary and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) on its formation in 1983. Incoming Rotary International President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar, addressing the 2005 International Assembly, said Rotary must "partner" with other organisations in a spirit of "continuity and cooperation." Ahead of its time, that is how Interplast began, with Rotarians fully funding the first program to Samoa in 1983.

And as an equal 'partner' with RACS ever since, Rotary now funds some ten Interplast programs each year. In recent years, 36 Rotarians have accompanied Interplast teams as observers, returning from near countries to become ambassadors for this project. Rotarians are rightly proud of their longstanding association with Interplast. Volunteer Australian and New Zealand plastic and reconstructive surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses not only perform life changing surgery in over twenty countries, they also provide invaluable training to local professionals. And the tertiary benefit of an Interplast program is the creation of inestimable goodwill with nearby countries.

With the 'continuity and cooperation' of Rotary, Interplast Australia & New Zealand has earned an enviable reputation providing vital humanitarian service and assisting development in our part of the world.

PDG Ray Stewart D9820

Director Interplast Australia & New Zealand and Chairman, Rotary Committee

New Zealand Rotary

Following attendance at the Zone Institute in Queenstown in November 2005 much has happened with Interplast across the Tasman. Interplast Australia has changed to Interplast Australia & New Zealand to encourage support and acknowledge the contribution of New Zealand colleagues. DG Alan Davies (D9920) is heading up a New Zealand Committee from July 2008. Cheryl Willetts will continue to promote Interplast in D9920. PDG David Preston has established an Interplast Committee in his district, PDG Warwick Pleasee (D9920) met with an Interplast team in Lautoka. PDG Ray Stewart has been invited to attend the 2007 DGE briefing session in Auckland in July 2007. We have had much support from New Zealand medicos and hope that one day all six districts are able to include Interplast as one of their International Programs.

DGE John Barnes D9810

Secretary Interplast Australia & New Zealand and Member, Rotary Committee



Interplast Australia & New Zealand is a non-profit company founded in 1983 as an equal association between the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and (then) Rotary District 980. It provides voluntary medical teams who carry out plastic and reconstructive surgery in developing countries. Whilst Interplast is not an official Rotary International project, Interplast programs are actively supported by Rotary Districts and Clubs throughout Australia and New Zealand. Rotarians are members of the Company, the Board and the Rotary Committee.



ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN
COLLEGE OF SURGEONS



New Zealand surgeon Dr John de Waal training Indonesian registrar Dr Eery

BOOK A SPEAKER

Speakers are available around Australia to come to your Rotary Club and talk about the humanitarian and development work provided by Interplast volunteers and proudly supported by so many Rotarians. To book a speaker for your club please call Interplast on 03 9249 1231



What Does Interplast Do?

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

Volunteers

Every 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 acquired conditions such as burns scar contractures. Treatment is targeted to the indigent population who would otherwise not be able to afford to access services.

Training

Interplast cooperates with the country's Ministry of Health and collaborates with senior surgeons to facilitate training to improve the access to health services specifically in the area of plastic and reconstructive surgery. Every Interplast program is a training program, leaving a legacy long after the team has gone.

Program Wrap up for 2006/2007

In 2006/07 Interplast sent 26 programs to 15 countries. Of the 26 programs, eight were proudly funded by Rotary Clubs and Districts. When a club or district raises enough funds to send a program they have the opportunity to send a Rotarian as an observer to see first hand the life changing operations and long term training their funding has provided. The table below outlines the programs funded by Rotary for the 2006/07 year.

COUNTRY	TOWN	DATE	OPS	CLUB/DISTRICT	OBSERVER
Fiji	Labasa	Aug 06	77	Seaford-Carrum Downs	Mr J Berends
Philippines	Baguio City	Nov 06	59	Carringbah	Mr N Xouris
Philippines	Cagayan De Oro	Jan 06	58	District 9790	Ms R Mann
Laos	Samnua	Feb 07	39	District 9810	Mr L Preusche
Fiji	Suva	Mar 07	41	District 9790	
Nepal	Kathmandu	Apr 07	2	Cairns Sunrise	Ms J Wakefield
Indonesia	Balikpapan	May 07	78	Sorrento	Mr K Hobby
Vanuatu		Jun 07		District 9790	
Training of Dr Keutmy (Laos) in WA Mar — Apr				Belmont	

Good bye to Sue

After 16 years Sue Attwood has resigned as Rotary Coordinator. Sue is an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Clayton and has been named a Paul Harris Fellow for her services to Interplast. She will be missed by all her friends, and we wish her well on her exciting journey ahead travelling with husband Allan in their caravan and spending much cherished time with her grandchildren. Thank you Sue.



Pic Left: Shimran, 6 months with cleft lip, Fiji, before treatment from Interplast volunteers.
Pic Right: Sue Attwood with Shimran outside the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons July 2007 now 6 years old and living in Melbourne with her family. They came in to say thank you to Sue and to Interplast.

Rotarian Experiences

Nick Xouris, RC Caringbah

In November 2006 I had the honour of being part of an Interplast team to Baguio City in the Philippines. The mission over two weeks was to perform surgery on children with cleft lips/palates and deformities caused by severe burns. The objective of this mission was also to provide valuable education and training to the local surgical teams, so that in the future they can provide treatment themselves.

