



Interplast™

Repairing bodies & rebuilding lives  
in the Asia Pacific region

# inside INTERPLAST

REPAIRING BODIES. REBUILDING LIVES.

SPRING 2014

## HELP FOR A FAMILY

YOUR SUPPORT HAS CHANGED THE LIVES OF A FAMILY IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS



Nathan, with his grandfather, awaiting surgery in the Solomon Islands.

A family of six won the hearts of our Interplast team on their recent trip to the Solomon Islands. The team met the family in Gizo in July on a surgical program activity that included two surgeons, an anaesthetist and two nurses.

Three of the four children in the family, as well as their father, presented with cleft lips and/or palates. Whilst there can be a family history associated with the condition, it is unusual to see so many cases in one nuclear family.

Thanks to our supporters, Interplast was able to provide treatment for the three children.

At just 8 months of age, the youngest child, Nathan (pictured above) had bilateral cleft lip and palate, meaning that

**“THEY HAVE THIS REAL SENSE OF COMMUNITY, AND I THINK THAT’S WHAT MAKES THEM SO RESILIENT. LIFE’S HARD, BUT THEY JUST GET ON WITH IT”.**

both sides of his mouth were affected. The Interplast team successfully repaired Nathan’s lip, and on our next visit will repair his palate, as at his age it would be too much for him to have both procedures completed at the same time.

Nathan’s older brother, Max, 5, was also treated by the Interplast team, along with his older sister Cecelia, 12. Cecelia had previously had her lip and palate repaired, but developed a fistula (an opening that can appear in the palate after surgery), that required further surgery to repair.



OUR MONTHLY E-NEWS IS FULL OF ALL THE LATEST INTERPLAST NEWS AND EVENTS. SIGN UP AT [INTERPLAST.ORG.AU](http://INTERPLAST.ORG.AU)

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The children’s father is in his 40’s, and underwent surgery in his childhood for cleft lip and palate, but these repairs have not been completely successful, and he asked that the Interplast team treat him on their next visit.

The effect of an untreated cleft lip or palate is undeniable. Infants often cannot breastfeed, resulting in dehydration or malnutrition. In many cultures, people with cleft lips and cleft palates carry significant stigma. The social impact associated with these conditions can restrict access to

\* TO UPDATE YOUR DETAILS OR MAILING PREFERENCES PLEASE LET US KNOW ON 03 9249 1231 OR VIA [CONTACTUS@INTERPLAST.ORG.AU](mailto:CONTACTUS@INTERPLAST.ORG.AU)

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# VOLUNTEER YOUR THOUGHTS...

**Paul Birrell**  
Anaesthetist

In August I made my first trip with Interplast, joining the volunteer team who travelled to Cagayan de Oro, Philippines on a general surgical and reconstructive program.

With a vibrant history of medical volunteering experience that includes a few months in Pakistan in the 1980's, trips to both the highlands and desert of Ethiopia, and a stint in PNG working with isolated hill communities, I was excited for a new challenge.

In my experience, on medical volunteer trips to developing countries, there is often limited equipment and support, which can severely limit the possible outcomes of the work. The Interplast effort is so well organised, well equipped and well supported, that the outcomes are significantly affected. We can achieve great results in a short period of time.

Our trip was a huge success, and on reflecting, I think there are a number of reasons for it.

Firstly, the Interplast volunteer team showed an amazing camaraderie. With long days, difficult circumstances and tired teams, emotions can sometimes run high. There was no sign of disharmony in this experienced team. Everyone contributes. Everyone gets in and gets the job done. All difficulties are managed. This is a true testament to the professionalism of the team.

Secondly, the level of local support was astonishing. The local Rotary club spread word across the large island that we were visiting (Mindanao). Committed to making our access to patients easy, they found patients and helped with their transport, many of them children with severe conditions, who would have been ostracised from their communities. The impact that this kind of support has on the outcomes we can achieve cannot be overestimated.

The reward for me ultimately, is the difference you can make in the lives of these children. To see the gratitude from their parents, and to know you have had a hand in improving the quality of life and self-esteem of these children, will stay with me forever.

I feel absolutely privileged to have been a part of this experience, and to have worked with such a committed and capable team.



