



Interplast
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

inside INTERPLAST

REPAIRING BODIES. REBUILDING LIVES.

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2012

WORKSHOP TRIUMPH



Interplast volunteer, Mr Simon Thomson, delivering surgical education. Photo courtesy of Richard Wong-she.

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It's Eureka Climb time again!
 Scheduled for Sunday November
 18, 2012, it's Australia's biggest
 vertical race and, with Interplast
 as a charity partner, it's well worth
 the climb! www.eurekaclimb.com.au

In March 2012, Interplast Australia & New Zealand conducted its inaugural Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Workshop at the Fiji National University in Suva. A resounding success, the training program was created to provide specialist surgical training for trainees from Fiji and around the Pacific through focusing on practical plastic surgery principles and concepts - it concentrated on thinking like a plastic surgeon.

Six Interplast plastic and reconstructive surgeons volunteered their time and provided tailored educational modules to the 22 selected Masters of Surgery trainees. Specialising in teaching the basic principles for the plastic surgery

“They need our support and encouragement and I am convinced about this, and am committed to continuing in this vein.”

of wounds, defects, burns, facial trauma, cleft lip and palate, hand and upper limb surgery and head and neck cancer, the workshop has been dubbed an undeniable winner. “What an inspiring bunch of young surgeons they are!” said Dr Mike Klaassen, a long-serving New Zealand-based volunteer. “They are committed, professional, hardworking and respectful...”

Echoing such enthusiasm for the program, the students’ appreciation of the course has cemented the importance of such tailored training

services, with one surgical registrar labelling the program “a wonderful and extremely informative week-long course” and another expressing eagerness to “put into practice what we have learnt.”

Acknowledging the value of such Interplast services, Dr Klaassen’s enthusiasm for the workshop is obvious: “The Pacific, our neighbour, is full of potential and has depth in its recruits for surgery... they need our support and encouragement. I am convinced about this and committed to continuing in this vein.”

VOLUNTEER YOUR THOUGHTS...

JETTE MCKELLAR
REGULAR DONOR

"I started donating to Interplast some years ago, when I was looking for an Australian charity that really did some excellent work overseas in helping those less fortunate as part of three charities that I wanted to make regular donations to. A work colleague showed me your information pamphlet and Interplast ticked all the boxes for me. The life-changing help that Interplast provides to people who live in less fortunate areas of the world is inspiring and makes me feel proud to be a part of it, even though it is only in a very small way. I love reading each newsletter to see the results of the marvellous work the doctors, nurses and all the other people behind the scenes, have performed. To see the smiles on the faces of the people helped by Interplast in each newsletter really brightens my day and makes me realise, time and again, how lucky we are here in Australia. Keep up the fantastic work!"

WORLD CLASS

PROFESSOR IAN TAYLOR, DISTINGUISHED PLASTIC SURGEON, JOINS AN INTERPLAST PROGRAM.

It has been said he is to vascular anatomy what GPS is to navigation. Renowned the world over, Professor Ian Taylor is one of Australia's most distinguished plastic surgeons. His valued contributions have enhanced surgery, both in Australia and worldwide, and his achievements are too numerous to list. In May 2012, Professor Taylor added Interplast volunteer to his CV, when he, along with long-serving volunteer, Mr Russell Corlett, delivered a tailored microsurgery education module in Bangladesh.

"It was great to have him there, both as a close colleague and friend of over 30 years, and also for the message that it gives the people in Bangladesh that we want the best for them," explains Mr Corlett, a volunteer with Interplast since 1984.

Organised at the request of the head of the plastic surgery training program in Bangladesh, the microsurgery module provided extended training on an earlier capacity building course, held in February 2012. Attended by medical professionals including the most senior figures in plastic surgery in Dhaka, the 'train the trainer'

educational course created quite a local buzz, with Professor Abul Kalam, the head of the Plastic Surgery and Burns Unit at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, expressing his excitement prior to Professor Taylor's arrival: "I have seen his lecture in the British Journal of Plastic Surgery [and] will invite all of my members of the Society of Plastic Surgeons Bangladesh to enjoy this historical memorial lecture."

