



InterplastTM

Repairing bodies & rebuilding lives
in the Asia Pacific region

inside INTERPLAST

REPAIRING BODIES. REBUILDING LIVES.

APRIL NEWSLETTER 2013

PACIFIC INFLUENCE

INTERPLAST'S PRESENCE IS BEING FELT THROUGHOUT THE PACIFIC REGION



Dr Samuel Kemuel, a ni-Vanuatu surgical registrar, is currently studying at the Fiji School of Medicine (2013).

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GET YOUR POINTY PARTY HATS READY, INTERPLAST IS ABOUT TO TURN 30! AND, WE'VE REACHED THIS MILESTONE ALL BECAUSE OF YOU. YOUR SUPPORT HAS MADE IT HAPPEN! SO THANK YOU! STAY TUNED!

Meet Dr Samuel Kemuel. A third year ni-Vanuatu surgical registrar at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Fiji, he is currently completing his studies at the Fiji School of Medicine in Suva. Having been based in this Pacific hub for the past three years, his involvement with the Interplast teams, in both Vanuatu and Fiji, has been "awesome". With nothing but encouraging feedback and praise for Interplast and our volunteers, it seems the influence Interplast is having across the Pacific is widespread.

"As a surgical registrar I started getting involved with Interplast [and] the more I got involved, the more I wanted to do," explains Samuel on a recent Interplast visit to Fiji. "It

"THERE ARE MANY PATIENTS AND FAMILIES WE HAVE SEEN AND TREATED WHO ARE VERY GRATEFUL... I SEE THEM YEARS LATER AND I HEAR ABOUT HOW MUCH HAPPIER THE CHILDREN ARE. THEY ARE NOT SHY ANY MORE AND THEY ARE DOING SO MUCH BETTER. THEY HAVE SOCIALLY AND ACADEMICALLY IMPROVED. THERE ARE SO MANY SUCCESS STORIES!"

boosted our morale and motivation to learn more about the operations and learn what they had come to share with us."

Speaking about his experiences with Interplast, his infectious smile explodes as he speaks of his admiration for Interplast Vanuatu Country Coordinator, Dr Ian Holten, in particular, and Ian's influence through Samuel's Interplast attachments.

"I am just grateful for how Ian has encouraged us [to get] involved," he says. "Initially when I started working with Ian, I would stand from a distance and see how they operated and never touched anything. But slowly, in the past two to three years, I got more involved...And [now] he stands back and says 'Sam, what do you think we should do with this?' and I give my ideas and then he says 'That

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VOLUNTEER YOUR THOUGHTS...

JOANNE
OXBROW
PERIOPERATIVE NURSE

“As a medical volunteer with Interplast, I feel humbled, privileged and fortunate. To enter into the lives and culture of those living in a developing society and then be given the enormous responsibility to repair local bodies and rebuild lives is, in itself, inspiring. An Interplast activity is about teaching and being taught. It is about understanding local culture, empowering local medical and nursing staff, and hearing both devastating and then inspirational stories. There is hard work, but amazing teamwork, and there is a fantastic sense of gratification which comes with the opportunity to be part of such life-changing work. The clinic is always fun but confronting. This is where we see the enormity of the need for these activities. The waiting room is always filled and overflowing with patients hoping to be chosen for a free operation. It is not uncommon for 120 to 200 patients to be seen in a clinic for a two week operating program in which only 60 to 80 procedures will be performed due to time constraints and funding limitations. There always seems to be an international expression of helplessness, sadness and desperation in the eyes of every mother, father and grandparent who comes with a disabled child - a child with a cleft lip, cleft palate, debilitating contracture from a horrific burn suffered some time ago. Their hope, hope that we will choose their child to have an operation which will change their life and often the lives of the entire family and village, in a positive way, forever, is palpable. The enormity of this responsibility weighs heavily on the entire team. We cannot change the world. We cannot make a huge impact in a short amount of time. It will take many, many future programs, to many developing countries with many volunteers and many donations and there will still be a huge amount of work to be done. But, we are making a difference. On our recent 30th year anniversary program activity to Suva in Fiji, I was inspired by the obvious positive influence Interplast programs and volunteers have made to the provision of medical care by local medical and nursing staff over this time. Every Interplast surgical program I am fortunate to be a part of leaves me with a sense of pride and achievement. It also leaves me feeling saddened by the enormity of what still needs to be done and an urgency about when I can next be involved. With the continued support of our sponsors and volunteers, Interplast Australia & New Zealand can continue to build capacity, repair bodies and rebuild lives.