I was impressed by the professionalism and compassion shown by the team in both the surgical procedures and post operative care. At times, even with limited resources, the team was still able to achieve unbelievable results. The leveraging effect of such a project cannot be understated, as it provides enormous benefit to families who would not be able to afford such treatment. This is due to the generosity of these specialists who, year after year, give of their time and expertise to help those in need. ***It is certainly a vital humanitarian project, and one which deserves Rotary's continued support.***

Lutz Preusche, RC Sandringham

It is not until you experience first hand the work of Rotary and Interplast that you truly appreciate the extraordinary gift Interplast is giving to our neighbours. Not only was being a member of Rotary at the core of my amazing experience, this has indeed defined my Rotary life. I found the experience life changing. I had expected and coped with the confrontation of the operating theatre however whilst out walking one day I asked a Laoation if I could take her photo only to find the child she was carrying had a sever cleft lip. At this point I felt hopeless. I was here with a team that could help her but because of language difficulties could not invite her to get our help. When I returned to the team the nurse could see I was upset and asked what was wrong. I didn't cry when my father passed away, but I did that morning.

Up until then I always thought I could control my emotions, and it was then I realised the enormity of the Interplast program. If it could have this effect on me (a bystander) what then is the real effect on the lives of the people who benefit from the surgery? The biggest high was comforting the kids and babies as they were being prepared for surgery and carrying them from theatre to their anxious parents. The overwhelming feeling of pride and joy to be entrusted to carry a child from surgery has only been matched by the experience of being handed my own children when they were born.

Like most fairytales the mother I saw in the market arrived for treatment the next day. ***Interplast provides new 'fairytales' beginnings for numerous people, it is up to us in Rotary to do what we can to ensure that the fairytale continues and always has a happy ending.***

Kel Hobby, RC Sorrento

On May 27 2007 I embarked on an experience with Interplast to Balikpapan Indonesia that changed my life. In the two weeks of the project a total of 99 operations were performed on nearly 80 patients, mostly children who would not otherwise have had access to such surgery, and I was greatly privileged to be an active participant in a supporting role. The medical members of our team all volunteered their time to undertake this wonderful humanitarian work. As well as life changing surgery, an important aspect of our project was the training of local specialists in these surgical procedures, and it is this aspect that sets Interplast apart from other similar projects. ***I encourage all Rotary Clubs to include Interplast in their humanitarian programs.***

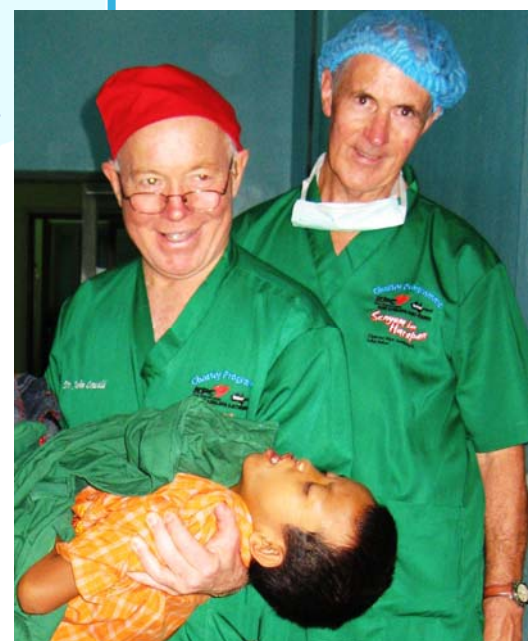


Rotarian Lutz Preusche beaming with pride.

INTERPLAST FAST FACTS

Founded 24 years ago
36 Rotarian Observers
Nearly 600 volunteers
Nearly 400 programs
22 countries
17,000 operations

Anaesthetist and Rotarian Dr John Oswald with Rotarian Kel Hobby



Words of Passion from the West

Jean Paul Sartre once said "we must act out passion before we can feel it" I guess the same could be said of those of us who are fortunate enough to work with Interplast, we do act out our Passion. A Passion for those less fortunate who without the help of Interplast would find life almost impossible to navigate. To me, Interplast, like Rotary, is a story of love, a love not expressed in words but rather in actions.

I, like most Rotarians knew of Interplast and the great work it was doing, but I suppose I never fully appreciated it until I joined the Company and began to see clearly the great work it was doing. And what an eye opener that journey has been, the unselfish giving by doctors, nurses, staff and Rotarians continues to warm my heart and renew by belief in the goodness of man.

Like any Rotary project Interplast needs funding in order to carry out its many great programs. To this end I have developed a direct debit system that allows Clubs to raise funds for both Interplast and their own Club on a monthly basis.

Results to date show one Club raising in excess of \$40,000 per year for Interplast and \$4,500 for their own projects and this amount is steadily growing as they sign up new donors.

This system is available for any Club anywhere in Australia.

There is an old Arabian proverb "He who has health, has hope.

And he who has hope, has everything." I know Interplast will

continue to deliver Health and Hope wherever it is needed

and we will continue to act with passion.

PDG Brian Guest D9470

Company Member and Member, Rotary Committee

Contact

Interplast has a District Chair in each of the 23 Australian Districts and two of the six New Zealand 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 Interplasts highly motivated and caring volunteers.

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Donation Form

Yes I would like to rebuild lives

Title _____ Name _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Suburb _____ State _____ Post Code _____

Email _____

Phone _____

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

ROTARY CLUB

Please 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 \$ _____ 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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Repairing
Bodies.

Rebuilding
Lives.