His presence certainly met all expectations, with local medical staff celebrating his attendance. "They were overjoyed to have Ian Taylor there!" said Mr Corlett. "He is

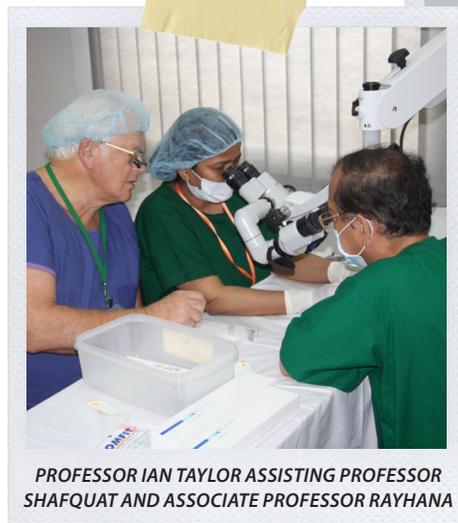
extremely well known in literature and is probably the leading expert in the blood supply of the body, which is the basis for all microsurgery procedures. His presence gave the Plastic Surgery and Burns Unit great kudos in the College of Surgeons, the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and to the heads of plastic surgery."

The trip, Mr Corlett's fifth in Bangladesh and eighteenth in total, also served as an opportunity to celebrate his contribution to the development of plastic surgery in Bangladesh, with a plaque presented as an expression of gratitude.

Memory Bank

"My most memorable experience was seeing three patients in one trip who were living examples of tenacity and 'beating the odds' - a cleft lip and palate patient who worked as a singer, a severely burnt patient with one functioning arm who worked in a forestry mill and a tailor who didn't possess one complete digit on either hand. Meeting them was both humbling and challenging."

- JOHN DE WAAL (VOLUNTEER PLASTIC SURGEON)



PROFESSOR IAN TAYLOR ASSISTING PROFESSOR SHAFQUAT AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR RAYHANA



PROFESSOR IAN TAYLOR & MR RUSSELL CORLETT RECEIVING GRATITUDE PLAQUES

BURNING CONCERN

INTERPLAST VOLUNTEERS CONTINUE TO TREAT SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF BURNS PATIENTS

Burns are a global public health crisis. With half the world's population relying on using open flames to cook, heat and light their homes, it's no surprise accidents are concerningly common. An estimated 195,000 deaths are caused by burns annually, with the vast majority occurring in low to middle income countries. In South-East Asia alone, three times more children and young people die from burns than malaria. Exceptionally confronting, this is only one part of the problem.



Cecilia Gilbert after her operation. Photo courtesy of Sarah Rhodes.

For every person who dies as a result of their burns, many more suffer permanent disfigurements. Without adequate care, burn injuries needlessly cause preventable disability. Poor women and children are particularly at risk, with more women worldwide severely burned each year than are diagnosed with HIV and tuberculosis *combined*.

The frightening reality of these statistics are confirmed on our Interplast programs, with a large percentage of patients presenting with burns. "Burns are what I find myself

doing most of the time," explains Mr Simon Donahoe, Interplast volunteer and country coordinator for Papua New Guinea. "I treat a lot of burns, particularly for hands in little children, although, we don't see them as little children necessarily because they don't get any primary treatment. By the time we see them at the age of five or six, they've got what's effectively a mitten hand."

Cecilia Gilbert (pictured) was one such victim. Having sustained burns to her hand and face, the burns scar contracture left her unable to close

her left eye, which, ultimately, could lead to her cornea drying out. Mr Donahoe performed a full thickness graft to replace the missing skin on Cecilia's eyelid. "This is a relatively simple operation to avoid major problems later on," he said. "If left untreated, Cecilia could lose her sight in that eye."

Burns are a solvable global health crisis. They can be prevented and treated. In an effort to combat the impact burns have on our neighbours, Interplast provides training in many countries in burns treatment and rehabilitation. Early Management of Severe Burns (EMSB) training courses in Papua New Guinea, Bangladesh and Fiji, delivered in partnership with the Australian and New Zealand Burns Association (ANZBA), are proving incredibly successful with 'train the trainer' modules an important element.

"It's very important to be involved in education," said Mr Donahoe. "Interplast continues to work closely with Governments and medical schools to optimise the utilisation of scarce resources so the population can get timely treatment. Interplast volunteers are involved with various countries' medical colleges to ensure medical students, junior doctors and trainee surgeons are familiar with early burns management, as well as practical preventative measures."