VOLUNTEERS, PAUL AND JOE, PREPARING A YOUNG CLEFT PATIENT FOR SURGERY.

# FAMILY SUPPORT STORY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

education and work opportunities, and this restriction can spill over into the family's interaction with the community.

In a matter of a few short hours, our reconstructive surgery changes this. The successful treatment and repair of cleft lip and cleft palate can play an essential role in improving the health of patients and the lives and livelihoods of their families.

Despite, or perhaps because of the circumstances in which they live, the family we met in the Solomon Islands was incredibly close, and very grateful to the Interplast volunteer team. The children's mother and grandparents were there for every moment. Jan, one of our volunteer nurses who treated this family said "they have this real sense of community, and I think that's what makes them so resilient. Life's hard, but they just get on with it".



INTERPLAST VOLUNTEER NURSE, JAN, IN THEATRE DURING A PROGRAM ACTIVITY IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

## THANK YOU!

THANKS SO MUCH TO OUR SUPPORTERS AT PERPETUAL. THEY REALLY GOT BEHIND THEIR GOLD SPONSORSHIP OF TURIA'S GREAT WALL OF CHINA CHALLENGE - CONTRIBUTING FUNDS, HOLDING TRIVIA NIGHTS AND DINNERS, AND SPONSORING THREE EMPLOYEES TO GO ON THE TREK. THE INVOLVEMENT OF PERPETUAL WAS FUNDAMENTAL IN THE SUCCESS OF THE CHALLENGE AS A WHOLE, AND FOR THAT WE CAN'T THANK THEM ENOUGH!

**MAKE A LASTING DIFFERENCE. JOIN OUR REBUILDING LIVES FELLOWSHIP BY MAKING A REGULAR MONTHLY DONATION.**



# INTERPLAST RECEIVES FULL ACCREDITATION

## WHAT ACCREDITATION MEANS FOR OUR SUPPORTERS

We are delighted to announce that we have recently been awarded full accreditation by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFAT) as part of the Australian Non-Government Organisation (NGO) Cooperation Program, referred to as the ANCP.

This means that Interplast's supporters can be confident in the knowledge that they are supporting a community based organisation that has been recognised by the Australian Government as professional, well managed, and capable of delivering quality development outcomes.

Whilst we have been working in the development sector for over 30 years, this is recognition of our increased capacity, our solid development approach and increasing public support.

With your ongoing support it creates opportunities for Interplast to grow and expand our work across the Asia Pacific region, and respond to increased demand for our services, building sustainable health systems in the countries we work with over the long term.

Interplast is so pleased to receive this important recognition, placing us in a select group of only 28 fully accredited agencies. We look forward to sharing our journey of growth with you over the coming years, and thank you for your continued support of Interplast.



## HOW YOUR DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE

- \$100** PROVIDES DRESSINGS AND SURGICAL SUPPLIES TO TREAT A PATIENT AFTER THEIR BURNS SURGERY.
- \$300** PROVIDES TRAINING TO ONE NURSE IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS.
- \$500** PROVIDES HAND REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR TWO TO THREE PATIENTS AFTER THEY'VE RECEIVED HAND SURGERY.
- \$1000** PROVIDES LIFE-CHANGING SURGERY FOR A PATIENT IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION.\*



\*ALL EXAMPLES ARE INDICATIVE OF THE TYPES OF COSTS WE REGULARLY ENCOUNTER. FUNDS ARE USED TO SUPPORT ACTIVITIES INCLUDING, BUT NOT RESTRICTED TO, THE ONES DESCRIBED HERE.

TO MAKE YOUR DONATION DETACH THE SLIP AND USE THE REPLY PAID ENVELOPE PROVIDED. ALTERNATIVELY YOU CAN DONATE DIRECTLY ONLINE AT [WWW.INTERPLAST.ORG.AU](http://WWW.INTERPLAST.ORG.AU) USING OUR SECURE DONATION PAGE. ALL DONATIONS ABOVE \$2 ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.

# RECENT AND UPCOMING TRIPS

## REPAIRING BODIES AND REBUILDING LIVES ACROSS THE ASIA PACIFIC

The demand for our services continues to grow, and thanks to you we continue delivering on our twin-track approach: performing life changing surgery, and delivering training and mentoring activities that develop the skills and knowledge of local medical professionals in the developing countries we visit.