E-NEWS UPDATE

INTERPLAST'S E-NEWSLETTER IS OUT!

Our brand new e-newsletter is hot off the press! Get your Interplast news in your inbox by simply signing up to our mailing list! It's easy - head to www.interplast.org.au and subscribe by entering your name and email address.

And, if the printed newsletter still tickles your fancy, watch out for another one in September!

MILES FOR SMILES

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Well, it was originally scheduled for February 2013, but Peter Jones's epic motorbike ride through South-East Asia and Australia to raise funds and awareness for Interplast is taking a pit stop. Postponed until early 2014, with the date yet to be announced, the fundraising initiative is having all its nuts and bolts finely tuned for its eventual departure. And, the extra time means one thing - more time to get on board! Head to www.milesforsmiles.org.au to donate, sponsor, supply, support or join in on the ride.



PETER'S 'MILES FOR SMILES' ROYAL ENFIELD, COMPLETE WITH INTERPLAST COLOURS!

KEEP UPDATED WITH ALL MILES FOR SMILES NEWS VIA OUR E-NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE!

PACIFIC INFLUENCE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

is a good idea, but I think if we do this, this would be better.' At the end of the visit he told me that after a while, I will do most of the decision making and operating and he will just come to help me. So in the long-term, after all this training, we will be able to handle all the basics of Interplast's work!"

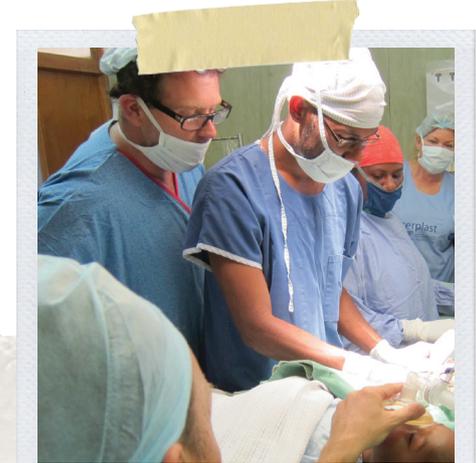
When Sam does have the opportunity to return home to Vanuatu, he is constantly reminded of the positive impact Interplast has had and continues to have in the community. "There have been many positive things that come out of the visits,"

he says. "I can assure you there are many patients and families we have seen and treated who are very grateful. I have seen a lot of mothers, especially of the cleft babies...go back to the village and I see them years later. I hear about how much happier the children are. They are not shy any more and they are doing so much better. [They have] socially and academically improved. There are so many success stories!"

Expressing his desire to get far more involved with Interplast in upcoming Vanuatu and Fijian trips, he's looking

forward to taking his plastic surgery skills back to Vanuatu next year, "depending on the exams!"

* In June, Interplast and Pacific Islands Project (PIP) will be supporting Samuel to return to Vanuatu to join the annual Interplast visit.



SAMUEL OPERATING ALONGSIDE DR IAN HOLTEN IN VANUATU IN 2010

TALES OF A FUNRUNNER

VOLUNTEER ANAESTHETIST RAISES MONEY FOR INTERPLAST VIA GOFUNDRAISE

"It was all Richard's idea. My surgical colleague thought it would be a good idea for us to challenge the adjoining theatre team in the Blackmore's Half Marathon. Despite it being three years since I had run a 'half' I thought, "Well yes, let's do it." So, into the training program we all launched... Then the injuries came. Two with calf muscle tears and one with the dreaded plantar fasciitis and so yours truly was left to compete with himself. Well, why not do it as a fundraiser? I'd never done that before, so I found my way to GoFundraise and set up the 'Interplast Run, Lindsay, Run!' page. That proved to be very simple. With just the right amount of training for a 10 km run I set off across the bridge at 6:20am on that exquisite Sunday morning with what appeared to be 8,831 superbly fit athletes ... and me! There followed 21 km with much puffing, a fair bit of huffing, the magic of the energy gel and then finally, only one kilometre to go - bliss..."