FAST FACTS

VIENTIANE, LAOS

25 FEBRUARY 2012 TO 10 MARCH 2012

7 Interplast volunteers

1 staff member & **1** Rotary observer

21 flights

4 days' journey from the Chinese border - the distance travelled by a father to have his son's burnt hands operated on

117 consultations

86 life-changing operations

Congratulations!

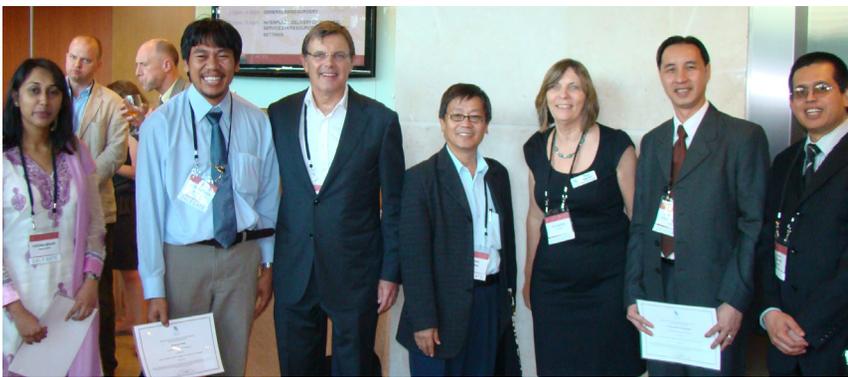
Long-serving volunteer, Indonesian country coordinator and Board member, Mr Ian Carlisle, was recently nominated as an honorary member of PERAPI, the Indonesian Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Society. Our congratulations are extended to Ian, whose contribution to Interplast and in particular, to Interplast's activities in Indonesia, over the past 22 years, has been significant. His admirable commitment to improving medical services in Indonesia through his voluntary work has allowed Interplast to continue to make a difference in Indonesia.

ASPS CONGRESS

OUR MARSHALL INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ATTEND THE CONGRESS IN MALAYSIA.

Congratulations to our Marshall International Scholarship recipients who recently attended the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons' Annual Scientific Congress in Kuala Lumpur in May. Funded by Interplast to attend the event, the congress focused on the theme 'The Making of a Surgeon' and explored all aspects of surgical practice. The event provided a wonderful opportunity for both training and practicing surgeons to attend many and varied sessions to improve knowledge with the cross fertilisation of many specialty groups.

The scholarships were established to acknowledge the contribution of Professor Donald Marshall AM to Interplast and to the development of surgery in our region. Professor Marshall was President of Interplast for 16 years and is our inaugural Patron. The scholarships are intended to complement the programs undertaken by Interplast's volunteers by supporting selected individuals to develop specific identified areas of expertise.



L to R: Dr Farzana Ibrahim (Bangladesh), Dr Nyoman Riassa (Indonesia), Mr David Inglis (Interplast President), Dr Shankar Man Rai (Nepal), Ms Prue Ingram (Interplast General Manager), Dr Sithimorada Chayphachanh (Laos) and Dr Kolitha Mahapugge (Sri Lanka).

STAFF PROFILE

STEPHANIE THOMPSON
ADMINISTRATION OFFICER



HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WITH INTERPLAST?

Two and a half years.

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE?

I take care of the general office admin as well as playing a role in program coordination and donor database administration.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE INTERPLAST STORY?

Witnessing a dedicated and experienced Interplast team in action working with the local hospital staff when I accompanied a team to Baguio City in the Philippines last November. It was an amazing experience to be there amongst it all and to meet our local counterparts who contribute so much to our program.

WHAT THREE WORDS WOULD YOU USE TO DESCRIBE INTERPLAST?

Unique, inspiring, busy!

WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

I like to keep myself busy spending time with my family and friends. I play netball, love watching the footy (go Bulldogs!) and enjoy cooking and trying new foods.

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Interplast is a registered charity and Company limited by guarantee established in 1993 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. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

INTERPLAST IS SUPPORTED BY:



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



The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons established Interplast with Rotarians and the Fellows remain active supporters.



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