To the right is a snapshot of what we've achieved in the past few months.

Additionally, we supported the annual Mongolian Society of Anaesthetists Conference in Ulanbaatar in June (an annual training and capacity development opportunity for anaesthetists throughout the country). Planning and evaluation program activities were also undertaken in Mongolia in June.

To cap it off, in August we attended the Pacific Island Surgical Association conference in Fiji.

In the next few months we have volunteer teams departing for the Solomon Islands, PNG, Tonga, Myanmar, Samoa, Singapore, Philippines, Fiji and Sri Lanka. Additionally, in October, we have two female anaesthetists from Indonesia coming to Ballarat for a month of mentoring.

**“IN THE 2013/2014 FINANCIAL YEAR, WE DELIVERED 51 PROGRAM ACTIVITIES IN TOTAL. OF THESE, 14 WERE SURGICAL PROGRAMS, 29 WERE TRAINING AND MENTORING PROGRAMS AND 8 WERE PLANNING AND EVALUATION ACTIVITIES.”**

### HERE'S A SNAPSHOT OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS:

SRI LANKA	CRANIOFACIAL AND SURGICAL MENTORING (JUNE)
FIJI	SPEECH AND HAND THERAPY TRAINING (JUNE)
VANUATU	GENERAL PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGICAL PROGRAM (JUNE)
VIETNAM	HAND SURGERY MENTORING (JUNE)
HOBART	SURGICAL WORKSHOP FOR SURGEONS AND SURGICAL TRAINEES FROM THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (JUNE)
SOLOMON ISLANDS	GENERAL PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGICAL PROGRAM (JULY)
PHILIPPINES	GENERAL PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGICAL PROGRAM (AUGUST)
BHUTAN	NEEDS ASSESSMENT (AUGUST)
LAOS	GENERAL PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGICAL PROGRAM (SEPTEMBER)

## CONNECT WITH US

GIVE US A CALL:  
03 9249 1231

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INTERPLAST AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND



INSPIRING BROTHERS, JONATHAN AND HARM SCHAAP, CREATED AND PARTICIPATED IN THE MOLLYMOOK MARATHON TO RAISE FUNDS FOR INTERPLAST.

## FUNDRAISE FOR INTERPLAST

### NEW FUNDRAISING TOOLS AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE

You don't have to be a surgeon to save lives.

Not a medical professional? Not a problem. You have the power to improve lives across the Asia Pacific region – by staying exactly where you are.

Your voice and your action are powerful tools! We need our supporters to talk us up, spread the word, roll up their sleeves, and get involved in raising awareness and funds for Interplast.

And we've made it easier than ever.

Check out our new and improved Fundraising Page on the Interplast website. Just head to 'Get Involved', and then click on 'Fundraise'. We've developed a range of fundraising materials that you can use for your event, or to promote your campaign. We have posters, presentations, photos, and even speaking notes that you can use. We're also putting together a Fundraising Kit to help you plan a successful fundraising campaign.

It's easier than you think and we're here to help you every step of the way.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT TO REPAIRING BODIES AND REBUILDING LIVES. WE CANNOT DO IT WITHOUT YOU. DONATE TODAY.**

Interplast is proudly supported by:



Interplast Australia & New Zealand is 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.



Interplast is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. For more information, go to [acfid.asn.au](http://acfid.asn.au).

# I WANT TO REPAIR BODIES AND REBUILD LIVES

Please accept my gift of:  \$50  \$150  \$300  My choice: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (donations over \$2 are tax-deductible)

## PAYMENT OPTIONS *(please circle):*

Cash                      Credit Card                      Cheque  
Please make cheques payable to Interplast Australia & New Zealand

## CREDIT CARD DETAILS *(please circle):*

Visa                      Mastercard  
Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 \$\_\_\_\_\_ on the 15th of every month from my credit card.

## ROTARY CLUB:

Please credit Rotary Club: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

## BEQUEST:

Please send me information on how I can remember Interplast in my will.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_  
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DONATIONS CAN ALSO  
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INTERPLAST.ORG.AU



**UNFOLD ME TO  
REPAIR BODIES AND REBUILD LIVES.**