The sponsor generosity was overwhelming - \$4,020 to a worthy cause! An enormous thank you to all those generous contributors! By the Tuesday I was almost able to walk down the stairs like a normal human being... Now, I guess it's a bit like having a baby ... I'd consider doing it all again!"



LINDSAY MCBRIDE HAVING A WELL-EARNED REST AFTER HIS HALF MARATHON!

WE'VE RECENTLY LAUNCHED OUR BRAND NEW, FUNDRAISING-SPECIFIC, ONLINE PORTAL! CATERING FOR ALL YOUR FUNDRAISING NEEDS, IT'S A ONE-STOP FUNDRAISING SHOP! HEAD TO WWW.INTERPLAST.GOFUNDRAISE.COM.AU TO START FUNDRAISING FOR INTERPLAST - IN WHATEVER WAY YOU SEE FIT!

STAFF PROFILE

ANNE-MARIE MAHER FINANCE MANAGER

- > **HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WITH INTERPLAST?**
I have been with Interplast for seven years. It was originally on a part-time basis but as the organisation has grown, so have my hours!
- > **WHAT IS YOUR ROLE?**
I am the Finance Manager at Interplast and I am responsible for all monetary aspects of Interplast.
- > **WHAT IS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE INTERPLAST STORY?**
I really don't have one particular story. Interplast itself is my most memorable story. I have been given this wonderful opportunity and I believe I'm so privileged to help Interplast to continue to do what it does best.
- > **WHAT THREE WORDS WOULD YOU USE TO DESCRIBE INTERPLAST?**
Inspiring, dedicated and awesome.
- > **WHAT'S A FACT MOST PEOPLE WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT YOU?**
I have a degree in Hospitality Management!
- > **BEST WAY TO SPEND A WEEKEND?**
I'd like to do nothing, but I have three kids and a hubby, so I'm constantly running them around!



ANNE-MARIE WITH DR KOLINI VAEA (TONGAN SURGEON)
IN OCTOBER 2012

BLACK & WHITE BALL

2013'S SYDNEY FUNDRAISING EVENT

A very big thank you is extended to everyone who attended the recent Black & White Ball in Sydney! Complete with dapper gentlemen, dazzling ladies, black ties and white pearls, the fundraising initiative was the perfect excuse to celebrate Interplast's volunteers, successes, achievements and kick off our 30th anniversary celebrations.



INTERPLAST BLACK & WHITE BALL 2013

SAY HELLO!

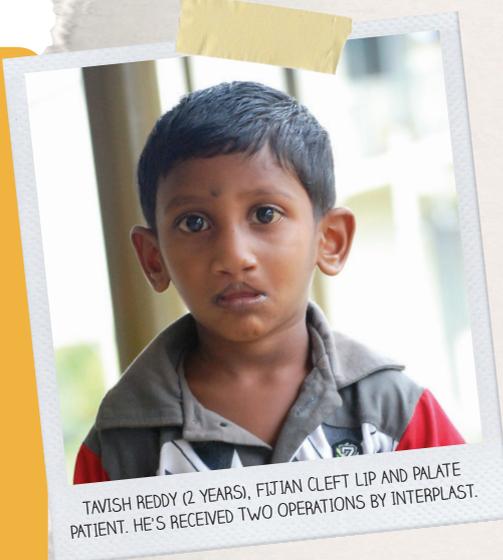
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DROP BY: 250 - 290 SPRING STREET
EAST MELBOURNE, VIC 3002

FACEBOOK:
FACEBOOK.COM/INTERPLASTANZ

WEBSITE:
INTERPLAST.ORG.AU



TAVISH REDDY (2 YEARS), FIJIAN CLEFT LIP AND PALATE PATIENT. HE'S RECEIVED TWO OPERATIONS BY INTERPLAST.

PAST PATIENT THOUGHTS...

"If he didn't have the surgery I guess acceptance in the community would have been a problem. He wouldn't want to go out of the house, or play with the other kids. Once he started understanding that he was different the self confidence would not be there. [But now] when he grows up he will have the confidence he needs to face the community. He wants to be a pilot!"

- MALA REDDY, MOTHER OF TAVISH REDDY

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Interplast Australia & New Zealand is 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.



ACFID MEMBER

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

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